

# Wrangell St. Elias News

*"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"*

Volume Seventeen Issue Three

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## The lesson of the Bonsai Tree— and an idea for government

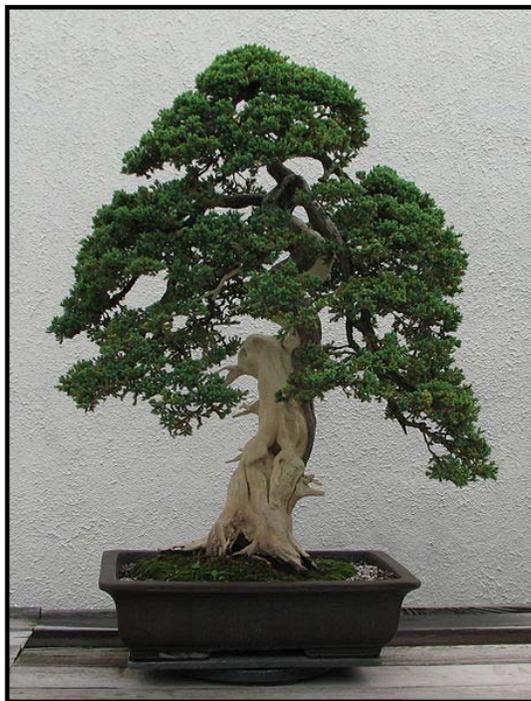
*The quiet, isolated little town of McCarthy nevertheless manages to be heard in ways that few would predict. This year the meager population of hardy year-rounders was made up of a fairly large percentage of very motivated supporters of presidential candidate Ron Paul. Result? The first-ever (as far as we can tell) Republican Caucus in McCarthy and a delegate sent to the state convention!*

*As you might imagine, these folks have strong opinions on things politic. Our first delegate, Jeremy Keller, shares some of his.*

BY JEREMY KELLER

It is perhaps appropriate that a bush rat like me would find a metaphorical center of gravity in a plant whose primary virtue is its restrained existence. The bonsai is the result of the ancient art of taking a tree and keeping it artificially small with constant care and intention. The tree urgently desires to reach its genetic potential, to reach for the stars, growing tall and wide. If left to its own devices, and if the conditions are conducive, it will continue to grow year after year. It is, of course, easier to just let it grow. The art of severely restraining its expansion is very involved. It is tricky to say the least, because the tree's every inclination is to actively oppose the restrictions. It requires remarkable dedication to achieve. It seems to me that this level of commitment is

only possible when the destination is known. In the case of the bonsai, it is in knowing and understanding how exquisite the



addition to a home this remarkable plant will be.

I have the McCarthy community in general, and my life here in

particular, to thank for my evolution into a political being. When I arrived here in May of 1999 I was a leaf blowing in the wind. I woke up in a new world every day, sometimes throughout the day! Like everyone that settles at the end of the world, I too stayed in McCarthy because of the freedom that I found here. Freedom is a large and vague concept and perhaps this story will be better served if I use the word liberty;

Liberty: 1.a. The condition of being free from restriction or control. b. The right to act, believe, or express oneself in a manner of one's own choosing. c. The condition of being free from confinement, servitude, or forced labor. 2. The freedom from unjust or undue government control. (American Heritage Dictionary)

"...to secure the Blessings of Liberty for ourselves and our Posterity..." (Preamble to the Constitution)

"...Liberty and Justice for all." (The Pledge of Allegiance)

(continued on page 6)

# A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

Today is April 24<sup>th</sup>. The signs of spring are in the air and on the ground! For instance, McCarthy's infamous "Break-up" is here. For you readers in the southland of our fine country, that simply means melting snow and ice, thawing streams and creeks running through our yards, deep puddles we "try" to walk around instead of through, the search for our break-up boots and the wisdom of taking our daily walks in the early morning instead of waiting until afternoon.

Rick is sitting at his desk nearby putting the finishing touches on the layout of ads and last minute articles. As soon as I am finished with *A note*, I'll shoot it over to Rick's computer where he plugs it in for the final touch for this issue of *WSEN*.

Last issue I trust you noticed and benefited from a new addition called Table of Contents. We hope it helps you in a quicker search for your favorite articles.

You will notice a change in the centerfold's old-time newspaper reproduction. Over the years we have covered the history of our area through the newspapers such as *The McCarthy Weekly News*, *The Chitina Leader*, *The Cordova Herald* and others. Subscriber Charlie Ricci of Anchorage asked if we could print some news items from *The Katalla Herald* which was published weekly by J. F. A. Strong. I trust you

enjoy the articles taken from the May/June 1908 issues.

Our thanks to local resident Jeremy Keller who took the time to write an article outlining his ideas on government and McCarthy's first (we think) Republican Caucus and its first delegate to the state convention. Rick and I were out of town during this momentous occasion so we were glad to read about it ourselves!

Further thanks to Meg Jensen, superintendent, and Danny Rosenkrans of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park for their prompt turn-around of a special news event that took place at park headquarters in Copper Center yesterday. Even though there wasn't time for a full-blown

article for this issue of *WSEN*, they made sure we had what information was available in time to pass on to you, our readers.

We received a note from long-time subscriber, Marian Busey, on the sad news of the passing of her husband and former Kennicott teacher, Jim. You can read Jim's obituary on page 15. Many of our Kennicott Kids know and have many fond memories of Jim and Marian. Rick and I first met the Buseys in 1993 when they visited the area.

*WSEN* welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Cal Ward, Jr., AK; John Rueter, AZ; Kevin Hurtley, AK; Gary Handrich, AK; Ken Sletten, WA; Will Beattie; Mark Kirby; Bob Stenzel.

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## Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

**T**he 2008 Long Lake Fishing Derby was another grand success — especially for those catching fish! The rest of us certainly enjoyed trying.

Daniel Rowland took home a prize for catching the most fish. His older brother David hauled in the largest fish, a beautiful Dolly Varden. Ross Bass and Kaylan Moffitt joined in on the fun and didn't go home empty-handed either. Prizes were supplied by the creator of this now-yearly event, Jim Kreblin. A variety of fine-looking fishing poles, a floating filet knife and a dandy tackle box went to the young fishermen. By the way, Jim, did David receive an additional prize for those 20-some holes he drilled? Maybe you chalked it up to "research"—seeking those weeds of the past where the Dollies used to hide.

Thankfully sampling Mark Vail's famous "North Slope" Chili didn't require a freshly-caught fish. Some of us may have starved out! Twenty hungry folks took full advantage of the roasted hot dogs, chips and soda. Hot dogs roasted over an open bon fire on the ice tasted better than ever.

Although Cal Ward Jr. was scheduled to serve as judge this year, he actually ended up serving as an honorary judge emeritus, due to

the fact he had to make a trip to Fairbanks. According to Jim, the one catching the most fish this year, Daniel Rowland, will be bumped from the competition next year and promoted (demoted??) to judge. (I'm beginning to see how this works!)

Thanks, Jim, for providing us all another fun-packed Derby.

**Meg Hunt:** Meg is back home for the summer season, she says. Not wasting any time, she has already planted her early salad starts in the greenhouse. When I saw her at mail today, I asked her if she was aware our low temperature was 2 degrees. She assured me that her tiny seedlings were safe and were finding shelter underneath Styrofoam coolers. Once the sun does its thing and warms up the greenhouse, the coolers come off and the salad shoots stretch for the roof top.

It won't be long before Meg is enjoying her first homegrown salad of the season. Welcome back, Meg!

**Jim and Audrey Edwards:** Since our last issue of WSEN, the Edwards' have done enough traveling for themselves and a few others as well. They both are glad to be home, even if they didn't miss McCarthy's spring break-up!

From Alaska they flew to Orlando, says Jim, "Where we had decided to try one last fling in life to see if Mickey Mouse was still fun at our

age." Their favorite hotel, The Polynesian, provided them just the opposite decor than McCarthy's landscape—trees and bushes, mostly from the south seas, and a lobby complete with a waterfall with an abundance of exotic plants.

They decided to take a train up to Virginia where Audrey's grandson, Jason, is living and learning to fly with the Marines. He is doing really well, says Jim, and has already achieved rank of Lieutenant.

On this trip they planned on purchasing a new truck for Audrey. Jason helped them find a suitable truck so they could bring back a 4 wheeler they had bought from their grandson. I expect we'll see a bit more of Audrey this summer trying out her new toy!

After leaving Virginia, they zig-zagged on their trip home, visiting various friends along the way: Ted Cebula (George's brother) and his wife Virginia in Wisconsin, friends in Colorado, a special friend (Rosa) soon to turn 101 in Oregon. "At her age, we didn't want to miss a chance to see her again," says Jim. On the west coast they saw a bit of the beautiful Redwoods in California.

Because all the ferries were booked solid, they drove long hours each day, making it home on the very last day of their truck's tempo-

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rary permit and well over 7,000 miles on Audrey's Nissan.

There is *really* no place like home. Just ask Jim and Audrey! Another welcome home to the Edwards.

**Terry and Dee Frady:** Now that the Fradys are in their new home, they have more to do than they have time. "It feels like we have a lifetime of finish work to do," says Dee. "We did finish the basement insulation, more trim work and have a new generator shed —thanks to John Adams' help."

Because Terry and Dee's summer season is extremely busy, they enjoy the winter months. This year was no different. "This winter we have been taking it easy and just enjoying the wonderful space, awesome views and sunny exposures with light, light, light," Dee continues.

Terry will be working on two signs (the Frady's reputation for sign making is priceless!) for the McCarthy museum this year. He plans to drive part-time for the Wrangell Mountain Bus, as well.

Listen up, all you local shoppers and summer visitors to our area! Fireweed Mountain Arts & Crafts, Terry and Dee's summer gift shop in Kennicott, will be open from May 22<sup>nd</sup> to September 14<sup>th</sup>. "This is our 18<sup>th</sup> year! I am busily figuring out and working on inventory right now. We will have some new area books and pictures this season. Robin Underwood will be adding some of her beautiful hand-made hats. I have spent a great deal of time on my bead jewelry line, 'Bead Faire,'" comments Dee, "which has been quite successful so far. Lots of earrings, necklaces, zipper pulls and some bracelets and barrettes. Mostly sterling silver, semi-precious stones, fossil ivory, etc. Very eclectic!"

The Fradys will also be managing the Kennecott Bed & Breakfast apartment for Rick Juriek.

I wonder what they do in their spare time?? Thanks, Dee and Terry, for updating us all and giving us something fun to look forward to when the shop opens for the summer season.

**Stephens and Tamara Harper:** When Tamara answered her phone this afternoon, she sounded somewhat out-of-breath. I had called her away from a project of putting on a new roof to their outhouse. (I told her I might have to hire her!) It's obvious she is taking advantage of the 50 degrees we are experiencing today — April 21<sup>st</sup>.

She also shared that her garden was now tilled and fertilized. How could that be, I asked her, since my garden still has a fair amount of snow showing on its surface. She explained that she had put plastic on the raised beds earlier and the dirt had thawed out and was workable. I told her I was impressed!!

Stephens and Tamara are almost finished with the restoration of their guest cabin. She reminded me that the little cabin had originally been built by Malcolm Vance and Bonnie Morris 20 years ago.

Another exciting project is the building of what will be their future home. Last summer Jeremy Keller of Ibuild built them a 16' X 24' shop. Before the summer was over, Stephens and Tamara decided to adopt Jeremy's idea of putting a second story on the shop for their new living quarters. The Harpers are excited with the prospect. Not only will their view of Sourdough and Porphyry Mountains improve but the extra space will be greatly appreciated. It may take them several years before they can actually complete the inside finish work, Tamara said, but things are really looking good. Jeremy is currently working on the roof, so there's a whole lot of building going on at the Harper's residence. Congratulations, Stephens and Tamara!

