

Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Volume Nineteen Issue Three

May & June 2010

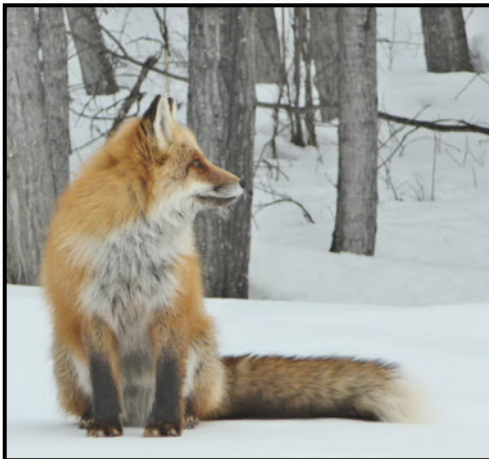
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Springtime at Mother Lode



Photo courtesy Lee Ann Kreig

The Mother Lode mines, once operated by the famous Kennecott Copper Corporation in the early 1900s, contain a rich history for copper mining. In May of 1919 the 15-mile run was made by automobile. Today—93 years later—in April 2010, the new owners of the Mother Lode Lower Camp (also known as Marvelous Millsite), Ray and Lee Ann Kreig of Anchorage, access to their property was by snowmachine. The 50 plus men once employed in the mines are long gone but their memory lives on, especially in the hearts of the Kreigs. With helping hands from neighbors and friends, Ray and Lee Ann visit their property up McCarthy Creek. See Lee Ann's story on page 7.



WSEN staff photo

The Long Lake Ice-Fishing Derby produced more than one happy face. This particular smile's owner is McCarthy area resident, Curt Jensen, son-in-law of Jim Kreblin, originator and host of this year's annual derby. March 20th was a beautiful day on the frozen lake. Twenty-two folks turned out to either fish or ice bowl or both. Dolly Varden, Rainbow Trout and Coho salmon were the catch of the day. Mark Vail's homemade chili kept folks warm and well fed. Read more in *Items of Interest*, page 6.



WSEN staff photo

“Red” the friendly fox makes the rounds. He or she began its journey in

Kennicott this last summer then began its trek down to Jim and Jeannie's home, checked out downtown McCarthy area and Curt and Lindsay's place before crossing the Kennicott River to the west side. Red seems to enjoy giving the local dogs a run for their money and wins every time!

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

Today is May 1st and the McCarthy area is experiencing one of the easiest spring break-ups I can remember since moving here in 1978. The ground is welcoming the moisture and the normal huge puddles are just not hanging around this year. My break-up boots did not get near the attention they usually do in April.

Rick is presently “next door” (his desk is next to mine) and he is now plugging in the latest completed articles for a run to the printing machine. Hopefully everything will fit and he can produce the up-to-date proof copy for inspection. A note is normally the last to write and I decided to fix a cup of tea while dropping you all a few lines. I trust springtime is going well for you, too, and that you enjoy the changes that this special season always brings.

Rick started up our small greenhouse earlier than normal. A propane heater enables us to push the date forward somewhat. The tomato plants desired more room than our cabin window afforded and the temperatures were such that the little heater could keep them plenty warm at night. All our transplants—cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, pansies and petunias—seem to thrive on joining the tomatoes and cucumbers as they all grow together. The transplants will go into their garden plot around the first of June.

I want to thank the contributors to this issue of *WSEN*. Each one is special to us and we appreciate their willingness to share their stories with this publication

and, most especially, with you, our readers. Because of the lack of space to mention each of them by name, I chose a few that are either new to *WSEN* or haven’t written for us in awhile.

Lee Ann Kreig did an outstanding job on describing her and her husband, Ray’s, snowmachine trip up the mountain to their property at Mother Lode. Their story is on page 7.

Bruce James, *Trapping 101*, kindly allowed us to reprint his article (page 8) which first appeared in *Copper River Record*. Thanks, Bruce!

We decided to dust off a couple of *WSEN*’s older stories—*The Languid Lady* by Dee Frady on Wildflowers of the Wrangells, Part 1 and *Outdoors in the Wrangells* by Fred Denner. Dee’s article first appeared in our May/June 1998 issue. Please find the reprint on

page 11. Dee and her husband Terry operate Fireweed Mountain Arts and Crafts, a gift shop in downtown Kennicott during the summer season. They live in the McCarthy area year ‘round. Fred and his wife Irene live at Dan Creek. His subject matter is on Bears—appropriate for those of us in the McCarthy area and, I believe, interesting to our outside readers. See page 13.

Thank you, Kaleb, for your excellent story, *Carl Ben Eielson—Pioneer Alaskan Bush Pilot*, found on page 16. This was his 11th grade English assignment. He has now graduated from high school this year! Congratulations, Kaleb!

Wrangell St. Elias News welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Rose Hale, AK; Jonalyn Albright and Michael Jordan, NC.

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Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Congratulations! I decided to begin this issue's "Items" with special congratulations to a couple bundles of joy who made their entrance to this world since our last WSEN.

Maximilian Gunnar was born to **Rebecca Bard** in Anchorage on February 28th at 5:17 a.m. after giving mom 3 days of exciting labor. He weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. and measured 21" long. Says mom, "He is a cutie for sure and he and I will be in McCarthy soon." Rebecca can hardly wait to get back home. Of course, Max doesn't know what he's missing —yet! Congratulations, Rebecca, and welcome to life, Max.

Hayden Lucille Tschappat was born on March 30th at 5:49 p.m. Her parents are **Adam** and **Stefanie** of Long Lake. Hayden was born in Girdwood, weighed 7 lb. 10 oz. and was 20" long. "She came into the world screaming," says Stefanie, who had the privilege of catching Hayden as she made her grand entrance. "The delivery went smoothly and I had a great mid-wife. Hayden has dark, black hair and lots of it. Pheobe is loving sisterhood." Pheobe is turning 2 in July and is expected to be a tremendous help to her parents in keeping Hayden entertained in the

days ahead. Congratulations, Adam and Stefanie.

