

Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" - Thomas Jefferson

VOL. FIVE ISSUE THREE

MAY & JUNE 1996

TWO DOLLARS

McCarthy Remembers 1921

The McCarthy Weekly News

Vol 4 McCarthy, Alaska Saturday May 14th 1921 No. 28

\$60,000 FIRE - WHOLE BLOCK DESTROYED

Yesterday, Friday the thirteenth, was another calamitous day in the history of McCarthy.

For the fourth time within its past two years, a terrible fire has occurred. This time destroying a whole block.

The McCarthy Hotel, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Pete Johnson, a fine building, fifty five feet by sixty, two stories high with 9 ft basement, steam heated and combining hotel, boarding house and pool hall, and barn and chicken house with 100 chickens were completely destroyed. Also Mrs. Kennedy's residence of eight rooms and bath, and coal warehouse. Two story building, unoccupied, owned by Gus Anderson, Vancouver, B.C. formerly a pool Log cabin at rear. The Spencer cabin across the street. Store building and residence, unoccupied owned by M. V. Lattin of Seattle.

FIRE EVIDENTLY STARTED FROM CIGARETTE

The fire broke out in the upper story of the hotel about noon at which time Mrs. Johnson was serving dinner to her boarders, and Pete was at his ranch.

Mrs. Kennedy saw smoke issuing from the roof & gave the alarm. As two stoves were burning in that part of the building it is believed that some careless lodger threw down a cigarette which then smoldered for hours. In but a few minutes the whole place was in flames, and there was no time to even start the engine in the basement to pump before the timbers fell in. Leaping to the next building the fire soon caught the coal warehouse, and the flames almost asphyxiated the fire fighters. Willing workers of both sexes, helped in trying to save Johnson's belongings and when driven out by the flames turned their endeavors to next door, Mrs. Kennedy saving most of her furniture and her wardrobe, furs, etc.

Meanwhile the fire jumped the street and consumed the Spencer cabin. Also continued on destroying two other buildings, so that the only buildings left on the block are the cabin owned by Mr. Lattin. By the use of dynamite and the bucket brigade with blankets, the fire was arrested at this point.

Good work was done by the volunteers and the chemicals. But without adequate water pressure it is impossible to do much. No insurance was carried by any of the sufferers. And much sympathy is expressed for them.

PURSE SUBSCRIBED FOR THE JOHNSONS

This misfortune has swept away the work of twelve years for Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and rendered them destitute. They are our oldest and most respected business people. A purse is being raised to help them rebuild. \$500 has been raised today in McCarthy and an appeal is here made to all old timers all over the Copper River valley to help.

See story on page 6

WSEN — a gold mine of information!



A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

Greetings to our readers! McCarthy is finally thawing out after a cold winter. And none too soon for us in the McCarthy area! Carly Kritchen, neighbor and author of our Cooking with Carly column, informed me she saw her first robin for the season this last week. I am still waiting to see mine but I can still attest to the fact—spring is here!

Although we are still recording 5 inches of snow on the ground today, April 25, it is melting quickly. (In spite of the deep freeze and lack of snow in the fall and early winter.) It's out with the "break-up boots" and time to pack the snowsuits away until next winter.

As you can see by the cover of this issue of WSEN, we are devoting a fair amount of space to the fire of 1921 and sharing a greater portion of historical information. We trust you won't get bogged down with the list of names of those who contributed to the rebuilding of Ma Johnson's hotel and boarding house that was

destroyed in the fire. We felt it gave a fairly accurate account of those men and women who were in this area during May and June of 1921. I'm sure some of the "Kennecott Kids" will recognize names of friends and even family members.

I want to thank subscriber Adina Knutson of Chitina for sending us our own Kennecott laundry bag from the early 1900's and a Workmens Time Book for the Machine Shop dated 1928-1932. We will treasure these items, Adina.

Rick and I are currently working on two projects at once—this issue of WSEN and assembling and printing pages for this year's *A Visitor's Guide to Kennicott & McCarthy*. All of the publishing work is done right here in our log cabin—editing, printing, folding, collating, stapling, and labeling. We are printing 8,000 copies of the *Guide* this year. Last year we printed and distributed 7,500 but they are all gone. As you might imagine, there are boxes and stacks of paper everywhere—some printed on one side, some two, and some printed and folded. This is usually

our busiest time of the year, so if you should find a misplaced page of the *Guide* in your May/June WSEN, please forgive us.

If you will be in the area this summer you can pick up a copy of the Visitor's Guide at most of the local businesses, the Visitor's Center in Glennallen, or the NPS Visitor's Center in Copper Center. Or, we would be happy to mail you a copy. (Please enclose \$1.50 for postage.)

As I finished typing the above paragraph, I happened to glance out my office window. To my surprise and pleasure, I saw two young moose standing in our garden plot! That doesn't happen very often, and I'd rather it happen *before* I plant the garden. *Publisher's note: Rick would rather see them in the garden after harvest time—say around September 15!*

Just prior to this page going to the printer (Rick), we heard that local resident, Jürgen Ogrodnik, had to be flown out (April 24) for medical attention. Our information at the present is limited, but Jürgen suffered a serious cut to his hand. We understand he is in Anchorage undergoing medical treatment.

Jürgen, our prayers are with you and we wish you a speedy recovery.

Wrangell St. Elias News welcomes aboard the following new subscribers: Mr. & Mrs. Charles Barineau, GA; John Killoran, AK; Leg. Sean Parnell, AK; Mr. & Mrs. Brad Henspeter, AK; Emilee Smith, AK; Diane Ellsworth, AK; Chris Hay, AK; Pat Tift, WA; Les Greenstreet, AK; Carol's Bed & Breakfast, AK; Larry Sohlman, AK; Susan Deyoe, AK.

Last, but not least—Happy Mother's and Father's Day!

Wrangell St. Elias News

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Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Dan Myers: Now that spring is here and summer is right around the corner, the summer folks are beginning to arrive. The first on the scene this year is Dan. He spent the winter in Waitsfield, Vermont with family and friends, he says, and stayed busy sharpening his carpentry and woodworking skills.

Over the Christmas holiday season, he worked in a local woodworking shop making wooden toys—rocking float planes nicknamed “puddle jumpers,” to be exact. He says he played “the little elf that comes to work before Christmas.” In his spare time, he helped friends tap about 800 maple trees.

Sounded like he didn't exactly have a vacation this winter, so I asked him if he was planning on taking the summer off. Not Dan! He's already back doing carpentry work in McCarthy, he says, and has another job lined up for this summer. One of the historical houses on Silk Stocking Row in Kennicott needs a new foundation so Dan's going underground at least part of the summer.

Jim and Doreen Sullivan-Garcia: While we are up on Silk Stocking Row, I'd like to say a big WELCOME to Jim and Doreen's efforts to renovate a group of “cottages” on this historically rich spot in Kennicott. The Garcias who live in Anchorage are part of a group called the Kennicott Cottage Co-op. The cottages are privately owned and soon to be available for rent. Sounds like Jim may be in the local area end of May to put finishing touches on him and Doreen's cottage. If you're in the area, stop in and say howdy to him. Be

forwarned—he'll be busy and he just might put you to work!

Mike McCarthy and Laura Bunnell: Silk Stocking Row is certainly getting a face lift these days. Mike and Laura are doing more than their share to spruce up the block. Mike and Laura make their year round home in one of the original Kennicott Mine houses that date back to 1918. Recently they purchased the house next door and it is gradually taking on it's new role—Historic Kennicott Bed and Breakfast. Be sure to find their ad in this issue and see how you can experience the historic flavor of those early mining days with Mike and Laura.

Rick Jurick: For some reason I can't seem to get off the hill. Rick, the new kid on the block (Silk Stocking), is making himself right at home. So much so that he has purchased a piece of property in downtown Kennicott and plans on opening a new business next year. Of course, I don't want to give away his secrets but I hear we'll be able to purchase a superb cup of coffee and more! Congratulations on your new venture, Rick! Glad our severe winter temperatures didn't run you off.

Stacie Miller: Stacie just received word that the University of Fairbanks has accepted her application, so I expect we'll be saying good bye to her this fall. Her major is Anthropology. In the meantime, she is staying busy here on the home front. Her most recent job is giving John Adams a hand painting the inside of his new house. This summer we can expect to see her busy working in her family's local establishment—Tailor Make Pizza. Just in case you might not

recognize 20 year old Stacie, I must warn you she is sporting a new hairo. When I asked what the new style is called, she informed me, “short!” And, that it is, short and sweet.

Jim, Jeannie, Matt and Aaron Miller: Speaking about pizza, I can almost smell those homemade pizzas baking in Jim and Jeannie's spacious ovens at Tailor Made. Jeannie says they are tentatively scheduled to open on May 22. We can expect some of the same pizzas and ice cream we all sampled last year, but according to a very reliable source (the cook herself), we can also expect new items of interest on this year's menu. I guess we'll just have to show up on opening day to find out what those items are!

I asked Jeannie to update me on what critters she has on hand at their Kennicott “farm.” A flock of chickens, 12 dogs, 4 cats, 2 Chinese Box Tortoises and 2 Water Dragon Lizards, she tells me. And, as if that isn't enough, the first week in June the Millers are expecting to add 6 baby pigs to their menagerie!

Elizabeth Schafer: Elizabeth is back teaching the Miller kids after taking a short break to attend the Yukon Quest. Although she is a certified Social Studies teacher in her home state of Pennsylvania, she says she is working to replace her temporary Alaska license with a permanent one. Therefore, she is doing some studying of her own. In her spare time, she is taking correspondence courses through the University of Fairbanks.

She manages to squeeze in a weekly basketball game with the local kids. There doesn't seem to be an age limit on the players so if

you're interested and free on Wednesday afternoons, give Elizabeth a shout and tell her you want to join in.

Kelly, Natalie and Tessa Bay: I don't think Tessa is quite tall enough to play basketball or fly an airplane but how about a 2 wheel bike? Although Tessa is only on the verge of turning three and not quite ready to "solo," her mom assures me the young lady is "very keen on her bike." Tessa and her mom are waiting for the forthcoming training wheels dad Kelly is due to bring in from Anchorage. With all the mud puddles that appear this time of year, I'm sure Tessa (and parents) have much to look forward to!

Just because Tessa may enjoy an occasional mud puddle or two, doesn't mean she isn't becoming quite a young "lady." In fact, she informed me yesterday via the CB radio that her dad bought her a couple of dresses and they had just arrived in the mail. I'm really looking forward to seeing you model them, Tessa!

Andy Coe and Richard Villa: These two young men are doing their best to keep in shape as well as stretch out this winter. They left McCarthy the first week of March to ski across the Bagley Ice Fields. Their plan included flying by local air taxi to Icy Bay, approximately 200 miles from here, and then skiing across 3 glaciers (the Jeffrey, Bagley, and maybe Yahtzee). The Tana River is their destination and pickup spot, says Richard, and they want to be back the first of May.

"I like to travel this time of year," answered Richard to my question of why, "and the trip is just for fun."

Richard works for St. Elias Alpine Guides of McCarthy and Andy Coe says he is joining the staff of Copper Oar as Office Manager and guide in the local river rafting business.

John Adams: John may not be skiing over glaciers but how about snow machining? He's really been giving his new Arctic Bearcat a good working out this winter, but now that spring is here, it's time for those projects that have been on hold for warmer temperatures. Like sheetrocking and painting the inside of his new house. As this issue goes to press, the paint is dry and John is moving in, lock, stock and barrel. Welcome to the west side, John!

George Cebula: John isn't the only one taking advantage of the 50 degree temperatures. (That's plus fifty not minus 50!) George called on the expertise of neighbor, Patrick Sperry, and they sheet rocked his addition which houses 2 bedrooms and a bath.

No sooner had the two fellows finished that project, then out came the paint brushes. George didn't waste any time in painting all three rooms. I really thought he'd wait and put his brothers to work when they visit this summer. It looks like you are spared those jobs, Ted, but I'd still get rested up if I were you. Let's see what's on George's list now? A warehouse, you say?

Chokosna:—Kelly Smith of Chokosna graduated top of her class in the Challenge National Guard Youth Corps Program on February 16, 1996, reports Diane Ellsworth. Kelly was the first female to receive this honor since the program was founded. "She really did a great job. It is a good program for kids who find they get too far behind in home schooling to feel like they could ever get caught up or pass the G.E.D.," says Diane.

Kelly plans to continue her education at the University of Alaska (Anchorage) in the fall for photo journalism. Because of her merit, Kelly received scholarships for college.

Congratulations, Kelly! Your perseverance is certainly an

encouragement to us. Keep up the good work.

Fly-in scheduled for McCarthy: According to Daniel Urbach, co-area representative for The International C-170 Association, a fly-in and other fun events are scheduled for its members over Father's Day weekend, June 15-16 in McCarthy.

"I have scheduled an overnight fly-in to your beautiful part of the state," writes Urbach. "I have no idea just how many planes or people will attend and I rather imagine that it will depend a lot on the weather that weekend. Another reason that I chose McCarthy was that I had received correspondence from a couple who are planning to fly to Alaska from Florida and they wanted me to suggest some places to go while they were in the state. What better place than McCarthy?"

All C-170 owners, pilots or fans are encouraged to join in on the activities. For more information you may call Daniel at (907) 451-7125 or write: The International Cessna 170 Association, P.O. Box 60676, Fairbanks, AK 99706.

Inquiry: A WSEN subscriber is requesting information on Capt. J. P. Hubrick who owned a photography shop in the same building where the McCarthy Lodge is presently located. Please send any nuggets of info to WSEN, McCarthy #42, P.O. Box MXY, Glennallen, AK. 99588 and we will share them with our readers.

Correction: In the March/April 1996 issue of WSEN under Items of Interest, we misspelled Brooks Ludwig's name as Brock. Please accept our apologies, Brooks!

A tribute to a lady

BY BONNIE KENYON

"We'll miss her. She was a gracious and generous lady (emphasis on lady)," wrote a family member of Elizabeth Verna Edwards, better known to family, friends and me as Beth Edwards.

On Monday, April 8, 1996, Beth died at her home in Newberg, Oregon, from causes related to age. She was 83 years old. A memorial service was held in her honor on April 11 at the Newberg Friends Church.