**Neil Darish:** "The real precursor to spring has begun," says Neil. "The dogs are beginning to shed!"

Spring is certainly in the air in the McCarthy area. Yesterday (April 22<sup>nd</sup>) Rick and I recorded a high of 57 degrees.

Neil is preparing for a busy summer season for McCarthy Ventures, he says, and is appreciating the much easier startup this year as compared to previous years. I'm glad, because

that is giving Neil more time to spend on his flower garden. Rick tells me that Neil's house is overflowing with a wide variety of beautiful plants. In fact, when Rick returned home the other day, he didn't come empty handed, but presented me with a bouquet of tulips, straight from Neil's fine collection.

Neil has so graciously shared his extra colorful bounty with his neighbors. I was thrilled to be on the list and received a container of daffodils and crocus and even more recently, a bouquet of tulips! Others were as blessed as I was and carried home containers filled with Hyacinth, Anemones and tulips, as well.

It seems we are benefitting from a gift Neil received from a lodge guest this last summer. The visitor was from the Netherlands. Needless to say, bulbs were in order and Neil certainly has gotten the hang of it. Thank you, Neil, for bringing spring on the scene for us!

**George Cebula and dog Sophie:** Neil had it right about our local dogs shedding their winter coat. A few days ago, Sophie came over for a visit and (I suspected) to show off her new hairdo. Her mostly white coat was combed and lovely as ever. She was courting a surprise for me, however. In spite of the fact George had warned us not to laugh at Sophie's new look, I couldn't help but notice the "cool" look Sophie was sporting. It's her tail. You see, unexpected by George, the "doggy beautician" took some liberty and totally shaved Sophie's once fluffy white tail! Oh, well, George assured me it will grow back. In the meantime, we are not laughing! At least not in front of Sophie who seems to be unaware of the new style forced on her!

**Jim Kreblin:** It is April 23<sup>rd</sup> as I finish up "Items." I decided to check with Jim and see what the ice conditions were on Long Lake. He reports that there is 3 feet of ice holding out. Three of the four 4 (wooden spruce caricatures) caribou that winter on the lake have migrated to Jim's backyard until next winter. The remaining critter is somewhat tipsy, says Jim, due to the melting snow. And, so, an-

other season is coming to a close and before long the lake will be ready for boat transportation.

Jim also passed on good news concerning Ralph Lohse's project on moving his Lakina River front cabin and buildings. Yesterday Jim assisted Ralph in pulling the cabin and two other buildings 40 feet back from the river's edge. Thanks for passing on that successful report, Jim, and congratulations to you, too, Ralph!

**Mark Vail:** It took Mark awhile to answer his phone today. I suspected he might be out in his garden, plotting and planning, but he informed me he was shoveling snow—trying to get to the garden spot. That's right, we still have 9 inches of snow on the ground! The temperatures are in the 50's today and that is "balmy" for those of us coming out of winter mode.

Mark says that once the snow is gone, he will begin his gardening in earnest. In the meantime, he is enjoying the influx of spring birds. Some kept going, looking for better pastures; others will stay around his place for the summer, like the Juncos. He said he heard his first Robin of the season and a Ruby Crown Kinglet yesterday (April 22), whose song is quite distinct.

Mark's neighborhood is quiet but he expects his neighbors, Carole and Harold Michals to pull in before long. The Michals spend the winter in Valdez but this year they took a road trip to Oregon to visit family and should be heading north soon.

**McCarthy Area Council** begins their seasonal monthly meetings. The last Friday in March opened up MAC's first meeting of the summer. Jeremy Keller, president, reported that they fell short of a quorum by one member but those present discussed the possible uses of the \$28,000 provided by the State of Alaska for the benefit of community projects. At the May meeting further discussion and, hopefully, the funds will be allocated to the chosen projects.

On the table as of the March meetings are the following possibilities: new foundation for the Zak house; a Mail Shack upgrade; pur-

chase of two complete medical caches for storage in McCarthy and at John Adams' place on the west side; a garbage transfer program; a WiFi hot spot that encompasses all of the McCarthy Townsite; and the development of an alcohol and dog free park in McCarthy.

According to Jeremy Keller, president of MAC, the money is intended for the benefit of the whole community, not just MAC members. However, only members can vote on how to allocate the funds. "I ask that you help spread the word that all ideas brought to the table will be discussed then voted on by the membership. I have repeatedly encouraged community members to develop projects of their own and appeal to MAC for matching funds. I feel that the most efficient way to utilize this resource is to assist those willing to put their own resources into a community project."

The McCarthy Area Council will meet at noon on the last Friday of every month through September at the Tony Zak house.

**4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities** in McCarthy and Kennicott area are being formulated even as this issue of *WS-EN* goes to print. Sunny Cook, one of the major co-ordinators this year, comments: "As always it promises to be a spectacular and memorable holiday weekend in the Wrangells!" Attendees of this year's celebration can expect the town to look pretty spiffy with new decorations donated to the cause. (Thanks, Neil!)

Please make note on your calendar the following activities and information for a fun-filled holiday!

#### **Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> of July**

The ANNUAL 4<sup>th</sup> of July **Parade** through downtown McCarthy starts, as always, at 12 noon. **Games** will follow on the heels of the Parade about 1 p.m. with lots of prizes waiting to be won.

McCarthy Lodge will serve their traditional **BBQ** after the Parade, starting at 1 p.m.

At 6 p.m. the Golden Saloon will open for an evening of **family fun**. **Music** will be provided by Art Kilcher,

John Rueter and band. No cover charge.

**Fireworks** at Glacier View Campground at 11 p.m.

#### **Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> of July**

Annual outdoor **BBQ** at Kennicott Glacier Lodge, 5 - 8 p.m. Art Kilcher, John Rueter and **Band** will perform at the Golden Saloon after 7 p. m.

Glacier View Campground will be serving **BBQ** all weekend.

#### **Vicki Snitzler and Marshall**

**Neeck:** On March 21<sup>st</sup> we, as well as many others, received an email from Vicki with the following information concerning Vicki and Marshall's future plans with the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. As most of you know, Vicki's position with the park was Park Planner and Marshall was Chief Ranger.

"Hello all—I wanted to let you know that Marshall and I will be leaving Wrangell-St. Elias in late May. Marshall has accepted the Chief Ranger position at Crater Lake National Park, and I have accepted an Acting Superintendent assignment at Oregon Caves National Monument. It has been a tough decision to leave this park and special places like Kennecott and McCarthy, but there are personal situations with our families and professional opportunities that make the timing right for us to head South.

"It's hard to believe that we've been here over 11 years! Marshall and I have so enjoyed working with you all on the Kennecott planning and operations. We appreciated how you welcomed us to your communities and made us feel included in the life of the place. Kennecott feels like home to me and there are roots planted that I don't plan to dig up.

"We hope to cross paths with you all before we go, but in case we don't—thank you for all your support and friendship over the years and please look us up in Oregon."

All my best, Vicki Snitzler

Vicki and Marshall, we wish you the very best in your new location!

# The lesson of the Bonsai Tree— and an idea for government —continued from cover

If our government, initially framed in 1787, and for all its flaws, was initially birthed with Liberty in mind; if the balance of decidedly limited federal powers described in The Constitution was intended to protect the people from their government by restricting the government, not the people; if the bonsai is an apt analogy for the framework of sustainable self-determination; then it seems clear that the gardener disappeared a long, long time ago and it is high time we got a prunin'!

## From a tent to the 2008 Alaskan Republican Convention

I hope that you are willing to grant me the privilege (temporarily) of oversimplification so that we can establish a beginning. During my adult life, the Republican side of the aisle has tended philosophically towards conservatism; small government, faith in “the market,” fiscal prudence; moderate, cautious, restrained. The Democratic side of the aisle has tended toward omni-present government as the means to correct the inequities of justice and the tyrannies of evil men. Ultimately, in my experience, the adherents to either direction have very similar intentions, but very different beliefs in how a sustainable attainment is accomplished.

This is where we run into our first problem. Beliefs are important, to be sure, to most of us, but they have no place in a philosophical inquiry. To be effective at actually unraveling a problem and getting to the nut of the matter, it is essential to question constantly the givens, and the act of belief is an act of acceptance. One of the primary differences between “conservative” and

“liberal” positions concerns the market. My personal inquiry into this and the more general subject of economics has led me to discover what may be a great misunderstanding. My involvement last month on March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at the Alaska Republican Convention has confirmed my developing suspicion. Neither side of the aisle understands the market and both sides are equally guilty of “believing” something that just isn't so.

Six months ago I discovered a gentleman that does understand this subject, thoroughly, and contrary to what we all believe is not possible, he is an honest politician on the national stage! His name, of course, is Ron Paul! When I first discovered him I just about dropped my lunch. As I found out more, I spread the word as far and wide as I could about this remarkable man and the grassroots revolution bearing his name whose call word is Liberty. Ron Paul is a medical doctor who has spent 10 terms in congress leaving the pork in Washington and voting his ideology relentlessly, refusing his congressional pay and working tirelessly to trim the tree of government. The more I learned, the more excited I became, and a small Ron Paul movement developed during the dark days of winter here in our quaint little hamlet of McCarthy. On Super-Tuesday we held a preference poll for the Republican Party where eleven votes were cast. I was sent by district 6 to the state convention with eleven other delegates, four of whom were to represent the ideas of Ron Paul.

Before we get back to philosophy and the market, it is important to clarify some things republican. The Republican Party, like any large

party, is a mixture of interests and the past twenty years has seen the party on the national scale drift in action quite far from its conservative inclinations. So much so that the republican establishment of 2008 actually loathes Ron Paul and would very much like him to go away. Ron Paul regards himself as the most fiscally and politically conservative member of congress, and he very well may be right. So why is he intentionally marginalized by many of his peers? To answer this very important question we must move back to the market.

Ron Paul is the rare political being who is not for sale – at all. His special interest is Liberty, so much so that he speaks from the heart, in his own words, and doesn't avoid questions, of any type, because he is not concerned about what interest he may offend. His interest is Liberty. It is becoming increasingly apparent to me that the root of the disease afflicting government is the sale of power. Liberal philosophy generally holds that while the “free market” is useful to move goods and services around, it is not to be trusted very far and should be leashed and watched. The conservative philosophy generally holds, in the words of the Alaskan Republican Party, that the free enterprise system is the most successful means of achieving economic justice. Yet neither side of the argument acknowledges that they have never seen a free-market in action. The reason they have never seen it is because the government has not let the market work. Some of the interference has been well-meaning, in the form of counterproductive regulations such as price controls and subsidies. And some has been the direct result

of the sale of power to curry favor from powerful interests. The lynch pin of a free market is the existence of a level playing field. There must be an equal cost of entry into the market place for all interested players for the noble benefits of competition to emerge, allowing for the profit incentive to create sustainable action and the threat of losses to correct inefficient behavior.

Here lies the dilemma: Governments have power. People wield that power when employed by government. People are flawed. Very quickly, they begin to peddle that power, sometimes without even realizing it. This gives advantage to one group over another. Lobbyists are specifically in the business of buying influence, of paying for laws and regulations and generally special treatment that favor them and necessarily disadvantage others. They pay to institutionalize their profits and put a floor under their losses. They, in short, pay to limit competition and destroy the free market. The actually free market has a name - laissez faire; "an economic doctrine that opposes government regulation of or interference in commerce beyond the minimum necessary for a free enterprise system to operate according to its own economic laws." (The American Heritage Dictionary) It is nowhere to be witnessed today.