Carol and Harold Michal: While I am passing out congratulations, Carol is pleased to announce that she became a Great, Great Grandma on March 18th. Her great grandson, Randy, had a baby girl named Ellie. They live in Wyoming.

A round of applause and Happy Birthday in advance to Harold who is turning 99 years old in October of this year. He and Carol hope to get up to their cabin at Fireweed Subdivision around May 15th. "We are doing good for a couple of old fogies," said Carol.

Happy Birthday to "Kennicott Kid" **Irma Padgett Haaland** who turns 90 this June! **Happy Birthday** to subscriber **Charlie Ricci** for reaching the 100 year old mark on March 17th. Charlie's wife, **Inger Jensen Ricci**, is a Kennicott Kid, too. The Ricci's just recently moved into the Pioneer home in Anchorage.

Howard and Chris Haley: Chris just returned from Valdez where she completed a CPR class, keeping her Nurses Assistant license up-to-date. When I called she was busy working on clearing brush and planning which outbuilding to tackle first for spring cleaning. As for Howard, says Chris, "He is busy, too, but having fun while visiting

family and friends in Oregon and the state of Washington."

Besides wanting an *item* from the Haleys, I was curious to know if Chris or Howard had received a visit from a somewhat friendly fox who I will call "Red." Chris replied that, yes, the critter had paid them a visit and even made itself at home in her yard for a short while. Chris' dogs were inside the house wishing they could go outside for a better look at this fascinating intruder.

Larry and Lindee Satterfield: That same morning (April 19th) our phone rang and it was Larry. He announced: "This is a Fox News Alert!" For some folks outside the McCarthy area, that would mean Larry was watching the Fox News Network and relaying a world resounding news flash, but for us McCarthyites, that meant that "Red" was pretty much on Larry's door step.

Dog Kobuk was unsure of this strange-looking critter. It took him awhile to make a quality decision on just how to handle the situation. I can just hear his doggy brain deciphering the situation: Is it time to play or to defend my territory. He chose the latter. Needless to say, Red is one quick-moving fox. He made his get-a-way with room to spare.

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Contributors to this issue: Peggy Guntis, Dee Frady, George Cebula. Mark Keogh, Danny Rosenkrans, Meg Jensen, Kaleb Rowland, Lee Ann Kreig, Ned Rozell, Bruce James and Fred Denner. Subscription price is \$14 for one year in the USA. Canada \$16. Other countries \$23. Advertising rates upon request.

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The third week of March Larry and Kobuk arrived at their cabin. While Lindee finishes up a job in Anchorage, the “guys” decided to open up the cabin early and have things all in shape for her arrival. They are looking forward to a great fun-filled summer/fall season.

Sonny Asbury: Sonny and dog Mac joined Larry and Kobuk on the drive in. Mac and Kobuk are becoming fast friends and both thoroughly enjoy being passengers on their masters’ 4 wheelers.

Sonny is getting settled in at his cabin across McCarthy Creek. He spent much of the winter in Texas with daughter Kim and his grandchildren, Perry and Erynn.

Since his return he is enjoying the spring-like weather, visiting neighbors and friends and planning an addition to his cabin. Welcome back, Sonny!

George Cebula: Red is making the rounds in the west side neighborhood, it seems. Just prior to Larry’s phone call, George informed us that the critter was entertaining dog Sophie. Several days prior to this Red came up to our cabin’s front steps and posed for Rick while he managed to get several good pictures (hopefully one will appear in this issue).

George and Sophie are back home from their winter trip to Arizona. Making contact with old friends in the lower 48 and spending holidays with family members are highlights for George and Sophie. Now that they are home, and everything is up and running well, he was ready to give Art and Linda a welcoming hand on their arrival to the neighborhood. Welcome home, George and Sophie!

Art Phillips and Linda Warren: Art and Linda are “really happy” to be back at their McCarthy area home. Driving north from Phoenix was no small task but they finally arrived on April 11. Living

and working in Arizona has its pluses, but there is no place like McCarthy, as far as Art and Linda are concerned!

They are working hard at getting settled back in. They plan on gardening this summer, Linda says, and came prepared, loaded down with seeds for planting as soon as the snow melts and the garden plot dries out. She is eager to make good use of her greenhouse this summer, too, and is already starting a few transplants. Blueberry and raspberry plants are on order, as she hopes to begin her own berry patch. Knowing how much Linda enjoys cooking and baking, I wish her the best in her endeavors.

Linda has her Alaska Real Estate license now; she hopes to help folks sell or purchase property in our area. If you need some help, look for her ad in this issue. Congratulations, Linda, and welcome home to you and Art!

Neil Darish and McCarthy Ventures: Neil is home after spending the winter working in Manhattan, New York, for The Whole Foods Market. He says he had a great time and hopes to do it again next winter. Neil’s position was one of 4 shift leaders. He loved his work!

McCarthy Ventures’ latest venture is called the McCarthy Center Grocery Store (including hardware and gift store). According to Neil we can expect lots of surprises this summer (opening May 28th). He is encouraging folks to let him know what special foods you would like to see in the store. The manager this year is from New York but known by lots of McCarthyites—Mary Convey.

Speaking of managers, Linda Warren from the above “item” is managing Ma Johnson’s Hotel (opening May 15th). Linda’s hubby, Art, is working in the maintenance department.

Returning a second year is Joshua Slaughter who will serve as Executive Chef for the McCarthy Lodge Restaurant. Joshua comes to McCarthy with extensive culinary experience. Previous to his stint at wd~50 (a highly-rated restaurant in Manhattan), Joshua worked with Thomas Keller at Bouchon in Yountville, CA. Creating memorable experiences for guests is a motivation that Joshua brings to McCarthy from his experience with Thomas Keller.