Beth taught high school in Oregon for eight years and then spent 20 years in social work. In August 1964, she married Gerald J. Edwards, father of Jim Edwards of McCarthy. Beth and Gerald enjoyed traveling in their motor home, as well as several trips to other countries. They also enjoyed rock collecting and spending time at the Oregon Coast. For several years they lived in Friendsview Manor, where Beth continued living after Gerald's death in 1986.

Beth was active in Christian Women's Club as well as being a member of the South Salem and Newberg Friends Churches. She taught young people's classes in her church and served as Sunday School Superintendent.

I met Beth through WSEN after her stepson, Jim Edwards, bought her a gift subscription. We began exchanging notes. I always looked forward hearing from Beth. She believed in me and her words conveyed hope and encouragement. We finally met in person when she visited McCarthy in July of 1993. I quote from an Item of Interest that appeared in our September/October issue of WSEN:

July started off with plenty of excitement for the Edwards as well as for Jim's stepmother, Elizabeth (Beth) Edwards of Newberg, Oregon. Jim, wanting to do something special for Beth, flew to Newberg the latter part of June in his RV-4. Knowing Beth would have a difficult time traveling the 1,500 miles (one way) in his small

homebuilt, Jim leased a larger plane to bring her up and back in comfort. The flight to McCarthy was made in one day with excellent weather. Says Beth, "I surely enjoyed and appreciated the personal tour and flight I had with Jim both ways and the great time I had with him and Pat at their home. Visiting McCarthy on mail day was a special treat after hearing about it so many years."

I had the honor of having Beth in my home for tea during her stay in McCarthy and our note exchange continued even after she returned home. I already miss those words of encouragement but she left my life richer because of them.

To Beth's family and friends—without a doubt, we have been in the presence of a lady!

Elizabeth Verna Edwards

March 25, 1913 - April 8, 1996

"The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love." Psalm 147:11

MOTHER'S DAY

Tomorrow, the second Sunday in May, will be observed in all the churches in the United States, as Mother's Day, as a special mark of respect for Mother, who cared for us as babies, taught us most of the good thoughts we remember today, & was ever ready with her sympathy and advice.

There are no churches near here where we can show that mark of respect to our mothers but those of us who are fortunate to still have a mother living, should certainly sit down and write her a letter TODAY and tell her that we are remembering all she has done for us.

It must be the saddest thing on earth, to raise a family, see them scatter to the ends of the earth and never hear from her children.

Don't let your mother be one of these sad ones. Make her glad.

(from the McCarthy Weekly News, May 7, 1921)

75th anniversary of tragic McCarthy fire

BY RICK KENYON

As our cover story depicted, Friday, May 13, 1921, was a tragic day in the history of our town. Although this was the fourth fire in two years, the town was not prepared to fight it. As R. Snyder, Fire Chief in 1921 said: "Yesterday we realized the total inadequacy of our fire protection. We must secure hand pumps or other apparatus. Citizens must cooperate with us and take it up tonight at the A.B. Hall 8 P.M."

The town was, however, prepared to come to the aid of those who suffered the loss of their life's work. Pete and "Ma" Johnson probably suffered the greatest loss, and the town started a fund the day after the fire to help them rebuild. They wrote to the town: "We thank you very much for your kindness and help to us in our trouble. We used to think that in McCarthy there were only working people, but now we know they give like millionaires."

"We specially thank the ladies also for their gifts of clothes. It is our great comfort to know that we have so many good friends, and we will make a new home and always stay here and see McCarthy grow a fine town once more."

The week following the fire the McCarthy Weekly News published the first list of donors to the "Johnson Purse:"

THE JOHNSON PURSE

The following contributions have been made up to date for the purpose of re-establishing the Johnsons in business after their recent loss.

Frank Suda	5.00
Fred Ahrens	20.00
Frank Iverson	25.00
Wm. Graham	15.00

McCarthy Merc. Co.	50.00
Mrs. J.B. O'Neill	10.00
J.B. O'Neill	25.00
R. L. H. Marshall	10.00
C. A. Sponberg	10.00
Jas. Hussey	20.00
James Mavionas	5.00
Joe Neimi	10.00
Mrs. Marshall	3.00
Geo. Anderson	15.00
E.D. Gercken	5.00
Blanche Smith	10.00
Alaska House	10.00
Jack Conway	10.00
Henry Olsen	10.00
Wm. Wyers	5.00
John Underwood	10.00
May G. Refior	10.00
Mrs. J.P. Hubrick	5.00
Walter Quon Eng	5.00
James Morris	5.00
Dick Campbell	5.00
Albert Doze	5.00
Sam Seltenreich	5.00
Wm. Meyer	5.00
C. Cole	5.00
Dora MacDonnell & P. Wills	5.00
J.W. Nickell	5.00
L.H. Woodman	15.00
Mrs. Woodman	10.00
L.P. McClellan	10.00
Chris Peterson	10.00
Mrs. S. McClellan	10.00
Mrs. W. Woodin	5.00
Lee Yancy	5.00
V. Anderson	5.00
Mrs. Kennedy	10.00
Mrs. B. Erickson	10.00
J.H. Murie	10.00
Lillian Ailen	10.00
Archie Pauline	10.00
Mrs. Williams	5.00
F. Sommer	10.00
John Barrett	10.00
George Hellerich	5.00
John Nelson	10.00
Andy Brask	10.00
Paddy Connelly	3.00
John Miller	5.00
Nels Nelson	2.00
Warren Nelson	40.00

Steve Kansky, Kennecott	25.00
Union Sunday School Children	25.00
Small collection not listed	6.00
Total to date	\$616.00

By the next week, the fellows up at Kennecott had gotten into the act. The News ran the following:

THE JOHNSON PURSE

The true spirit of the North, (to help one's neighbor) is being demonstrated in this cause.

From all parts contributions are pouring in to the Johnson purse. At Kennecott W.H. Wakefield made the collection & brought it to Mrs. Johnson on Thursday. The following letter was sent to Mrs. Johnson from the boys at the Mother Lode.

Kennecott, Alaska
May 20th 1921

Mrs. Pete Johnson
McCarthy, Alaska

My dear Mrs. Johnson:

The Mother Lode boys were deeply grieved to hear of your recent misfortune and desiring to be of some material help in appreciation of your many kindnesses, prompted from the goodness of your heart, have most graciously contributed for the amounts shown opposite their names, for which I am enclosing check and currency. Trusting that it will meet some urgent want.

I am

Very sincerely

Joseph Hutchins

Ira McCord	10.00
Joseph Hutchins	10.00
W.A. Bold	10.00
Hans Bjorgum	10.00

Thomas Kay	10.00
J.D. Champion	5.00
S. Loram	5.00
John P. Erickson	5.00
Eric Linberg	5.00
Charles Erickson	5.00
John Erickson	5.00
Ernest Holm	5.00
Halvor Rogner	5.00
Lars Johnson	5.00
Emil Swanson	5.00
Jim Davis	5.00
Vern Cooper	5.00
Geo. Woodward	5.00
Enoch Carlson	10.00
L.A. Wright	10.00
Total amount	\$135.00

The residents at Strelna also joined in.

Contributions from Strelna to Mrs. Pete Johnson whose home and contents have been entirely destroyed by fire to help her rebuild:

V.J. Dwyer	10.00
J. Wash	3.00
Otto Amelang	2.00
Ben Thompson	5.00
Andrew Carlson	5.00
P. McGill	5.00
Mike Tierney	10.00
Alfred Hagen	5.00
Total amount	\$45.00

More donations came in from Kennecott, this time from the lower camp.

Contributions for Mrs. Pete Johnson from Kennecott.

W.H. Wakefield	5.00
Wm. Angona	5.00
Con Miller	5.00
W. Slimpert	5.00
Frank Farrhan	5.00
J. Meaker	1.00
Wm. Stuart	2.00
Albert Carlson	5.00
Charlie Kello	10.00
Steve Yutiana	2.00
John Bence	5.00
Harold Cabot	5.00
J.F. Dennis	5.00
Pete Buhl	5.00
Louis Wolfe	10.00

A. McCombs	5.00
Wm. Weitzel	5.00
A. Prim	5.00
Wm. Williams	5.00
J. Howard	5.00
George Gallup	2.00
W. Scruby	2.00
Hans Hansen	5.00
Juillas Oliver	5.00
Tom Lillhang	3.00
Henry Krohn	2.00
J. Stensoar	5.00
Harvey Rutter	2.00
S. Wold	2.00
H. Singers	2.00
E. Shiamori	5.00
L. Rudolph	3.00
James Ursted	5.00
Walter Johnson	2.00
J. M. Arnott	10.00
Fred Erichson	5.00
C. Wick	5.00
*Claude?en (?)	3.00
Carl Engstrom	10.00
*P. O??y	5.00
R. Schneeberger	5.00
Wm. Thomas	10.00
R. Walch	5.00
Arthur Dunseth	5.00
*? M. S?ari	2.50
Victor Olson	5.00
Wm. Godfrey	5.00
W. Baxter	10.00
Ben Jackson	10.00
Nishimore	2.00
Victor Johnson	10.00
R.S. Healy	3.00
Aron Erickson	5.00
Magnus Johnson	5.00
Frank Niemi	5.00
Joseph Griffin	10.00
J.B. Gillespie	25.00
R. Peterman	3.00
James McGavock	5.00
M. Brunelle	10.00
C. Meyers	5.00
P.V. Smith	10.00
Chris Jensen	10.00
Rex Seymour	5.00
Arthur Nashitaka	2.00
Sam Makino	2.00
J.H. Padgett	2.00
R. Rolle	2.00
C. Osborne	5.00
O. Gustafson	2.50

Klamann	1.00
Knamada	2.50
John A. Erickson	5.00
Robert Mooney	2.00
Total amount collected from Lower camp, Kennecott	\$384.50

In the next weeks News, workers at the Bonanza mine got into the act.

THE JOHNSON PURSE

Charley Veach, who has been in charge of the collection for Mrs. Johnson at the Bonanza mine, sent her the following list and check this week.

Carl Larson	5.00
Chas Veach	50.00
A. Seabright	2.00
J. Shepard	2.00
V. Menaglia	5.00
R. Lyon	2.00
H.D. Brembis	2.00
Emanuel Johnson	50.00
Fred Person	5.00
Joe Green	2.00
C. Casteller	2.00
Oscar Challman	5.00
Frank Wallace	5.00
Rado Wdno	5.00
Cliho Samich	1.00
Phillipp Covich	1.00
Wm. McBeath	3.00
G. Feonandoz	1.00
Wm. Osborn	2.00
Pete Giaccorin	1.00
E. Lamont	1.00
W. Kruger	1.00
F. Imaelson	5.00
Dan Atrick	5.00
Toney Rose	1.00
Theodar Peterson	10.00
*? J. Davis	5.00
John Hill	50.00
Axel Backland	2.50
N. Chrismith	3.00
Peter Macari	1.00
H. Riley	2.00
G. Algren	2.00
Milo Parovish	5.00
Dan Koch	2.00
A. Stevens	1.00
Lucchezi Amelsu	1.00
T. Tarino	1.00

Oscar Noren	5.00
Geo. Palmer	5.00
Geo. Norgaard	2.00
J. Hoston	2.00
J.D.F. Stevenson	10.00
Mike Eluf	5.00
Stanley Misholes	5.00
John Fujitani	1.00
Angus Gillis	5.00
Havice	2.00
E.T. Olsen	25.00
Total amount	\$314.50

A donation of \$10.00 was also received from J.E. Erickson who recently returned from the outside.

Although so many friends and neighbors of the Johnsons showed their generosity, apparently someone held a grudge, or perhaps was jealous of the outpouring of gifts. Mrs. Johnson felt compelled to write this letter:

McCarthy, Alaska. June 2,21

To the Editor of the McCarthy News,

Dear Sir,

Will you permit me to use your columns to set at rest the malicious propaganda which has been circulated by one, not even a resident of this town, to the effect that my husband & myself do not pay our bills, and that at the time of the fire we were indebted in a large sum to a local merchant or merchants? I desire to say: my husband and myself have worked very hard and have made it a point to pay our bills. At the time of the terrible catastrophe which overwhelmed us we were not in debt to any local merchants in any amount more than a current account such as any householder would have.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude and gladness to know that

we have the sympathy and regard of our neighbors here and in surrounding places as shown by the wonderful outpouring of material aid which has been given us in the dark hour of distress which has come.

It is a shameful thing that any one would deliberately invent a lie to injure us at this time.

Yours truly,

Mrs. Peter Johnson

Almost a month later the donations were still coming in, this time from Chitina.

FOR THE JOHNSONS

Chitina, June 10th

Special to Weekly News.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Johnson are anxious to see them established again in a new home, where they will be able to make another start in life, after the terrible loss they sustained by the recent fire.

Helen Kennedy	10.00
Alex Wahlstrom	10.00
Gus Johnson, Pile D.51	5.00
H. Max Eidler	3.00
H.H. Shipman	5.00
J. Whitehead	2.00
James Serstad	5.00
R. Janson	2.00
Oscar Leander	2.00
Victor Nylund	2.00
John Grashohn	2.00
Carlson	5.00
Nils Forsberg	3.00
Frank Nord	5.00
Chas. Hawkins	5.00
John Vanquist	5.00
J.S.S. Walley	5.00
W. McFadden	5.00
Carl Carlson	5.00
Total amount	\$86.00

Dan Creek did not want to be left out of the generosity.

FOR THE JOHNSONS

Dan Creek, June 7th. A little help for Mr. and Mrs. Pete Johnson from the undersigned:

Robert Corsi	5.00
Robert Johnson	15.00
Fred Stoter	10.00
John Hatherill	5.00
D.L. Davison	5.00
R.Smith	5.00
Nick Arginos	5.00
Hjdmar Jacobson	5.00
Fred Algran	5.00
George Pittos	5.00
S. Nuckols	5.00
Erik Nystrom	5.00
C. Erickson	5.00
Total amount:	\$80.00

Mr. and Pete Johnson also gratefully acknowledge the receipt of \$15.00 from Gust Carlson of the Jumbo mine and \$5.00 from J.P. Hubrick.

