



Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Vol. Eight Issue Three

May & June 1999

Two Dollars

A Lesson in Mining

A lode is a streak, as sure as you're born;
A dip is a pitch of the same;
A big bunch of rock, that spoils the pay shoot
Is called a horse in the vein.
A hanging wall's the top, you know,
Or roof, or leads in place.
The foot wall's just the floor of them,
Or the bottom, bed or base.
An incline shaft is one that's sunk
Down on the lead's own pitch,
A straight one just don't seem to care
'Bout strikin' ore that's rich.
A crosscut runs to tap the vein,
From a point that's picked as best.
A tunnel's about the same old thing,
So we'll let that subject rest.
A drift is a tunnel that follows a lead,
Not down but in on the level,
A stope's a hold where ore was mined:
Now, don't that beat the devil?
A winnaze is a sort of shaft, you see,
That starts from a level below,
And why they picked that name for it
Is more, my friend, than I know.
A raise is made to connect two levels
Or to strike the shoot overhead;
And the face of a drift is the end of the thing;
And so, we'll say, enough said.

From the book *Independence Mine* by Kathryn Koutsky Cohen.

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

It is April 26 and we are experiencing a very mild breakup here in McCarthy. As you will note in George Cebula's weather column, we didn't have much snow that needed melting. So, with some reluctance, Rick and I parked our snowmachines for the winter and agree that it's time to replace the snow shovels with garden tools.

In mid-March Rick, Don Welty and Brooks Ludwig flew to Hanigita Lake and did some serious ice fishing. I am pleased to report that each man came home with their limit of Lake Trout. They tried their hand at Long Lake but with little success. I think the Lohse boys have learned a few tricks in catching those elusive Long Lake fish, so maybe the men folk will take the boys along next time!!

Rick and I had the opportunity to go into Anchorage for a couple of days in March. George manned the weather station for us. We

caravanned in with the Weltys and Audrey Edwards. At Kenny Lake we met up with the Lohse family who were also heading to the big city. We all met for lunch in Glennallen and then agreed to rendezvous at a favorite ice cream place in Anchorage the following night. Kenny Kritchen, who was in town to pick up Carly at the airport, joined us, too. I don't know who ate the most ice cream. I was too busy sampling my own concoction!

As Rick and I put the finishing touches on this issue of WRANGELL ST. ELIAS NEWS, we want to thank all our contributors. We really appreciate you!

Subscriber Diane Ludwig shared the very special poem *A Lesson in Mining* that you see on this cover. It was originally printed in the Seward Weekly Gateway on December 2, 1905, and included in the book *Independence Mine* by Kathryn Koutsky Cohen.

Glennallen author Jack

Wilson shares a piece of history that may be somewhat controversial, yet it is a part of the history of this area. His article is titled *The Rasing of Kennecott*. It starts on page 6.

Rick and Fred Denner team up to give you their Alaska "bush" prospective on Outdoors in the Wrangells especially as it pertains to bears. They even include a short account of a bear hunt as written in *The McCarthy Weekly News* dated June 28, 1924.

Please note that we now have a separate fax line. The new phone number for our fax is (907) 554-4494.

Wrangell St. Elias News welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Charles Hobart, ME; Ray Kreig, AK; Chuck Cushman, WA; Debbie Stetz, CA; Ruth and Ron Hollis, FL; Mrs. Linwood Tyler, ME; Marce VonPressentin, CA; Robert Stettner, TX; Ann and Chris Breen, PA; Chad Reymiller, AK; Stacy Swingle, AK. ☺

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Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Chad Reymiller, Julia Coats and Nerka: It is with much pleasure that I introduce a new couple to our town. Chad and Julia recently purchased property on the west side of the Kennicott River and it is just across the road from us. They arrived in the area in March, and shortly after getting settled into a cabin belonging to Jim and Audrey Edwards, these two very ambitious young people started on quite a mammoth undertaking!

They have harvested enough spruce trees on their land to build a 24' x 28' log cabin. Rick and I walked over to inspect their progress the other day, and even though they weren't at the site, we couldn't help but exclaim what a clean-cut job they were doing—not to mention the hard work it takes to fell, delimb and pile up all those heavy trees. Needless to say, we were impressed with the amount of progress Chad and Julia have made in the month or so they've been in our area.

Their summer work takes them to Paxson where they both are employed at the Gulkana hatchery. According to Chad, this particular hatchery is the largest sockeye salmon hatchery in the world and is one of five that is operated by the Prince William Sound Aquaculture.

Chad and Julia hope to make several short trips out to their cabin site this summer. Their goal is to have the roof on by next spring and move in during the winter of year 2000.

A hearty welcome to our new neighbors, Chad, Julia and Nerka! Oh, by the way, Nerka is



CHAD & JULIA HARVESTING LOGS.

their dog – a handsome chocolate lab.

Jim and Audrey Edwards: Speaking of outstanding workmanship...Jim and Audrey tell me they are thrilled with Jurgen Ogrodnik's fine expertise in the installation of their new Pergo flooring. Rick and I got a peek at it as well and have to agree with them that Jurgen did a great job.

We want to pass on our heartfelt condolences to Audrey at the loss of her father, Charles Strom of Anchorage, on April 12. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Mark Vail: I ran into Mark today on my way to mail so I was able to gather a few items of interest from his neck of the woods. First of all, he reports seeing his first bear of the season at the 3500' level. Actually, we were glad to hear the critter was still at the higher elevation and not down here in our neighborhood, at least not yet!

Mark tells me he is extremely busy these days and reports (with much excitement!) that he is expanding his Diamond Willow business. In fact, he has recently ordered new equipment to assist him in creating even more of his famous willow chairs and settees. Hopefully, getting a batch of new tools will enable him to keep that furniture coming our way, quicker and more efficiently. If you are one of those who has been patiently waiting for one of Mark's creations, please be encouraged! A new line of local furniture is just around the corner. We wish you well, Mark.

Harold and Carol Michal: Harold and Carol are Mark's nearby neighbors in the Fireweed Subdivision. He told me that they just had a phone installed – the first one in their subdivision. Now that is an item of interest!

I decided to check it out and, sure enough, Carol answered. She and I were elated

to hear each other and to know we can now stay in touch much easier. The Michal's cabin is only about 8 miles from us but those are McCarthy Road miles!

Harold just got in with a truck load of supplies and, according to Carol, he brought in a mechanic to work on their Caterpillar. They have plans to build a shed for their vehicles and equipment which now includes a snowmachine, she said. Our snow is about gone for this year, but I imagine the Michals will give it a good working out next winter.

Although Harold and Carol have a home in Valdez, their trips to this area are increasing each year. Welcome back to the McCarthy area. Have a great summer!

Ralph and Linda Lohse and boys: If you continue on down the road another 8 miles towards Chitina you just might meet up with the Lohse family. Their log cabin is located near the Lakina River. Rick and I met Ralph and Linda at Long Lake in 1977 where we spent our first winter in this area. They were such a big help to us in the ways of Alaska "bush" living.

They eventually began spending more time in Cordova where Ralph fishes commercially. However, they have returned to this area and are spending a greater portion of their time here. Naturally, Rick and I are thrilled to touch bases with them again and renew friendships.

The 3 boys, Tyee, Trae, Teal and perfectly suited to the "bush" lifestyle. They love snowmachining, skiing, building igloos and ice fishing. And, they are good and quite efficient at all of the above! I hear they even got a willow basket weaving

lesson from Mark Vail the other day and Tyee tells me he has started some plants for their family garden this summer.

Linda keeps super busy with homeschooling but she does take time to complete knitting projects - which I think she can do in her sleep! Ralph carves beautiful birch spoons which he sells at various craft shows in state. By the way, these make excellent gifts! So, as you can see, there is no time for boredom in the Lohse household; in fact, I'd dare to say there just isn't enough time to do all those projects that makes bush living what it is.

Ed and Meg LaChapelle: I saw Meg and Ed at mail yesterday and she says they (I suspect Ed is quick to give Meg a hand at this project!) are busy rearranging their greenhouse before all their "starts" are ready to take root. I can sympathize with the hard work that entails, Meg and Ed, but also the joy of a job well done!

Don, Lynn, Sarah and Rene Welty: "All the Weltys are back together again," says Lynn. That means daughter Sarah is back home from her trip to Hawaii with her Girl Scout Troupe. And the chickens which were visiting Mike and Laura's chickens in Kennicott for awhile this winter are now back on the Welty's homestead.

Sarah brought home a beautiful tan and says she had a fun-filled time surfing and scuba diving with her friends, even though it was a long time to be away from home. She saw plenty of colorful fish and eels but no turtles and no sharks (thank goodness!). I was glad to hear her say she was pleased to be home with us all. She even brought Rick and I a sample of sand and sea shells from the

island of Kauai where she and the girls spent the majority of their time. Thank you, Sarah, and welcome back; we missed your smiling face!

While Sarah was gone, Rene and Lynn stayed busy with schoolwork. A proud father, Don, submitted Rene's latest assignment for her Language Arts class. You can find it on page 19 of this issue.

Keith, Laurie, Kaleb, David, Daniel and Hannah Rowland: When the entire Rowland family show up for Sunday church services, the attendance nearly doubles! We are always thrilled to see them when they make it out this way. They visited the area March 6 - 10. Lynn, Sarah, Rene and I snowmachined to McCarthy one afternoon and had a tea party with Laurie and kids. A fun time was had by all!

Brooks and Diane Ludwig: The Ludwigs returned safely to their Delta homestead on March 29 and Diane reports that Brooks is back to work.

Audrey Edwards, Lynn and Rene Welty and I took our snowmachines down to visit Diane before they left and had another "tea party." That was our first visit to the Ludwigs' cabin at Fireweed Subdivision and we ladies thoroughly enjoyed the adventure.

Diane showed us around their homestead. I especially enjoyed seeing the home that she and Brooks have created for themselves. It is so cozy with everything having its place and purpose.

Brooks and Diane, we miss you both very much!

Ken and Carly Kritchen: It's that time of year for the Kritchens when Kenny takes off for Cordova and fishing while

Carly tends the homestead – chickens, dogs, horses, turkeys, cats – and, of course, her garden and greenhouse. Kenny stayed home an extra day to give Carly time to go on an outing with Laura Bunnell and Jeannie Miller.

The 3 ladies ventured out on the McCarthy Road and drove to Kenny Lake where they attended Sapa's Greenhouse open house for this year. Carly stopped by our place on her way home and brought me a beautiful lavender geranium from Molly Flack who, along with her husband Martin, operate Sapa's bountiful greenhouses. Thank you, Carly, and Molly for such a wonderful gift!

Carly reports that they had a great trip. They picked up Marlene Wenger of Kenny Lake and the 4 women had lunch together before filling up the back seat of Carly's pickup truck with plants from Sapa. Needless to say, spring time has arrived in the McCarthy area and the local ladies are taking full advantage of it!