Welcome home, Neil, and thanks for the heads-up on what locals and visitors alike can expect for the 2010 summer season—right in downtown McCarthy, Alaska!

2010 Burn Permit Update: Mike Trimmer, Suppression Foreman, for the Valdez/Copper River Area Division of Forestry, reports a few important changes in the former Burn Permit regulations and a reminder that Burn Permits are required April 1-August 31. The new general permit is now good for 3 years. Once you have a permit, check for burn suspensions/closures prior to ignition: Call 822-TOOL (822-8665) or look online. Approved burn barrels do not require permits. For further information, you may call Division of Forestry at 822-5534 or go online: <http://forestry.alaska.gov/fire/burnpermits.htm>

Chakina Fire 2009 remembered: Gov. Sean Parnell, in a press release dated April 30th, proclaimed the week of May3-9 as Wildland Fire Prevention and Preparedness Week. Within the text was the mention of 2009 Chakina Fire. “The 2009 Chakina Fire, burning south of McCarthy on National Park Service land, resulted in a large effort to create defensible space around structures and values that may be at risk from wildland fire. Firefighters from the volunteer fire departments, the

Alaska Division of Forestry, and the National Park Service, combined with the organization that was in place to manage the fire, worked with individuals and the community to evaluate risk and implement FireWise principles. A community notification network to communicate critical information was created by the volunteer fire departments in conjunction with residents.”

Neil O'Donnell, Margaret Stock, daughter Cat and friends: Neil, Margaret and company arrived March 7th for a week of spring break at their McCarthy area cabin. Accompanying them this trip was Natalie Curtis, Cat's friend, who is also in the 7th grade this year. Malika Hojaniyazova, an exchange student from Turkmenistan in Central Asia, and living with Neil and Margaret in Anchorage, was delighted to return to McCarthy for her second round of adventure in the Wrangells. Malika is a senior in High School. She arrived in Alaska on April 8, 2009, and plans on being in our great state until June 23 of this year.

For a young lady of only 17, she can speak a variety of languages already: Uzbek (her native language); Russian, her 1st language; Turkmen, the official language of the country; English, French and Turkish and she started on Japanese while in Anchorage. I was thankful Malika wrote the list herself. I might have missed one of these fine languages!

The “ladies” and Neil, who was sadly outnumbered, thoroughly enjoyed their stay. While Neil preferred cutting firewood, shoveling snow, or taking snowmachine excursions, the rest of the party was more-than-satisfied curling up in front of the crackling wood stove with good books and plenty of jig-saw puzzles.

Mark Vail: Let's just call this item “Spring Happenings at Fireweed Subdivision.” Mark is doing his best to encourage the 2010 spring season to spring forward a bit faster. The present snow cover is balking, for some reason, in his neck-of-the-woods. It is April 23rd and he is reporting at least a foot and a half on the ground—soft, mushy and the kind of conditions that require “post-holing” to get from point A to point B. He's feeling somewhat trapped, he says, in a “sea of snow.”

Interestingly enough, a bear (s) came through his neighborhood about a week ago, punching through Mark's trails, not making Mark's local transportation any easier! On a lighter note...the spring birds are arriving in style: varied thrushes, a Ruby Crowned Kinglet, juncos, robins and a golden eagle. The swans have returned to a nearby pond. Now that's a good sign and a note of encouragement, Mark.

Despite the lingering of winter conditions, Mark's cabin is filled to capacity with 40 trays of vegetable starts for himself and neighbors. He is planning to do some “experimental gardening” this year, he says, by planting his seeds in the ground early. Rick and I normally do our sowing on or around May 15th but we are eager to see how Mark's experiment works.

From the first day of spring, Mark made good use of his spent coffee grounds to sprinkle on his garden plots. It is paying off with 90% of his garden bare of snow. The other day as he inspected the garden area, he made a grand discovery. Mulched under 6" of straw, his leeks were thriving. Last spring he planted garlic and it wintered over just fine, as well. Three oregano plants survived the winter. Mark said his oregano is now going on its third year. Amazing! Happy,

successful planting, Mark, and see you down the road in the not very distant future.

Dani Evans: This winter Dani was more than pleased to find extra time to spend here in her McCarthy area home. She is hoping to do this more often, she says. Needing a few empty propane tanks filled, she stopped by in mid-March and we had a very pleasant “catch-up” visit while enjoying the warm sunny day in the outdoors.

Dani plans to work at McCarthy Lodge again this summer but we may not find her in the dining room as often. She hopes to get her hands in the dirt instead, meaning the lodge's greenhouse and landscaping projects.

Stop by anytime, Dani; you are a most welcome visitor!

Gary Boslough and family: At the same time Dani was visiting, Gary and three of his kids snowmachined to the propane pumps, too. The Boslough family have property across the Nizina/Chitina rivers at a spot called Rex Creek. They often fly out from Anchorage and visit their home away from home, loving every minute of it, too.

This particular trip took place over the kids' 10-day spring break. Trix, Gary's wife, and their oldest daughter, Anna, 17, had returned to Anchorage a few days prior, but two other daughters, Stirly, 14, and Flurina, 12, and son Jack, 6, had joined “Dad” on their yearly snowmachine excursion to our side of the river for a propane fill-up.

As it turned out, Dani was pleased to meet up with the Bosloughs again. Last year she had purchased a 4 wheeler from them and hadn't seen them since.

It was a beautiful, warm sunny day, March 13th—perfect for visiting far away neighbors and one nearby.

Kyle Myers: Kyle stopped by the other day for a fill-up on his

propane tanks. He lives on the far side of McCarthy Creek and down the Nizina Road. He is certainly in the mood for spring and summer and is doing something about it. Kyle loves to garden and his transplants are receiving plenty of attention. He said he is transporting them from his cabin to the greenhouse daily so they can bask in the warmth and extra sunshine. They are thriving and before long he will fill the greenhouse with lots of good-tasting veggies. You are doing great, Kyle!