Mrs. Pete Johnson leased the building formerly occupied by the McCarthy Laundry and reopened her boarding house there. Mr. Johnson went to their homestead at Fireweed Mountain (now owned by Cal and Pat Ward) where he had a sawmill and cut timbers for Kenne-cott. With help from the townspeople they eventually rebuilt the hotel.

Mrs. Kennedy purchased the building on Front Street, formerly occupied by Mrs. Damon, and had it entirely re-papered and renovated. She moved in May 20.

The citizens of McCarthy held a meeting and decided it would be prudent to procure some hand pumps — at least they formed a committee to look into the matter.

* Some names were not readable from the original text.

Proposed bill says folks who live in boroughs don't have equal rights...

BY RICK KENYON

The past two months have seen a flurry of borough related activity in Alaska. Lake Louise has (perhaps) won its independence from the Mat-Su borough, (they must pay Mat-Su \$160,000, and had to promise to form a second-class city or become part of another organized borough by March 2, 1998). The Denali Borough filed a formal petition to sever and annex almost a thousand square miles of Mat-Su's territory, so Mat-Su came back with a proposal to annex about 1,000 square miles of Denali — tit for tat.

At the same time Mat-Su announced that they were considering a major expansion to the east. All the way to the east. The March 27, 1996 issue of the *Frontiersman* reported that Mat-Su officials were seriously considering a plan to annex 25,000 square miles of

territory — all the way to the Canadian border. This, of course, would include the Glennallen area as well as McCarthy and Kennicott.

Meanwhile North Pole residents were fighting what appears to be a losing battle to succeed from the North Star Borough. According to the state Department of Community and Regional Affairs, this would have a devastating effect on North Star, causing a \$4.6 million budget shortfall that would require a 16.2 percent increase in the property tax rate. Besides, says the state, the concerns of the 1,600 people who signed a petition last year asking for the creation of the new borough are "unfounded."

Besides all of the regional moves by borough officials and citizenry, some in the state senate are again pushing for all of Alaska to organize. Senate Bill 280 would

require the areas that are not now in an organized borough (mostly rural areas such as McCarthy, which is in the "unorganized borough") to quickly organize - the higher the value of taxable property in the area, the quicker they must organize. With the Alaska Pipeline running right through the Copper Valley it would be a high priority for organization.

Several groups in the Glennallen area have taken action for or against organization. "Copper River Residents Against a Borough," better known as C.R.A.B., is circulating petitions opposing SB280 in the area (see sidebar on next page). Another group is looking into forming a new borough rather than take a chance on being annexed by a neighbor.

The following is the latest version of SB280:

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

* By THE SENATE FINANCE
COMMITTEE

Amended: 4/12/96

Offered: 4/9/96

Sponsor(s): SENATORS
TORGERSON, Green, Phillips,
Donley, Halford
A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to municipalities; the incorporation of certain boroughs in the unorganized borough; the formation of separate unorganized boroughs; and to taxation in the unorganized boroughs."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

* Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDING AND PURPOSE. (a)

The legislature finds that the rights, opportunities, and obligations of borough residents are not equal to those of residents in the unorganized borough, particularly in respect to education, taxation, and land use regulation, and that this is not in keeping with art. I, sec. 1, Constitution of the State of Alaska, that states in part, "...that all persons are equal and entitled to equal rights, to opportunities, and protection under the law; and that all persons have corresponding obligations to the people and to the State."

(b) It is the purpose of secs. 3 - 5 of this Act to abide by the intent of the framers of the state constitution and the voters who adopted it and to implement a more equitable distribution of rights, opportunities, and obligations among all residents of the state by providing a mechanism under which most of the unorganized borough may be included within the boundaries of a borough, with the expectation that the few areas not organized under secs. 3 - 5 of this Act will be annexed to existing municipalities.

* Sec. 2. AS 29.05.031(a) is amended to read:

(a) An area that meets the following standards may incorporate as a home rule, first class,

second class, or third class borough, or as a unified municipality:

(1) the population of the area is interrelated and integrated as to its social, cultural, and economic activities, and is large and stable enough to support borough government;

(2) the boundaries of the proposed borough or unified municipality conform generally to natural geography and include all areas necessary for full development of municipal services;

(3) the economy of the area includes the human and financial resources capable of providing municipal services; evaluation of an area's economy includes land use, property values, total economic base, total personal income, resource and commercial development, anticipated functions, expenses, and income of the proposed borough or unified municipality;

(4) land, water, and air transportation facilities allow the communication and exchange necessary for the development of integrated borough government.

* Sec. 3. BOROUGH INCORPORATION PROPOSAL. (a) The Department of Community and Regional Affairs shall prepare a third class borough incorporation proposal for each of the model boroughs identified for formation in the report issued in 1995 by the Local Boundary Commission entitled "Model Borough

Boundaries." During the process of preparing an incorporation proposal, the department shall hold at least one public hearing in each city or community with a population of at least 500 in the region covered by the proposal and consider recommendations regarding the proposal. The proposal must include the following information:

- (1) name;
- (2) boundaries;
- (3) maps, documents, and other information considered by the department to be necessary;
- (4) composition and apportionment of the assembly; and
- (5) a proposed operating budget for the borough projecting sources of income and items of expenditure through the first full fiscal year of operation.

(b) By January 1, 1997, the state assessor shall estimate the full and true value of taxable property in each of the model boroughs identified for formation in the report issued in 1995 by the Local Boundary Commission. The Department of Community and Regional Affairs shall submit each borough incorporation proposal to the Local Boundary Commission by

- (1) July 1, 1997, for model boroughs with an estimated full and true value of taxable property of at least \$550,000,000;
- (2) July 1, 1998, for model boroughs with an estimated full and true value of taxable property of at

least \$350,000,000, but less than \$550,000,000;

(3) July 1, 1999, for model boroughs with an estimated full and true value of taxable property of at least \$75,000,000, but less than \$350,000,000;

(4) July 1, 2000, for model boroughs with an estimated full and true value of taxable property of less than \$75,000,000.

(c) Within six months after receiving a borough incorporation proposal submitted under (b) of this section, the Local Boundary Commission may request the department to make changes to the proposal. When the commission determines that the proposal meets the standards for incorporation of a third class borough, the commission shall accept the proposal and notify the director of elections of its acceptance.

* Sec. 4. INCORPORATION ELECTION. Within 30 days after receiving notice from the Local Boundary Commission of its acceptance of an incorporation proposal, the director of elections shall order an election in the region of the proposed borough to determine whether the voters desire incorporation and, if so, to elect the initial borough officials. The election shall be held under AS 29.05.110 and 29.05.120 not less than 30 nor more than 90 days after the date of the election order. The election order must specify the dates during which nomination petitions of election of initial officials may be filed.

VOTE NO! S.B.#280

Copper River Residents Against a Borough
PETITION AGAINST SENATE BILL #280
 We, the members of C.R.A.B., Copper River Residents Against a Borough, petition the Governor and the Alaska State Legislature to VOTE NO on SENATE BILL #280. This unconstitutional bill violates our rights to remain an unorganized borough as stated in Article X Section 3 of the Alaska State Constitution. We urge you to STOP THIS WASTEFUL EXAMPLE OF BUREAUCRACY!
 For more details call (907) 822-5515.

The petition represented on the left was circulated on mail day (April 19) at the McCarthy mail shack, and according to our roving reporter, everyone present signed it. If you have an opinion on this important issue, let your representatives know about it.

Representative Irene Nicolai 1-800-491-4527
 Senator Georgiana Lincoln (907) 465-3732

Rome to New York—via McCarthy

BY BONNIE KENYON

McCarthy:— Is McCarthy on the route from Rome, Italy, to New York? It is if you are part of *Overland Roma '95-New York '96*.

It is 8:00 a.m. Sunday morning, March 31, in downtown McCarthy when I arrive at the McCarthy Lodge. I received a tip that there was a rather unusual group occupying main street. Four gigantic 6-tire trucks were parked out front and taking up most of the narrow street. Although Betty Hickling's summer season hasn't really begun yet, she certainly was a busy woman when I walked through the front door of her establishment.

The large breakfast table was occupied by a hungry-looking bunch of Italians. Large, steaming plates of a good old American breakfast were coming forth from the kitchen. I immediately wondered if anyone from the group spoke English. As I scanned the faces in front of me, a young man rose from his spot at the table and introduced himself as Kenneth Wallack, vice president of Circumpolar Expeditions. I'm sure the relief showed on my face as I realized he was an American, and the group's spokesman for this leg of the trek.

Arriving at the west side of the Kennicott River at 10:00 p.m. Saturday night, the group attempted a crossing near the tram but soon

realized this was not the "choice" crossing. Ken who had a cell phone with him called local Kennicott resident, Chris Richards, requesting information. While in Chitina, Mrs. Ivey had given Ken a couple of phone numbers. Chris explained the "winter crossing" option. One truck headed into McCarthy, making contact with Betty Hickling. After

experience it for themselves—firsthand.

The group left Rome on November 1995. Four of the ten are drivers, trained mechanics and test drivers. A news reporter for Italian State Television, Paolo Giani, said he accompanied the expedition because he was interested in seeing and obtaining information on

Kennicott. The group has major international sponsors such as Michelin Tire, Fila Sportswear, Northern Forum and Italian State Television.

The custom-made Iveco trucks are manufactured by FIAT. One truck is referred to as the cook truck which can sleep four. It also houses the propane cooking facilities, heater, a bathroom with shower, table, food storage and an incredibly complex generator system. Another truck contains sleeping quarters for 6. A 1,000 gallon fuel storage tank takes up one truck and another

truck is the mechanic's "shop" on wheels.

Driving through western European capitals of Germany, Poland and Russia, the group crossed Russia up to the Arctic coast. They wanted to be the first to cross the Bering Strait to Alaska, but they encountered too much open water to attempt the crossing. They had to partly disassemble the trucks at Cape Schmidt and fly



getting the go ahead from the lead truck, the other 3 made their way to the lodge.

I soon learned the group was a long ways from home. Their leader, Beppe Tenti, of Rome is a professional mountain climber and owner of Trekking International, the largest adventure touring company in Italy, explains Ken. He and the others want to organize tour groups into Russia and Alaska in the future. So, what better way than to

(continued on page 26)

Gardening — McCarthy style!

BY BONNIE KENYON

I certainly do not consider myself an expert at gardening, but ever since 1978 when Rick and I moved to the west side of the Kennicott River, a whole new world opened up before us—that of planting a tiny seed and watching it grow into something of great value.

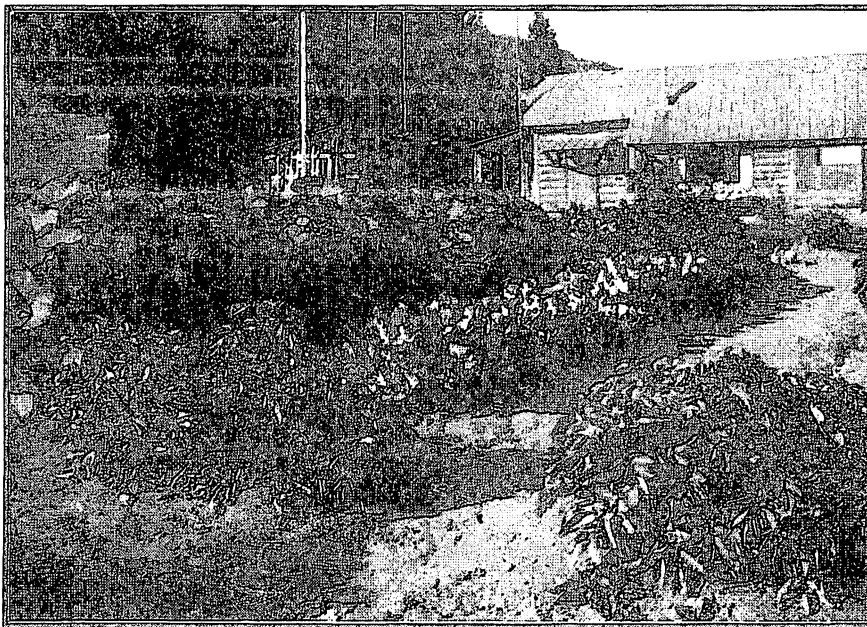
First of all, imagine my reaction as a Florida transplant being told by a longtime Alaskan resident that now that I was making Alaska my home, gardening was a must. I'm sure I'm not the only one who has ever thought that only icicles grow in this winter wonderland.

A high percentage of McCarthy area residents garden in some form or fashion. The familiar question, "Have you ordered your seeds yet?" usually emerges at a mail day gathering in the early part of February. You are bound to hear someone comment: "I just can't seem to get in the mood yet. Too much snow and cold temperatures." But, before the month is over, our seed catalogs arrive and, in spite of the lingering winter conditions, we are busy poring over the new as well as our tried-and-true varieties of hardy vegetables.

When it comes time to order, I—for one—spend more money than I plan. The long winter without the readily availability of fresh

vegetables makes me ripe prey to those mouthwatering pictures of green and yellow vegetables. Before long the neighborly banter begins: "Where did you end up ordering your seeds from?" "Oh, no, I forgot to order my celery seeds and it's time to start them. Do you have extra?" And so it goes!

Believe it or not, celery can grow relatively well up here in the interior, but it does take special care and an early February start. In my opinion, Jeannie Miller, Kennicott resident and longtime neighbor, IS



an expert gardener. She clued me in on how to get quicker results from the slow germinating celery seeds. Presoak the tiny seeds for 24 hours. Drain seeds on a paper towel. Wrap it in plastic and freeze for 2 days. Bring in and allow seeds to sprout in the light. Pick out the sprouted seeds and plant in moist potting soil, covering the seeds with a fine layer of soil.

Most of us start our own transplants from seeds we order through the mail. Some occasionally purchase seeds and transplants in

Kenny Lake, Glennallen or Anchorage. March and April are busy months for starting those vegetables that need an extra boost of growing time. Even though we have an incredible amount of daylight during May through July, our summer growing season is short and subject to potential freezing temperatures every month. It is a real challenge to garden up north and each one of us appreciates harvest time when it rolls around.

It's April 19 as I write this, and our cabins and houses are filling up

with an ever increasing amount of tiny seedlings. Tomatoes, celery, peppers and herbs such as parsley, basil, oregano, thyme, sage and dill are popping up all over. Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts are fixing' to any day now. And,

then, of course there are the numerous flowers we also start from seed to fill our window boxes. I'm big on pansies, petunias and allysum—mostly because they are hardy!