Fred and Irene Denner: It is spring time at Dan Creek as well. Irene has taken off for a 3 week visit with her mom and family in Minnesota. I hear Fred received a huge grocery box on the same mail plane that Irene departed in! I think we can rightly guess what Fred is doing these days – making good use of the contents of that box!

Neil O'Donnell: It is always good to see Neil when he ventures out this way. Rick and I snowmachined down to his cabin building site and got a tour of the new quarters being built for the O'Donnell family. Daniel Morrison of Crystal Creek is heading up the construction of the O'Donnell's log

cabin and doing an outstanding job! I'll be sure to get you all a picture of this fine-looking cabin in an upcoming issue of WRANGELL ST. ELIAS NEWS.

Tessa Bay: Tessa, 6 year old (as I type this she is still 5 but by the time this issue goes out to you, she will have had a birthday!) daughter of Kelly and Natalie Bay, is becoming quite a big help to her busy parents these days. Just recently I received a phone call from Tessa asking me to please hold while her mother comes to the phone. I'm wondering if Kelly and Natalie are paying Tessa secretary wages! If not, maybe they should.

I did manage to tell Tessa that I had seen my first robin of the season and her quick response was, "Cool!" I couldn't agree more, Tessa!

Dave Hollis: Dave was at mail the other day and I asked him how he was doing. He informed me, "Just fine," and that he was looking forward to another busy season as a van driver with Wrangell Mountain Bus. He's enjoyed being able to spend more time in the McCarthy area this last winter, but I think he's more than ready to take to the road now. Dave will be joining forces with George Cebula in giving our area visitors fine rides to the famous Kennicott mill site.

Mike McCarthy and Laura Bunnell and boys: I was in the middle of typing the last item when Mike drove up on his 4 wheeler. Naturally, I asked him what was going on up at Kennicott. Sounds like spring fever has hit Mike and Laura. They've been planting lots of flowers for their hanging baskets and even brought in 3 bee hives. Laura is doing her very best to see that the boys'

schooling is completed so they can all enjoy the upcoming summer months. So, I am convinced I can report that the McCarthy household is "a buzz" with activity.

George Cebula: For those of you who like to keep up on George's whereabouts...he is here at his cabin next door and doing just fine. Last issue I reported that he was looking forward to playing local host to his 3 nieces this June. Now he informs me his brother, Ted, is coming up in September. This is becoming a yearly happening and, of course, Rick and I enjoy always look forward to it as much as George does.

Ted, I am not at liberty to divulge the projects that George (and Rick) are lining up for you....but, just be forewarned!

Ken and Donna Smith: We received an email from Kenny a few days ago letting us know that he and Donna were back home in Anchorage. He had this to say for their trip: "We got back in good shape. That is almost in good shape. Donna caught a tough virus that was sweeping through the ship. The best part of the trip was seeing and traveling through the Chile Inside Passage, the Strait of Magellan, the Beagle Passage and the Horn itself."

Welcome back to the north!

Chris Richards: Speaking of being back home...Chris is home from his travels south, another local who brought back a good tan. He is now busy planting vegetables and flowers and "really enjoying it." He reports that Kennicott still has snow (April 27) and there are a couple stubborn glaciers on the road between McCarthy and his place. Fortunately, they are not posing a problem for local travel.

The razing of Kennecott

BY JACK WILSON

In the early 1950's the Kennecott Copper Corporation decided to quit guarding their property at Kennecott. They notified their watchman on the property to unlock all the doors on the old mill and leave them open, then walk away. As a consequence everything was open to the public and anyone could remove whatever they might desire from the property.

What a bonanza it was! There were tons of good stuff in those old buildings. There were dishes, furniture, household goods, lumber, hardware, everything a person could need. And it was all in perfect condition. What few residents lived in the area at that time took good advantages of this largess. And it vanished quickly as time went on.

In 1954 I was hired on by Cordova Airlines as an Interior bush pilot. As such I became the mail plane pilot, a job I learned to love. The run at that time originated in Cordova. I flew up the Copper River Canyon with the first stop at Chitina where I was based. There we loaded on more freight and groceries and the next stop was McCarthy. From there to May Creek, Glacier Creek, on across the mountains to Chisana and sometimes to Northway or Nabesna. Then the return trip along the same route with another stop at McCarthy.

Mudhole Smith was the owner and boss of Cordova Airlines. He was a hard man to work for, but he was a true promoter of Alaska and got a lot done. He loved sports and especially children's sports. Many times he supplied a DC-3 Airliner free of charge and flew kids to other destinations in the Territory to play their games. And he promoted tourism. He eyed McCarthy and Kennecott as potential



tourist resorts and acted accordingly.

To promote tourism he started a weekend excursion with a full load of tourists to McCarthy and a trip to Kennecott thrown in. This was a fine thing to do and fun for us who were there and could help with the program.

The existing airstrip at McCarthy just across McCarthy Creek was not adequate for the DC-3 airliners, so the May Creek airstrip was used. At that time the bridge and trestle across the Nizina River was still passable and the road could still be driven. So the tourists were met at May Creek on

Saturday afternoon and driven to McCarthy.

What a quaint cavalcade we made on that trip across the Nizina to May Creek! All the vehicles were ancient, very old. All the recent vintage cars had been hauled out to the road system at Chitina before the railroad had quit running in 1938. The only vehicles left were very old ones.

We had a 1921 Dodge touring car which ran very well, using great care. The prime mover was a Model B Ford flatbed truck with benches installed on the sides for seats. And old Bill Berry, who had been the town bootlegger went along with a model T Ford and hauled two or three people. Those tourists just loved that trip in those old cars.

We gave those people the full treatment with a fine evening and a good meal and accommodations in McCarthy that night and then a tour of Kennecott the next morning. We went to Kennecott on the old railroad, using a little train made of small flat bed cars with seats installed and pulled by an old railroad speeder left over from the railroad days. Again, the tourists loved this ride.

We gave them a good tour of the old mill at Kennecott. And they were told that if they wanted some small useful item or souvenir, they could help themselves. Thus the tourists contributed to stripping Kennecott of its useful stuff.

None of them could take much stuff back on the airplane or they would have been charged for excess baggage, but nearly every person took something.

But there Kennecott lay open and available for those of us who lived in the country and I most likely became the biggest pack rat of all as time went on.

One of the locals had dubbed Kennecott as "The Big Rock Candy Mountains" after the hobo that had sung that famous song and it was an apt name.

I had bought a small house in Chitina from O. A. Nelson. It was a nice, well built little house but had very little in it

and needed improving. It had a fine old Majestic Range in the kitchen and a kitchen sink but that was about all. So I looked at Kennecott and saw the possibilities.

As mail pilot, I usually returned to Chitina with an empty airplane and could haul whatever might fit into it.

The hospital at Kennecott had the most modern plumbing. So I got the things needed for a modern bathroom, wash basin, toilet, showerhead, hot water tank and all the fixtures needed. From the carpenter shop I took new finish lumber for the trim and even a new front door. There were many good captain chairs

in the old rec hall and other buildings and I took plenty of them. Most of these I gave away but kept some for my house.

In time I even took many storm windows, very good ones and gave most of them away for people to use in their greenhouses.

After getting my house fixed up I quit removing things from Kennecott but other people kept it up until the place was pretty well stripped. Some of the buildings were even moved away and others dismantled for the good lumber they contained. It was all quite an era, the razing of Kennecott.

McCarthy Kennicott Historical Museum News

BY BETTY HICKLING

The local membership drive for the museum has been a great success! One person told me that they just needed to know how to join. My thanks to everyone who has become a member. It is my hope that you all can find time to get involved in some way so that your membership does not seem to you to amount to just money.

Some of our new members have come up with some fun projects. Jim Guntis wants to do an electrical display showing how the switching worked at Kennicott. We have room in the box car for this demonstration.

Diane and Brooks Ludwig have offered to work on cleaning the office room in the museum this coming winter. There are lots of old records to be catalogued and organized. Kevin Coughlin, who was a volunteer at the museum two years ago, tells

me that the old police records stored there are especially fun to read.

The curator's building is moving forward. Lane and I are the committee chair persons for the building and have been amazed at the turnout of support for this project. Sometimes you just have to ask.

We have raised \$1792 in cash and have countless in-kind donation. Al Gagnon has donated backhoe time for the site preparation. McCarthy Lodge is going to freight in the materials; the Barrett family made a donation of \$750 for the tin roofing; ICI Paint donated the exterior paint and we even received a \$250 donation from the Kennecott Corporation. We are still awaiting approval from Homestead Supply, Spenard Building and Eagle Hardware for the major building materials.

We are asking each to donate different parts such as floor,

walls and the roof. We had to submit the specific material lists to each of them. Everyone keep in mind that hammers and arms to run those hammers will be needed.

Our thanks to you all for joining the museum and for each donation that has been made to the building project.

A Catholic youth group from Valdez has agreed to come to McCarthy to do some work for the museum on the weekend of May 21. The work party plans on brushing the grounds at the cemetery, mapping the graves and doing repair work on the fencing around the cemetery. Chris Richards of Kennicott-McCarthy Wilderness Guides is donating a guided tour of the Kennicott Mine site.

The annual membership meeting for the McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum will be held at the museum in McCarthy on May 8 at 10 a.m. ☞

the Languid Lady

Trees and Shrubs of the Wrangells- Part 3: "Common Deciduous Trees"

BY DEE FRADY

As I write this article it is snowing one more time. Although technically it is spring, winter does not want to loosen its grip. We just finished the log work on our store addition and we are ready to start the roof. It is a good day to be inside.

For now, I will finish up local trees in this part by covering three populus members and the birch. These are the trees that cause the most summer inquiries. Looking outside I see many small trees, mostly aspen, bent over like someone was pulling them down. Actually they bend due to the weight of winter snow accumulation. Poplar reminds me of spring black bear. Many years we can look up the hillside and see a black bear hanging on a poplar limb to feast on new growth and buds. Birch brings pleasant winter memories of logging and cutting firewood. The area where we go has a lovely grove of large birch near the spruce stands. Most of all, birch reminds me of my early childhood in New Hampshire. In the yard were a big clump and a great example of birch growth my family named the "Seven Sisters."

QUAKING ASPEN (*Populus tremuloides*) Willow Family

The aspen is a fast growing but comparatively short-lived deciduous tree known for its

distinctive leaves. Aspen like south-facing slopes, benches, open woods and creek bottoms. The very straight trunks grow to 12 inch diameters and obtain 20 to 40 foot heights. The bark is whitish or green-gray in color, appears smooth, and has frequent scars and black knots.

The 1 to 2 inch long leaves are almost round at the bases, have small rounded teeth along the edges and short points at the apex. The leaves attached to slender twigs by 1½ to 2½ inch



QUAKING ASPEN (LEAVES "FLUTTER" AND CAUSE A PLEASANT RUSTLING SOUND.)

stalks are thin, flattened and set at right angles so they bend easily in one direction. That enables the leaves to receive sun on both sides. The slightest breeze causes the leaves to flutter, hence the name quaking. The pleasant, gentle, rustling sound gives this tree its

distinctive characteristic. The leaves are a shiny, dark green on top, lighter underneath. They turn a brilliant yellow and sometimes a lovely reddish color in autumn. Legend has it that aspen leaves "tremble" with memory of the crucifix (role as lumber in construction of the cross).