Jim and Jeannie Miller: When I called Jeannie the other day, she was thrilled to announce the arrival of the spring birds to the Kennicott area. The outdoors was taking on a completely different look—the hillside is bare of snow and the snow cover by the house was shrinking daily—and sounds—robins, juncos, red polls, chickadees, Pine Grosbeaks, swans flying overhead and a pair of Goshawks nesting nearby.

Jeannie has peppers, herbs, tomatoes and flowers growing in her cabin windows these days with vegetable plants on order from Mark Vail.

A busy summer is ahead for both Jim and Jeannie: Jeannie cooking once again for Kennicott Glacier Lodge and Jim working with maintenance for the park service. Now is the time to enjoy the slower pace, Jim and Jeannie, and don't forget to take time to smell those flowers you are growing!

McCarthy Area Council (MAC): MAC is once again starting up their monthly meetings for the 2010 season. A dozen folks turned out for the first meeting on March 26th. The group discussed and adopted a letter from the council to park service Superintendent Meg

Jensen requesting an advisory board selected by MAC to participate in the future development of management plans for the Park. "We are aware that the planning process is already underway and we are eager to establish this board, formalize a memorandum of understanding, and occupy seats at the table. We invite you and your planning staff to the first McCarthy Area Council meeting that you can attend to finalize this procedure."

A MAC meeting was scheduled for Friday, April 30th, at 11:30 a.m. at the Tony Zak building in McCarthy. Jeremy Keller, president, made a presentation on the topic of incorporation as a second class city.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING WITH NPS: Meg Jensen, Superintendent of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve and Danny Rosenkrans, park Land Manager, and possibly others are "coming to town."

A public meeting is planned for Wednesday, May 5th, at 11:30 a.m. at the Tony Zak building in McCarthy. Access to inholdings and the Interim Guide are the major subjects for discussion and update: Where are we; what's been accomplished and where are we going?

John Denver Tribute III: The third annual event—Far Out! in the Wrangells—a tribute to John Denver, is scheduled for June 18, 6 p.m. in Kennicott. Along with a live concert featuring John's music, is a potluck dinner and social, and movie clips from "Alaska—America's Child." For further information, Email: info@wrangells.org or call 554-4464.

Nabesna Motorized Trail EIS Planning Process: The Nabesna Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

is due to be released May 2010 for a 60-day public comment period, says Bruce Rogers of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve. If you want a copy of the Draft, just give Bruce a call at 822-7276 to get on the mailing list.

Long Lake Fishing Derby 2010: This year's Ice-Fishing Derby produced several happy fisherfolk and plenty of expert ice bowlers. Approximately 22 participants showed up on the lake to try their hand at something: fishing or bowling. Everyone came prepared to sample Mark Vail's special homemade chili and roasted hot dogs over a roaring bon fire on the ice.

J. T. Thomas, a well-known and frequent visitor to McCarthy, came prepared, not with a fishing pole, but his camera. Jim Drewry, Mile 26 of the McCarthy Road, traveled 19 miles to join the festivities. The Keith Rowland family and brother Roger and his family (Dutch Harbor) kept the ice bowling lanes packed down. Jim Kreblin, Long Lake, the host of the 7th annual Derby brought his tremendous humor—and great prizes—to this year's sporting event. Jim's daughter Lindsay, husband, Kurt, and their son Luke, of McCarthy, kept things livened up—Kurt, catching fish (!), and Lindsay keeping (or trying, I should say) baby Luke dry from the overflow puddles. Rick and I had the privilege of catching some fish, too, which is always a plus in our books and makes for great eating, too. Mark Vail, once he was done with his cooking assignment, relieved me of the fishing hole I was using. In short order, he pulled in a few good-sized dollies to take home for dinner. New ice-fishing outfits, tackle boxes and a filet knife were the prizes. What a catch! Thanks, Jim!

"The history of the race, and each individual's experience, are thick with evidence that a truth is not hard to kill and that a lie told well is immortal." —Mark Twain

Springtime at Mother Lode

BY LEE ANN KREIG

My husband Ray and I traveled by snow machine up to the Mother Lode Lower Camp (Marvelous Millsite) in early April to do maintenance and scope future work plans on our new property up McCarthy Creek. Advised by Keith Rowland and ably assisted in the field by David Rowland of Rowcon Services and our Anchorage friend, experienced homesteader, Uwe Kalenka, we had a very enjoyable and productive visit. We found everything pretty much in order and are looking forward to getting some projects underway this summer.

Rose Hale also made the exciting journey up and back and enjoyed returning to the homestead. She particularly loves the serene quiet of the valley and its spectacular setting.

It was also great to be back in McCarthy visiting our friends, the Rowlands and the Kenyons. Laurie Rowland treated us to her delicious, exotic dish "Chinyere's Chicken Curry Stackup," and it comes from her Nigerian friend, Chinyere Nwankpa, who she met while a student at Biola University in La Mirada, CA.



Photo courtesy Lee Ann Kreig

Uwe Kalenka on his big "Bearcat" in the McCarthy Creek Valley.

This was followed by Hannah Rowland's exceptional Chocolate Lemon Angel Food cake and showings of fascinating family snow machining home videos.

Four years ago, Rick and Bonnie Kenyon married us at the McCarthy Church. It was great to spend a night in our honeymoon cabin at Aspen Meadows Bed and Breakfast. Bonnie made a delicious Broccoli Shrimp

Alfredo and shared some of her Amish Sugar Cookies which she had baked especially for the kids who were taking their school exams.

Another highlight was over-nighting at Uncle Nicolai's Inn in Copper Center on both our way to and from McCarthy. We had a great visit with proprietor Ron Simpson, the author of *Legacy of the Chief*, rich in the history of McCarthy. He shared his extensive knowledge of the Mother Lode Mine and his vast collection of historic maps, photos and documents relating to it. Ron treated us to a delicious Copper River salmon dinner.