Neighbor Carly Kritchen ventures out with a greater variety. Her front deck and terrace garden beneath overflows with color-coordinated beauty. She has successfully nurtured several rose bushes and almost has me convinced I could grow them, too.

Dee Frady, who lives "up the hill and across the road" from me, decorates the outside of her local gift shop with hanging baskets from Sapa Greenhouses at Kenny Lake and lines her hillside stairway with inviting bunches of colorful flowers. It must be a warm and welcome sight for the McCarthy Road traveler.

As I write this, I can look out our office window and see the melting snow receding from our garden plot. At first glance, the soggy mass is intimidating, but past experience reminds me it won't be long before Rick and I lay out the beds and rows for this year's garden. Surprisingly, I can make out the furrows that last fall's rototilling job left behind. It is such a satisfying sight every spring.

Most of us are privileged to own a greenhouse. They come in a variety of sizes and shapes, but nonetheless they do the job. Certain vegetables can only be grown in a greenhouse in this north country. Tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, and eggplant need the greenhouse environment and protection. Green beans are a luxury item that can be grown in this area if the summer season isn't too cold. I prefer to do them in my greenhouse as I've experienced too many crop failures due to a surprise frost.

The first two weeks of May are spent preparing the garden for direct seeding. Our rows and beds are usually in place by the middle of the month. Out come the seed potatoes which we allow to sprout before planting. Last year Rick and I planted 54 potatoes and are still eating from the bountiful harvest each of those plants produced. Cliff Collins of Long Lake taught us how

to grow good "spuds." Dig a hole with a post hole digger; drop a handful of pellet fertilizer in, cover it with a layer of dirt. Then, set the sprouted potato seed on top and cover in the hole with dirt.

The late Harley King, also of Long Lake, taught us how to further increase our yield of potatoes. Plant them on the ends of the rows, he said, so they have plenty of space to spread out. And that they do! As I think back, when we first moved to our present location, Harley and his wife, Jo, are the ones who encouraged us to plant a garden. In fact,



they even came up and Harley rototilled our first garden. We're still using that same site; just enlarged it.

Zucchini and summer squash seeds are sown outside under a layer of clear plastic. Once the plants emerge, a slit is cut in the plastic enabling them to continue their upward growth. The plastic keeps the soil underneath nice and warm and helps contain the moisture. A few locals choose to do

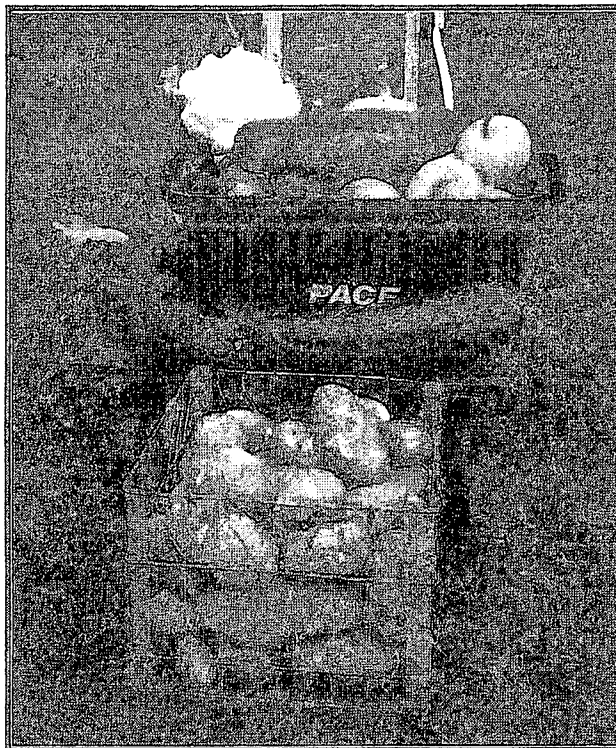
their squash in the greenhouse but they certainly take up a lot of room! In spite of the cool night temperatures, this area produces huge zucchini squash—if you harvest them in time! Actually, they grow so fast and abundant we can't keep up with them! So, out comes the variety of zucchini recipes. We fry, bake, sauté, steam, pickle and even freeze them. And, I love having extra to share with a visitor or neighbor.

Other vegetables such as parsnips, carrots, beets, radishes, lettuce, spinach, onions and peas are planted as seeds also around the middle of May. The last items to be set in the ground are the tiny seedlings—by now good-sized plants. Almost everyone around here waits until the first week of June to transplant them. A week to 10 days before they solo, we "harden them off" by gradually setting them outside. It's always a bit difficult to expose them to the elements but we do and, for the most part, they survive.

Speaking of survival...I, for one, am thankful for an invention called row cover. We ordered ours from a mail order seed catalog. Row covers are made of agricultural fleece which is a lightweight material and can be safely draped directly onto plants. It is known to extend the vegetable growing season in the early spring and fall months. As the plants grow, they just push the fleece upward. I read that it lets in 75 to 80 percent of outside light, and it "breathes," so no special ventilation is required. Water seeps right through, too. In spite of its weight, these covers are extremely hardy (unless the mice get into it during the winter and make numerous holes in it!) and can be used

year after year. It has been said that plants beneath these floating row covers are safe at outside air temperatures as low as 28 degrees F. in the spring and 25 degrees F. in the fall.

Gardening is always an adventure here in the McCarthy area but a good majority of us continue to accept the challenge each year brings. Longtime Long Lake gardener, Cliff Collins, cannot hide his expertise. Many visitors (and locals alike) driving the McCarthy Road during the summer months cannot help slowing down or stopping to see how Cliff



and Jewel's bountiful garden is growing.

Scattered throughout the west side and east side of the Kennicott River, we gardeners are welcoming in the spring. From Mark Vail at Fireweed Subdivision to Jeannie Miller at Kennicott, we thoroughly look forward to eating the fruit of our labors.

It's true, each year holds its own obstacles for us in the northland, but something in us just doesn't let us quit. Too many good-tasting vegetables and successes keep us coming back year after year!

A Wedding Sale

Every printing office that uses a linotype casts each line in one separate piece of metal, & when a bunch of these are spilled, it is called pie.

Recently a printer pried a galley of type that contained the notice of an auction sale, also an account of a wedding. They sorted out the lines the best they could and when the paper came out it read something like this:

"Mr. Henry Dallson, a soldier just recently returned from over seas, was disposed of at public auction at 1 p.m. last Sunday to Miss Plough Boy Separator on my farm one mile east of Parkersburg in the presence of 75 guests, including the following, to wit: 2 miles, 12 head of cows, 6 sows. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Ed Perkins whose reputa-

tion in such deals has made him very popular upon such occasions.

The ring ceremony was used. The home was tastefully decorated in roses and one spade, 1 sulky plow, one set of double harnesses, and Mendelssohn's Wedding March was beautifully rendered by one Jersey cow with calf, and one milk cow who carried a bunch of flowers to match the silk hose to attach to self-dumping rake and set of discs. They were white kid and low. The many articles too numerous to mention was continued during the prayer. The grindstone and the shovels, axes and rakes were strewn over dainty muslin lingerie.

The groom is well known and has always stood well among Berkshire hogs, including four sows, while the bride is an accomplished teacher of Poland China

hogs with pedigrees to complete the bill of presents which were nicely arranged upon a Litchfield manure spreader, and the flower girls were dressed in seven tons of sweet clover hay, five of straw.

The bridal party left Monday for an extended trip and will be gone for a free lunch at noon.

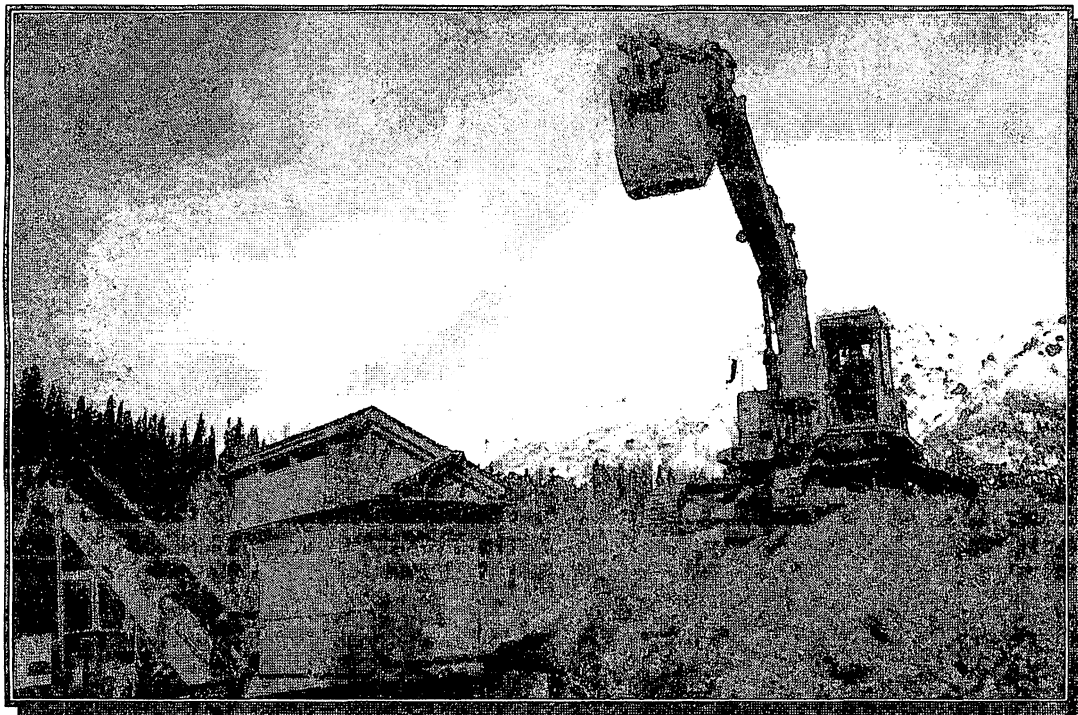
Don't fail to attend the sale upon their return when everything will go to the highest bidder.

from the Webster City Tribune—1921

"Of all actions of a man's life, his marriage does least concern other people, yet of all actions of our life 'tis most meddled with by other people."

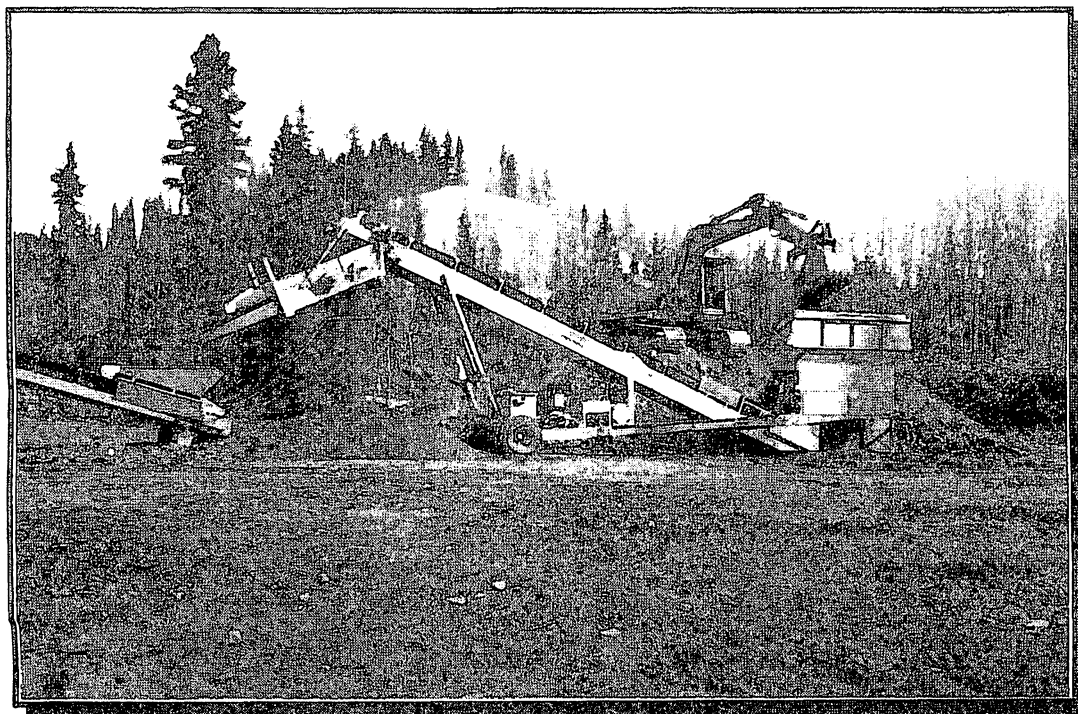
—John Selden 1584-1654

McCarthy Road gets 700' of improvements

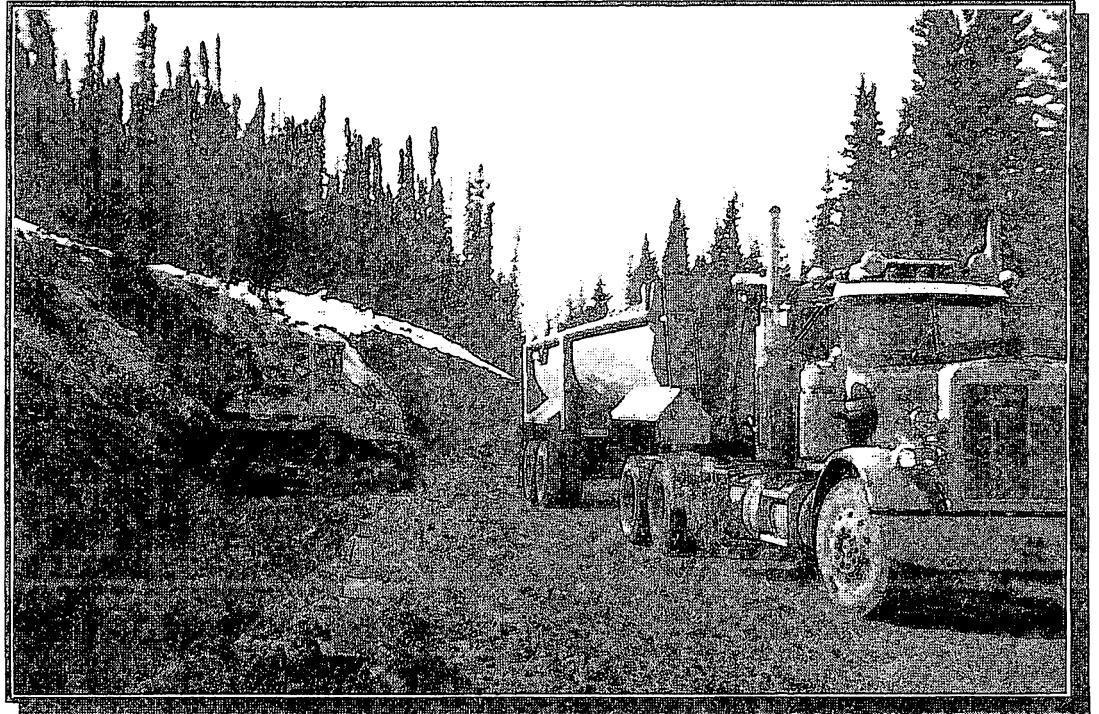


This is the gravel screening plant Miller-Bock General Contractors set up near the Lakina River, about a mile west of Long Lake. First the large rocks are removed, then the fine dirt and sand. The final product is then trucked to the repair site, the area along the lake where part of the road fell off into the water in 1994.