The 1½ to 2½ inch long, drooping catkins are dioecious. Dioecious means the plants have male and female flowers growing on different trees. Catkins are long clusters named for their resemblance to a cat's tail, which form many, tiny flowers. They blossom in May before the leaves open. The catkins release tiny, cottony seeds in the summer. On a breezy day the profusion of these cotton seeds appears like snow in front of our store.

Aspen can produce many root suckers and as you may have noticed, new trees grow from these suckers. As pioneers of burned slopes, aspens grow in large stands after forest fires. Growth continues 80 to 100 years before these stands deteriorate. Very rare hybrids with balsam poplar are possible.

An insect pest of the aspen is the "Large Aspen Tortrix," a leaf eating caterpillar. They defoliate the tree by consuming leaves and create extensive webbing in so doing. Fortunately, the aspen has the capacity to grow new leaves shortly after defoliation. We witnessed an excellent local and dramatic example of this in a

band occurring along Swift Creek several years ago.

Aspen is used for pulp, lumber, matches, packing excelsior and wafer board; but not to any great extent in Alaska. Walking through a stand of brilliantly colored aspen during a breezy fall day is one of my favorite things (pure sunshine, even if it's cloudy).

BALSAM POPLAR (*Populus balsamifera*) Willow Family

Poplar, found throughout the interior, is Alaska's largest hardwood. This deciduous tree can reach 100 foot heights with 2 foot wide trunks but, most commonly, reach 30 to 50 feet with 12 inch trunks. They grow in river valleys and attain the greatest size on flood plains of glacial rivers. Not only do they hybridize with aspen on rare occasions but also with black cottonwood. Poplar bark is a light to dark gray color, smooth when young and becomes rough, thick and deeply furrowed with age. The bark also has a whitish bloom that comes off on hands or clothing when rubbed. The trunks often have claw marks that age to deep furrows, created by bears.

Poplars have large 2½ to 4½ inch long leaves, shaped like arrowheads with toothed edges, tapering gradually to a sharp point. The dark green to rusty brown underneath leaves grows on 1 to 2 inch slender stalks. Young trees often have very noticeably large leaves appearing out of proportion. The autumn falling leaves are a brilliant yellow. Poplars distinguished by brittle branches which break away easily from the trunks.

The winter buds are 1 inch long, pointed and yellow with a very sticky resin. The pungent and sweet odor of this resin

permeates the air with its distinctive smell in the spring. Aphids love them and they drip large quantities of this honeydew that is quite rough on cars parked underneath! You can always tell if a tree is a poplar because if you touch the buds on the end of the branches your hands will get sticky. As with aspen, male and female catkins, 2 to 3½ inches long, are on separate trees (dioecious). They flower in May or June before the leaves appear. During mid-summer the female trees also release large numbers of big, fluffy seed capsules and fill the air with white, cotton-like material along with the aspen (my summer snow).

Like aspen, poplar suckers also grow from roots. If you ever see a burned area and some small trees are starting to grow they are almost always going to be balsam poplars because they are the fastest trees to regenerate.

The poplars provide valuable winter and spring food for grouse, hare, moose and of course, beaver. Poplar branches produce rooting hormones and placed in water with other plants induce roots. (They act much like purchased rooting powders and are free!) *Populus* bark and buds contain salicin and populin (aspirin-like compounds). Skin salves for sores, rashes and even frostbite responds to the action of the extracted resin, "Balm of Gilead." The salicin both disinfects the area and dulls pain. As a decongestant, Athabascans burned the heavily budded branches to fill the air with resinous perfume. Crafts use of the bark are for woodcarving and painting. Other uses are fuel wood, specialty lumber and logs in building cabins. Poplar logs are easier to work with as they

are very smooth but I prefer the character of spruce logs and knots.

BLACK COTTONWOOD (*Populus trichocarpa*) Willow Family

Black cottonwood, although insignificant in our local area, grows in lowlands, river valleys and glacial plains. Huge black cottonwoods grow on flood plains of rivers that drain the coastal mountains. This is the largest broadleaf, deciduous tree species in Alaska attaining 80 to 100 foot heights and massive 30 inch diameter straight trunks.

Black cottonwood mistaken for and not easily distinguished from its close relative, the balsam poplar, overlaps ranges. The leaves are broader and whiter on the bottom than the poplar. They identify mostly by locality or differences in seed capsules. Also dioecious, the cottonwood seed capsules are nearly round, hairy and split into three parts. As with aspen and poplar, black cottonwoods produce white, cotton-like seeds. It is this cottony aspect of the seeds that is responsible for the species being named cottonwood.

PAPER BIRCH (*Betula papyrifera*) Birch Family

One of North America's most loved and most widely distributed deciduous tree is the birch (also called white birch and canoe birch). Alaska has three varieties of the species that can hybridize. Birches grow best on warm slopes with moist soil but they are also very common on colder northern slopes. Growing 20 to 60 feet tall the trunks average 12 inch diameters.

The 1½ to 3½ inch long rounded leaves, arc wedge-

shaped at the base with coarse, sharp teeth along the edges and come to a pointed tip. They are dark-green or yellow-green and turn to yellow in the fall. The leaves grow on slender ½ to 1 inch stalks. The birch bark is mostly white with brownish areas and horizontal markings. The bark curls and peels off into thin strips very easily. If all the bark peels off the tree will die. The inner bark is orange in color. With birch the male and female flowers are on the same twig and also occur in May to June before the leaves. The 1 to 2 inch long cylindrical fruits are like soft cones and contain numerous tiny seeds (nutlets) with wings. These seeds shed gradually into winter. Under a birch, on winter snow appear a carpet of these seeds that remind me of tiny airplanes. Did you know alder is a member of the birch family? Check out alder leaves and bark to find the resemblances.

Birch is a common invading

tree past forest fires on east and west facing slopes. They will eventually dominate the forest in the process of change, known as succession. As birches mature their offspring cannot regenerate in the shade of their parents. White spruce, however grow well under this birch canopy. The birch and aspen now wait for fire, wind, water or man to clear the way again. "Birch Leaf Rollers," an insect that can infect these trees, usually has minor effects.

Birch has a multitude of uses. Chickadees, redpolls and other songbirds feast on the seeds. The bark, especially on young trunks, also produces salicin. (That is why moose don't browse quite as heavily on these trees.) The inner bark of the birch is edible. Historically, as an emergency food, it prevented starving and was important during the Civil War. Birch syrup is a wonderful concoction and only half as sweet as maple. Small birch trees are easy to transplant for

landscaping. The wood works easily and takes finishes and stains well. Birch has many uses; lumber, furniture, toys, handles, toothpicks, veneer, carving, canoes and basketry. Birch scrolls found that date back to the 16th century are still legible. Historically, cabin roofs had sheets of bark placed under the sod. Birch is the best fuel wood and well known for bark that ignites readily even when wet. Finally, birch twigs make a gold-beige dye. Whew!

Enough of trees, next issue I'll return to the subject of wildflowers. Although it doesn't seem so today, there will be a profusion of flowers in bloom by then. This flower, usually associated with Hawaii or hothouses, grows in Alaska with about 30 recognized species. (Several in our area, albeit many are quite tiny.) Can you guess what they are?

Helping the prospector

From the June 28, 1924 issue of The McCarthy Weekly News

During the past week, Mr. Reynolds has been going around McCarthy doing his level best to get the people here to sign a petition for the new White River McCarthy Road of which you have heard talked about so much lately, and for which we have all had our ears and eyes open, for any slight information with regards to that subject; and in which the people of this great copper belt who are its foremost supporters and its pioneers are anxiously waiting with abated breath, for definite word regarding this project.

Now of course we all realize the difficulty of building such a road from the White River to McCarthy, because of the huge glaciers and other obstacles abundant in that part of the country through which said road would have to pass. But the answer is this, if we cannot have a road, we can at least have a permanent trail whereby prospectors, claim owners and other settlers around this neighborhood can at least have this little bit of help towards enabling them to make an earlier start in the beginning of spring and a surer method of

reaching their respective prospects, instead of wasting half of their time along the road.

It is up to the Territory to help its prospectors and other settlers of the country, bearing in mind that the average man that takes to the hills in the summer time to do his assessment work is but a poor man and yet he is the back bone of the state, of all countries and upon his success ultimately depends the success and the welfare of Alaska. ♣

Outdoors in the Wrangells

The first law of nature

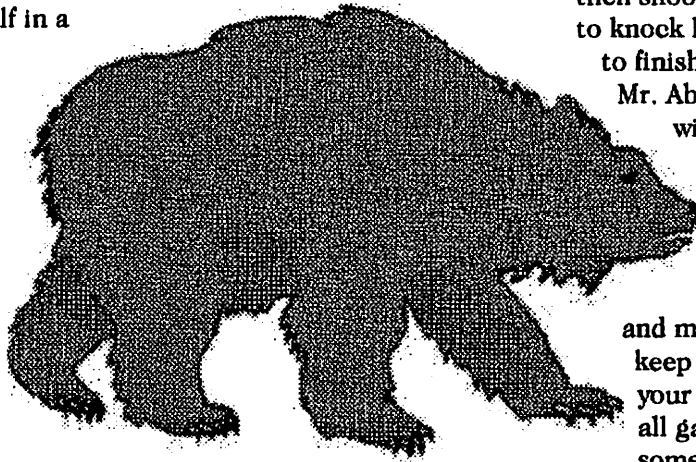
BY FRED DENNER

Spring is here, and along with the budding of leaves and the blooming of the flowers, Bruin will awaken and resume his wandering ways. Forever hungry, and especially so direct from hibernation, he is naturally led into confrontations with people in the Valley. Most everyone will acknowledge that human-bear confrontations should be, if possible, avoided. Remember, last summer was dubbed "the year of the Bear," the high (?) point of which occurred when an individual well-known to us all spent an hour and a half in a small tree above "an angry grizzly bear snapping its teeth and pawing the ground..." With this incident behind us but another summer ahead, complete with possible bear problems, it's well to keep in mind the first law of nature: EAT OR BE EATEN.

Achieving oneness with nature in the form of becoming bear prey can generally be prevented. Noise, be it the human voice, the sound of a machine running, dogs barking—anything to give a passing bear adequate warning that something alien is in his proximity—will go a long way towards helping prevent a violent confrontation. No two bears are alike, however; while one may run head-over-heels away from the mere slamming of a door, another may not even run at the crack of a high-

powered rifle. In my view, this distinct behavioral difference separates bears into two categories: good bears and bad bears.

Good bears, being naturally shy, elusive and timid around human beings offer no real problems. Most of us have experienced encounters with good bears and have sighed with relief as we watch them retreat through the brush or down the trail. Fortunately, this has been typical of most of my encounters with blacks and grizzlies, though not all.