### **Corruption in the Alaskan GOP and Party Civil War**

**T**his brings us to the convention and some necessary details. The Alaskan Republican Party convention happens every two years and can host as many as 500 voting delegates. This year's affair brought 381 voting delegates together, the most ever in the history of our young state. Every convention deals primarily with the party platform and resolutions. It also elects party officials and every presidential year, it elects delegates to represent the state at the national convention.

Many guest speakers move across the stage, and generally the two and half days are spent in formal and informal non-stop deliberation. I am glad to report that it was quite exciting!

This year's convention, however, was unusual. And not just because of the Ron Paul contingent, which was 104 voting delegates strong. This year's affair was dominated by the alleged criminal corruption taking hold of the establishment and reaching right up to our highest national representative. Much of the rank and file Republican contingent traveled to this year's convention to impeach the party chairman, Randy Reudrich, who is viewed by some to be front and center of the corruption, or more specifically, in the sale of power. They were unsuccessful.

And there are a lot of ways to sell power. Some are to be found in the non-criminal "conflicts of interest." A good example of this is being personally invested in industries that you participate in writing laws for. And some are more direct, like taking cash in the form of campaign resources to shield a particular interest from the rigors of fair competition.

This friction and upheaval was better than TV! It was conducive to open and progressive deliberation and to positive change. On the afternoon of the first full day, Friday, March 14th, we separated into committees to work on platform planks and resolutions. The Alaskan Republican Party Platform begins by stating its mission and principles:

### **2006 Platform of the Republican Party of Alaska**

#### **Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Alaska Republican Party is to promote the principles upon which this country was founded; advocate common sense solutions to the unique challenges facing Alaska; and serve as Alaska's leading grassroots political organization. We also seek to elect to public office Alaskans with integ-

rity who are committed to enacting these solutions.

#### **Statement of Principles:**

Alaska Republicans Believe:

America was founded on the fundamental principles of liberty and freedom;

Government must preserve individual freedom by observing constitutional limitations;

Our country, our people and our Constitution must be honored, respected and defended;

The values that strengthen our nation are family, faith, personal responsibility and accountability;

In the sanctity of human life, from the time of conception until natural death;

Education is the most important investment we can make in our future, and we support parental control and responsibility, local control, high academic standards and innovative competition.

The free enterprise system is the most successful means of achieving economic justice;

The entrepreneurial spirit, which forged our state should be nurtured and not burdened by excessive governmental regulations;

Our national defense should be strong, viable and second to none;

Alaska's standing record of exemplary stewardship of the land demonstrates that responsible development of our resources is compatible with our unique environment.

These sentiments are very Ron Paul-ish. So why would his movement be reviled by the establishment? We have to look closer. First of all, we must note that most republicans admit they agree with much of what Ron Paul stands for. It is his relentless consistency on two specific issues that create irreconcilable differences.

The first is the most glaring. Republicans, even in Washington today, claim to adhere to the princi-

(continued on page 19)

# Ski classic delivers great scenery amid dangerous situations

BY TIM MOWRY

FAIRBANKS DAILY NEWS-MINER—USED BY PERMISSION

Watching bowling ball-sized rocks crash down around them as they negotiated a 40-foot deep ice chasm in the Nizina Glacier.

Clinging to the side of a canyon wall as they scampered along a 3-foot-wide ice shelf with the open Nizina River rushing by beneath them.

Kicking toe-holds into hard-packed, windblown snow with their crampons while traversing steep side slopes that dropped off into sheer cliffs.

Post holing through deep snow on skis while breaking trail for hours at a time through webs of ski- and leg-tangling alders.

Sliding off ice shelves and wading across knee-deep creeks.

Those were just a few of the highlights for Fairbanks skiers Brian Jackson and Ed Plumb in this year's Alaska Mountain Wilderness Ski Classic, a 150-mile backcountry ski and mountaineering race from Nabesna to McCarthy across the Wrangell Mountains.

"It was absolutely awesome," Jackson said of his first Wilderness Classic. "It was one of the best experiences I've ever had."

Jackson and Plumb were two of the nine racers who accepted the challenge that is the Wilderness Classic, the longest, toughest — and only — unsupported backcountry ski race in Alaska.

Each year, a small group of hardcore skiers like Jackson and Plumb venture into the wilderness carrying only a backpack or tow-

ing a sled with enough food and supplies to get them across some of the most rugged country Alaska has to offer, in this case the Wrangell Mountains 250 miles south of Fairbanks.

"It's our idea of a good time," Matt Obermiller, a 37-year-old carpenter from Valdez who won this year's race in little more than four days.

## Sketchy situations

As is always the case in the Classic, there were "a few sketchy areas," as Plumb called them.

The gnarliest was creeping along an ice ledge along an open section of the Nizina River on the final day of the race. Open water forced racers to hug the side of a canyon wall and make their way along a thin ice shelf about 400 feet long while grabbing at pieces of brush and trees to hold them up, all while carrying a pack and their skis.

"You had to hold your skis and poles in one hand and reach in and grab the trunk of a branch or bush with the other and push into it so it didn't push you off the ledge," Obermiller said.

Perhaps the scariest moment for Jackson and Plumb came when they were negotiating a 40- to 50-foot deep ice chasm in the Nizina Glacier after making it down Skolai Creek. The canyon was new to the race this year, race organizer Dave Cramer said.

Some force of nature, most likely a huge release of water, washed out a huge wall of ice that used to butt up against the glacier and cut a 50-foot deep canyon between the glacier and a rock wall. Racers had to pick their way

around ice chunks the size of cabins, scramble across narrow ice bridges and wade through the knee-deep, ice-cold creek to get through the chasm. In a few spots, huge cornices of glacier ice hung over the gorge, looming above the racers as they crossed underneath.

When Jackson and Plumb reached the canyon, it was late afternoon and rocks melting from the ice above were raining down. At one point, Jackson stepped into the water to cross the creek and a rock the size of what Plumb called "a huge bowling ball" landed next to him. Jackson estimated the rock hit the water 3 feet from him. It was close enough that the spray from the splash soaked him, Jackson said.

"That was an unbelievable experience," Jackson said. "It was hair-raising but at the same time you wanted to stop and take pictures because it's so awesome."

## Changing conditions

From what Jackson and Plumb witnessed, hair-raising and awesome is what the Wilderness Classic was all about.

Jackson, a 32-year-old pesticide control inspector for the Department of Environmental Conservation in Fairbanks, had dreamed of doing the Wilderness Classic since moving to Fairbanks from Wisconsin four years ago and reading a story about it in the newspaper.

Plumb, a 37-year-old hydrologist at the National Weather Service in Fairbanks, has been gradually working himself up to the Classic. The last two years he competed in the Susitna 100, a 100-mile ski/bike/foot race in the

Matanuska Valley, and last year he skied across the 135-mile Denali Highway in four days. Just a few weeks ago, he joined Andy Sterns, a Wilderness Classic veteran, on a 200-mile ski trip on the Iditarod Trail from Koyuk to Nome.

And even though Jackson and Plumb sat down with fellow Fairbanksers Sterns and Ned Rozell, who have finished the Nabesna to McCarthy trek twice before, to walk them through the course, Plumb said words and maps couldn't begin to describe the country and conditions they encountered.

Every day, if not almost every hour, they encountered a different challenge. If it wasn't walking up a frozen creek with crampons, it was stopping to put skins on their skis to climb a hard-packed, snow-covered slope. If it wasn't picking their way across a rock- and ice-strewn sections of glacial moraine, it was wading across any number of creeks. If it wasn't double-poling down smooth river ice, it was wallowing through chest-deep snow and brush with their skis on, getting tangled in body-, leg- and ski-grabbing alders.

"We felt like we were on a learning curve the whole time," Plumb said. "Nothing was static; it was continually changing."

Or as Jackson put it, "If you were miserable, all you had to do was wait a little while and it would get a little better. If you were doing all right, all you had to do was wait for a little while and it would get miserable."

Before the race, both Jackson and Plumb questioned whether they had the skills to survive the Classic. After completing it, the two racers said they learned "a butt load," as Jackson put it, about backcountry skiing and travel.

"It does change your perspective on things," Plumb said of the challenges he overcame during the race. "It sure built my confidence up."

Not to mention they were treated to spectacular views everywhere they turned. Had they not each taken a camera, Plumb said he and Jackson probably could have cut a full day off their time because they took so many pictures.

"The scenery was amazing," Plumb said.

#### Close race

Obermiller, who had claimed three straight titles on a route in the Brooks Range before sitting out last year's race, won this year's Classic by overtaking the Anchorage threesome of Tyler Johnson, Luke Mehl and John Pikar on a plowed road just two miles from the finish after stalking the Anchorage trio for much of the race.

"The only reason I passed them was because I could skate ski and they couldn't," Obermiller, a 37-year-old carpenter, said. "My skis had glide and theirs didn't."

The Anchorage trio had waxless skis better suited for rough conditions while Obermiller was using skinnier skis that allowed him to skate ski on some sections.

"He would catch up to us every night," Pikar said of Obermiller. "He had a gear setup that allowed him to travel fast on overflow ice and river ice and hard-packed trail and we had a gear setup for breaking trail and rough terrain."

Obermiller dubbed his three Anchorage competitors as "The Three Amigos," in part because their food of choice during the race.

"They stopped by Taco Bell before the race and got the 10 burritos for 10 bucks value pack," Obermiller said. "That's what they ate on the trip."

Obermiller, who is known for his innovative gear designs, was also impressed with the homemade crampons the Anchorage racers had.

"They had running shoes and they screwed roofing screws in the bottom of them," Obermiller said.

In the end, though, it was Obermiller's knowledge of the course that proved to be the difference. Knowing that he would be able to skate ski down much of the final 30 miles down the Nizina River, as well as the road leading the last eight miles into McCarthy, Obermiller's strategy was simply to keep up with the Anchorage racers until they hit the Nizina River. He even allowed the three Anchorage racers a three-hour head start on the final day. They left camp at 5 a.m. while Obermiller didn't leave until 8 a.m.

"I knew the lower Nizina was going to be clear and hard," Obermiller said.

Sure enough, Obermiller caught up to the trio on the road leading into McCarthy, just two miles from the finish.

"We thought we had it," Pikar said.

Obermiller ended up beating the three Anchorage racers to McCarthy by 35 minutes for a total time of 4 days, 6 hours and 10 minutes.

Despite the disappointment of being caught and passed that late in the race, Pikar and his traveling companions thoroughly enjoyed the race. The weather was perfect, the scenery was spectacular and the challenges were numerous, Pikar said.

"It was a great trip," Pikar said. "It's a trip worth doing in itself and not as a race."

#### Classic converts

Both Pikar and Johnson have completed the summer version of the Wilderness Classic but were rookies to the winter edition. The biggest difference between the summer and winter races is that competitors actually sleep in the winter race, Pikar said. Racers have to camp out at night because of the darkness in the winter while racers in the summer can basically go non-stop because of long daylight hours.

"You're not pushing as hard," Pikar said, comparing the winter and summer races. "You're never pushed to the point of hallucinations. It's more moderate."

The scenery is much more spectacular in the winter race, especially the Nabesna to McCarthy course, he said.

"I'd heard this was one of the most scenic routes to do if you wanted to do it," Pikar, a 33-year-old civil engineer, said. "That was the motivation for me to go and it definitely delivered."

Seven of the nine racers who started this year's race made it to McCarthy. The only two who didn't

were race organizer Dave Cramer and his traveling companion, Chris Wroble of Anchorage, who ended up bailing out of the race after trying to pioneer a new route through the Jumpoff Icefall at the top of the Chisana Glacier. The old route through the icefall is no longer viable and Cramer was hoping to find an alternate route.