Most of the crew stayed in McCarthy, so they kept the last 15 miles of the road plowed clear of snow. Good for cars and trucks, but dog mushers and snowmachiners grumbled.

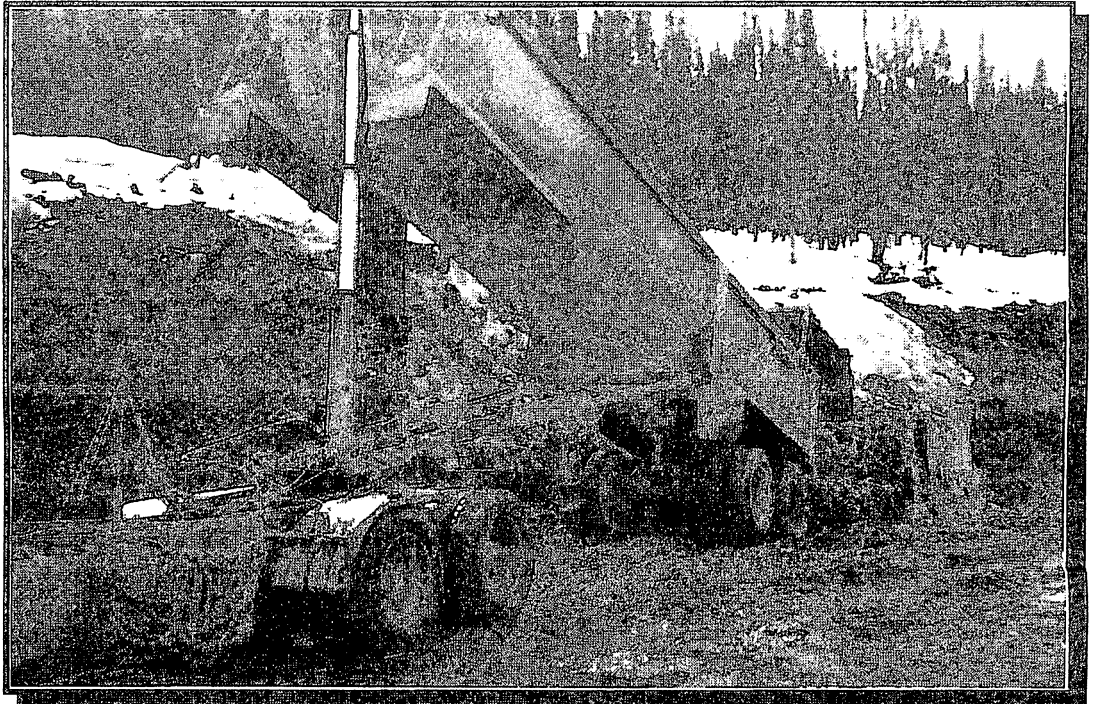


The hillside was cut back away from the lake, then a deep trench dug the length of the repair area, then filled with gravel from the screening plant. Removed material was hauled several miles to the east end of the lake, so that no dirt would get into the lake itself.



Bonnie and I watched in amazement as driver Larry Sohlman dumped his load of gravel, then turned his huge truck around in the narrow roadway. He would have to back up until the rear tires of the trailer were hanging out into space many feet above the frozen surface of the lake.

"This is the best job I have ever been on," said Sohlman. "We all just love it here—you have great scenery!"



More on Anton Anderson

BY JIM BUSEY

The story in March-April WSEN about Anton Anderson, entitled "Camp Life in McCarthy", raises old and pleasant memories. It was my privilege to know Anton, starting in the mid-thirties not long before I landed my first teaching job, at the Blackburn (Kennebecott) school, during 1937-1938. Actually, I was introduced to him by another well known and competent civil engineer, Donald McDonald, known to old-timers as the "father of the Alaska Highway". McDonald, being a single taxer straight out of Henry George's Progress and Poverty (1879), conceived of the highway as a device that could be financed by taxation of the increased property values along the proposed route, thus both solving the problem of paying for the construction, and advancing the cause of the single tax. Anton shared McDonald's empathy for the single tax idea, and also had a load of ingenious ideas of his own.

Of course the article, being submitted by Anton's daughter Jean, is quite accurate regarding the competence and egalitarian character of this remarkable Alaskan from New Zealand. As long as others dealt with him fairly and squarely, he met them half way in a civil manner, and was prepared to work with them on a basis of mutual respect. I can relate a personal incident that illustrates the point.

During the summer of 1940, after a year of teaching at the Independence Mine and before moving to a new post at the Valdez High School, I served with Anton on a two-man survey job in what were then the eastern outskirts of Anchorage. One Sunday I asked to borrow his pickup truck, essential

to the work he was doing, and he agreed to let me take it. So, I took a girlfriend for a ride up into the hills east of what is now Highway One, in the neighborhood of Eklutna. Being still a sort of semi-adolescent, which many men have trouble shaking off during several decades of their lives, I drove too fast on the one-lane gravel road; and about the time my companion suggested I slow down, we went off the road, bounced up and down over some hummocks, and broke the rear axle of Anton's pickup. No one was hurt, and I ran some twenty miles down the road for help. Needless to say, the young lady I was with must have decided she had enough of anyone so irresponsible, because I never had a date with her again.

At any rate, when I told Anton about the event, and he realized he was minus his truck, he was calm and civilized; and in a brief time we agreed that the costs of towing and repairs, and rental of another truck, would be deducted from my pay, which meant that for most of the rest of the summer, I was working to pay off the debt. A lot of other men we have all known could have flown into emotional orbit; but with Anton Anderson, we were able to reach a fair and equitable agreement without any fracture of his decent, egalitarian attitude toward his employee.

My wife Marian (married 1942) and I were last with Anton and Alma at their Anchorage home during the summer of 1958. By that time he had served as Anchorage mayor, and the ravages of Parkinson's were evident; but even so, he was full of good humor and entertained us with stories and jokes drawn from his great reservoir of reading and experience.

For Anton was not only a great civil engineer and person; he was also an omnivorous reader, with an amazing photographic memory. During the winter of 1939-1940, when I was teaching at the Independence Mine and would enjoy occasional visits with Anton and Alma in Anchorage, he gave me a vivid example of this. While he spoke from memory only, and I wrote down his words, he recited to me, verbatim, the concluding chapter of the last volume of Ridpath's History of the World — a dramatic assault on over organization and over-government of the human race.

Much later, in 1993, I found the original chapter in the set of Ridpath's History, located in the lobby of the Johnson Hotel in McCarthy. If the books have not been disturbed, they are still there. Anton's memory of the chapter had been almost exactly accurate. Any differences between his recital and the actual wording in Ridpath were very few and minor in importance. People who are readers and want to be astonished should get permission from Betty or Gary Hickling, and sit down with Ridpath in the hotel lobby. That concluding chapter provides both an excellent essay and a remarkable illustration of Anton's talents. For all I know, the book in the Johnson Hotel could be the very one in which Anton, who was in McCarthy during the summer of 1924, read the chapter and committed it to memory.

Anton Anderson, in other words, was a remarkable engineer and a person of intellectual stature. He was also a very fair and egalitarian man. It is a rare privilege to have known such a civilized individual.

OUR TOWN

May 1921 June



ITEMS OF INTEREST

Cap. Hubrick left on last Saturday's train for Chitina and Cordova, where he met the moving picture operators sent North by Rex Beach, for pictures of the Copper River valley to illustrate his filming of the Iron Trail.

As the Nizina River has been cutting in on the side close to Shorty Gwinn's house and threatens to sweep the whole shebang away, Shorty and Lubbe have been constructing a strong dam in the hope of turning the water to mid stream.

LOCAL NEWS

It is a mighty good thing for McCarthy that there are numbers of optimists among its residents.

Had they been pessimists they would now be sitting with their heads in their hands; saying things are getting worse and worse and worse.

But the optimists are putting their heads together and doing something which will be of some benefit to the town and that is improving the trail between here and Kennecott, a sum of money having been subscribed for that purpose by the optimists in McCarthy, the Kennecott Copper Corporation generously supplying several tons of waste tailings from their copper mines, which will make excellent material for filling in the bad places at the Kennecott end.

We never have and never will have approved of this method of road building, but circumstances alter cases.

H. Olsen, who is the prime mover in this work, has already started his subscription list and will call on those whom he has not yet visited, some time next week, for further contributions.

May 14

FIRE AFTERMATH

People are just beginning to feel normal again since the terrible fire of a week ago and those who were affected by it are planning new homes and bearing their reverses with fortitude.

Pete Johnson left Sunday for the ranch, where he is building a barn, and will then begin cutting timbers for Kennecott.

Mrs. Johnson is occupying Aron Ericksons house, which he placed at her disposal. She is hoping to make arrangements in a few days to rent a suitable building and reopen her boarding house. They will rebuild the hotel, but not till next spring.

Through John E. Barrett, agent for W.W. Harvey, Mrs. Kennedy has purchased the building on Front Street, formerly occupied by Mrs. Damon, and has had it entirely re-papered and renovated. She moved in yesterday.

At a meeting of citizens held last Saturday evening to discuss fire protection it was decided to communicate

with Valdez fire department to ascertain if hand pumps can be procured. Messrs. Woodman, Kavanaugh & Snyder are the committee in charge.

Work on the trail to Kennecott has progressed greatly this week and Henry Olsen is well pleased with the support he has received tho like Oliver Twist, he is asking for more. Volunteer work is also asked for. Warren Nels and his partner donated two days work this week, and moved so they say 30,000 feet of rock.

John Barrett is also road making, clearing slides, etc. on the Mother Lode road. He will have the road in good condition to his property by tonight.

MOVIES IN ALASKA

Chitina, May 18th. Special to Weekly News. Mr. W.A. Scoy and E.C. Dyer representing a prominent film co. now preparing "The Iron Trail" for moving pictures spent a few weeks in town, taking pictures of the ice going out of the Copper.

They will go into camp at mile 49 to take pictures of the ice going out at the big steel bridge and will have the love scene from that novel; acted on the bridge, a prominent young lady from Cordova taking the part of the heroine.



GIFT GIVEN

The children and teachers of the Union Sunday school, desiring to show their sympathy to their friend Mrs. Johnson, unanimously voted \$25 from their treasury as a gift to her.

CHITINA NEWS

Road Commission Imports Cars

Six armored, Holt, five ton tractors, built for war use but never used, have arrived here for the use of the A.R.C.

In addition to the tractors, 5 Dodge trucks were shipped here one to be sent to each camp for local use. Everything is now in shape for the transportation of the supplies.

Guy Birch, Jack Bishop, Jack Graham, Wm. Miller, Chas. Garwood and Chas. Howard returned here in charge of the A.R.C. horses that had been used on the Govt. railroad at Anchorage during the past winter.

On account of extremely high water the driving of the Chitina bridge has been some what delayed. The cooler weather last night caused the water to fall four inches so another attempt will be made to drive the piling in a day or so.

May 21

LOCAL NEWS

Charley Anderson is clearing ten acres of land for Sam Seltenreich.

Tracing down a rumor that Cap. Hubrick had killed the largest bear in the Copper River valley, and, incidentally, eloped with a heroine, Mrs. Hubrick took the train this morning for Chitina. We did not hear when she will return, but you can bet that Cap will come back with her.

OF LOCAL INTEREST

A recently received word that his first grandchild had arrived. This was when a little daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. B. O'Neill at Saludas, South Carolina.

May 28

GAME WARDEN ON AN INSPECTION TRIP

Ed Young, game warden for this section, with headquarters at Chitina arrived on the last train. Accompanied by Nels Tjosevig, Mr. Young left this morning for the Chitina River country, where he will investigate the game and feed question, submitting his report to the Governor.

No report covering these matters has ever been made and the fact that the Chitina River country is now included in the hunting district for this section, makes it necessary for the government to have a full report on what game, feed and timber is available.

Mr. Young will be gone about two weeks and as he and Nels are good shots it is more than probable that they will come back loaded with bear.

FLOOD

McCarthy creek ran the highest for several years last

Sunday evening due to the bursting of an underground lake at the head of the glacier.

The water raised six feet in a very short time and continued for several hours.

Returning from the Green Group by automobile, J.E. Barrett was exercised in his mind as to the safety of the bridges against the heavy logs and trees which were being carried down and at mile 6 bridge found a heavy jamb. Oscar Bachman who was also in the party; volunteered to go down and chop out the debris, which he did, after first being fortified with a sling of ropes. He moved the logs and roots, and was almost swept away before he could be pulled up.

The filling from the piers of two bridges had been washed out, and from the abutments of three more. Three of the bridges are settling.

June 11

KENNECOTT OFFICIALS EXPECTED

Seattle, June 17. C.T. Ulrich Birch's confidential representative and Secretary of the Copper River and Northwestern Railway accompanied by E.T. Stannard are passengers on the Northwestern, due to Cordova, on a tour of inspection.