One characteristic common to all bears is their ability to move through the woods stealthily. The disadvantage to people living in bear country is clear—Bruin can be in your face before you know it. This usually isn't a problem with the timid bear, but a bad bear—one that won't go away or keeps returning and light-footing it around your yard at any time of the day or night—calls for severe action. This isn't a charging bear—yet—but one

which continually violates your private domain and needs to be eliminated before a charge does occur.

Even the late Edward Abbey, champion for untrammelled wildness, in his essay "Gather at the River," didn't offer any of his usual caustic criticism of human intrusion on wildness when his river guide describes the hypothetical taking down of an aggressive bear: "You fire the first shot in front of the Grizz, into the ground, to scare him away. If he don't scare but keeps advancing, you wait until you can't stand it anymore, then shoot to kill. First a shot to knock him down, next a shot to finish him off." Evidently Mr. Abby could see the wisdom of not becoming bear prey, which is a notion close to all our hearts.

One of the easiest and most effective ways to keep hungry bears out of your yard is to either burn all garbage or bury it somewhere away from your building and living area. This doesn't mean bagging it in plastic and forgetting about it. Good juicy garbage in plastic bags, and warm weather, has a tendency to start rotting and will attract a bear quickly. Contrary to some popular thinking, the plastic doesn't hold in all the smell. A hot burn, using enough dry spruce and plenty of oxygen so the garbage and its smell are totally consumed, is the only way to go. I have seen some lackadaisical burning

operations, burn barrels half full of charred, rotting garbage that I wouldn't want in my backyard.

The dog's sharp bear bark is one of the best bear warning signals and often the dog noise will scare Bruin away. Compared to humans, a dog's hearing and sense of smell are far superior, therefore he can

detect the bear long before it can be seen. To my way of thinking, this is a distinct advantage. We have three good bear dogs, and I wouldn't live where we do without at least one.

To protect rabbit hutches, chicken coops, out buildings, airplanes, etc., solar electric

fence chargers work very well.

If we're forced to choose to operate on the bear's level, by his guiding philosophy, it is EAT OR BE EATEN. I would prefer to achieve oneness with nature on my own terms, and skill with a high-powered rifle wielded with little remorse will attain that end.

Big game killed on the glacier

The following is from the June 28, 1924 issue of The McCarthy Weekly News

J. E. Barrett and his brother Ed Barrett shot two large grizzly bears on the Kenecott Glacier in the neighborhood of Mount Regal. They weighed approximately around a thousand pounds and the skin had a length of seven feet six inches, before being stretched to dry. The tracks of their feet were measured and found to be eleven inches long.

Ed Barrett took first crack at the bears but did not kill the one he was aiming at, consequently, they had quite a bit of excitement owing to the fact that they had only one 30 - 30 Winchester between them, and a small twenty two pea shooter, which was entirely obsolete for the killing of those two ferocious monsters.

Meanwhile, these two hairy quadrupeds started to try and

do the Jack Dempsey triple, by rising on their hind legs ready to do some infighting even though one of them was kind of groggy after being dropped for the count of eight. But John, seeing the attack coming, grabs the big gun, lines up the sights, pulls the lanyard, the gun went bang and lo and behold, both of the opponents were stretched on the ground, hors De Combat.

Guns on the homestead

Part one—the bear gun

In this first installment of what I hope will become a regular, if infrequent column in WSEN, I thought we would take a look at some of the hardware available to give one a sense of at least somewhat equal footing when faced with one of the creatures that columnist Fred Denner describes as a "bad bear."

BY RICK KENYON

Let me say up front that I am not an expert in the subject of bears or "bear guns." (However, having lived in the Alaskan bush for over twenty years now I have had to, on more than one occasion, dispatch bruins—both black and grizzly—who had made a nuisance of themselves and were deemed to be incorrigible.) Much of the information presented here was gleaned from conversations with others who have more experience

than I in the field of bear encounters.

Bear in mind that this article is intended for the homesteader, hiker and back-country camper—not the bear hunter. Setting forth to deliberately take one of the animals in a fair-chase hunt is a somewhat different situation than being faced (probably, but not necessarily, unexpectedly) with the necessity of dealing with a bad bear. Also, my experience, and the information in this article, is with the bears found

inland, not the huge browns found on the coast.

In this and future issues of WSEN we will explore the shotgun, the high-powered rifle, and the handgun. Each has it's place.

The shotgun

The consensus among those that I talked with is that the shotgun is the ideal weapon for "close encounters of the bruin kind." This is particularly true for those

not otherwise interested in hunting or shooting.

Shotguns come in different power levels and action types. Unlike rifles and pistols, they are categorized by the bore "gauge," rather than "caliber." (There is one exception to this rule, and that is the diminutive .410, which refers to caliber rather than gauge.) Gauge is defined as "the interior diameter of a shotgun barrel as determined by the number of lead balls of a size exactly fitting the barrel that are required to make one pound." Thus, 12 gauge is larger than 16 gauge, which is larger than 20 gauge, etc. At first it seems backwards but you get used to it. Just remember the larger the gauge *number*, the smaller the barrel *diameter*. The general consensus is that the 12 gauge is the best compromise for use in bear country for most people. The more powerful 10 gauge is more punishing in recoil, while the 16 gauge has less recoil than the 12. However, as neither has become as popular as the 12 gauge, it is more difficult to find a good assortment of ammunition, so I would not recommend them. If you find the recoil of the 12 gauge to be more than you can comfortably handle, the 20 gauge would be my second choice.

As with gauges, there are different action types. Each has its advantages and its shortcomings.

The single-barrel has the virtue of being the least expensive to purchase, and the easiest to learn to operate. Its shortcoming is that you have to reload after each shot—something that is not desirable in our context. I only recommend it if funds are extremely tight, AND you are willing to take the time to practice until you can always

hit what you shoot at, and can reload without fumbling.

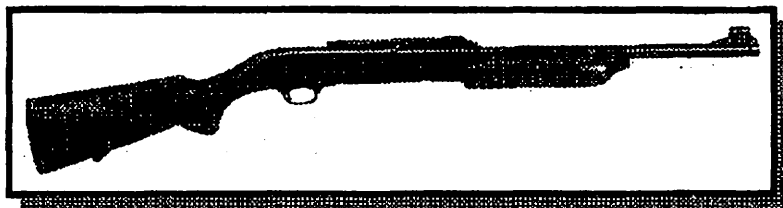
Double-barrels are wonderful bird guns, but a good one is quite expensive and they are probably not the best action type for our purposes.

The bolt-action shares the single-barrel's virtue of economy, but has the advantage of carrying more than one shell which can be loaded by activating the bolt. Again, if money is tight, you might consider this type.

The pump-action shotgun is highly regarded as reliable, fairly easy to become familiar with, and is still affordable. They carry 3 or

other action types, as the action itself absorbs some of the recoil. They are more expensive than the pump-action, normally less reliable, and more prone to accidental discharge. It's probably better to stick with the other action types, and if recoil is a problem go with the 20 gauge rather than the 12.

As for ammunition, 00 or 000 buckshot is preferred for close range work. How close is close? It depends on the gun, in particular the *choke* used. (Some guns come with detachable chokes and are desirable for an all-purpose gun.) The tighter the



12 GAUGE PUMP-ACTION SHOTGUN WITH RIFLE-TYPE SIGHTS

more shells in their magazine, and repeat shots can be made very rapidly. Remington and Mossberg both offer entry-level models at street prices (WalMart, Kmart, and Fred Myers) of just over \$200. The standard barrel has a single bead at the muzzle but no other sights. They also may be purchased with a "slug barrel," which has rifling inside and regular rifle-type sights. If I had to choose, I would pick this one. For an additional \$50 or so you can get one with both barrels which I highly recommend. This gives you a number of options, as well as a dual-purpose gun which will serve well for hunting small game. Steer clear of the models with only a pistol grip, as they are much more difficult to control.

The semi-automatic has a reputation of being slightly more comfortable to shoot than the

choke (*full*, for example) the further the effective range will be. If you get one of the "slug-guns" they will have little or no choke and the barrel may have rifling, and the range at which the buckshot will scatter beyond an effective diameter will be much less. I suggest you take ordinary paper dinner plates, set them up at various distances and see just how far away you can still place all of the pellets within the diameter of the plate. Be sure you have a safe backstop, and if you are new to shooting find an instructor to help.

You might be surprised to find that up to seven or eight paces the shot charge stays in a very tight pattern, and it becomes obvious that the shotgun at close range must be used like a rifle. It must be aimed. This can be done without

sights, but it is easier and faster with rifle-type sights.

Beyond the range where all, or at least most of your pellets make a fist-size pattern on the paper plates, the buckshot loses its effectiveness. At any farther distances, *slugs* are called for.

Slugs come in different types. Some are .63 or .54 caliber projectiles encased in plastic or other material that is designed to fall away after exiting the barrel. These are called *sabots* and have a good reputation for accuracy and stopping power, but are designed to be shot from a rifled barrel, rather than the more common smooth barrel.

Also recommended are a type of lead projectile with fins at the rear to help stabilize the projectile by causing it to spin, thus enhancing accuracy. These are called Brenneke slugs.

Again, set up the paper plates, at distances out to perhaps 50 yards. Practice until you can keep all of your shots on the plates. As with the buckshot, guns with some type of sights will be easier to shoot accurately than those with only the standard bead at the muzzle.

Why all the talk about accuracy? I thought with a shotgun it didn't really matter—just point at the bear and the spray of pellets will do the rest? Unfortunately this is not true at all. If a bear is determined to eat you, a solid hit in the vital organs will be necessary to dissuade him. Never aim at the bear—aim at the

bear's vital organs. (That's why we used a paper dinner plate as a practice target rather than a 55 gallon barrel!) Generally this means the heart-lung area, or the brain. Bear anatomy is beyond the scope of this article but you won't go too far wrong if you follow this simple guide: if the bear is charging "head-on," aim for the nose. A bit high or low will take out the heart-lungs or spine, a bit to the side has a good chance of breaking a shoulder. Broadside, aim for the front shoulder.

Here is a bit of advice someone gave me for a special situation: You are out with a friend, encounter a bear, the bear attacks your friend. You have a gun, but how to make the bear cease and desist without the likelihood of shooting your friend? Take a position broadside to the action, and shoot the bear high in the rear hip area. This accomplishes two things; the bear will stop what he is doing in order to bite at the wound area, at which time you have a more clear shot at his head.

As to carrying the shotgun while walking or riding a bike, a sling works quite well. When walking, I like to carry muzzle-down, sling over my left shoulder. (I shoot right-handed.) The sling must be long enough to keep the pistol grip from digging into your back, but it allows the gun to be brought into action very quickly. If riding a bike you will likely need a more secure over the neck position for the strap, with

the shotgun at your back. Another possibility is a scabbard attached to your bike. Where should your shells be? I like to keep the magazine of the gun full, but the chamber empty. This is another area where the pump-action shines. You can quickly rack a shell into the chamber when needed. Sometimes just that action and sound is enough to send the bear scooting off.