This year's field of nine racers was one of the smallest in several years and there were fewer Fairbanks racers — only Jackson and Plumb — than Cramer can remember. Several Fairbanks skiers had signed up for the race but ended up

scratching for various reasons, Cramer said.

After finishing his first Classic, Jackson is a convert. He plans to be back for next year's race and is looking forward to two years down the road when Cramer said the race will likely return to the Brooks Range for a three-year stint.

"It kicks your [behind] but it's a good kicking," Jackson said, summing up the Wilderness Classic. "It's not often that an event lives up to everything you hope for and more, and this one did."

*Reprinted from the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner originally published Thursday, April 3, 2008*

## Digital phone service comes to McCarthy

BY RICK KENYON

The digital telephone age has come to McCarthy. But not without birth pains.

All of the new equipment was installed last fall, after extensive testing in Valdez, and after the successful installation of a similar system at Cordova. It should have been a simple matter of putting the new equipment online

A number of technicians have made the trip to McCarthy this past winter, a number of times, but each time some unforeseen gremlin reared its ugly head and they had to leave without switching the service over to the new equipment.

Finally, in early April, the new digital "switch" was put into service. As we go to press there are still a number of problems with the system. Although it seems that digital equipment would mean much better Internet, FAX and data ser-

vice, at this point data equipment will not work with the new system, at least not satisfactorily. One area that CVTC has made a priority is to get the credit card machines to work with the new system. (See update on page 25)

Copper Valley technicians installed a number of new "Tellular" units at local residents' homes. These are the boxes that are mounted to the wall which differentiate fixed from mobile service. Those still using the old analog Tellular units will not be able to make long-distance calls until they get the new units.

One interesting aspect of the new system is that there are now two entirely independent long-distance systems in place at McCarthy, each with its own unique satellite uplink. By regulation, all of the fixed customers (those with Tellular boxes on the wall) have their calls routed through the old

AT&T uplink and long-distance system.

Users with mobile telephones have their calls routed through the newer CVTC uplink and long-distance system. Theoretically, at least, we now have a "back-up" if one of the uplinks go down. If the call fails using your fixed phone, try your mobile unit.

May 16 is the announced date for the analog system to be shut down, but Jim Gifford, Copper Valley's Chief Operations Officer said, "Please be assured that no customers will be turned off or disconnected from their existing telephone service and analog service will continue to be provided until all customers have been switched to the new system."

If you have questions about your service or need to schedule replacement of your old unit, contact CVTC at 907 822-3551 or 611.

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*"When a man ceases to believe in God, he doesn't believe in nothing. He believes in anything."—G. K. Chesterton*

*"There is an inverse relationship between reliance on the state and self-reliance."—William F. Buckley Jr.*

## Historic first RWCA issued

BY DANNY ROSENKRANS

The National Park Service (NPS) Alaska Regional Director, Marcia Blaszak, and private landowners Susan and Jack Smith, signed an Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) 1110(b) Right-of-Way Certificate of Access (RWCA) on April 23, 2008. The Smiths live at Chokosna and access their property along a 1.6 mile long drive within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The RWCA documents their established and maintainable access to their residence. This is the first RWCA to be authorized by the NPS Alaska Regional Director.

There are many landowners that use parklands to gain access to their property within Wrangell-St. Elias. The NPS anticipates that potentially 30 or more RWCA's may be granted in the near future. During 2007 the NPS prepared a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) for Established and Maintainable Access Facilities across parklands within Wrangell-St. Elias. That EA allows the Service to begin issuing ANILCA



Photo courtesy NPS

First ANILCA 1110(b) Right-of-Way Certificate of Access signing.

Seated left to right: Meg Jensen, Superintendent; Marcia Blaszak, Regional Director; Susan and Jack Smith, landowners.

Standing left to right: Lynn Grams, National Parks and Conservation Association representative; Hans Neideg, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior for Alaska; Danny Rosenkrans, Land Manager.

1110(b) RWCA's. The NPS began contacting landowners during March. Landowners who submit an application for established and maintainable access facilities to their private property will be issued a RWCA signed by the Regional Director. Access to in-holdings is one of many challenges the NPS has faced since the passage of ANILCA in De-

ember 1980. This first RWCA signing reflects the NPS and inholder community's commitment to move forward and assure adequate and feasible access. Landowners are encouraged to contact Danny Rosenkrans, at Wrangell St Elias NP/P (907)822-7240, for further information and help with access certificate processing.

## WRST chosen in Centennial Challenge

Just as we were going to press the National Park Service announced the winners of the first round of projects in its Centennial Challenge program. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park &

Preserve had the distinction of being the only Alaskan park chosen.

The Park Service and the Propane Education and Resource Council are chipping in \$125,000 each to put in a new power generation sys-

tem at the Kennecott Mine National Historic Landmark, where deteriorating buildings are being stabilized.

We will bring you a more detailed report in our next issue.

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*"We are told never to cross a bridge until we come to it, but this world is owned by men who have 'crossed bridges' in their imagination far ahead of the crowd." —Anon*

# The Last Frontier

*Editor's note: McCarthy locals will remember Jay Bitely, of Michigan's Upper Peninsula (UP) who spent the winter in McCarthy two years ago. Here Jay shares his life in a different part of Alaska. It is written for his local UP paper, but we thought WSEN readers would also enjoy Jay's story.*

BY JAY BITELY

**A** shout out to my hometown community about my current whereabouts and world wanderings is long overdue. I find no reasons, just excuses, for my two year hiatus of writing the *Newberry News*. A quick summary before I move on to my present adventure: last winter I spent a month traveling Ecuador and Peru; the year before I spent 3 months in Tanzania, East Africa.

This time around is much different than my wintertime Alaskan adventure of two years ago. When I was in McCarthy, AK, I was living in a log cabin in the middle of Wrangell St. Elias National Park (the largest national park in North America) surrounded by mountains with only 50 neighbors in a 30-mile radius, no electricity nor running water and had more days with no human contact than days with. Here in Tuluksak, AK I am living in a small Yupik village, population 428, surrounded by tundra, two plane rides and 300 miles west of Anchorage with my girlfriend Mithril and our dog Jamba Dogo. Mithril is teaching middle and high school math at the school here. She accepted the job at the end of August and flew out the day after Labor Day. I followed suit the end of October. I started out subbing at the school when needed and ended up getting hired as a permanent sub working one-on-one with a special education student.

Mithril and I met in Tanzania while we were serving in the Peace Corps. Schools in the Alaskan bush tend to recruit Returned Peace Corps Volunteers whenever possible, assuming that if someone can survive 2 years volunteering in a 3<sup>rd</sup> world country they should be capable of handling the remoteness and difficulties of life working in the Alaskan bush. Life here has many similarities to life in the Peace Corps in that it is a very remote area and one has to adjust to living in a different culture. There are no roads that connect Tuluksak to the outside world. The Tuluksak and nearby Kuskokwim Rivers allow access to other villages. In the summer it is a marine highway and in the winter it is an ice highway, traversable by snowmobile or truck. Last month the History Channel was here filming a documentary on the river ice road that connects Tuluksak to hub town of Bethel.

Our attempts at getting involved in the village and accepted by the locals have been unsuccessful for the most part. This is in stark contrast to life in Tanzania where the people were almost overly welcoming and constantly inviting Volunteers to their houses for visits and dinner. In the Peace Corps, a Volunteer is often the only non-native person in the village



and works alongside the locals. Here in Tuluksak the teachers are all white, in addition to being the only white people in the village. Locals are hired as classroom aides for most classes. This is due to the lack of locals holding teaching certificates in the area. The Yupik people are nice and friendly enough, just not very welcoming. I attribute this lack of hospitality to new arrivals in part to the school's high teacher turnover rate. Of the 17 teachers at the school (including counselor, principal and vice principal), only two have been here over 3 years, 11 are in their first year and 4 are in their second year. Such transient nature makes it difficult for the locals to feel it worthwhile to become close to the teachers. In turn, this gives teachers little motivation to stay. Herein lies a vicious circle with no easy solution.

The school itself is state of the art, built 3 years ago to replace the old school that burned down. It is powered by two generators that run 24/7, one for

the teacher housing and the other for the school. In the school the locks are all card-key entry, the urinals are automatic flush, all classrooms have a Smart-board and 2-3 computers, and there are 2 computer labs and a mobile lab with laptops. In addition to a basketball, volleyball and wrestling team, Tuluksak School is the only school in the United States with a dog mushing team (the official state sport of Alaska). Its core of 13 dogs came from Iditarod musher Martin Buser's kennel. Student mushers are responsible for feeding and running the dogs along with assisting with animal healthcare. This year the team competed in the Bogus Creek 150 and later in the year they will compete in the All Alaska Sweepstakes race in Nome, AK.

Yupik is the native language but English is the medium of instruction in the school. A vast majority of the locals speak English proficiently. The student body, consisting of approximately 150 students K-12, is an interesting bunch. Discipline problems run rampant, even with the small class sizes. It is not a huge jump to say that it has many resemblances to the problems of inner city schools. Teachers can be expected to be called names daily that would make even a seasoned HBO watcher blush. There is little or no respect for teachers, authority, or others in general. Teachers have been assaulted, threatened and had things thrown through their windows at their house.

Teacher housing comes with electricity, running water and full kitchen, bathroom and laundry facilities. Whereas teacher housing is heated with electric oil drip stoves, many village houses are heated with wood. Most houses in the village have electricity via a village generator, but few have running water. Outside the houses are containers where the human waste from the house is dumped using a 5-gallon bucket (called a 'honey bucket'). These containers are periodically collected by the community and emptied in a fenced off sewage dump just outside the village.

Compared to the people of Tanzania, the people here are far from poor. Few kids go without an iPod and many houses have satellite T.V. and a phone. There is a store in the village that keeps stocked with many necessities such as eggs, Spam and boxed milk, along with luxuries such as soda, candy, Ramen noodles and Gatorade, with the occasional fresh produce flown in. Prices are 3 to 4 times what one would expect to pay elsewhere. Schools in the Alaskan bush tend to pay well by most standards, but life is not cheap.

Tuluksak is a dry village (sale and possession of alcohol is explicitly illegal), as most native villages in Alaska are. Despite this, alcohol abuse is commonplace. Rumor has it that a pint of whisky goes for upwards of \$150 on the black market. It is a sad reality that many students suffer from Fetal Alcohol Syn-

drome along with ADD and ADHD, among other behavioral afflictions. This winter there have been 2 teenage suicides in the village, which is a low number compared to years past.

Spending the winter here has been a different sort of learning experience than I'm accustomed to. It hasn't been as full of wild and crazy adventures or accessible to treks with breathtaking landscapes but there have been many fun cross-country skiing excursions exploring the area. The kids love playing fetch with Jamba, who has helped strike up conversations with the locals. Many of the locals have commented on how he would be a great lead mushing dog. Though we have been kept on the fringes of the village life, I have come to admire the Yupik culture as a whole from the outside. When there is a funeral, the whole village attends. They have a very close knit family structure, are rarely found without smiles on their faces and appear proud of their heritage.

With only one more Alaskan full moon remaining, I find myself not wishing my time away yet looking forward to returning to the U.P. Mithril will stay until the middle of May when school gets out. My plan, as always, is to return by the last weekend of April. Sometimes I wonder if I only leave the U.P. so I can look forward to returning. Perhaps I'm just passing time until brook trout season rolls around again.