Obviously we lost no weight on our trip to the Mother Lode despite all of our activity! Our gracious hosts agreed to share a few recipes from our trip. Enjoy!

Chinyere's Chicken Curry Stackup

Parboil a chicken (or chicken pieces) in water with chopped onions, crushed red pepper, and salt to taste. Remove



Photo courtesy Lee Ann Kreig

Lee Ann Kreig and Rose Hale pause on the Kuskulana Bridge to enjoy the view.

cooked chicken from the water. To the water, add tomato sauce (about 16 oz), a chopped tomato, 1 t. curry powder, and a dash of nutmeg. Simmer a few hours, until sauce is thickened, then put the cooked chicken pieces back in the sauce just until heated. Serve the chicken & sauce over hot, steamy rice and "stack it up" with any or all of the following toppings: coconut, sliced bananas, pineapple chunks, chopped nuts, chopped apples, raisins, dried cranberries, dates, sunflower seeds... Use your imagination!

Amish Sugar Cookies

1 cup sugar
1 cup powdered sugar
1 cup butter
1 cup cooking oil
2 eggs
4-1/2 cups flour
1 teaspoon soda
1 teaspoon cream of tartar
1 teaspoon vanilla

Combine first four ingredients and beat well. Add eggs and beat again. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Drop small balls on cookie sheet and flatten slightly with fork dipped in sugar. Sprinkle sugar on if desired. Bake at 375 degrees for 10-12 minutes.

Trapping 101

BY BRUCE JAMES

Do you enjoy working outdoors during the winter, braving the worst the weatherman can throw at you? How about performing your duties for long hours during the shortest days for little pay? Does frostbite or fatigue concern you? How about feisty fleas and pinched fingers? If these things don't bother you, then trapping might be just the winter activity for you.

My wife Kayane and I moved to the area a few years ago. Being outdoors and enjoying wintertime activities was one of the reasons we chose to live in the Copper River Valley. Once we settled in, we started making inquiries about the opportunity to do some trapping near our home. We met with trappers who had lines near our home and they were willing to accommodate us "newcomers" and to teach us how to do it right. One of them, Jack Smith, has become an especially dear friend and mentor.



Photo courtesy Bruce James

Jack Smith with one of the wolverines he caught this winter.

I had trapped some while in high school in the Midwest but that was many years ago, so we had much to learn. Once again, the locals were willing to help. Before the season opened, we attended a class at Dean Wilson's in Kenny Lake. Both Dean Sr. and Jr. hosted a full day event to instruct new trappers on the basics. They also had some of the supplies we needed and provided insight on handling the furs. More helpful hints came from other local trappers such as Bob Lohse and Mark Hem.

Jack Smith, though, is the person that really helped us get started. He took me on his line a few times to see how he made sets, sold me some traps he wasn't using, let me borrow stretcher boards for the furs, personally inspected my skinning jobs to ensure respect for the animals and so much more.

Even better, he stops by our house about once a week during the season for a cup of tea and to listen to our stories. We share our successful days with him and he gives us advice about our failures.

For example, Jack taught us how to modify a trail snare set to greatly reduce the chance a moose may get tangled in it. Since then we've had numerous moose walk up to them and step around the danger, just as he said they would. Valuable information like this can only be learned the hard way or by listening to someone with lots of experience!

Kayane and I now have two seasons under our belts and have learned many valuable lessons. We enjoy snowshoeing along through the boreal forest, checking out any new tracks in the snow and anticipating what we might find at our next set. While we almost always



Photo courtesy Bruce James

This was a banner day – two coyotes!

find nothing, there have been many rewards!

We love the solitude of the wilderness, the friendly chirping of an inquisitive chickadee and having lunch high on the mountainside far above our home. We must also enjoy returning home with nothing to show for our exercise except wet and frozen clothes, tired legs and a hearty appetite. Occasionally we manage to get one of the animals we are after and it is always a bitter-sweet moment. We respect the animals and never forget they are an important part of our wilderness. With proper management, we hope there will always be an interesting track in the snow for us to follow.

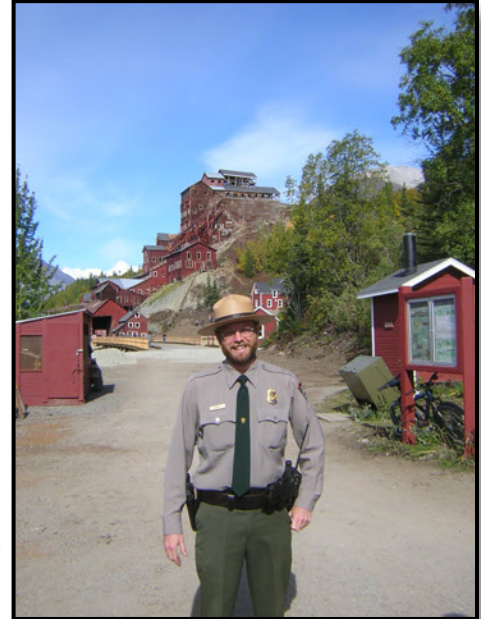
So if you have dreamed of being the next Jeremiah Johnson, follow in his footsteps. While he faced many challenges, there were also people willing to help him. Trapping can be a difficult way of life with lots of hardships and disappointments and when the season is over you probably won't have too much to show for the long hours. If, however, you're after something other than monetary rewards, trapping may be for you!

Local Ranger Wins National Award

BY MARK KEOGH, NPS WRST

Stephens Harper, Kenne-cott District law En-forcement Ranger with Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, was recently awarded the 2009 Andrew Clark Hecht Memorial Public Safety Achievement Award. It is the highest award bestowed by the NPS for outstanding public safety achievement. For several years Ranger Harper has lead an effort to increase visitor safety by working on ways to reduce bear/human conflict in the park. Through Ranger Harpers leadership, the Kenne-cott District of

Wrangell-St. Elias experienced a significant reduction in bear/human conflict in 2009. Ranger Harper's experience in Alaska parks includes Wood Tikchik State Park in Bristol Bay, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, and Katmai National Park and Preserve. Ranger Harper makes his home in McCarthy, Alaska. The award is in memory of Andrew Clark Hecht, the nine year old son of Dr. James and Amy Hecht, who died in 1970 as a result of an accident in Yellowstone National Park's Crested Pool.