If your plan is to keep the gun unloaded and perhaps in a case as you traverse the backcountry roads and trails, you may as well save your money. By the time you perceive the threat, get your weapon out and load it, the matter will most likely have already been decided—one way or another.

Above all, learn the proper safe handling methods for whatever gun you choose. Get someone to help you, and join the NRA. You will get your choice of one of three monthly magazines; *The Rifleman*, *The Hunter*, or *The Guardian*. *The Guardian* is my favorite and is filled with helpful articles on self-defense guns, safe handling, practice methods, and other interesting subjects. Plus, you help support your right to keep and bear arms, which has been under attack all over the world since time began.

Be sure and join us next time when we look at the dual purpose hunting and bear defense gun—the high powered rifle.

"No government ever voluntarily reduces itself in size. Government programs, once launched, never disappear. Actually, a government bureau is the nearest thing to eternal life we'll ever see on this earth!"—Ronald Reagan

Good News from the Wrangells

McCarthy Kennicott Community Church News

BY BONNIE KENYON

Winter is about over and signs of spring are becoming more evident with each new day here in the Wrangells. With the colder months behind us, we look forward to begin our summer season meeting in our building on the east side of the Kennicott.

In the winters we meet on Sunday mornings at our (Kenyon's) cabin and enjoy a time of Christian fellowship together. I am pleased to report that our Bible studies and our times of sharing the goodness of God with each other have proved very beneficial to me personally and I trust to each of you that so faithfully came.

Our first Sunday service in the

McCarthy Kennicott Community Church building "on the island" for this summer will be May 23 at 10:00 a.m. No matter what your religious background is, you are welcome!

Lynn Welty and I are presently planning our second annual Vacation Bible School. If you have any questions or input, you may call me at 554-4454 or Lynn at 554-4416.

As many of you already know, the church bell was donated by Jo King of Long Lake in memory of her husband, Harley King, and the others who lost their lives in McCarthy in 1983. We all want to thank Jo for this beautiful gift to the church. A plaque has been made and will hang in the foyer

of the church. I would like to share its message.

The McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church bell is dedicated to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Harley King, Maxine Edwards, Les and Flo Hegland and Tim and Amy Nash who died in the tragic shootings that took place in McCarthy on March 1, 1983.

On July 7, 1996, this bell rang for the first time to celebrate the first worship service of the McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church. May it continue to peal loud and clear: "Do not let yourself be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21.

In Memory Of...Mary Elizabeth Daidone

Mary Elizabeth Daidone passed away on January 10, 1999, at the age of 90. She had been living in Lynwood, California.

She was born in California in 1908 to George and Stella Irwin. Her mother passed away a few months later. She was adopted and raised by Elizabeth Griffith of Gulkana. She lived in Gulkana, Chitina and Valdez, Alaska.

She married Hans Ditman in 1922 and they had one son, Robert Irwin Ditman, who preceded her in death.

Hans died in 1934 in Chitina, Alaska.

She later married Mike Haas

who was commissioner of the Labor Board in Alaska under territorial governor, Ernest Gruening. When the war broke out the name of that position became the War Labor Board. She and Mike were very involved in politics for most of their lives. Mike Haas passed away.

She made her last trip to visit her beloved Alaska in 1979. She spent time with her son, Robert Ditman and his family at their placer gold mine in Chicken, Alaska.

In Mary's later life she was a housekeeper for others.

She was a member on the Moose Lodge and the Pioneers of

Alaska.

She always supported the less fortunate even though she had little.

Her cremains will be buried in Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier, California.

She leaves Granddaughter Donna Gifford and Grandson Robert I. Ditman, Jr. of Valdez, Alaska, Great-Granddaughters Theresa Day of Salem, Oregon, Stella and Elizabeth Gifford and Cyndy Payne Ezell of Valdez, Alaska, Great Grandson Edwards Day of Soldotna, Alaska and Great Great Granddaughters Britni, Kacey and Rachel Ezell of Valdez, Alaska.

"Death is but a sharp corner near the beginning of life's procession down eternity."—JOHN AYSCOUGH (1858-1928)

OUR TOWN

May 1924 June

SLIDE BREAKS

ELECTRIC CABLE

The Green Butte copper mine was closed down Monday on account of a snowslide coming down and breaking the transmission line that comes from the Mother Lode. The line was repaired by the day crew and the following night the mine was in shape for the resumption of activities.

TO UNOBSERVANT CITIZENS OF THE COMMUNITY

If you should happen to wake up some morning with a headache and it should happen that you hadn't looked upon the mule when it was white the night before, if you indulge in water that comes from the creek.

Whether or not it is generally known that the slops from the camp above drain into the creek is debatable, but the fact remains that they do. We investigated!

Now there's no use arguing the fact that because no one has gotten ill so far, no one will. The cheapest way to avoid sickness is to avoid the cause and in this instance it can easily be done, if you walk 75 feet further. You can then obtain pure spring water.

Of course, your time is valuable but so is your health, anyway it only means the expenditure of a couple of minutes extra and

if you should fall sick, how many of those extra minutes could it take to pay the doctor bill?

We expect that no one will pay the slightest attention to this warning, but we have gotten it out of our systems anyhow.

MAY 3

TIS SAID THAT...

The Alaska Hotel is being remodeled, a hardwood floor has been laid and a large bay window added at the rear. A large room has been made by tearing out a partition. The improvements are neat and very attractive.

SNYDERS RETURN FROM SEWARD

Roy Snyder and wife, who left McCarthy for a visit to the states last fall and who later went to Seward where Roy engaged in taxi and garage business, returned this week.

Roy states that he has several business offers, and that he will run taxi here, for a while at least. A Buick is at Cordova and will be up as soon as the Chitina River bridge is repaired.

ATHLETIC CLUB ORGANIZED AT KENNECOTT

Monday evening a meeting at the Recreation Hall at Kennecott resulted in the formation of an athletic club that will in the future handle and superintend all in the camp, such as basketball, baseball, smokers and will take

charge of the dances.

The club charges an entrance fee of a dollar and two-bits a month for dues. The organization is open to all the men and women in camp and all children are elected honorary members.

CHITINA RIVER BRIDGE GOES OUT

The breakup of the Chitina River the first of this week demolished a couple of spans of the railroad and thus cut off McCarthy from the coast, as far as freight is concerned.

Owing to a jam a short distance above the bridge and another near Copper Center, work of repairing the damage has not begun, as yet, though it is reported that the pile driver will probably commence operations about Tuesday. The trains can cross within a couple of days from that time.

NELSON ARRIVES FROM COPPER CREEK

Warren Nelson, who is engaged in developing his Copper Creek property, arrived in town today on a business trip. He states that things are looking fine and that he has hopes of striking pay before long.

Bill Berry arrived from a trip to the Homestead where he landed freight for Bill Wire. Berry was sleepy when he got back, the team paraded grandly down the street, and Bill snored on.

MAY 10

TIS SAID THAT...

Bill Berry reports the sale of his span of mules to Harry Boyden this week. It is understood that Bill will leave with the last mail to Chisana his contract calls for within a few days.

About the finest team of black or any other color horses that ever arrived at McCarthy came in this week. Charles Lubbe is buying their hay. He will engage in general teaming as soon as he finishes planting Trimm's crops.

Miles "Scotty" Atchinson arrived in town this week from a protracted bear hunting trip. He states that the river is on the rampage.

A horse belonging to A. E. Trimm that he had rented to the A. R. C. was drowned by falling from the bridge. The other horse in the team was barely saved. Another mate is on the way from Seattle.

FRANK NEW YORK'S BUILDING AUCTIONED BY ADMINISTRATOR

The advertised administrator's sale that was advertised for today resulted in the transfer of title to R. Howard, a lady of color.

It is reported that the building sold for \$750.00 and the furnishings for the sum of \$250.00.

The Owl card room will still retain the building as a business location.

TIS SAID THAT...

A. E. Trimm and family left for the ranch today to get the place in shape to prove up. There will be about sixty acres of land under cultivation this year.

The Barrett water system is now in perfect working order. Practically everyone on Front Street uses the system.

MAY 31

TIS SAID THAT...

Photographer Hubrick has received an order from the Cordova Chamber of Commerce for one hundred Panorama views of this section.

NEW CONCENTRATING TABLES AT KENNECOTT

The concentration division of the Kennecott reduction plant has been undergoing extended improvements that will not only increase production, but will improve working conditions greatly. An entire new set of slime tables are being installed and the concrete poured for a new floor which will replace the old wood floor that was in bad shape, being pretty badly rotted away.

MOUNTAINEERS PULL OUT

With Andy Taylor in charge of the pack train, the reconnaissance party of H. A. McCarthy, that is to choose the most feasible route to the base of Mt. Logan, started for the Chitina Glacier last week. The pack stock used belongs to Pete Brenewick. According to Andy, the party will remain out for about six weeks.

NEW OWNER OF THE NEWS

Harry Bosch of Kennecott is the new owner of McCarthy News, having purchased the plant this week from R. E. Lander.

Hereafter the subscription price will be \$3.50 per year instead of \$5.00 as before.

It is the intention of the new owner to publish all the news of the surrounding district as well as the local news.

Hereafter the News will be on the streets Saturday morning instead of in the evening, so the sheet can be in the mail in time to catch Saturday's train.

APOLOGY

Owing to the fact that we had an accident and spilled our type all over creation, we were unable to get the News out on Saturday.

June 7

TIS SAID THAT...

It is reported that there is a patient now confined in the Kennecott Hospital suffering from an overdose of wood alcohol. Rumor has it that the product was obtained locally. In any event, the stuff has put one man in the hospital and his drinking partner out of his head for a few hours so far.

Mrs. Chris Jensen and daughter were in town yesterday visiting friends and shopping. They returned to their home at Kennecott on the speeder that transported the Elks to the ball game.

Captain Osborne, wife and family returned to Kennecott today from a week's hunting and fishing expedition to Long Lake. A fine catch of fish and a finer coat of tan was acquired on

the trip.

Walter Lommel, who holds an executive position at Kennecott is spending a few days visiting at Ole Berg's mine out of Strelna. He will be absent for about two weeks.

NEW STORE OPENS THIS WEEK

Roy Snyder reports that the ladies furnishing store that will be located in the Laurie building is to be opened for business this week. The new establishment will carry a full line of ladies furnishings and also a small stock of the latest style haberdashery.

Mrs. Snyder will be proprietress.

June 14

LET US HAVE A MORE PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY

Come on folks, lets pull our socks up and make a real honest to goodness town out of this burg. Let us take some pride in ourselves by keeping our streets in a clean condition by getting rid of some of our junk that's laying around our alleyways.

It is not a bit good for one or two of us to clean up. We have to pull together in order to make an impression. We want to have the visitors leave with a nice little picture in their minds, so that they will be talking of it all the way home.

This town is going to be in the center of a huge mining district in the near future, so it is up to us to take advantage of it, not to wait till that time is here, but to do it now. "Today."

By keeping McCarthy

painted up and looking neat and clean it will do more to advertise this town, than all the papers in the country.