OF LOCAL INTEREST

Mrs. M.F. Roberts, of Blackburn, the only lady homesteader in this section, is returning to her home, after spending eight months on an extended trip over all parts of the States. She is a passenger on the Northwestern.

The Green Group property under the direction of J.E. Barret will be developed considerably this summer. At present seven men are employed on road repairs and tram terminals.

Celebrating his eleventh birthday, Teddy Seltenreich is treating his little friends to ice cream and cake.

JOE GREEN FALLS FROM TRAM LINE & IS KILLED

Through attempting to catch a bucket on the Bonanza tram line at one of the towers, Joe Green, hoistman at the Bonanza mine fell several hundred feet and was fatally injured and died shortly afterwards last Thursday afternoon.

June 18

LOCAL NEWS

Harry Boyden, Charlie Fogelberg, and Bill McLennan have just arrived in town from Chisana. Harry Boyden's pack train, which has been turned out all winter, looks very fit.

Ed Young, Nels Tjosevig and Lou Henderson returned from their trip to the hills yesterday.

Ed Young took the train for Chitina the same day.

Cap. Hubrick has received three telegraphic messages asking for information about hunting trips. The parties will probably come here in August.

June 25

OF LOCAL INTEREST

One of the beauty spots of the Copper River Valley, which is not as well known as it should be, even by the residents of McCarthy, is

Long Lake, situated about fourteen miles down the railroad, an ideal place to spend a vacation.

The Lake itself, which is two miles long and is a quarter of a mile at its widest point, is nestled down among wooded hills, with a background of white capped mountains, all of which are reflected in the waters. Trout are plentiful, worthy of the efficient angler, who can be sure of a good string.

The roadhouse which is located quite close to the railroad, is well arranged for the comfort of visitors: the host, Ed Mullen, is one of Alaska's old timers, and makes every one very much at home. For the pleasure of guests, he has a fine boat equipped with a Coban motor, so that boat riding is a joy.

Another fine fishing spot is a stream which has its source in the lake, and winds for several miles through the woods.

Several fine farms are south of the lake, the best being that of Oscar Anderson who has twenty acres now in crop, principally barley, potatoes and turnips. The average yield per acre of hay is two tons.

Anderson has wisely provided modern farm machinery, which is of the greatest help. He will have fifty acres cleared by next fall.

Ed Mullen has five acres under cultivation, chiefly winter wheat, turnips and potatoes. Rhubarb is growing in profusion on both these ranches.

Al Fagerberg and Fred Overlander have also located homesteads and are clearing and planting.

June 25

Volcanoes of the Wrangells — Mt. Jarvis

Editors note: This is the sixth in a series of excerpts from the newly released publication GUIDE to the VOLCANOES of the WESTERN WRANGELL MOUNTAINS, ALASKA, by Donald H. Richter, Danny S. Rosenkrans, and Margaret J. Steigerwald. In our last issue we dealt with Tanada Peak. This time we'll take a look at Mount Jarvis.

Mount Jarvis is the high point of a 5-mi (8 km)-long, north-trending, ice-covered ridge largely hidden behind Mount Sanford and Tanada Peak.

Name.— Named by F.C. Schrader, U. S. Geological Survey geologist, in 1903 after Lt. Daniel H. Jarvis of the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service, who led an overland relief expedition to aid a whaling fleet trapped in Arctic Ocean ice off Point Barrow in 1897-98. Ahtna name: Tsic' etgodi Dzel' ("rock is chipping mountain")

Type and form.— Shield volcano containing summit caldera.

The summit caldera is poorly defined and may be a group of two or more nested calderas, as much as 6 mi (9.6 km) long.

Location.— 31 mi (50 km) southwest of the community of Nabesna, at lat 62°01' N., long 143°37' W Shown on U. S. Geological Survey Nabesna A-6 quadrangle map.

Height.— 13,421 ft (4,091 m). High point at unnamed north end of ridge, 13,025 ft (3,970 m).

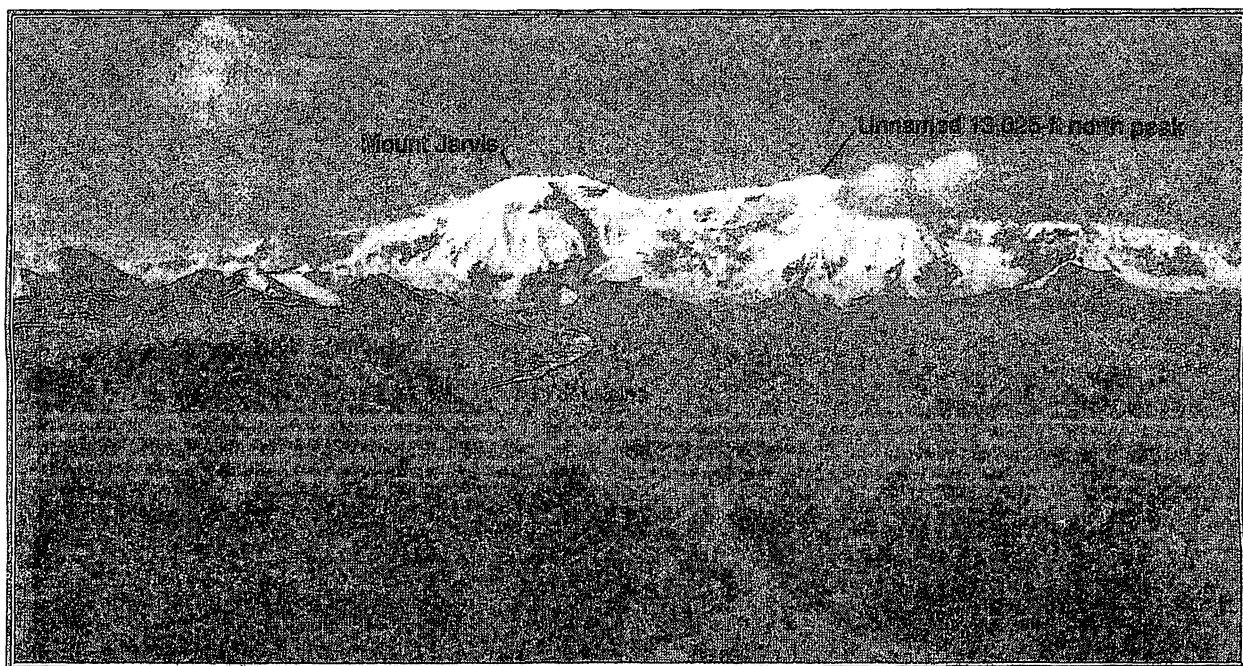
Latest eruptive activity.— A large dacite dome-flow complex at the extreme north end of Jarvis volcano, which has been dated at 1.0 million years old, may be the latest activity of the volcano.

Volcanic history.— Development of the Mount Jarvis volcano began about 1.7 million years ago with the eruption of extensive andesite flows. Andesite volcanism continued until about 1.0 million years ago, probably contemporaneously with the formation of a summit caldera or group of

calderas. By 1.0 million years ago, the Jarvis magmas became more silicic in composition and produced the satellitic dacite domes and flows at the north end of the volcanic complex. An interesting product of a dacite cinder cone on the south-east flank of the volcano is an extensive agglutinate flow that exhibits spectacular columnar joints. This flow resulted from collapse of the cone wall and mobilization of the wall materials (cinders, spatter, and bombs) while they were still hot and fluid enough to flow.

Glaciers.— Most of Mount Jarvis and the Jarvis ridge are covered by icefields and glaciers. Jacksina Glacier, the largest glacier associated with Mount Jarvis, has its origin low on the east flank of the massif, where ice tongues from the two high points of the Jarvis ridge coalesce.

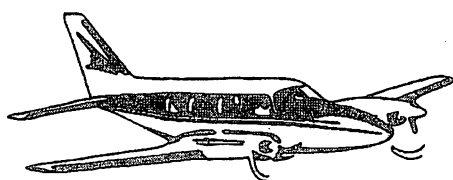
Best viewing.— Mount Jarvis can best be seen along the Nabesna Road between miles 13 and 20.



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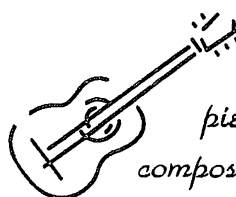
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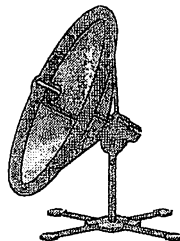
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Life's priceless lessons are worth taking the time to learn

BY KAREN L. STRAHAN

There's a generational torch, so to speak, being passed down in our family: My 8-year-old son Joshua has received his first .22 rifle and he couldn't be more proud.

He has dreams of being a pilot, hunter and "master outdoorsman," like his uncle, his grandfather and his great-grandfather.

Yes, he may be a little trigger-happy still, thinking that every resident squirrel is a pest and needs to be destroyed and every mouse is fair game for the dog, but he's learning. And his treasured weapon is kept high on a shelf, out of reach of little hands, even when assisted by a nearby chair. He knows adult supervision is mandatory and he doesn't cross that line. He can pick a squirrel off a limb at 25 yards (maybe some slight maternal exaggeration) with two shots - target practice and food for whatever carnivorous stray we happen to be nursing this year. (Isn't that killing one squirrel with two bullets?)

I'm seeing pattern being repeated here. The same man who, when I was a child, taught me what each and every bird species is - and then lovingly and relentlessly tested

me on my knowledge, the same man who taught me to catch (and clean) my own fish and who taught me everything I need to know about raising stray, abandoned wildlife is the same man who is passing this priceless and important legacy on to my son.



Joshua's great-grandfather, my grandfather, is that man. And the lessons that are being taught are worth more than any college education that money can buy. Why? Because although Joshua doesn't realize it yet, not only is he learning things that he'll never forget, lessons that will stay with him

through adulthood, he's also gathering a lifetime of precious memories.

I know, because I look back on my own memories with this wise, gentle and incredibly knowledgeable man and there's nothing more important that he could have ever given me, than that which he already has - his time.

So I'm taking this opportunity to tell him thank you publicly. Thank you for teaching me how to drive a stick-shift and how to run a chain saw. Thank you for encouraging me and always standing by me, even when I didn't live up to your expectations and I disappointed you. And thank you for what you're teaching my son - the respect and appreciation for life, that you yourself have.

Karen L. Strahan is a former reporter for The Cordova Times. Most of us in the McCarthy area know Karen as Cliff Collins's granddaughter. Cliff and his wife, Jewel, make their home in Cordova, but spend their summers at Long Lake. The article appeared in the October 19, 1995 issue of The Cordova Times. Many thanks to the WSEN subscriber who shared it with us and to The Cordova Times for their permission to reprint it.

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BOOK REVIEW

There are two news books we want to recommend. Charlie and Inger Ricci sent us a copy of "Iron Rails to Alaskan Copper," which was published in 1995. If you are an avid railroad buff—especially of the White Pass and Yukon and the Copper River and Northwestern Railroads—you will want to purchase Mr. Quinn's book. The

191 page book is chocked full of pictures and history that you won't want to miss. If you are local to our area or planning a visit, Terry and Dee Frady of Willow Herb Mountain Depot say they have ordered it and will have it on hand for this summer season.

Not too long ago, I received a phone call from Sissy Lommel Klueh who is also a subscriber to

WSEN. She introduced herself as a former Kennecott Kid and told me she was busy writing a book of her recollections of Kennicott and its early days.

Sissy says her book won't be released until June. I can hardly wait! She is returning to visit Kennicott the first week of July and I trust she will bring plenty of her newly-released books with her.

Iron Rails to Alaskan Copper

by Alfred O. Quinn, PE and LS

In 1898 a young Civil Engineer named Erastus Corning Hawkins accepted the position of Chief Engineer for a proposed railroad in Southeastern Alaska to go from Skagway to the top of the recently discovered White Pass and northward to Whitehorse in the Canadian Northwest Territory. The railroad, the White Pass and Yukon was built as a supply route for the immense gold fields of the Klondike region. Hawkins was joined by an equally young construction contractor named Michael Heney. The two men became a successful team—Hawkins provided the engineering

skill and Heney supplied the labor and know-how for the difficult work required to "hang" a railroad through the steep mountain slopes that barred the route.

Later in 1907 Hawkins and Heney were reunited to provide the "brains" and "brawn" for the design and construction of the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad—a standard gauge track from the all-season port of Cordova, Alaska, 191 miles into the Alaska Interior to the fabulously rich Kennecott Copper Mines. The Copper River, a wild and frequently tempestuous river that was fed by glaciers meandered through steep canyons that defied the construction of a railroad. Once again Hawkins and Heney overcame the bitter cold, heavy

snows, frequent floods, and the inhospitable terrain to build the railroad which included a number of major bridges.

The author, a Professional Engineer and Surveyor, has a wealth of experience in surveying and mapping in remote areas throughout the world. His knowledge and enthusiasm for the Copper River area provides the background for this story about Alaskan exploration and engineering accomplishments. More than 100 photographs and maps are included.

The book is available from the publisher, D'Aloquin Publishing Co., Quaker Mountain, Wilmington, N.Y. 12997. The price is \$24.95 plus \$3.50 for S/H.

Born in Kennecott

by Sissy Lommel Klueh

This book tells the story in text and photographs of a family's life in frontier Alaska. The book is centered in the mountainous mining camp of Kennecott, the company town of Kennecott Copper Corporation.

The story is a wonderful look at childhood in the rough, tough world of outback Alaska in the 1920's. A first time author, Ms. Klueh has managed to present a

realistic viewpoint of a "Kennecott Kid", as the native children of this town are now fondly called. Anecdotes and recounted memories bring a distinct and vivid focus to what we would now think of as hardships but that children in frontier settings learned to live with on a daily basis. The isolation of a small company town, outhouses hanging off the glacier's edge, beer brewing in the family tub and playing outside at 30 degrees below zero were all taken in stride. In their world these were

not hardships, merely part of life's grand adventure!

The photographs give a poignant focus to the narrative and add a depth to the story that many first time books lack. Ms. Klueh is in her seventies and has maintained a sharp wit and terrific sense of humor. Truly a must read new release. It is expected to be available in June in some local bookstores or from Top Shelf Publishing Company, P.O. Box 11008, Olympia, WA 98508-1008, for \$14.95, plus \$1.50 postage and handling.