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*Children, you must remember something. A man without ambition is dead. A man with ambition but no love is dead. A man with ambition and love for his blessings here on earth is ever so alive. —Pearl Bailey*

# Nabesna off-road vehicle project

By Bruce Rogers

## Public meeting summary

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve has started a planning process for motorized trails along the Nabesna Road. This Environmental Impact Statement will analyze and display the effects to park resources from the permitting of recreational Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) use on nine trails in the area. As part of the planning process, the National Park Service (NPS) recently held five public meetings. The purpose of the meetings was to inform the public about the project and to generate comments.

The meetings were held in Tok, Slana, Glennallen, Fairbanks, and Anchorage. They were attended by over 90 folks. The meetings were an open-house style, with information displays on the following topics:

- Planning area map with trails and the purpose and need for the project.
- Preliminary issues and objectives.
- Regulations regarding authorization of ORV use in parks/preserves.
- The planning process.
- Preliminary management alternative themes.

As people came in, they received a packet of information including a map of the trails; a detailed table showing trail condition; examples of trail construction, hardening, or maintenance projects in Alaska; and a comment form. There were NPS personnel available at the meetings to answer questions. Attendees were encouraged to make comments and turn them in, or they could take their comment forms home and send them in later.

The public still has until June 3, 2008 to comment on the project. Once all the comments are in, the NPS will publish a scoping report that summarizes all comments received. This will be posted on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) web

site at

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/WRST>.

Look for it by mid-June.

In the meantime, the following summarizes some of the common “themes” that came from attendees at the meetings, either through discussion or on written comment forms. This does not represent a final summary of comments:

- Interest in volunteering to help fix or construct trails. This sentiment was particularly strong in Tok and Slana.
  - It was expressed that there is a need for an educational trails stewardship program to reach out to local communities, particularly through the school system.
  - There was general support for maintaining access into the park/preserve, but obvious debate over what is reasonable access. Many support any access, some support closure or limitations on recreational ORV use, particularly in the park portion of the project area.
  - There is a concern about the effects of making good multi-purpose trails on the level of trail use. Most folks would prefer not to see trail use levels increase above existing levels. One commenter suggested that trails can be designed to be sustainable but also present a challenge to motorized users.
  - There were numerous suggestions regarding trail hardening and construction techniques, including the use of geo-synthetics, gravel, corduroy, and chain-link fence. There were also suggestions for specific re-routes options.
- There was lively debate over the issues/impacts that were presented. Some see numerous bog-holes, mud/muck, and trail braiding as part of the experience of Off-Road Vehicle use in Alaska. Others see these as obvious impacts and an embarrassment to the park.
  - There was some skepticism that NPS will be able to get anything done on the ground. This was particularly strong in Slana and Tok.
  - There was concern expressed over the perception of regulating or limiting one set of users but not another (recreational ORV users vs. federally qualified subsistence users).
  - There were concerns about potential re-routes in the park portion of the park/preserve (such as any considered for Copper Lake or Tanada trails). Some questioned the NPS legal authority to do “new” construction of a motorized trail in a park (such as constructing a re-route) under existing regulations for authorizing recreational ORV use in park/preserves.

After the comment period is over, NPS will use the comments to create a set of management alternatives. These draft alternatives will be available for public review and comment this summer. Then, the effects of the alternatives will be analyzed in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, tentatively due out in the fall of 2009.

Looks like Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve has their work cut out for them. Again, you can still submit comments until June 3. E-mail them to [bruce\\_rogers@nps.gov](mailto:bruce_rogers@nps.gov) or you can call 822-7276.

# James L. Busey 1916 —2007

**P**rofessor Emeritus James L. Busey of political science at CU-Colorado Springs died in July 2007 in Manitou Springs. He was 91.

Dr. Busey was born in 1916 in Seattle.

He began teaching in 1937 in a one-room schoolhouse in Alaska, as part of the Civilian Conservation Corps. That job financed his undergraduate education at the College of Puget Sound in Washington. After serving as a military policeman in Alaska during World War II from 1943 to 1946, he earned master's and doctoral degrees at Ohio State University. He taught at the University of Wyoming from 1949 to 1952 and at CU-Boulder from 1952 to 1965.

He is considered one of the founders of CU-Colorado Springs, as one of the first permanent faculty members when the Colorado Springs Extension Center opened in 1965, and helped establish the campus's political science department. When first at UCCS, Dr. Busey helped move hospital beds and medical equipment from the sanatorium facilities to make room for bookcases. He also gave the first faculty lecture at CU-Colorado Springs.

Dr. Busey was considered a leading authority on Latin American governance. He spoke both Spanish and Portuguese. He was the author of several scholarly works, including *Notes on Costa Rican Democracy* (1967), *Latin America: Political Institutions and Processes* (1965) and the annual *Latin American Political Guide*, which began as a 25-page handout for students taking his course on contemporary Latin American politics.

He will be remembered as an independent thinker with a sense of humor. UCCS Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak told the Board of Regents on Aug. 16 that he was a mentor to many, and "a stellar defender of the importance of faculty governance to create a great university."

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Marian, of Manitou Springs and a son, Philip Busey of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Services were held on July 23 at Crystal Valley Cemetery in Manitou Springs. A memorial service also was held on July 30 at UCCS.

Jim's wife Marian writes: "In 1941 we met in Xochimilco, Mexico and agreed to marry the next year. By then our country was at war, two naval bases had

been bombed, Aleutian Islands were occupied, and the Alcan Highway was secretly under construction. After travel and communication difficulties, we were married in Fairbanks, Alaska. The following year Jim was in the army and I was in a drafting room drawing maps for the war effort. When the war was over, we went "outside" and enrolled in graduate school. Next year baby boomer Philip arrived in Columbus, Ohio. Jim grew up in Alaska. He worked in fish canneries, on railroad section gangs and on the docks when ships came in. His teaching career began in 1937 at a one-room school in a mining town at Kennicott, Alaska, and ended in 1980 at the Colorado Springs campus of CU. During the intervening years he had taught at University of Wyoming, at the Boulder and Colorado Springs campuses and during summer in New Mexico, Canada, Hawaii and Brazil. He held strong convictions about objectivity in teaching and research and faculty governance in a community of scholars."

Jim and Marian attended the Kennicott Kid Reunions in 1998 and 2002.

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*"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. ...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."—Jesus (John 14:1-6 KJV)*

# THE KATALLA HERALD

Vol. 1. No. 39. Katalla, Alaska, Saturday, May 2, 1908. Price Ten Cents Published weekly by J. F. A. Strong

## REPORT FAVORABLY On Kanak Channel as a Practicable Harbor

It is now known that a report as to the practicability of Kanak channel as a harbor in all kinds of weather, was made some time ago and forwarded to the offices of the Copper River & Northwestern railway company in Seattle.

The name of the engineer making the report is withheld, but it is stated that the report was entirely favorable to Kanak as a harbor, superior in fact to the channel at Cordova, which many railroad and shipping men say is entirely inadequate for any extensive shipping facilities; as one railroad engineer put it "there is not room enough in Cordovas harbor for a ship to turn around."

As stated in The Herald some time ago, a preliminary survey for a branch railroad from the main line to Kanak has been made, the route offering no obstacles whatever, and it can be cheaply built, as it entails piling only the entire way.

An engineering corps of the Katala company is still making surveys and reconnaissances of Kanak and that vicinity. But while it is known that this work has been under way for some time, what it will amount to in the way of practical results is still to be determined by future developments.

### Ice is Breaking

The ice is beginning to run in copper river, according to a report that came down from camp 7 yesterday. There was no ice in the river below Abererombie canyon the last winter, excepting along the river banks; but above the canyon and in the interior the ice is said to have been enormously heavy. It is now said to be coming through the canyon rapidly.

## FUTURE OF KATALLA ASSURED

No Thinking Man Can Get Away  
From the Fact That Katalla Will Be the  
Greatest Town In Alaska

On Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1908, the U. S. Government Granted a Patent to Clark Davis for the Townsite of Katalla and it is now the undisputed property of the Alaska Petroleum & Coal Co.

Katalla is the termini of two great railroad systems now building to the coal fields and the rich copper fields of the great Copper river. Already we have a flourishing town of \$250,000 taxable property. The First Bank of Katalla has a paid up capital stock of \$25,000.

Ten mercantile establishments. Two hotels. Six Lodging houses. Two docks. Two hospitals. Nine saloons. Waterworks. Telephones. U. S. Commissioner's office. Three physicians. Three practicing lawyers; Three Sawmills. Two express companies. Headquarters for the great oil and coal companies for this entire district. Not a vacant house in town.

**Lots For Sale on Easy Terms  
Alaska Petroleum & Coal  
Company,  
SOLE AGENTS  
WRITE US**

## NEWS NOTES OF ALASKA

The 200 mile race with dogs between Nome and Candle and return, was won by Albert Fink, a well known lawyer of the northern town. A purse of \$2500 had been hung up.

### Local and Personal

Dr. William H. Chase proposes making a trip to Cordova on an early steamer for the purpose of taking a look at that place.

Fox island it is said is literally white with sea gulls, this being their nesting season. The eggs of the sea gull are entirely palatable and nutritious.

Judge Robert Strouss who is known among his familiars as "Kanak bob," went over to his ranch on Kanak island on Monday to begin his spring planting and seeding, with the aid of his hired man. He will, this year, raise potatoes, rutabagas, beets, radishes, cabbages, lettuce, cain and other garden sass, besides a big crop of alfalfa. He expects to be able to supply the markets of Katalla and Valdez with all the vegetables that may be needed. Next year he will engage extensively in the cultivation of strawberries and bananas, having been informed by Wizard Burbank that his (Burbank's) new and improved banana can be successfully grown in this climate.

May 2

### Steamers For the Copper

According to a statement made by Vice President S. W. Eccles of the Copper River & Northwestern, three steamers will be operated on the copper river, between Abererombie canyon and the Bonanza copper mines until the railroad is completed to the interior, which Mr. Eccles is quoted as saying, will be next year.

May 9

### Mr. Hawkins Due Monday

The Herald today has only to reiterate the statement made two weeks ago to the effect that the work of railroad construction will be actively resumed here early next month, by the Katalla company. The information published on May 9 has been confirmed in all particulars, as is accepted as authentic by this newspaper.

It is now stated that no more material or supplies will be shipped from Katalla to camp 7.

On board the Northwestern which was in port Thursday afternoon south-bound was M. E. Rogers, formerly of the Filbert hotel, but now employed by Contractor M. J. Heney. Mr. Rogers is a steam shovel expert and it is stated that he was on his way to Seattle to purchase machinery for the Katalla company, for use here.

Chief Engineer Hawkins is now in the Copper River section examining proposed bridge sites on that river, Mr. Hawkins is expected to arrive in Katalla tomorrow or Monday. And it may be expected that something definite as to railroad operations from Katalla will be announced.

May 23

### On the Market

Lots in the new Cordova townsite were placed on sale in Cordova, last week and twenty-two lots were sold to residents of the town. The new townsite is three-quarters of a mile distant from the old, and is owned jointly by the Copper River railroad company and a number of Valdez men. There is said to be little demand for lots in the new town, and business men located in the present town are somewhat loath to move into the new.

### Oceanward on a Cake of Ice

Copper River, May 25 —J. W. McCord, well known as "Lightfoot Mac," chief of Copper river scouts, and the hero of the battle of Bruner's crossing last year, and a survivor of many exciting incidents, came nearly ending his long line of adventures last week, when in company with J. F. Forester, a young engineer located at Abercrombie canyon he attempted to cross the Copper river flats enroute to Cordova, and was caught in the break-up.