WHITE RIVER TRIP

We are glad to have among us such an able booster for this community as is our friend Mr. Hubrick, who through his many hunting, and fishing trips, has interested quite a number of influential people.

He leaves we understand about the fifth of next month on one of his famous expeditions to the White River and so on down into the White Horse country.

FOREST FIRE

For the last four days there has been a huge fire raging across the Nizina, where a vast bunch of land has been laid to waste.

BRIDGE

The projected bridge across the Kennecott is the best thing that the farmers have heard in some time, as it will give them an outlet for their produce and a chance to take stock back and forth during the summer months.

THIS AND THAT

Mrs. William Reed, formerly of McCarthy, gave birth to an eight pound boy this week.

June 21

FOREST FIRE

For the last nineteen days there has been a huge fire raging across the Nizina, where a vast bunch of land has been laid to waste.

You will be glad to hear that our friend George Flowers is up and running around again at Long Lake.

June 28

Live higher, stay warmer (at least in Fairbanks)

Editors note: I was struck by the similarities between Fairbanks and McCarthy/Kennecott. Does anyone keep temperature records at Kennecott or the higher elevations around McCarthy?

This column is provided as a public service by the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks, in cooperation with the UAF research community. Ned Rozell is a science writer at the Institute.

BY NED ROZELL

For most of the year, Fairbanks, Alaska, defies meteorological logic. Unlike what happens in most places, Fairbanks temperatures often increase with altitude in the first few thousand feet above the ground. The blame goes to one of the most powerful temperature inversions on the planet, a phenomenon recently measured by Rick Thoman, lead forecaster for the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Fairbanks.

Thoman is a hill-dweller, living west of town in Lincoln Creek subdivision, about 1,600 feet above sea level. For the past two winters, he's compared temperatures at his home with those of a Weather Service observer who lives in the Goldstream Valley, about 590 feet above sea level and about 20 feet above Goldstream Creek.

Thoman gathered his statistics in interior Alaska's season of strong temperature inversions, from October until about mid-March. These inversions, in which warmer air forms a lid that sits above cold air, happen in part because Fairbanks sprawls in the bowl of the Tanana Valley, which is

hemmed in by mountains and hills on all sides but the southwest. The other inversion ingredients are clear skies that allow heat to escape, low solar radiation in the winter that doesn't allow the earth to be warmed much, and calm winds. The combination of factors causes inversions rivaled only by those at the South Pole. In the winter of 1997 to 1998, Thoman found that his home on the hill averaged about 16 degrees warmer than the Goldstream Valley. On 94 percent of the days, the minimum temperatures at his home were higher than those in the valley. More than 25 percent of the days, the daily low on the hill was warmer than the daily high temperature in the valley.

On some days, the hills were more than 25 degrees warmer than the lowlands. Thoman, who heats exclusively with wood, thought all that warmth must be saving him logs. To see how many, he calculated his number of heating-degree days, which are tallied by taking the average temperature of the day and subtracting 65 (though he used 50 degrees because he wouldn't build a fire when his home was 65). He found that it took him 18 to 20 percent less energy to

heat his home than if he lived in the lowlands. He also said that people don't need to live as high as he does to benefit from the temperature inversion.

He estimated that those just a few hundred feet off the valley floor probably save about 10-to-15 percent. Temperature inversions are strongest in the winter, but sunshine and breezes combine to knock them out in early spring. From June to August, the temperature inversions are a memory, but when the sun wanes in September, the inversions once again begin setting up and making high places warmer.

Thoman says the phenomenon makes forecasting a challenge for Weather Service people newly stationed in Fairbanks, who will typically miss their first few forecasts by 20 degrees or so. Unlike most other places, where air masses thousands of feet above the ground will warm the air at ground level, Fairbanks' inversions form a cap that doesn't allow air to mix. "People are really amazed at how disconnected the lowest few thousand feet of the atmosphere is with that above it," he said.

FY 1999 Budget and Annual Performance Plan for WRST

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve Superintendent, Jonathan B. Jarvis, announced that the park's

annual performance plan and documents providing details about the appropriated budget and fee revenues for FY 1999

are available for public review as required by the "National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998."

Highlights of the park's budget, which funds specific goals in the annual performance plan, include.

\$410,774 for resource preservation and management to support ongoing resources management activities in the park, including both natural and cultural resources, that include activities such as historical research, wildlife population studies, permitting for water and other land use activities, and other biological related projects.

\$716,994 to address visitor services with an additional \$3,160 in estimated fees from special use and incidental business permits to cover monitoring costs of the permit holders. These activities are in relation to the operation of the visitor center, providing information to park visitors, providing for visitor protection, search and rescue and assisting in keeping visitors safe during their trip.

\$447,922 for facility operations and maintenance to support activities such as the maintenance of park administrative structures, utilities, public use cabins, trail maintenance, and other facilities related activities.

\$514,310 for park management to support the overall needs of the park staff and the visiting public, and includes payment for leases, telephones, planning initiatives and operation of the park concessions program.

\$1,609,277 for construction of new and stabilization of old park facilities including the lead paint mitigation and emergency stabilization of the historic structures in Kennecott, exhibit design for the Ahtna Museum and for tree clearing at the new Visitor Center site. Full construction of the Visitor Center and headquarters, including development of exhibits, waysides and film, is scheduled

for completion in 2001.

\$1,500,000 for the acquisition of mining claims in the park and preserve, based on the willing seller, willing-buyer principle.

A copy of WRST Park's complete annual performance plan are derived from the 1997 NPS Strategic Plan and the 1999-2002 Wrangell St Elias National Park and Preserve Strategic Plan, which establishes a performance management process for the park and incorporates the requirements of GPRA. The 1999 - 2002 Strategic and 1999 Annual Work Plan is available on the Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve homepage at <http://www.nps.gov/wrst>. A hard copy of each can be obtained at the park headquarters in Copper Center, upon request.

The Tree So Special To Me

BY RENE DAWN WELTY AGE 11

The tree so special to me,
stands tall and brave.
It is the tallest and finest
Aspen tree around.
It doesn't sit by an old musty road.
It is not in the town,
no not at all.
He is high and good.
He is tall.
He lives in the beautiful woods.
He is proud, but not rude.
He reaches to the heavens
to see if it is true
that God lives up there
so kind and good.
My tree, yes my tree,
is the tree most special to me.

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Electronic Field Trip Schedule

BY VICKI SNITZLER

The final taping for the Electronic Field Trip to Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, designed to teach Middle School students about history and geology, will take place on May 2, 1999. Last fall McCarthy-Kennecott area residents who contributed to the pre-taped portion of the program included Rick and Bonnie Kenyon, Nancy Cook, Mike Loso, Tyler Green, Sarah Welty, Aaron Miller and many others.

The production crew will drive from Anchorage to McCarthy on Saturday, May 1. All personnel, cameras, generators and other necessary equipment will be transported in 5 four-wheel drive vehicles. If the road to McCarthy is impassible, the crew will fall back to one of a series of alternate locations on NPS or Alaska State Park lands. All guests and crew have been advised of weather conditions for this time of year, and have selected gear accordingly. The crew will stay at the McCarthy Lodge. The crew will use NPS and McCarthy Lodge vehicles to transport equipment from the

footbridge to the lodge, and from the lodge to Kennecott.

Filming will begin on Sunday, May 2. All filming will take place at Kennecott, unless the crew falls back to an alternate location due to road closure. In the morning, topics covered will be the history of Kennecott and the process of gravity concentration in relationship to students' studies of history, chemistry, physics and economics, with the mill as a background. In the afternoon, filming will shift location slightly to include a view of the natural environment. The afternoon session will cover plate tectonics and the formation of the Wrangell Mountains, the role of glaciers in shaping the landscape, and the recent spruce bark beetle infestation. During filming, guests will answer questions sent by students from across the country.

The crew will stay in McCarthy through Monday, May 3, to allow one additional day for taping should conditions prohibit taping on May 2. As soon as the taping is complete, the editing team of three will leave McCarthy via Wrangell Mountain Air, to return the

tapes to Anchorage for preparation before broadcast.

On Tuesday, May 3, the remaining crew will leave McCarthy by road.

The programs will be broadcast to schools via satellite on May 5 and 6 from 9:00-10:00 a.m. C-Band ANALOG feed will be on TELSTAR 5C, Transponder 17. Digital KU feed will be on TELSTAR 4, Channels 301 and 310.

Schools may sign up and obtain teacher guides from the web at:
<http://newmedia.scetv.org/alaska>

The program is free of charge. Free tapes of the broadcast will be available to area residents from the National Park Service after May 10, 1999.

All activities are planned to have a minimum impact on the community. The onsite coordinators for the National Park Service for the project are Wendy Davis and Logan Hovis. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Edmond Roberts, Chief of Interpretation, or Jon Jarvis, Superintendent at 907-822-5234 in Copper Center.

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE: 91 Ford XLT 15 pax van. Also 5 acres land west side of Kennicott River near McCarthy. Call 781-2389.

WANTED: Cabin or house to house-sit or rent June 15 through July. /call Pete or Tina Barela at 495-7763 (Willow)

FOR SALE: Two (2) 10x12 wall tents, 13 oz. Marine grade canvas (waterproofed), rear window, with white fly. \$550 each in McCarthy. Contact Fred Dure at 694-3750 or advtour@alaska.net

FOR SALE: Cessna 170 classic "rag-wing." Excellent condition. Low time. No avionics. McCarthy (907)554-4454

Kennecott Kids Korner

BY INGER JENSEN RICCI

My father, Chris Jensen, arrived in Katalla in 1903 from Denmark. He went on to Cordova in 1907 and from there to Kennecott to work as a carpenter. He helped to build the towers on the trams and the buildings in the main camp. In 1915 my mother traveled alone from Denmark to Seattle. She wore a tag with her name and destination. Dad met her in Seattle, where they were married and returned to Kennecott. I came on the scene in 1918.

I remember helping my father decorate our Christmas tree, Danish style, with red paper roses, little Danish flags, popcorn strings, and cranberries, being very careful to place the candles in the safest spots.

I remember Christmas Eve, the school play and the program presented on the stage at the Community Hall. I particularly remember a play I was in, playing a boy's part. I pulled a real dead mouse from my pocket.

I remember skating on the ice rink outside our school, at recess, after school, and often in the evening with my father and mother. They were beautiful skaters, dancing together to the phonograph music coming from the bunkhouse. But I only wanted to race and play hockey. It was always lovely walking home with our flashlights, the snow crunching under foot and the many stars twinkling overhead. There was always hot chocolate or Ovaltine before bed.

I remember when there was



a movie I wanted to see and didn't think my parents would let me. I used to write a note, "May I go to the movie? Just put yes or no in the circle." More often than not it was yes. I loved the cowboy movies, Hopalong Cassidy, Gene Autry, or Roy Rogers. Westerns are still my favorites.

I remember Saturday

mornings when several of us were given a nickel to get a candy bar at the general store, such hard decisions!