Access to Inholdings within Wrangell-St. Elias NP/P

BY DANNY ROSENKRANS

The Regional Director has granted 16 Rights of Way Certificates of Access (RWCA) to inholdings utilizing the Interim Access Guide for 16 landowners within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. All of these were for established and maintainable access and include driveways, 4-wheel drive roads, ATV trails and waterlines. Some are shared while others are unique to an individual. These grants also provide for the landowner to maintain the facility.

RWCA(s) are based upon a mutual understanding of the right to access and protect park resources. The NPS is currently working with other landowners to develop additional RWCA(s) which address similar access facility types as well as overland winter access and airstrips. Although park managers plan to eventually prepare a RWCA for all landowner access needs, many access facilities have not been addressed. Dialog with landowners on the NPS's implementation of the Interim Access Guide over the past 3 years and exploration and clarification on

how to proceed is needed. Park staff plan to be in McCarthy on May 5th to meet at 11:30 am after the mail plane at Tony Zaks' to discuss what we have achieved to date, listen to landowners concerns on how we are implementing the Interim Access Guide and solicit questions and recommendations regarding granting additional RWCA's in the future. Details on the RWCA's granted to date is available on the park website. For additional information contact Land Manager, Danny Rosenkrans at 907-822-7240.

"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

"Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world."—Virgil A. Kraft

"The seasons are what a symphony ought to be: four perfect movements in harmony with each other"—Arthur Rubenstein

"The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created Spring."—Bern Williams

Seeking musicians for 3rd annual John Denver Tribute Concert in Kennecott

The communities of McCarthy and Kennecott, Alaska will host their third annual John Denver Tribute starting 6 p.m. on Friday, June 18, 2010. The event is part of the Summer Arts and Lecture Series sponsored by the Wrangell Mountains Center and National Park Service.

Denver visited the remote, wildly spectacular area in 1975 for his filming of the feature-length documentary Alaska-America's Child. For several days he stayed, worked and played with McCarthy residents. Denver also filmed a comic chase scene in the historic Kennecott copper milling town where the Solstice Eve tribute will be staged.



Photo courtesy McCarthy Lodge.

John Denver at McCarthy Saloon: John Denver performs for locals in the McCarthy Saloon during his 1975 movie filming in the area. Anchorage resident Tony Oney, Denver's pilot during the filming, sits to Denver's right.

Following a potluck dinner in Kennecott's restored Recreation Hall, scenes from the film featuring Denver in the Wrangell Mountains and Kennecott will be screened and local residents will share remembrances. Then local musicians and vocalists will present about two hours of Denver's music.

Performers of Denver's music interested in donating their talents are invited to audition for the tribute. They should contact the Wrangell Mountains Center before June 1 at info@wrangells.org to sign up.

The evening will conclude with an audience sing-a-long medley, including the "Wrangell Mountain Song," inspired by the grandeur of the Wrangell Mountains and John's experiences with the "strong and gentle people" of McCarthy living "beside the glacier."

A \$5 donation per person is suggested and additional support is welcome. For more information contact Jeremy at

Artwork for the 2010 Kennecott John Denver Tribute reflects the event's homespun origins. Terry Blosser and Dave Hollis, two backpacking buddies and long-time fans of the famed musician, planned the first event while backpacking in the Wrangells during the summer of 2007.

info@wrangells.org or call (907) 244-7717.

The Wrangell Mountains Center is a nonprofit organization which fosters understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of wildlands and mountain culture in Alaska through artistic and scientific inquiry in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Learn more at www.wrangells.org.

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

"No passion so effectually robs the mind of all its powers of acting and reasoning as fear."—British statesman and political thinker Edmund Burke (1729-1797)

the Languid Lady

Wildflowers of the Wrangells—Part 1: “Early Bloomers”

BY DEE FRADY

One of my earliest childhood memories occurs in a stroller, being pushed by my mother, as she points out and names all the wildflowers. In later years, there were countless trips and hikes to identify and transplant flowers to our rock garden. Also, my father enjoyed taking us to visit various botanical gardens. From that start I've had a lifelong love affair with plants.

This article is designed primarily to cover plants native to the McCarthy area and possibly other related topics. I use the word cover loosely as I cannot begin to mention the hundreds of varieties that occur! I can profile and share observations of a few.

Every late April and May I look for certain harbingers of the summer. Here are some of the earliest to bloom and my favorites to spot.

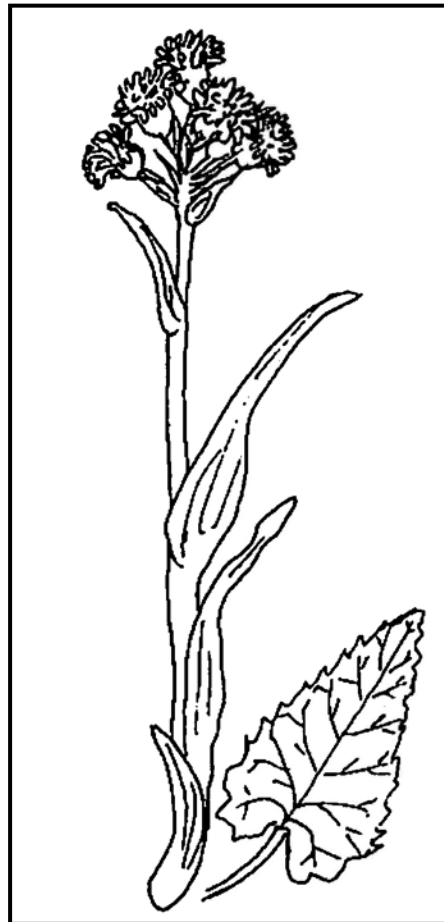
ARROWLEAF COLTSFOOT

(*Petasites sagittatus*)