Forester and McCord had snowshoed about twenty miles, when suddenly, they found themselves floating towards the ocean, with an eight-mile current, on a large cake of ice. The boys were sighted by a transit man at Flag point, and were picked up by a brave boat crew from Engineer Preble's camp.

### NEWS NOTES OF ALASKA

Thayne Hickman, son of Zack Hickman, of the Fairbanks News was drowned, recently near Cleary Creek,

Fairbanks. Young Hickman was one of the men wounded in the Keystone railroad riot last fall.

### Copper River Bill Passes

Washington, May 15 —The house today passed the bill giving the Copper River & Northwestern railroad the right to build bridges across the Copper river.

May 30

### Rejoicing at Cordova

Cordova, May 31 —Every man from Katalla in this camp is rejoicing over the passage of the coal land bill, and some are celebrating. Among those who will return to Katalla are Dr. Wm. H. Chase and Dr. C. L. Hale, the dentist. Bob Ashland has got the P. & A. Bar again, in Katalla, and will open up at once or as soon as things start again. Frank Korth is coming over as soon as possible.

The Farallon arrived here today, and she only had ten second class passengers and three first class. Men are going out on every boat and none are coming in. Business is very quiet and there is no cash in circulation.

### Local and Personal

John Blodgett is in town from the Copper river country, as is Ben Wilson, known locally as "Ben the Trapper."

Rex Beach, author of "The Spoilers: and "The Barrier," a recent success, the scenes of which are laid in Alaska, is at Cordova. He is expected in Katalla in a day or two, and with M. J. Sullivan will visit the Copper river country, in search of adventure.

June 6

### Hinchinbrook Lighthouse

An appropriation of \$125,000 has been made by congress for building a lighthouse at Cape Hinchinbrook, and it is expected that construction work will be begun not later than September 1.

### CROSSING OF COPPER REACHED

The railroad has been completed from Cordova to the crossing of the Copper river at Flag point, and preparations are making to begin pile driving at that point across the Copper river flats according to a statement made by M. J. Sullivan, who came in

from Cordova yesterday. Supplies and material will be sent up the Copper river and work will soon be started above the canyon. The Altona will endeavor to land supplies as far up the river as Child's glacier.

Mr. Hawkins will arrive in Katalla Sunday morning on the Pennsylvania, en route to Seattle. According to Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Hawkins has heard nothing concerning railroad construction operations from Katalla.

### NEWS NOTES OF ALASKA

Frank Manley's big hotel and natorium at Hot Springs-on-the Tanana, have been put in splendid shape for this season. The resort is a popular one for Fairbanks people. Mr. Manley will also have about 60 acres of land under cultivation this year.

June 13

### RAILROAD MEN COMING HERE

A party of officials of the Copper River & Northwestern Railway company, headed by President S. W. Eccles, are expected to leave Seattle on the Yucatan, sailing July 8 for Katalla and Cordova. The party will make a thorough examination of the terminal facilities at both places, and examine the railroad work so far as completed. Except as to President Eccles, The Herald is not informed as to the personnel of the rest of the party. It is stated, however, that Capt. D. H. Jarvis, treasurer of the railroad company may be one of the number.

It is highly probable that the officials may visit the interior, going as far as the Bonanza copper mines, while in this section.

### Katalla Coal is Needed

Washington, June 17 —that the deposit of coal in the Bering river region of Alaska is of the utmost importance to the navy is the report of the government geological department. According to the report the deposit consists of the finest of fuel and is so located as to make transportation to naval stations on the Pacific coast an easy matter. The report states that the deposit shows forty-seven square miles so located as to be easily workable.

June 27

# The Thin Line Between Alaska and Canada

BY NED ROZELL

Marked by metal cones and a clear-cut swath 20 feet wide, Alaska's border with Canada is one of the great feats of wilderness surveying.

The boundary between Alaska and Canada is 1,538 miles long. The line is obvious in some places, such as the Yukon River valley, where crews have cut a straight line through forest on the 141<sup>st</sup> Meridian. The boundary is invisible in other areas, such as the summit of 18,008-foot Mt. St. Elias.

In the early 1900s, workers cemented boundary monuments made of aluminum-bronze and standing 2.5-foot tall along much of the border's length.

The country that makes up the border is some of the wildest in North America. Spanning a gap equal to the distance between San Francisco and St. Louis, the border intersects only two settlements; Hyder in southeast Alaska and Boundary in the Fortymile country. Starting in 1905, surveyors and other workers of the International Boundary Commission trekked into this wilderness to etch into the landscape a brand-new political boundary.

The border was unknown in 1867, when the U.S. purchased Alaska from Russia for two cents

an acre. An 1825 treaty between Russia and Great Britain, then the controlling power of Canada, described the boundary as following a range of mountains in Southeast parallel to the Pacific Coast, but in some places no such mountains existed.

The undefined border in Southeast became a problem during the Klondike gold rush of the late 1890s, when Canadian officials requested ownership of Skagway and Dyea, which would allow Canadians access to the Klondike gold fields without crossing American soil.

To settle the dispute in 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt gathered a committee of three Americans, two Canadians, and England's chief justice. The British representative, Lord Richard Alverstone, sided with the three Americans, and the committee rejected the Canadian claims by a vote of four to two.

With a boundary agreed upon, the next step was the immense job of surveying and marking it. In 1904, crews with members from both the U.S. and Canada started work on the panhandle of southeast Alaska. They used boats, packhorses and backpacks to reach the remote mountains of the Southeast border.

In a typical effort, a Canadian crew led by H.S. Mussell in 1911 searched for a boundary point near Mount St. Elias. The crew landed a ship in the rough surf of Disenchantment Bay and transferred hundreds of pounds of gear to the foot of a glacier. Assisted by ten Natives, the crew cut a trail across tangled brush, and set up an aerial tramway across a glacial stream that the Natives thought too dangerous. Without local escorts, the crew made its way up Malaspina Glacier using sleds and identified the boundary point on an unnamed peak.

By 1913, crews farther north had marked the straight line of the 141<sup>st</sup> Meridian from the Arctic Ocean to the south side of Logan Glacier. They left behind 202 obelisks-shaped like tiny Washington Monuments—that now line the border.

Thomas Riggs was a crew chief for the International Boundary Commission. He spent eight summers, which he called the happiest of his life, marking the border. After his crew tied in the final section of border east of McCarthy in 1914, he described his feelings for the raw wilderness work with a short telegram to his supervisor at the end of August 1914: "REGRET MY WORK COMPLETED."

*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. He can be reached by email at [nrozell@dino.gi.alaska.edu](mailto:nrozell@dino.gi.alaska.edu).*

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*"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime."—Mark Twain*

(Bonsai Tree continued from page 7)

pal of fiscal restraint while they continue to deficit spend.

They claim to want to reduce the size of government, while they add departments and increase budgets. To be a fiscal conservative in America today, you must cut spending, whether you reduce taxes or not. You must cut programs. You must identify and eliminate waste, regardless of how politically unpopular this will be.

The second is less obvious to most. Ron Paul stresses that we must lead by example, encouraging other nations to emulate us, and never down the barrel of a gun. He is a fierce advocate of the sanctity of all human life.

Alaskan Republicans believe in the sanctity of human life, from the time of conception until natural death;

#### VI. CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

A. The right to life is bestowed by our Creator. It is the responsibility of government to protect that right. The right to life exists from the moment of conception until natural death, and every human being deserves protection under the law.

I find no qualifying conditions to this clear statement. There is no reference to revocation of this belief in certain conditions, such as perpetrators of violent crime. And what of the citizens of other countries that we have waged war on? Is their life not sanctified? By any estimates, and many are severe, far more civilians have been slaughtered brutally than have the "enemy." How is this reconciled with the above statement of principle?

The truth is, this statement sounds good and is a matter of pride for those who adopt it in word, but it has strong and far reaching implications that the vast majority of Americans are unwilling to consider.

Why are we overseas killing people? George Bush says they are bad and we are good. He has offered no proof, save some vague notion of "terrorist threat," but no proof and plenty of documented un-truths if not outright lies. I ask, why do we not demand evidence? Shouldn't proof be provided and thoroughly verified before the killing begins? And since we are facing absolutely monstrous unfunded liabilities in the form of Social Security, Medicaid, and federal pensions, and we already are nearing a ten trillion dollar deficit on a 3.1 trillion dollar budget, why on earth do we think we can afford this course of action even if we were to carefully determine that it was prudent?

But we get no answers.

We can't be for states rights and a strong national government simultaneously. We can't spend money we don't have because Dick Cheney has suggested that deficits no longer matter. We can't secure liberty for a few. It is for all of us or none of us. And as a wise person said to me recently, "To be a strict constitutionalist, you have to defend it all and no more. If you don't like part of it, then change it, with one of the two methods it provides. A living constitution, or the notion of interpretation to meet the current judicial mood, is no constitution."

I went to the convention to make these points. I was not on the national defense committee, fortunately, for I discovered afterwards that no discussion was allowed on the subjects of war/Iraq/Afghanistan/terrorism/ fiscal suicide, except in support. How is this possible, considering the national and international climate on this monumental subject? Reportedly, 60-70% of the country is against the wars for many different reasons, and in Alaska in GOP caucus we can't have an open debate?

#### V. NATIONAL DEFENSE

A. We support an active, aggressive worldwide war against terrorism and support military action in Afghanistan and Iraq as a part of this war.

On Saturday, the committee work went before the floor and it was at that point that I objected to the platform and made the following motion:

Mr. Chairman,

I move to strike "and Iraq" from the first plank of the Alaskan Republican Party platform on National Defense.

Mr. Chairman,

Whereas sons and daughters of people in this room and hundreds of thousands of brave American women and men are risking their lives, their bodies, and their sanity,

Whereas trillions of dollars we do not have are being spent on war with the only reasonably attainable objective being semi-permanent occupation that we can not afford,

Whereas Jesus Christ, himself, has clearly commanded that we do unto others as we would have done unto us, I move to strike "and Iraq" from the party platform.

This was met with an immediate moving of the question, which only requires a simple majority to end debate and move to vote. My motion was resoundingly voted down with enthusiasm and vigor.

**Next committee.**

#### **The Value of Challenging all things Unjust**

**T**he next committee to come before the floor was Constitutional Rights. One of the primary reasons for the renewed interest in national politics is that a growing body of Americans believe that President George Bush and the complicit Democratic Congress are dismantling the Bill of Rights with their "war on terror." After the passionate denial of my motion the room was ripe for the passage of the following new plank:

"We recognize the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects as guaranteed in the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; recognize the right of the people to be secure from any search or seizure that violates the 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment right against self-incrimination; and oppose legislation that violates these two Amendments including, but not limited to, any infringements that may be contained in the Patriot Act, the Real ID Act, NAIS Act, and the Violent Radicalization and Home-grown Terrorism Prevention Act. Furthermore, we propose that these acts be repealed immediately."

And it passed, just barely. I'm pretty sure the room was not completely sure what they were voting on, but once they discovered what had happened, the question was called back to the floor under the guise of new information. Ultimately, a division of the house was called for to get an accurate vote count and it still passed. YAHOO for Liberty!

I was on the Judiciary, Law, and Crime committee and we had an honest, lively and principled caucus. It was a joy to participate. These are two new planks that passed on the floor:

G. We are opposed to legalization of marijuana/hemp.

We struck "/hemp" from this plank, allowing for legislation to

develop permitting commercial development of this most historic crop.

"In jury trials of criminal cases, the defendant shall enjoy the right to argue both the facts of the case and the merits of the law under which the charge has been made."