I remember coasting all the way from the mill to the store. Someone usually was stationed at the curve for safety's sake.

I remember waking early on a summer morning, dressing quietly and sneaking out my bedroom window to the porch roof, then to the woodpile and finally to the back door. I would march into the kitchen and startle my parents (I thought). "Where did you come from?" they always asked in mock surprise.

I remember picnics up at the dam with other families, or for school picnics. National Creek was a beautiful stream. John Letendre took care of the Kennecott water supply at the dam. There was a picnic table and fire pit. It was such fun to cut willow branches and roast hot dogs, often slightly charred, but delicious. To this day, that is one of my favorite picnic traditions.

Can you help? Donna Ditman Gifford is requesting any information you might have concerning her Great Grandmother Elizabeth Griffith. According to Donna, this is the same Elizabeth Griffith who adopted and raised Mary E. Daidone. On January 6, 1923, *The McCarthy Weekly News* reported the following news item: "Mrs. Griffith Olts formerly of Gulkana arrived from Seattle on yesterday's train. Mrs. Olts has taken a five year lease on the Chitina Hotel." Donna believes this is the same Mrs. Griffith who is her Great Grandmother. If you have any knowledge of Mrs. Griffith, please contact Donna at Box 1253, Valdez, AK. 99686 or phone (907) 835-2254.

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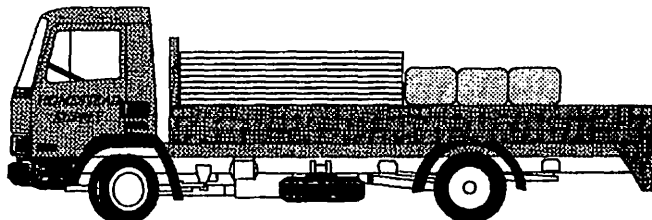
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VALDEZ / COPPER RIVER AREA

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The burn permit shown can be validated by following these steps:

1. Fill in the location of the property where burning will occur.
2. Sign in space provided for permittee signature.

3. Call the Division of Forestry at 822-5534 during normal business hours to obtain permit number, name of issuing officer, and / or any current burning stipulations that may be in effect.

CLASS A BURNING PERMIT NO. _____

In accordance with the laws and regulations of the State of Alaska, the undersigned is hereby granted permission to burn: one pile of debris 4 ft. high x 10 ft. in diameter and / or less than one acre of mowed lawn / field with grass 4 inches or less in length on the following described property: _____

Burning is authorized subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Construct a firebreak 10 feet wide to mineral soil around pile. For lawns / fields, mow, rake, and wet down a 10 foot perimeter. DO NOT burn within 25 feet of woods, structures, or other flammable materials.
2. Have a minimum of one adult in attendance at all times while burning.
3. Have a shovel / rake for each person, and have a charged water hose capable of reaching the entire burn area. In lieu of a hose, a wet gunny sack and a minimum of one 5-gallon container of water for each person can be used.
4. Burn with winds less than 5 mph only!
5. Fires must be completely extinguished before attendee leaves the immediate premises.
6. The burning of any material which creates black smoke is prohibited.

Call D.E.C. at 835-4698 for further information in reference to D.E.C. regulation 18 AAC 50.030.

This permit is issued under the authority of AS 41.15.050 and 41.15.060 of the Public Resources Statutes governing the establishments of fire seasons and the regulating of burning permits. This permit may be modified, suspended, or revoked at any time.

The permittee shall have this permit in their possession at all times when burning and shall display it upon request from any duly authorized agent of the commissioner.

The permittee agrees to hold the State harmless from any claim or damage caused by negligent acts or omissions of permittee, his/her employee, or his/her agent, arising during or as a result of activities covered by this permit.

Willful or negligent disregard of the terms of this permit constitutes an illegal act and makes you criminally liable. This permit does not relieve the permittee from responsibility for fire damage.

**THIS PERMIT IS GOOD THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 30, 1999**

DATE ISSUED _____

PERMITTEE SIGNATURE: _____

ISSUED BY: _____

ISSUING AGENCY:

ALASKA DIVISION OF FORESTRY-VCRA
PHONE: (907) 822-5534

FOREST PROTECTION AREA: VALDEZ / COPPER RIVER. THIS PERMIT IS NOT VALID WITHOUT PERMIT NUMBER, NAME OF ISSUING OFFICER, AND PERMITTEE SIGNATURE. PERMIT IS NONTRANSFERABLE AND IS REQUIRED FROM MAY 1, TO SEPTEMBER 30, ANNUALLY.

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A Visitor's Guide to Kennicott & McCarthy 1999

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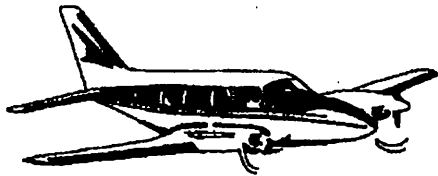
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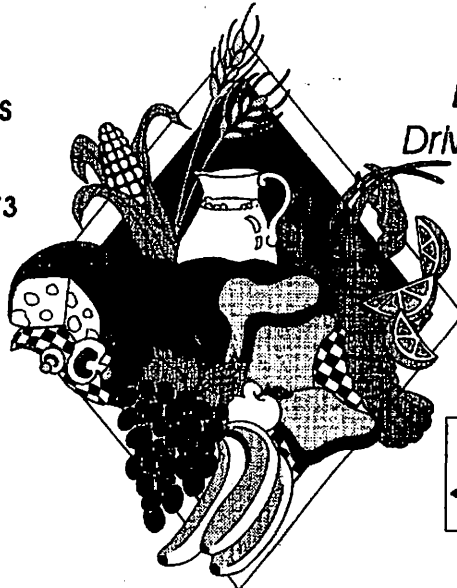
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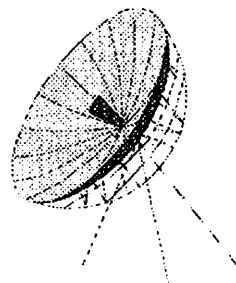
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Cooking with Carly

BY CARLY KRITCHEN

Some time ago it was suggested that I write a column on quick breads, so this month I'm going to give you some bread (and muffin) recipes that you can mix up quick. I like to make quick bread to go with a light supper of soup or salad, and these recipes are also good for times when you have unexpected dinner guests and need to stretch your main course.

You only need one bowl to mix up this tasty bread!

Honey Wheat Soda Bread

2 cups whole wheat flour
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
2 tablespoons honey
1 cup buttermilk
1 egg, slightly beaten

In a large mixing bowl combine flour, salt and baking soda. Make a well in the center. Add honey, buttermilk and beaten egg. Stir just until moistened. The batter will be soft. Grease a 1 quart casserole dish, and pat batter into the dish. Bake at 375 degrees for 20-25 minutes.

These rolls require a little extra time to raise, but are still fast and really delicious. Good also for picnics!

Quick Buns

1 ¾ cups warm water (about 120 degrees F.)
½ cup canola oil
¼ heaping cup sugar
3 tablespoons yeast

1 ½ teaspoons salt
2 beaten eggs
5 ¼ cups whole wheat flour

Mix together water, oil, sugar, and yeast and let stand 15 minutes. Add salt, eggs, and flour. Mix well and shape into buns. Let buns stand on baking sheet for 15 minutes. Bake at 425 degrees for 10 minutes. Yields approx. 24 buns.

These muffins are slightly sweet, but still a wonderful compliment to soups and stews.

1 cup flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon soda
½ teaspoon cinnamon
½ cup packed brown sugar
1 cup milk
1 egg, beaten
¼ cup melted butter
1 cup shredded carrots
1 cup quick-cooking oats

Mix flour, baking powder, soda, salt, and cinnamon together in a large bowl. Add the brown sugar, milk, egg and butter. Mix thoroughly. Add the carrots and oats and mix until blended well. Spoon the batter into greased muffin cups until about 2/3 full. Bake for 25 minutes at 375 degrees. Makes 12 muffins.

Here's another main meal muffin recipe that's great with chili.

Cheddar Muffins

2 cups flour
2 tablespoons sugar
1 tablespoon baking powder
¾ teaspoon salt
1 cup warm beer (or water)
1 egg
4 Tablespoons butter, melted

1 ¼ cups grated cheddar cheese

Mix together flour, sugar, baking powder and salt in a large mixing bowl. In another bowl, combine beer, egg, and butter. Make a well in the middle of the ingredients in the large bowl, and pour the liquid mixture in all at once. Stir until mixed well, but slightly lumpy. Stir in cheese. Fill greased muffin cups about 2/3 full of batter. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes at 300 degrees, or until tops are rounded and lightly browned. Remove immediately from cups, and let cool. Makes 12 muffins.

These biscuits are really rich and delicious with soup or stew—buttered or plain!

2 cups flour
3 tablespoons sugar
4 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon cinnamon
½ cup butter
1/3 cup chopped pecans
½ cup milk (or half and half)
2/3 cup cooked pureed pumpkin or squash (or canned pumpkin)

Mix dry ingredients in a large bowl. Cut in butter until it looks like coarse meal. Stir in pecans. Combine milk and pumpkin in a small bowl. Add to flour mixture and stir just to moisten. Turn onto a lightly floured board, and knead a few times. Roll out to ½ inch thick. Cut, place 1 inch apart on a greased baking sheet. Bake for about 20 minutes at 425 degrees. Makes about 12 biscuits.

A LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

After a rather cool January and February, the air temperatures warmed nicely in March. The precipitation continued to be on the light side with a total of only an half inch of liquid recorded in February and March.

The high temperature for February was 37 on the 18th (41 on Feb. 26, '98 and 39 on Feb. 21, '97). The lowest temperature recorded at McCarthy in February was -48 on the 11th (-20 on Feb. 7, '98 and -4 on Feb. 4, '97). The high was 30 or above on 1 day and the low was -20 or lower on 15 days. The average February temperature was -5.9, almost 15 degrees colder than last years 9.9 and 25 degrees colder than the warm 19.5 in '97. By comparison Silver Lake had a high of 36 on February 16th (40 on Feb. 1, '98 and 41 on Feb. 5, '97) and a low of -48 on February 11th (-20 on Feb. 7, '98 and -5 on Feb. 15, '97). The average February temperature at Silver Lake was -9.7 (6.6 in '98 and 19.6 in '97).

The February precipitation was about half of normal with 0.40 inches of liquid (0.47 in '98 and 0.63 in Feb. '97). Total snowfall was 4.1 inches (7.9 in '98 and 1.6 in Feb. '97). Silver Lake had 0.39 inches of liquid (0.42 in '98 and 0.38 in Feb. '97) with snowfall of 4.0 inches (11.0 in '98 and trace in Feb. '97). McCarthy began

February with 14 inches of snow on the ground, increased to 16 on the 12th and ended with 14 inches. Silver Lake had 18 inches on the 1st, increased to 22 on the 17th and ended with 22 inches.