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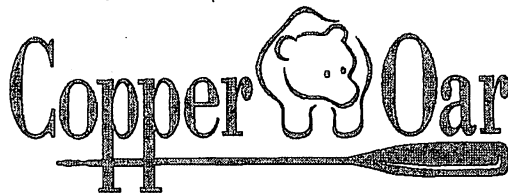
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Who is this kid?

BY LILLY GOODMAN

Some readers will recognize this young wrangler to be Andrew Adams who has frequented McCarthy every summer for the past ten years. But no longer a kid, Andy could soon be wrangling more than horses for in July he will be headed for New York as a cadet enrolled in the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Despite Andy's first introduction to McCarthy being a long winter walk from Long Lake where the Adams's pickup remained stuck in the clutches of a deadly road glacier, Andy has returned to McCarthy every summer for nearly ten years to help his father John Adams with his horses and to work at the McCarthy Lodge. John said he was even able to enlist Andy's help this winter when they framed up John's new house.

"Thank goodness I was able to get his help during Christmas!" John said upon realizing that his son would be departing soon for New York.



Andy will be the first person in his family to attend a military academy. Among other prestigious schools Andy was also accepted to

the air force academy in Colorado Springs. He was the first Matanuska Valley student to be accepted to either academy this year. Both institutions require an outstanding academic performance for acceptance as well as involvement in extracurricular activities. With a high school grade point average of 3.997 and participation in The Business Professionals of America, wrestling, track, football, and even cheer leading, it is no wonder Andy was ushered in.

The program at West Point is year round with three weeks off both in the summer and around Christmas. After four years in the academy, cadets are then required to spend five years in active duty.

McCarthy will join John Adams in missing Andy's presence this summer. But we wish him the best of luck and a proud congratulation.

(Rome to New York cont.)

them to Prudhoe Bay in Ilushin (IL) 76's cargo planes.

The convoy drove the Dalton Highway with side trips to Bettles, Cold Foot and Rampart. They continued on to Fairbanks, then Anchorage. After leaving Anchorage on the Friday before they arrived in McCarthy, they spent the night in Glennallen. Ken said they stopped off in Chitina where he was personally thrilled to visit with his friend and longtime acquaintance, Rosemary Ivey.

The McCarthy Road didn't pose *too* much trouble. A road glacier at Mile 30 did prove to be a *bit* of an obstacle. One of the trucks

slid off the road, but was soon winched out and back on the trail.

Ken said he had accompanied the group from Anchorage and may continue on with them into Canada. Another group called The Northern Forum organized the Circumpolar Expedition in 1994 under the then Governor Wally Hickel. According to Ken, the Norwegian Council had introduced him to the Italian group. He came along to help them make the necessary Alaskan contacts, deal with the 18 different state and federal agencies and obtain the necessary permits, etc.

According to Ken the state agencies were fine to work with, but they found the federal agencies more troublesome.

Before the adventurous truckers left McCarthy on Sunday afternoon, one of the group gave us a tour of the cook truck and served us the best Parmesan cheese I've ever eaten! Betty informed me that they also treated her to one of the finest Italian meals she's had in quite some time.

The group's itinerary is open although at this time they plan on crossing Canada to Montreal then dropping down into the states. According to Ken, they plan to arrive in New York the end of April. They may ship their trucks back to Italy or "decide to just keep on trekking."



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Cooking with Carly

BY CARLY KRITCHEN

My husband and I have almost always celebrated Cinco de Mayo (the fifth of May) but not because we know much about this Mexican holiday celebrating a victory of peasants over invading French troops on May 5, 1862. Evidently far more popular north of the border than in Mexico, it provides a good excuse to try some new Mexican-style recipes for south of the border cooking fans! I went to a Cinco De Mayo celebration in San Diego when I was in my early teens. It was the first time I ever had anything more adventurous than a taco from Taco Time, and I've been a Mexican food fan ever since. I've been to more than one Cinco De Mayo party since then, but don't think anything will ever beat that first homemade tamale!

The two following recipes for preparing tortillas are not the usual way of frying them in hot oil. I think they're almost as tasty with far fewer calories and fat.

Baked Quesidillas

- 4 flour tortillas
- 1 can (4 oz.) chopped green chilies, drained
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Lightly brush tortillas with water. Toss chilies and cheese together until well mixed, then spoon about 2 tablespoons over each tortilla, covering half of it. Fold over to cover filling. Place slightly apart on baking sheets. Bake in a 500 degree oven until tortillas are crisp and golden (about 5 minutes). Remove from oven. If serving as appetizers, slice each half circle into 4 pieces. For a main course, use either the following Rellano de Pollo or Frijoles recipe

for filling, and serve at least one tortilla per person.

The following two recipes are from a friend's mother, who was an excellent cook who was actually born in Mexico — she ruined my taste for refried beans from a can forever! The homemade Frijoles are much tastier! To "refrie" them, just fry them in lard over high heat, mashing them with a fork to a coarse paste.

Frijoles

- 1 pound dried pinto, or red kidney beans
- 7 cups water
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 2 large cloves garlic, minced
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 fresh, or canned serrano chilies, finely chopped
- 2 Tbsp. lard (or vegetable oil)
- 1 cup tomato sauce
- ¾ tsp. salt

Soak beans in water in a large sauce pot overnight. Add onion, garlic, bay leaf and chilies; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer about 2 hours or until beans are almost tender. Add lard or oil, tomato sauce and salt. Cook covered for about another 2 hours until beans are very tender. Discard bay leaf. Mash some beans against side of pot with back of spoon to thicken the bean sauce. Serve with warm tortillas, or in taco shells (see recipe below)

Rellano de Pollo

- 2 whole chicken breasts, skin removed
- 2 cups water
- 1 small onion
- 1 bay leaf
- 8 peppercorns
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 Tbsp. oil
- ¾ cup Mexican red chili or enchilada sauce

- 2Tbsp. chopped ripe olives
- 1 small canned jalapeño pepper, minced

In a large saucepan boil chicken, water, the small onion, bay leaf, and peppercorns. Reduce heat; cover; and simmer 30 minutes until chicken is tender. Cool in the pot. Discard bay leaf, and drain chicken. Remove meat from bones. With 2 forks shred chicken and set aside. In a hot skillet, sauté the chopped onion in oil until tender. Stir in shredded chicken, sauce, olives, and chili. Simmer about 10 minutes. Makes about three cups.

This is an easy way to prepare a taco basket without frying. Serve with any filling, chopped lettuce, avocado, tomatoes, or whatever you have for a fun meal in an edible bowl.

Baked Taco Bowl

Fill a flat bowl, such as a pie pan, with about ½ inch water and ¼ teaspoons oil. Quickly immerse a flour tortilla in water, then drain. Drape the tortilla over the top of a cleaned, empty 4 inch food can. Set each can on a baking sheet, and bake in a 450 degree oven until lightly browned, about 4 to 5 minutes. Carefully lift hot taco baskets off cans and place upright. If the sides don't stay upright, drape back over can and bake a couple more minutes. Then fill with regular taco mix, or one of the fillings above.

We stopped at a small restaurant for lunch while we were on vacation in New Mexico that served a delicious salsa with our lunch. When we asked the owner if we could buy some, she said it was so easy to make that she was too embarrassed to sell it. I wrote down the recipe. If you like

chunkier salsa don't blend it very long or add tomato chunks later.

Salsa

- 1 can (14 ½ ounces)
chopped tomatoes, or 5
small very ripe tomatoes,
chopped, and drained
- 3 canned jalapeño chilies,
chopped fine
- 1 small onion, chopped very
fine
- 2 tablespoons chopped
parsley, or cilantro
- 2 large cloves garlic,
chopped
- salt and sugar to taste
- ¼ teaspoon pepper

Mix all ingredients in blender until well blended. Cover: store in refrigerator. Flavor improves as the salsa gets older. Use within about 10 days.

Enchiladas are one of the most basic Mexican dishes - this recipe is faster than baking them in the oven. I've had to change some of the ingredients - can't get anejo cheese in McCarthy!

Enchiladas

- 2 chicken breasts, cooked
and shredded (see Rellano
recipe)
- 4 large tomatoes, chopped
and seeded
- 3 serrano or jalapeño chilies,
chopped
- ¼ cup water
- ¾ cup cilantro, or parsley,
chopped
- 1 small onion, minced
- 1 ½ cups chicken broth
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- ½ cup anejo or jack cheese,
cubed

- ¼ cup cream or milk
- 16-18 corn tortillas
- oil
- salt to taste

Cook tomatoes and chilies in water for 5 minutes, then blend in cilantro or parsley. In a separate pan, saute onion and garlic in two tablespoons oil until golden brown. Add to tomato mixture. Add chicken broth and salt. Simmer until thickened, remove from heat.

Melt cheese and cream or milk in a double boiler. Set aside.

Warm tortillas in ¼ cup oil; drain; then dredge with hot sauce. Place chicken on tortilla; roll up and place on serving platter. Top with melted cheese mixture. Serves 6-8.

"We may live without poetry, music and art;
We may live without conscience, and live without
heart;

We may live without friends; we may live without
books;

But civilized man cannot live without cooks."

—Owen Meredith

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Monday — Saturday Glennallen to McCarthy

Depart Glennallen	7:15 a.m.
Depart Chitina	8:30 a.m.
Arrive McCarthy	11:45 a.m.

McCarthy to Glennallen

Depart McCarthy	4:45 p.m.
Arrive Chitina	7:30 p.m.
Arrive Glennallen	9:15 p.m.

RATES

Glennallen to McCarthy

RT same day	\$70
RT different day	\$88
One way	\$49

Chitina to McCarthy

RT same day	\$60
RT different day	\$70
One way	\$35

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A TRIBUTE TO THE FORGOTTEN MECHANIC

Through the history of world aviation many names have come to the fore...

Great deeds of the past in our memory will last, as they're joined by more and more...

When man first started his labor in his quest to conquer the sky

he was designer, mechanic and pilot, and he built a machine that would fly...

but somehow the order got twisted, and then in the public's eye

the only man that could be seen was the man who knew how to fly...

The pilot was everyone's hero, he was brave, he was bold, he was grand,

as he stood by his battered old biplane with his goggles and helmet in hand....

To be sure, these pilots all earned it, to fly you have to have guts....

And they blazed their names in the hall of fame on wings with bailing wire struts....

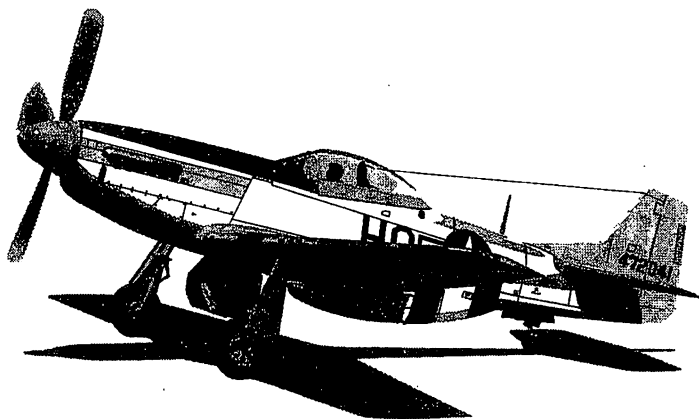
But for each of these flying heroes there were thousands of little renown,

and these were the men who worked on the planes but kept their feet on the ground....

We all know the name of Lindbergh, and we've read of his flight to fame....

But think, if you can, of his maintenance man, can you remember his name?

And think of our wartime heroes, Gabreski, Jabara, and Scott....



Can you tell me the names of their crew chiefs? A thousand to one you cannot....

Now pilots are highly trained people, and wings are not easily won....

But without the work of the

maintenance man our pilots would march with a gun....

So when you see mighty aircraft as they mark their way through the air,

the grease-stained man with the wrench in his hand is the man who put them there....

author unknown

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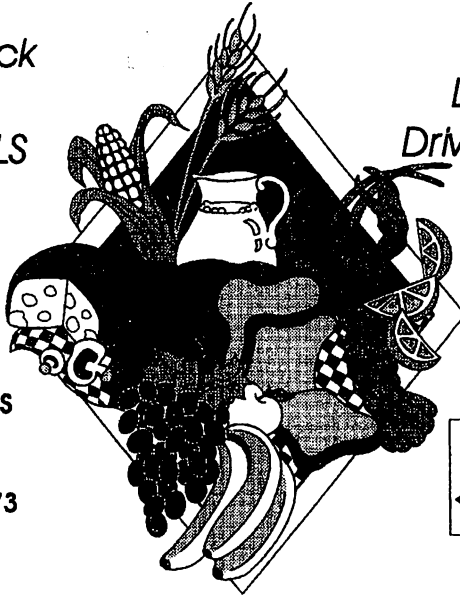
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What's going on with MAC?

BY LILLY GOODMAN

With drips pouring from the roofs as warm reminders of breakup and the summer tourist season to follow, members of the McCarthy Area Council (MAC) have commenced to get busy once again. At the March 22nd meeting held at Ed LaChappelle's house, members discussed the status of the current Aquifer Study, which has been underway since last fall. An aerial map of the area under study was displayed. The conclusions of the study are still to come, but in the meantime, MAC members are developing a plan to protect our precious and fragile water supply.

Key elements of the proposed plan include further encouragement of all businesses to establish toilet facilities for their customers,

continued efforts in education of visitors to the community, and solicitation of advice and aid from other institutions with an interest in the area, such as the National Park Service, and the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

In addition to water protection, MAC members are working to develop a plan that would deal with the trash and waste that accumulates each season with summer visitation, and at the same time attempt to maintain the unique character of the town.

Meanwhile, the organization has exciting prospects for boosting its dwindling funds. MAC will be taking over the events on the Fourth of July as a fund-raiser. In recent years, the McCarthy Lodge has

done a wonderful job of organizing and getting sponsors for most of the activities on the Fourth, but Betty Hickling has offered to turn over the administration and coordination of the events to MAC with hopes that proceeds will help uplift MAC's saggy bank account.