Some of you may know that this very old tenant of English Common Law, known as jury nullification, has itself been essentially nullified. The judiciary has repeatedly, nationwide, threatened to de-bar defense attorneys who attempt to educate the jury as to their right to release a defendant solely on their verdict that the law is without merit. YAHOO for our civil liberties!

These are some of the resolutions passed:

"We support a federal system of taxation that adheres to the original wording in Article 1, Section 9 of the United States Constitution."

"We resolve to support the abolishment of the IRS and the repeal of the 16th Amendment to the United States Constitution, and the elimination of the personal income tax, inheritance tax, gift tax, and capital gains tax."

"Be it resolved that the federal Department of Education be abolished."

"Be it resolved that the Alaska Republican Party stands firmly against implementing action for the

Real ID Act of 2005, demanding its immediate repeal."

**I am going to start growing Bonsai Trees**

If after an exhaustive rational inquiry into the nature of government and the consequences of letting it grow at a pace it determines, we were to discover that indeed, the liberty of each one of us is dependent on our collective willingness generation after generation to prune and trim the sovereign, would we do it? Would we be up to the task? Are we women and men enough to stay this kind of course?

I was very disappointed and impressed, encouraged and concerned, by what I witnessed in those two and half days. I saw individuals behave both admirably in defense of principle and like zombies who can not even recognize their own self interest; so many times that it became obvious what a mixed bag we all are. Sometimes we are willing to take a stand against tyrannies and sometimes we are willing to cover our eyes and ears and let oppression wash over us.

But mostly I came away hopeful. I saw very clearly the connection between rational thought and liberty, between critical thinking and the dedication to VERY small government. 119 voting delegates were not seated. You could have been one of them. The sad truth is that all things that are wrong with our government are wrong largely because we don't go to the meetings.

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*"As I have stood in the crosshairs of those who target Second Amendment freedoms, I've realized that firearms are not the only issue. No, it's much, much bigger than that. I've come to understand that a cultural war is raging across our land, in which, with Orwellian fervor, certain acceptable thoughts and speech are mandated."*—Charlton Heston

*"We have to get back to the values and perceptions of those wise old dead white guys who invented this country."*—Charlton Heston

*"The Constitution is a written instrument. As such its meaning does not alter. That which it meant when adopted, it means now."*—United States Supreme Court, *South Carolina vs. United States*, 1905

# John Denver Solstice Tribute in Kennecott

The communities of McCarthy and Kennecott, Alaska will host a homespun John Denver tribute starting 6 p.m. on Friday, June 20 with live music, video, potluck dinner and storytelling. "FAR OUT in the Wrangells," is part of the Summer Arts and Lecture Series sponsored by the Wrangell Mountains Center and National Park Service.

John visited the remote, wildly spectacular area in 1976 for his filming of "Alaska—America's Child." For several days he stayed, worked and played with McCarthy residents, and also filmed a comic chase scene in the historic Kennecott copper milling town where the Solstice Eve tribute will be staged.

Scenes of John's movie featuring the Wrangell Mountains will be shown, and local residents will share remembrances of his visit. Following a potluck dinner in Kennecott's restored Recreation Hall, professional and amateur musicians will perform John's music. Guest performers are welcome.

The evening will conclude with a sing-a-long medley, including "Wrangell Mountain Song," with lyrics inspired by the grandeur of the Wrangell Mountains and John's experiences with the, "strong and

gentle people," of McCarthy living, "beside the glacier."

Although there is no admission charge, donations are appreciated. For more information contact WMC at info@wrangells.org. or call (907) 554-4464.

The Wrangell Mountains Center is a non-profit organization supporting environmental education, research, and arts in Alaska's Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, www.wrangells.org.

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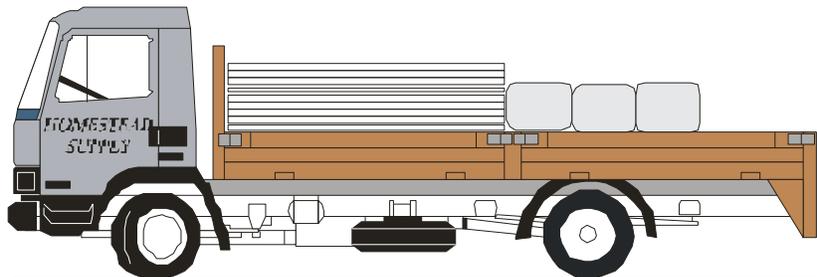
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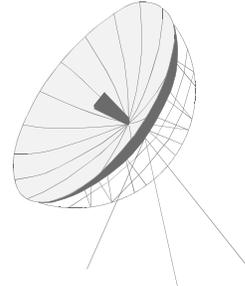
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## **CVTC McCarthy Update, April 24, 2008**

**C**VTC placed the new CDMA equipment into service on April 9. Since the cutover customers have been unable to make or receive Fax, Dial-up data and Point of Sale credit card services. This is due to the interface between the old analog system and the new CDMA system. Loss of this functionality was not anticipated and unfortunately restoring old analog services is not an easy or viable option at this time.

CVTC along with its consulting engineers and the equipment vendors have been exploring all options to restore these essential services to the community. A number of ser-

vice options are actively being worked on and tested at this time.

On Thursday April 24, 2008, CVTC dispatched an IT technician to McCarthy to test and verify the operation of a credit card Point of Sale machine operating over the wireless CDMA data network that is now in place at McCarthy. Successful tests and card transactions were made from a number of locations in the McCarthy area.

In addition to the POS services, CVTC is focusing on optimizing the CDMA data network at McCarthy to support full data, internet & email access along with FAX services. CVTC is fully committed to resolv-

ing these service issues in as timely manner as possible and in advance of the summer season.

We are continuing to change out analog terminals with the new CDMA terminals. The analog system will continue to be in service until all customers have the new CDMA terminals installed.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me directly at 835-7706, please leave a message if I am unavailable.

Jim Gifford

Chief Operating Officer

Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

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*“One machine can do the work of fifty ordinary men. No machine can do the work of one extraordinary man.”— Elbert Hubbard*

*“Technology... is a queer thing. It brings you great gifts with one hand, and it stabs you in the back with the other.”—C.P. Snow*

*“Do you realize if it weren't for Edison we'd be watching TV by candlelight?”—Al Boliska*

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# Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

**H**i everyone, hope you are all well and ready to cook something new. I had such a fun and enlightening experience this month; I took a Cooking Class! You'd think that after all these years of cooking for my family day after day that I wouldn't choose to spend some of my free evening time and money learning the tricks of preparing poultry but I had a fantastic time. Would you believe that in a period of about three hours 17 of us heard the comprehensive lecture, prepared eleven delicious chicken entrees and then sat at candlelit tables and ate them all! I would love to share with you some of the recipes and hints I received at my class.

I discovered that one of the trickiest things is to first pick the right type of poultry for the results you would like to attain—rock Cornish hens, poussin, broiler/fryers, roasters, capons, or hens/stewing; then to choose the right part for its best use—whole, breast, leg and thigh, wings or ground and then cooking it to the safe degree.

Poultry should be cooked thoroughly. Use an instant-read thermometer to get the fastest and easiest reading. Don't let the thermometer touch the bone. Never use marinade from raw poultry as a sauce unless you boil the marinade rapidly for at least 5 minutes before you make the sauce. The temperature your chicken parts should be to be considered done: ground, 170 degrees; whole (measure in the

thigh), 180 degrees; thigh or drumstick, 180 degrees and the breast, 170 degrees.

Now - **POACHED CHICKEN.** If you want to use cut-up chicken or chicken parts in one of your favorite recipes, you want to poach it first to get the flavor into the chicken. That's something I never thought of! To poach it, place the chicken parts (preferably with bones) in a saucepan or Dutch oven. Add enough COLD water to just cover. Add any of the following ingredients, depending upon what you are using the chicken for:

- Onion - always add
- Garlic - always add
- Celery - always add
- Carrots - always add
- Kosher salt - optional
- Fresh ground black pepper - optional
- Chili Pepper flakes - optional
- Italian parsley - optional
- Ginger slices - several slices (choose those with smooth shiny skin and peel) - optional
- Dried Chilies - optional
- Cilantro - optional
- Tabasco - couple of drops always

Bring to a simmer, cover and simmer about 20 min. or so until the chicken is tender and cooked. Cool in the broth. Use as needed in your recipes.

Now let me give you the **ULTIMATE CHICKEN SALAD** where the poached chicken can come into use.

- 5 cups cooked chicken
- 1 cup fresh pineapple tidbits
- 1 cup jicama, peeled and diced

Hints: buy one that will fit in your hand, remove outer skin as

well as inner skin, use jicama instead of water chestnuts in oriental dishes.

- 1 cup green or red seedless grapes, cut in half
- ½ cup sliced celery
- ¼ cup green onion, sliced
- 1 Granny Smith apple, cored, sliced and chopped
- ½ cup golden raisins
- 1/3 cup sliced almonds, toasted

## Dressing

- ¾ cup mayonnaise
- ¾ cup sour cream
- ¼ cup Major Grey's chutney ( a mango chutney by Crosse and Blackwell found in most grocery stores or on the internet, of course)
- 2 teaspoons, curry powder, lightly toasted (put in dry skillet for 1 or 2 min., you'll be amazed at the delightful change in flavor)
- Fresh ground black pepper
- Salt
- Tabasco

In bowl of food processor fitted with knife blade, combine mayonnaise, sour cream, chutney and toasted curry powder. Process until the mango chunks are chopped. Add a dash of Tabasco and season to taste with salt and pepper, process briefly.

In a large bowl, combine the cooked chicken, apple, pineapple, jicama, grapes, raisins, celery and onion. Pour the dressing mixture over all and toss gently. Chill. Just before serving toss with toasted almonds, saving a few for garnish.

Now the **CHICKEN PICCATA** that Jim and I both love.  
4 chicken breast halves

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper  
 1 cup flour  
 ¼ teaspoon Hungarian paprika (the instructor always uses this kind and I, too, started using and loving it a few years ago)  
 2 tablespoons canola oil  
 1 tablespoon unsalted butter  
 ½ cup dry white wine  
 2 teaspoons garlic, minced  
 1 cup Swanson's chicken broth  
 4 tablespoons fresh lemon juice (I get about 2 tablespoons per lemon)  
 2 tablespoons capers, drained  
 4 tablespoons unsalted butter  
 Dash Tabasco  
 Fresh lemon slices  
 Chopped fresh parsley

Slice the chicken breasts in half horizontally. (I was confused about those directions at first but it's basically from end to end so that you now have two breast pieces as long and wide as before you cut it but ½ as thick.) Place each piece between plastic wrap and gently pound to an even thickness (with the flat end of the mallet). Season with salt and pepper.

Mix flour and paprika in a shallow dish or pie plate and dust the seasoned chicken with the flour, shaking off the excess. Place the canola oil and 1 tablespoon butter in a skillet and heat over medium-high heat. Sauté the chicken breasts 2-3 minutes on one side, flip over and sauté the other side. Transfer to a warm platter.

Deglaze the skillet with the wine and add the minced garlic. Cook until garlic is softened and liquid is nearly gone, about 2 minutes. Add chicken broth,

lemon juice, capers and Tabasco and stir well. Return the chicken to the pan and turn over once. Transfer the chicken to the warm platter. Add the butter and lemon slices to the skillet and melt the butter.

Arrange the lemon slices over the chicken and pour the sauce on top. Garnish with chopped fresh parsley and serve immediately. Serves 4.

I only have room for one more so I'm going to make it the **CHICKEN MILANESE SANDWICH** which everyone seemed to like. In the next *WSEN* issue I'd like to share the one I made that evening - Chicken with Prosciutto, Fontina, and Asparagus. But here is the sandwich with a great hint for mayonnaise you can use anytime.