March saw the end of below zero temperatures and plenty of sunshine. The high temperature for March was 49 on the 23rd and 24th (54 on Mar. 20, '98 and 43 on Mar. 31, '97). The low temperature recorded in March was -31 on the 7th and 8th (-23 on Mar. 4, '98 and Mar. 3, '97) The average March temperature at McCarthy was 17.9 compared to 20.3 in Mar. '98 and 11.7 in Mar. '97. The high reached 40 or higher on 15 days and the low was zero or below on 10 days. Silver Lake had a high of 46 on March 26th (54 on Mar. 21, '98 and 40 on Mar. 22, '97), a low of -27 on March 8th (-25 on Mar. 4, '98 and -17 on Mar. 3, '97) and a March average temperature of 15.1 (17.7 in Mar. '98 and 11.6 in Mar. '97).

March precipitation was very light. Liquid precipitation was 0.11 inches (0.16 in Mar. '98 and 0.23 in Mar. '97) and snowfall was 2.2 inches (1.2 in Mar. '98 and 3.5 in Mar. '97). Silver Lake had 0.34 inches of liquid (trace in Mar. '98 and 0.04 in Mar. '97) and 4.0 inches of snow (trace in Mar. '98 and 1.0 in Mar. '97). By the end of March the snow cover was 9 inches at McCarthy

and only 6 inches at Silver Lake.

The total snowfall for '98-'99 was 38.9 inches (68.0 in '97-'98 and 44.6 in '96-'97), with 17.7 inches in January. The greatest snow depth was 16 inches. This compares with an average ('80-'98) of 64.1 inches and a snow depth of 27 inches. The greatest snowfall was 99.9 inches in '90-'91 and the lowest was 27.3 inches in '86-'87. The greatest snow depth was 39 inches in '90-'91 and the lowest was 16 inches in '86-'87 and 98-99. Silver Lake had a total snowfall of 29.3 inches and the greatest snow depth was 26 inches.

The melting continues into the first half of April with the snow depth down to 6 inches by the 15th. The skies have been generally cloudy with temperatures ranging from the low 20's to mid 40's and 2.0 inches of snow. The snow is very soft with standing water everywhere. Breakup has finally arrived.

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 will be a bit early this year with the light snow cover. 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.

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FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Excerpts from the Testimony Of Malcolm Wallop—Chairman, Frontiers of Freedom, on H. R. 701, the Conservation and Re-investment Act and H. R. 798, the Permanent Protection for America's Resources 2000 Act before the U. S. House of Representatives Committee on Resources. The Honorable Don Young, Chairman. March 10, 1999.

Chairman Young, thank you for inviting Frontiers of Freedom to testify today on these important issues. My name is Malcolm Wallop, and I am chairman of Frontiers of Freedom. From 1977 until 1995, I represented Wyoming in the Senate, where I served on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. As a rancher near Big Horn, Wyoming, I have a lifetime's experience of private stewardship and of federal land management practices. I founded Frontiers of Freedom to defend the constitutional rights of all Americans and to restore constitutional limits on government at all levels.

Frontiers of Freedom opposes enactment of the Conservation and Re-investment Act, the Permanent Protection for America's Resource's 2000 Act, and other similar proposals, such as the Clinton-Gore Administration's Lands Legacy Initiative. While my remarks today are directed at H. R. 701, most of them apply just as well to H. R. 798 and the Lands Legacy program.

[Other shortcomings in the bill] are insignificant compared to the way H. R. 701 ties OCS revenue sharing to a massive increase in government acquisition of private land. Simply put, Frontiers of Freedom believes that the land acquisition provisions are much too high a price to pay for any benefits the bill may contain. There is an obvious reason why federal, state, and local land

management agencies like to buy land. It increases the size of their empires, which leads to increases in agency budgets and staffs.

My point is this. All levels of government already own an enormous amount of land—far too much in my view and unquestionably far more than they can take care of adequately.

Preservationists will undoubtedly reply that the purpose of all this government land ownership is to protect the environment. Can anyone who has first-hand knowledge of the poor condition of many of the federal lands really take this claim seriously?

"For its advocates, the purpose of land acquisition has little to do with preserving the environment. Rather, it has everything to do with acquiring and using power over people and their resources."

Private property ownership is widely recognized as the source of our economic well being and as the keystone of our system of limited government and individual liberty. But it must also be recognized that private property ownership provides a higher level of environmental protection than does public or common ownership. This is simply because private property owners have an incentive—their own self

interest to take care of what is theirs. That incentive is usually lacking with public or common ownership.

We had recent confirmation of this fact when the Iron Curtain fell. The preservationists who tout government ownership as an environmental panacea led us to believe that we would find a Garden of Eden in the land of socialized property. Instead, we saw one environmental horror after another: dead lakes, poisoned land, vanishing wildlife.

In this country, public accountability has prevented some of the worst consequences of socialization. But we must not be blind to the degradation caused by public ownership. Even Representative Ralph Regula, a staunch defender of federal land ownership, has opposed major land acquisition increases simply because the federal government already owns far more land than it can manage properly.

In terms of stewardship of resources, H. R. 701 is irresponsible in the extreme. Nonetheless, proponents claim at every turn that the opposite is true: H. R. 701 "...represents a responsible re-investment of revenue from non-renewable resources into renewable resources of conservation and recreation." This claim overlooks that fact that buying the land is just the beginning. After buying it, government must then take care of it.

Where is all the money to

manage these new government lands going to come from? It appears there are only two choices: either the budget caps for Interior must be increased by nearly two billion dollars per year; or Interior's budget must be slashed by nearly two billion dollars per year.

The first choice would be bad news for American taxpayers. The second choice would be catastrophic for the environmental condition of the federal lands. With a current backlog in maintenance and operations of \$12 billion, cutting \$2 billion out of the Interior budget simply cannot be done without destroying the federal land agencies.

Finally, I would like to touch on the effects H. R. 701 will have on people whose land is targeted for acquisition. The fact that several provisions have been included to try to protect landowners signifies that you, Mr. Chairman, are aware of the real nature of land acquisition. For its advocates, the purpose of

land acquisition has little to do with preserving the environment. Rather, it has everything to do with acquiring and using power over people and their resources. Land acquisition is used, in conjunction with the whole panoply of environmental regulations, to stop economic activity and to destroy local communities, to deny recreational access and to block transportation and utility corridors. It is also used as a weapon to threaten and control private landowners.

Prohibiting condemnation for federal purchases and requiring congressional approval for acquisitions over one million dollars will help to curb some of the worst of these abuses, and so I commend you for including them in your bill. However, the efficacy of either of these provisions should not be overestimated. Government agencies have perfected techniques using environmental regulations to turn unwilling sellers into willing

sellers. Moreover, this protection is given only to targets for acquisition by federal agencies. State and local governments should also be required to purchase land only from willing sellers. Requiring congressional authorization for acquisitions over one million dollars is fine as far as it goes for protecting the rights of people who own property worth more than one million dollars. But I cannot understand why one class of citizens should be given more protection than another class of citizens. Indeed, it seems to me that small landowners are more in need of congressional protection from rapacious and unscrupulous land agencies than are big landowners. We would therefore suggest that congressional authorization be required for all acquisitions.

For all these reasons, I urge the committee to abandon and defeat this unfortunate relic from the era of command-and-control environmentalism. ♦

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

March 23, 1999

Dear Editors,

Please renew our subscription and keep that wonderful *News* coming. We have enjoyed it so much.

It was especially nice to read about Frank and Jeanne Morris' wedding. What a wonderful thing to happen to two lovely people. Our very best to them, and to you.

Sincerely,

Oscar and Nell Watsjold

WSEN

Dear Bonnie,

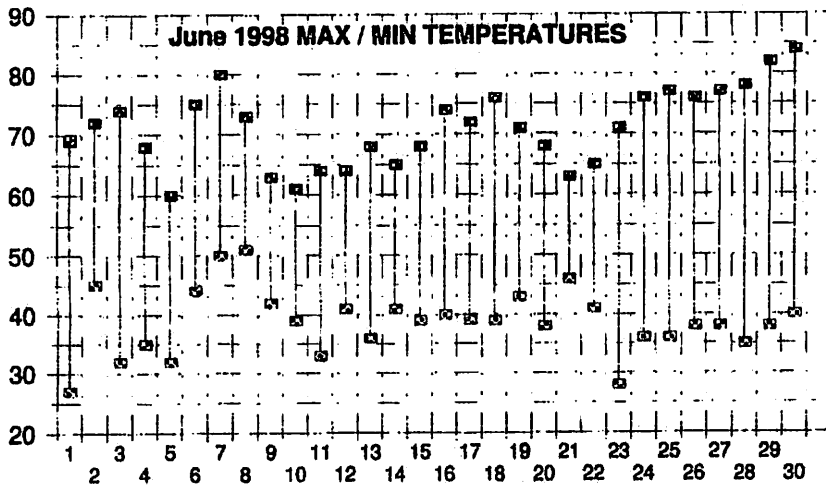
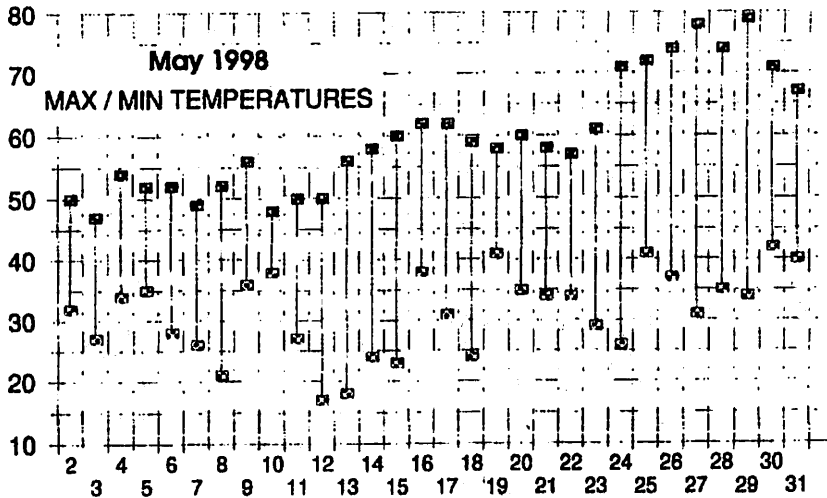
I noticed your ad in your last issue for all the back issues and decided I couldn't pass it up—I so enjoy reading the issues I've been getting that I hate to think of all I've been missing so I'll have to "catch up." I loan my issues to my brother and sister and having grown up in Cordova we especially enjoy the "old news" in *Our Town*. So many of the names are familiar to us and it always pleases us when we see mentioned our uncles J.B. O'Neill and Charles O'Neill and his family. His wife—Floie Slade

was a school teacher up there when they were married.

Right now I am faced with the prospect of moving (by next fall) out of the house we have been living in (and raising 15 kids in) since 1942. But it is comforting to envision myself one day peacefully settled in our nice apartment and having time to enjoy all the copies of your publication! I can assure you they will take priority over the umpteen other books I have been saving to read when I get old and have time.

Thanks and God Bless you!
Rusty Imlach

Weather - What can we expect?



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