Aster/Composite Family

This interesting plant blooms before the leaves fully develop (Son Before Father). The thick, hairy stalk, 12-16" tall, has a cluster of white, daisy-like (disk) flowers on top. These often have a yellow or purplish tinge which later develop into white dandelion-like puffs as they go to seed. The leaves are large and triangular shaped. They often hybridize

with *P. frigidus* and like wet places. Historically, Coltsfoot has been used for medicinal purposes in a variety of ways such as a



ARROWLEAF COLTSFOOT
(Blooms before leaves develop)

cough remedy (Coughwort) or astringent. Other uses have been as a popular smoking herb (British Tobacco), yellow-green dye for wool and processing the leaves for a salt substitute. Coltsfoot was the symbol of French pharmacies.

In late April, I always find many Coltsfoot shoots pushing up through the bare ground around our chicken coop and under the large spruce nearby. Actually, the chicken coop is really a storage shed as a grizzly ate all our chickens long ago!

WILD CROCUS/PASQUE FLOWER (*Pulsatilla patens*)
Crowfoot/Buttercup Family

This is one of the first flowers to appear in spring and resembles the domestic garden crocus. Related to the anemones, the large, cup-shaped, light to dark violet flower has 5 to 8 pointed sepals on top of a stout, hairy stem, about 8" tall. They like steep slopes or south-facing bluffs. Can be transplanted, seeds less easily.

In late April or early May we always spot Wild Crocus on our first spring pilgrimage to Anchorage. They grow on the rock face of the infamous McCarthy Road, “Hug-A-Boulder-Bend” (thankfully, now posted with signs). Nearby, along the south-facing slopes of the Chitina River they grow in profusion.

WINDFLOWER (*Anemone parviflora*) Crowfoot Family
(Named for birdfoot pattern of leaves.)

A lovely plant that blossoms as soon as the snow melts. A single, white flower with a yellow center rises above the leaves 6-8" and sways in each breeze, hence

the common name. The five rounded, white sepals (outer, floral “leaves”) may have a bluish tinge on the underside. Leaves are whorled in 3's on upper stem and have dark veins, unlike the yellow anemone. Likes meadows, stony slopes, snow flushes. Can transplant or seed. ALL anemones are poisonous!

Behind our cabin on Smokey Mountain, in late April, we find Windflowers growing in large beds on the south-facing slopes where the snow melts first. By the way, Smokey Mountain is our name for a flank of Fireweed because of all those black bears we have watched on the hillside over the years.

FAIRY SLIPPER/CALYPSO ORCHID (*Calypso bulbosa*) Orchid Family

This fragrant flower may well be the most beautiful of our native orchids. It produces a rose-pink ‘slipper’ (sac-like lower flower) on a slender stem, 3-8" tall. The single, rounded, deeply veined leaf which grows close to the ground is evergreen and stays so through the winter. However, the soon wilting leaf dies when the flower appears and new leaves appear in August. This orchid is found in woody, mossy terrain, often on rotting wood. Probably semi-parasitic. Transplants.

One of the most pleasant surprises was to discover large patches of Fairy Slippers all over our property. I have a favorite patch on our path to the out-house. Every May 1st I start watching for the first buds to appear. Needless to say, it makes those daily trips more interesting.

BEAUTIFUL JACOB'S LADDER (*Polemonium pulcherrimum*) Polemonium/Phlox Family

A very showy, “early bloomer” which is also an outstanding wildflower for cultivation. Flowers are sky blue or rarely, white with a yellow ‘eye’ in the center. Leaves are many and opposing (ladder-like, hence name) on short, 8-14" tall, well branched stems. Likes dry, rocky, sunny habitats. Transplants and grows from seed easily. Will bloom all season if not allowed to form seed. Not to be confused with the taller variety, which does not have a yellow “eye” and blooms much later. Beautiful Jacob’s Ladder generally is in full bloom the last week of May and an early source of nectar for bees. At one time was used to combat rabies, in what manner, I do not know.

These beauties grow everywhere on the roadsides in McCarthy as well as gravel areas on the west side of the Kennicott River. I have often seen them in full bloom the first week of May on south-facing rocks in the Kuskulana area.

ARCTIC LUPINE (*Lupinus arcticus*) Pea Family

A striking plant which is on everyone’s list of favorites. The pale blue to purple, often bi-colored flowers are shaped like pea blossoms. They grow in an erect spike on a large, hollow stalk which bears palmate, or lobed, many-fingered leaves. There is often hybridizing with *L. nootkatensis*. Depending on species they grow 10 to 36" tall. Seed pods develop as the plant matures. These as well as the leaves are considered poisonous. Actually are closely related to the

locoweeds. Lupine like an open habitat of fields, roadsides or alpine meadows in dry, well-drained soil. Older plants are more difficult to transplant but seedlings can be easily moved. Can also start from seed. One attribute includes the ability to add nitrogen to the soil, making it richer for other plant life. These are also plant pioneers being one of the first to appear past glacial recessions.

A visual treat, Lupine grow everywhere in our area and can be enjoyed from the roadsides to meadows filled with these showy spikes. By mid-May I always watch for the ‘early bloomers’ at Swift Creek. Occasionally, some have been seen to grow almost pure white.

This list is by no means complete or meant to be, as there are countless varieties of plants in full bloom by the end of May. Most of the Anemone, Pyrola and Violets as well as (later berry-producing) ground covers like Dwarf Dogwood or Nagoonberry. The list is endless. Keep in mind that there are many variances in blooming times due to winter conditions, locale, etc. I have seen Fairy Slippers in full bloom the first week of May or the last week of May in the same patch. Other patches may have only a few plants, or as in the case of last year, huge patches everywhere. It was a phenomenal orchid season!