Anyone interested in helping with the 4th of July, or with any suggestions or comments on any other MAC projects are invited and encouraged to participate in our plans. Contact MAC by writing to the McCarthy Area Council, McCarthy #31, P.O. Box MXY, Glennallen, AK 99588-8998. Contact Richard Villa, or Carly Kritchen specifically if you would like to help with the 4th of July events.

We have moved to better serve you!

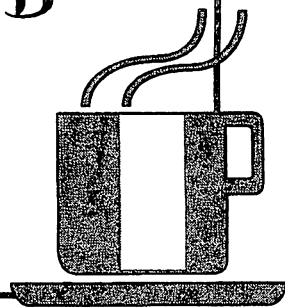
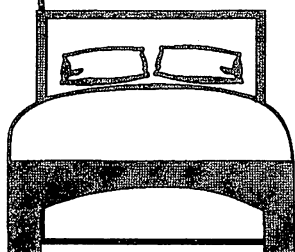
Now you can drive and park near our comfortable, private cabins located on the McCarthy Road ½ mile from the trams—no need to tram your luggage over the river. We serve a hot breakfast and offer custom tours and plenty of information on the local area.

Our guests are our friends—we'll come to your aid if you have problems on the McCarthy Road.

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*John Adams
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Glennallen, AK 99588*

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A look at the weather



BY GEORGE CEBULA

The first part of February at McCarthy saw some welcome warmth after a frigid January and plenty of snow. It turned cold again in mid February and the rest of the month had average February conditions.

The high temperature for February was 45 on the 11th (38 on Feb. 6, '95 and 32 on Feb. 2, '94). The lowest temperature recorded at McCarthy in February was -45 on the 21st (-31 on Feb. 25, '95 and -41 on Feb. 24, '94). The high was 30 or above on 11 days and the low was zero or below on 14 days. The average February temperature was 9.7, just .2 above the 9.5 in '95 and well above the -3.9 in '94. *By comparison Silver Lake had a high of 41 February 12th (the same on Feb. 6, '95 and Feb. 2, '94) and a low of -43 on February 21st (-30 on Feb. 19, '95 and -39 on Feb. 27, '94). The average February temperature at Silver Lake was 8.6 (8.9 in '95 and -2.9 in '94).*

The February precipitation was well above normal with 3.34 inches of liquid (0.86 in Feb. '95 and 0.49 in Feb. '94). Total snowfall was 37.0 inches (5.5 in Feb. '95 and 5.2 in Feb. '94). This was more than half of the total seasonal snowfall of 66.8 inches. *Silver Lake had 2.41 inches of liquid (0.49 in Feb. '95 and 0.29 in Feb. '94) and 30.5 inches of snow (6.0 in Feb. '95 and 5.0 in Feb. '94). McCarthy had 11*

inches of snow on the ground on the 1st and 25 inches on the 29th. The greatest was 27 inches on the 26th. More than half of the winter's snow arrived in February. Silver Lake started the month with 9 inches and ended with a high of 39 inches on the ground.

March saw the end of the cold and plenty of sunshine. The road was plowed into McCarthy by March 2nd and the temperature reached a high of 47 on the 24th (53 on Mar. 28, '95 and 56 on Mar. 29, '94). The low temperature for March was -23 on the 8th (-33 on Mar. 25, '95 and -5 on Mar. 22, '94). The average March temperature was 18.0 compared to 10.9 in Mar. '95 and 23.6 in Mar. '94. *Silver Lake had a high of 44 on March 26th (49 on Mar. 30, '95 and 54 on Mar. 30, '94), a low of -22 on March 8th (-26 on Mar. 25, '95 and -34 on Mar. 1, '94) and a march average temperature 14.8 (8.9 in Mar. '95 and 20.2 in Mar. '94).*

March precipitation was all snow with 0.80 inches of liquid (0.57 in Mar. '95 and 0.69 in Mar. '94) and 13.7 inches of snow (4.1 in Mar. '95 and 3.8 in Mar. '94). *Silver Lake had 0.86 inches of liquid (0.65 in Mar. '95 and 0.37 in Mar. '94) and 11.0 inches of snow (8.5 in Mar. '95 and 2.0 in Mar. '94). By the end of March the snow cover was 20 inches at McCarthy and 16 inches at Silver Lake.*

The total snowfall for '95-'96 was 66.8 inches (48.3 in '94-'95) and the greatest snow depth was 27 inches, the same as '94-'95. This compares with an average ('80-'96) of 64.5 inches and snow depth of 27 inches. The greatest snowfall was 99.9 inches in '90-'91 and the lowest 27.3 inches in '86-'87. The greatest snow depth was 39 inches in '90-'91 and the lowest 16 inches in '86-'87.

May should see a rapid increase in temperatures with highs in the 60's by mid month. Precipitation is usually on the light side with an average amount of less than an inch. Breakup could be a little longer than normal as the ground was unprotected with record cold and little snow cover till early February. Summer arrives in June. June is usually the warmest month at McCarthy with an average temperature in the mid 50's, highs in the 70's and about 2 inches of rain.

A big change in the aviation weather reporting code will take effect on July 1, 1996. All American Aviation Weather Reporting Stations will change from the standard aviation format to the International METAR, "Aviation Routine Weather Report". The same elements will be reported, but they will be in a different format. I'll cover the changes in the next issue.



PLEASE—CHECK YOUR LABEL!

Please take a moment to check your mailing label. If the address is not correct, or if you are planning a move, please let us know as the Post Office will not forward your WSEN issues. Also look at the expiration date in the upper right hand corner. This denotes the last issue in your current subscription. If it reads MJ96, you need to renew. (MA96 means you received this issue by grace—your subscription ran out last month!)

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Editor's Note: This article was sent by one of our readers as a letter to the editor. The author asked to remain anonymous. As a rule we will not publish letters without identifying the author, but decided to make an exception in this case. So, for your consideration, we present the following:

I am a frequent visitor to and part time resident of the McCarthy/Kennicott area. Over the years I have noticed a fair amount of contention among the local residents. I don't consider this local behavior as unusual for a small town after considering: the diverse interests of the inhabitants, the limited and legally exploitable resources, the long winter seclusions, and the fomentation caused by outside interests and concerns.

The animosities between local residents have never overshadowed the area's most valuable treasures... the children. Over the years, I have observed that the kids pay little attention to the intermittent

squabbles between various groups of adults and individuals. The kids only seem to want to enjoy their good fortune in living in the most beautiful place in the world. The children are respectful of but never intimidated by adults. They readily and eagerly join the adults in work and play and are valuable and productive members of the community. More importantly they are nurtured by all members of the community regardless of current events or genetic relationships.

Now think about it! Kids are not predisposed to be exemplary. They are a product of their environment. Family units are strong. Neighbors diligently monitor all the children's activities and play active roles in their safety and upbringing. When rivaling adults interact with the children, all rivalry seems to disappear. This says something wonderful about the adults in the region.

The next time you hear negative criticism about your community, defend yourselves and

your neighbors regardless of your temporarily distressed relationships. Take pride in the single best criteria that can be used to judge your community... your children. Not only you parents, but each and every one of you have done a remarkable job of raising them. All of you deserve the credit. All of you are loving and caring people and I know that if disaster ever struck, you would all join forces to provide necessary mutual assistance.

My pride and love of the McCarthy/Kennicott community is undiminished by the daily and seasonal politics. Someday I'll live year-round in the community. When that day comes, I can only hope to repay each of you for the years of hospitality and the pleasure derived from watching your wonderful children growing up in the most exquisite place in the world.

[signed]

Anonymous

School Tax

BY RICK KENYON

Much has been said in recent days of the need for all of Alaska to come into an organized borough. The most often stated reason is that all Alaskans must help pay the cost of schooling our children. It seems the "old-timers" had a much easier method, spelled out in the May 7, 1921 edition of the McCarthy Weekly News:

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to an act of the territorial legislature, there is hereby made, imposed and levied upon each

male person, except soldiers, sailors in the navy or revenue cutter service, volunteer firemen, paupers, insane persons or territorial charges, within the Territory of Alaska or the waters thereof, over the age of twenty one years and under the age of fifty years, an annual tax in the sum of five (5.00) dollars to be paid and collected in the manner provided by law and deposited by the treasurer of the Territory of Alaska in a separate fund called the "school fund," and used for no other than school purposes.

All persons subject to this tax who are in the territory of Alaska

on the first Monday in the month of April shall pay said tax on or before the first day of May in the same year, & all persons arriving in the Territory of Alaska after the first Monday in April shall pay said tax within thirty days after such arrival, PROVIDED, further, that all persons subject to said tax shall pay the same with in ten days after a written or oral demand by the said School Tax Collector made within the period between the first Monday in April and the first Monday in August in each year.

(Signed) Sam Seltenreich,
School Tax Collector.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

December 7, 1995
Brewster, WA.

City of McCarthy
Dear Sirs,

I have only recently discovered the fate of my grandfather, John Henry Pitcher, who, I was told as a child, "went to Alaska and was not heard from again."

I received his obituary from the files of the Cordova Daily Times of Jan. 6, 1934. It says that he died that day at the age of 78 after being flown in from McCarthy where he had lived since 1913. Apparently he had a long adventurous life after leaving California.

If you are able to find for me any information about him in your city records or the museum, I would be delighted to hear about him. I would happily reimburse you for your time and any expenses.

I enclose a SASE in hope of a reply.

Patricia Pitcher Tift
P.O. Box 246
Brewster, Wash. 98812

March 12, 1996
Dear McCarthy, Kennicott
via/WSEN,

Just finished the newsletter and am once again wishing I were working in your climes. (-50 doesn't dissuade this Minnesotan) It is good to see the businesses, the B&B's coming around as a few wise souls predicted, and the

continuation of good works by civic groups such as the Chamber, Friends and M.A.L.A. Although the community planner in me marks your self determined successes with pleasure, I am stirred most by the memories of kindness and hospitality I experienced three years ago as your guest. I don't know if I ever said thank you, for all the great meals, the frank talk about what Kennicott/McCarthy can become, thereby allowing me to listen in on your dreams, and the trust you all gave me as a federal worker in your town. As I follow Iditarod results on the Internet, read about excursions planned to mountain tops and recall my joy during this time of year in Alaska, good feelings remain for the special challenges that only McCarthy offers, including community planning. Keep the spirit growing and I hope to see McCarthy again before another three years elapse.

Laura Rotegard

March 26, 1996
Eagle River, AK

Dear Bonnie:

Here's the \$1.50 I was short for the subscription, plus \$10 for the immediate four back issues prior to March-April '96.

The paper is one of the most interesting small publications I have seen. It was a pleasant surprise to find Trig Trigiano's byline. He and my wife Nancy both work at UAA

and we've been to McCarthy with him.

Thanks for the friendly note of welcome.

John Killoran

March 4, 1996
Knoxville, TN

Dear Bonnie and Rick,

Enclosed is my check for another wonderful year of WSEN! I've never read a news magazine from cover to cover each time but I sure do with yours!

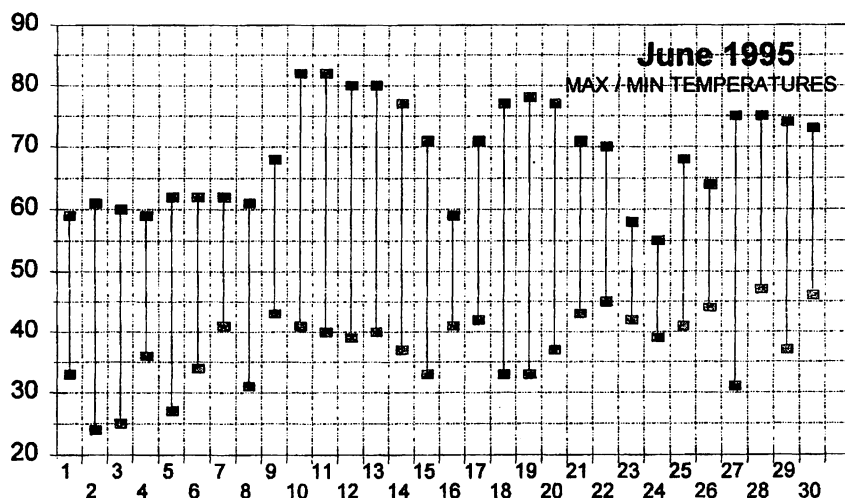
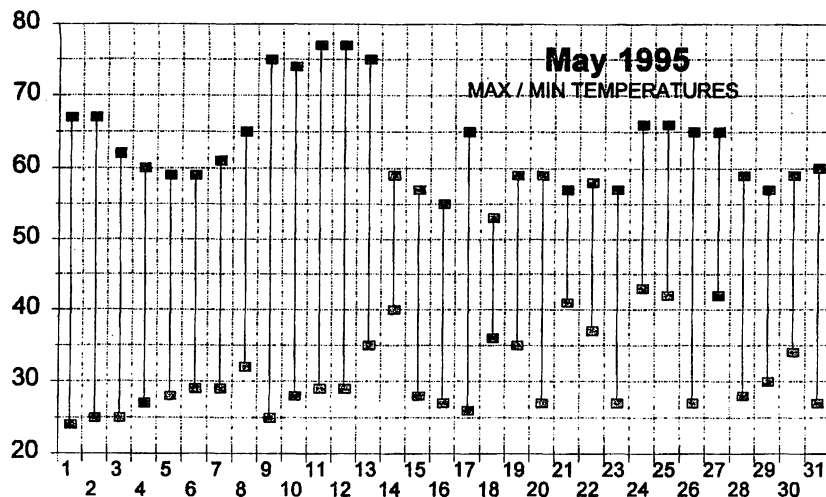
First I had such a chuckle out of the IRS thing—I'm taking it with me when I get my taxes done this week—certainly hope they have a sense of humor!

I just loved reading about the Laundry. I was only 5 years old when we left in 1937 but I have vivid and fond memories. My only regret is that we couldn't convince our mother to return with us last year. I suppose she's one of the few "parents" left of the Kennicott Kids group. She's 87 now and in good health, so maybe next time we'll bring her along.

The articles I enjoyed most were "Life at 50 Below" and "A Note from the Publisher." I couldn't believe anyone could fall into a glacier, spend 20 hours in it and live to tell about it. I thought I was tough but you all take the cake! I loved it!

Thanks so much,
Nan Henderson

Weather - What can we expect?



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