2 whole chicken breasts or 4 split breasts  
 2 eggs  
 Tabasco  
 1 ½ cup fine dry bread crumbs (plain)  
 ½ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese—finely grated  
 ¼ teaspoon Hungarian paprika  
 Salt and freshly ground pepper  
 ½ cup butter  
 3 lemons  
 1 loaf sliced whole grain bread  
 ½ cup mayonnaise with 1 tablespoon lemon juice (whenever you are using mayonnaise try adding lemon juice in this same ratio—the greasiness of the mayonnaise seems to disappear and the flavor is great! Try it, you'll like it!)  
 2 plum tomatoes and butterhead lettuce

Debone the chicken breasts. Cut in half horizontally (again,

that's end to end making 2 thin breasts). Place each piece between plastic wrap and pound thin (again using the flat bottom of the mallet).

Beat eggs in shallow pie plate with a dash of Tabasco. Cut two lemons in half. Cut remaining lemon into wedges for garnish. In a second plate, combine bread crumbs and cheese with paprika, salt and pepper. Dip scallops (chicken pieces) in egg mixture and then into crumb-cheese mixture. You need a fairly thick coat. Place on cookie sheet. Continue until all scallops are coated. Melt 1½ tablespoons of butter in heavy skillet over moderate heat. Begin cooking the chicken scallops. Cook until light brown on one side. Turn and squeeze lemon over each scallop and into the butter as it cooks. These cook very quickly. Have a heated platter ready and when each scallop is done, remove to platter. Pour any butter-lemon from pan over the cooked scallops. If cooking more than one skillet of chicken, wipe out the skillet and start with a fresh skillet.

Either garnish with lemon quarters and parsley and serve immediately or spread 16 slices of bread with lemon mayonnaise. Place sliced tomato and lettuce on 8 slices of bread. Top with Chicken Milanese, cut in half and serve.

Enjoy, everyone! The next time I write to you I'll be sitting in my McCarthy home enjoying the summer, fighting off mosquitoes, playing games with Bonnie and visiting all my friends. I can hardly wait.

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*"Vegetables are a must on a diet. I suggest carrot cake, zucchini bread, and pumpkin pie."*—Jim Davis

# ▲ LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

February and March were about average in both temperature and precipitation.

The high temperature for February was 41 on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> (30 on Feb. 3, '07 and 44 on Feb. 10, '06). The lowest temperature recorded at McCarthy in February was -10 on the 9<sup>th</sup> (-42 on Feb. 23, '07 and -26 on Feb. 25, '06). The high was 30 or above on only 7 days and the low was -10 or lower on 1 day. The average February temperature was 6.8 (1.7 in '07, 11.6 in '06, 12.3 in '05 and 14.9 in '04). This is still warm compared to -5.9 in '99.

Mike Monroe in Kennicott had an average temperature of 10.2.

The February precipitation was 0.81 inches of liquid (0.05 in '07 and 1.72 in '06). Total snowfall was 9.9 inches (2.5 in '07 and 8.6 in '06). McCarthy began February with 22 inches of snow on the ground and ended the month with 21 inches. Kennicott had 1.30 inches of liquid and 13.5 inches of snow.

March was a continuation of February in both temperature and precipitation.

The high temperature for March was 47 on the 9<sup>th</sup> (40 on Mar. 21, '07 and 48 on Mar. 20, '06). The low temperature for March was -11 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (-40 on Mar. 3, '07 and -31 on Mar. 17, '06). The average March temperature at McCarthy was 21.7 compared to 4.2 in Mar. '07, 10.0 in Mar. '06, 28.7 in Mar. '05 and 21.0 in Mar. '04. The high reached 40 or higher on 8 days and the low was -10 or below on 2 days. Kennicott had an average temperature of 24.8.

March liquid precipitation was 0.51 inches (0.21 in Mar. '07, trace in Mar. '06, 0.12 in Mar. '05 and 0.67 in Mar. '04) and snowfall was 11.3 inches (3.7 in Mar. '07, 0.1 in Mar. '06, 0.8 in Mar. '05 and 10.1 in Mar. '04). 9.0 inches fell on the 31<sup>st</sup>. March started the month with 23 inches of snow on the ground, decreased 16 inches on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and ended the month with 23 inches. Kennicott had 0.90 inches of liquid and 6.7 inches of snow. Kennicott started the month with 26.5 inches of snow on the ground and ended March with 30 inches.

The total snowfall for '07-'08 was 66.4 inches, thru 4/05 (44.7 in '06-'07, 84.0 in '05-'06, 79.4 in '04-'05, 110.6 in '03-'04, 44.5 in '02-'03, and 67.1 in '01-'02 ).

The greatest snow depth was 25 inches on March 31<sup>st</sup>. This compares with an average ('80-'06) of 65.1 inches and a snow depth of 27 inches. The greatest snow fall was 110.6 inches in '03-'04 (99.9 inches in '90-'91) and the lowest was 27.3 inches in '86-'87. The greatest snow depth was 42 inches '03-'04 (39 inches in '90-'91) and the lowest was 16 inches in '86-'87 and '98-'99.

The first 5 days of April have seen a gradual warming of temperatures and only a trace of precipitation. The high was 52 and the low 24. The highs have been around 50. By the 30<sup>th</sup> we should be seeing lows around freezing and highs close to 60. There is about 16 inches of snow left. The snow should be gone by the end of the month, but I'm afraid that there will be ice on the rivers and lakes until early May.

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.

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.

*"It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want - oh, you don't quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!"—Mark Twain*

*I think that no matter how old or infirm I may become, I will always plant a large garden in the spring. Who can resist the feelings of hope and joy that one gets from participating in nature's rebirth? —Edward Giobbi*

# FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

## Ode to America

This is an excerpt from a Romanian Newspaper. The article was written by Mr. Cornel Nistorescu and published under the title *Cntarea Americii*, meaning "Ode To America" in the Romanian newspaper *Eveniment zilei* (*The Daily Event* or *News of the Day*) on September 24, 2001. It was meant for domestic consumption, but apparently someone pulled the English-language version of his daily's Web page, sent it to the people on his email list, who sent it to the people... We thought it was a fitting close to this issue, which begins with Jeremy's ode to freedom.

CORNEL NISTORESCU

Why are Americans so united? They don't resemble one another even if you paint them! They speak all the languages of the world and form an astonishing mixture of civilizations. Some of them are nearly extinct, others are incompatible with one another, and in matters of religious beliefs, not even God can count how many they are. Still, the American tragedy turned three hundred million people into a hand put on the heart. Nobody rushed to accuse the White House, the army, the secret services that they are only a bunch of losers. Nobody rushed to empty their bank accounts. Nobody rushed on the streets nearby to gape about. The Americans volunteered to donate blood and to give a helping hand. After the first moments of panic, they raised the flag on the smoking ruins, putting on T-shirts, caps and ties in the colours of the national flag. They placed flags on buildings and cars as if in every place and on every car a minister or the president was passing. On every occasion they

started singing their traditional song: "God Bless America!".

Silent as a rock, I watched the charity concert broadcast on Saturday once, twice, three times, on different tv channels. There were Clint Eastwood, Willie Nelson, Robert de Niro, Julia Roberts, Cassius Clay, Jack Nicholson, Bruce Springsteen, Sylvester Stalone, James Wood, and many others whom no film or producers could ever bring together. The American's solidarity spirit turned them into a choir. Actually, choir is not the word. What you could hear was the heavy artillery of the American soul. What neither George W. Bush, nor Bill Clinton, nor Colin Powell could say without facing the risk of stumbling over words and sounds, was being heard in a great and unmistakable way in this charity concert. I don't know how it happened that all this obsessive singing of America didn't sound croaky, nationalist, or ostentatious! It made you green with envy because you weren't able to sing for your country without running the risk of being considered chauvinist, ridiculous, or suspected of who-knows-what mean interests.

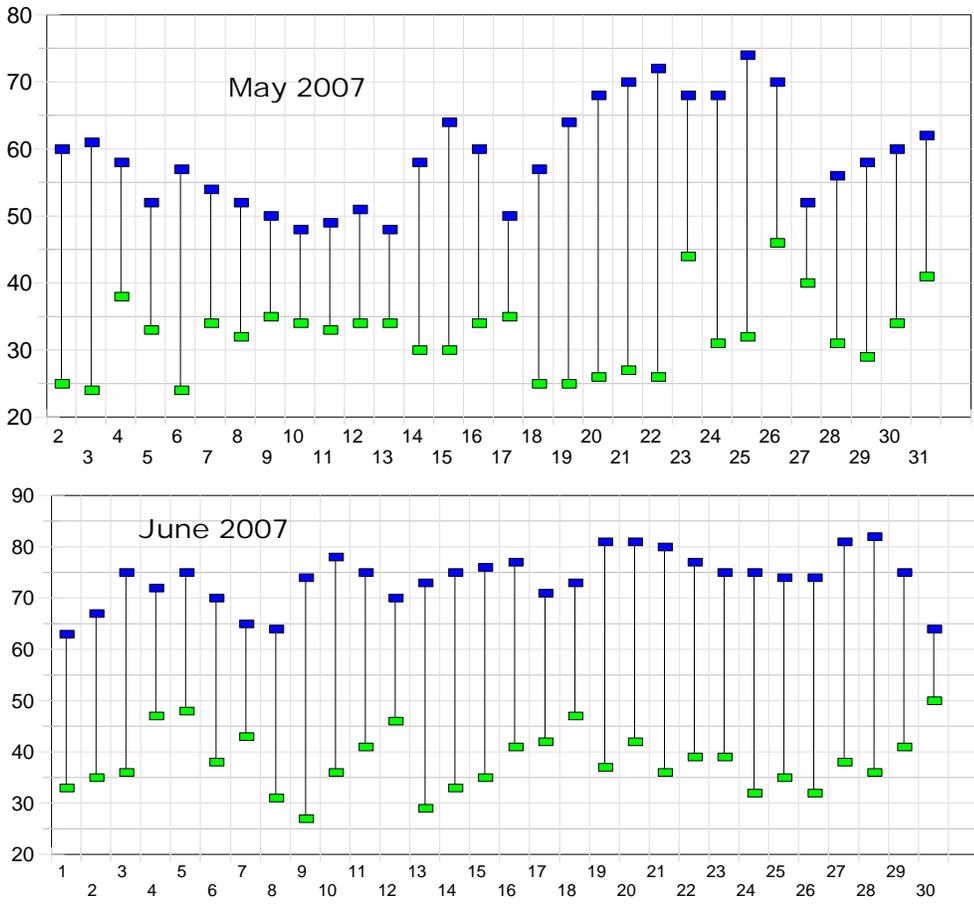
I watched the live broadcast and the rerun of its rerun for hours listening to the story of the guy who went down one hundred floors with a woman in a wheelchair without knowing who she was, or of the Californian hockey player, who fought with the terrorists and prevented the plane from hitting a target that would have killed other hundreds of thousands of people. How on earth were they able to bow before a fellow human? Imperceptibly, with every word and musical note, the memory of some turned into a modern myth of tragic heroes. And with every phone call, millions and millions of dollars were put in a collection aimed at rewarding not a man or a family, but a spirit which nothing can buy.

What on earth can unite the Americans in such a way? Their land? Their galloping history? Their economic power? Money? I tried for hours to find an answer, humming songs and murmuring phrases which risk of sounding like commonplaces. I thought things over, but I reached only one conclusion.

Only freedom can work such miracles!

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"My faith in the American people is actually a faith in this country, because I do believe it's been blessed by God, and that's the source of my optimism." — Rush Limbaugh



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