Can you guess what (uncommonly used) common plant name the title refers to? Hint: The name refers to a characteristic of this flower. I will cover this favorite in the next issue.

Outdoors in the Wrangells

The first law of nature

BY FRED DENNER

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

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

Good bears, being naturally shy, elusive and timid around human beings offer no real prob-

lems. Most of us have experienced encounters with good bears and have sighed with relief as we watch them retreat through the brush or down the trail. Fortunately, this has been typical of most of my encounters with blacks and grizzlies, though not all.

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

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

One of the easiest and most effective ways to keep hungry bears out of your yard is to either

burn all garbage or bury it somewhere away from your building and living area. This doesn't mean bagging it in plastic and forgetting about it. Good juicy garbage in plastic bags, and warm weather, has a tendency to start rotting and will attract a bear quickly. Contrary to some popular thinking, the plastic doesn't hold in all the smell. A hot burn, using enough dry spruce and plenty of oxygen so the garbage and its smell are totally consumed, is the only way to go. I have seen some lackadaisical burning operations, burn barrels half full of charred, rotting garbage that I wouldn't want in my backyard.

The dog's sharp bear bark is one of the best bear warning signals and often the dog noise will scare Bruin away. Compared to humans, a dog's hearing and sense of smell are far superior, therefore he can detect the bear long before it can be seen. To my way of thinking, this is a distinct advantage. We have three good bear dogs, and I wouldn't live where we do without at least one.

To protect rabbit hutches, chicken coops, out buildings, airplanes, etc., solar electric fence chargers work very well.

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

Editors note: This story originally appeared in the May & June 1999 issue of the WSEN.

Guns on the homestead

Part one—the bear gun

Editor's Note: This is an attempt to revive the Guns on the homestead series that originally ran in 1999. Our hope is to reprint the first 4 articles in the series, which dealt with firearm types, then continue on to subjects such as handloading and perhaps hunting. This first story appeared in our May & June 1999 issue.

We are always looking for contributors. Let's share our collective experience!

BY RICK KENYON

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

Let me say up front that I am not an expert in the subject of bears or "bear guns." (However, having lived in the Alaskan bush for over twenty years [30 years now!] I have had to, on more than one occasion, dispatch bruins—both black and grizzly—who had made a nuisance of themselves and were deemed to be incorrigible.) Much of the information presented here was gleaned from conversations with others who have more experience than I in the field of bear encounters.

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

inland, not the huge browns found on the coast.

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

The shotgun

The consensus among those that I talked with is that the shotgun is the ideal weapon for "close encounters of the bruin kind." This is particularly true for those not otherwise interested in hunting or shooting.

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

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

The single-barrel has the virtue of being the least expensive to purchase, and the easiest to learn to operate. Its shortcoming is that you have to reload after each shot—something that is not desirable in our context. I only recommend it if funds are extremely tight, AND you are willing to take the time to practice until you can always hit what you shoot at, and can reload without fumbling.

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

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

The pump-action shotgun is highly regarded as reliable, fairly easy to become familiar with, and is still affordable. They carry 3 or more shells in their magazine, and repeat shots can be made very rapidly. Remington and Mossberg both offer entry-level models at street prices (WalMart, Kmart, and Fred Myers) of just over \$200. The standard barrel has a single bead at the muzzle but no other sights. They also may be purchased with a "slug barrel," which has rifling inside and regular rifle-type sights. If I had to choose, I would pick this one. For an additional \$50 or so you can get one with both barrels which I highly recommend. This gives you a number of options, as well as a dual-purpose gun which will serve well for hunting small game. Steer clear of the models with only a pistol grip, as they are much more difficult to control.

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

As for ammunition, 00 or 000 buckshot is preferred for close range work. How close is close? It depends on the gun, in particular the choke used. (Some guns come with detachable chokes and are desirable for an all-purpose gun.) The tighter the choke (full, for example) the further the effective range will be. If you get one of the "slug-guns" they will have little or no choke and the barrel may have rifling, and the range at which the buckshot will scatter beyond an effective diameter will be much less. I suggest you take ordinary paper dinner plates, set them up at various distances and see just how far away you can still place all of the pellets within the diameter of the plate. Be sure you have a safe backstop, and if you are new to shooting find an instructor to help.

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

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

Slugs come in different types. Some are .63 or .54 caliber projectiles encased in plastic or other material that is designed to fall away after exiting the barrel. These are

called sabots and have a good reputation for accuracy and stopping power, but are designed to be shot from a rifled barrel, rather than the more common smooth barrel.

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

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

Why all the talk about accuracy? I thought with a shotgun it didn't really matter—just point at the bear and the spray of pellets will do the rest? Unfortunately this is not true at all. If a bear is determined to eat you, a solid hit in the vital organs will be necessary to dissuade him. Never aim at the bear—aim at the bear's vital organs. (That's why we used a paper dinner plate as a practice target rather than a 55 gallon barrel!) Generally this means the heart-lung area, or the brain. Bear anatomy is beyond the scope of this article but you won't go too far wrong if you follow this simple guide: if the bear is charging "head-on," aim for the nose. A bit high or low will take out the heart-lungs or spine, a bit to the side has a good chance of breaking a shoulder. Broadside, aim for the front shoulder.

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

the wound area, at which time you have a more clear shot at his head.

As to carrying the shotgun while walking or riding a bike, a sling works quite well. When walking, I like to carry muzzle-down, sling over my left shoulder. (I shoot right-handed.) The sling must be long enough to keep the pistol grip from digging into your back, but it allows the gun to be brought into action very quickly. If riding a bike you will likely need a more secure over the neck position for the strap, with the shotgun at your back. Another possibility is a scabbard attached to your bike. Where should your shells be? I like to keep the magazine of the gun full, but the chamber empty. This is another area where the pump-action shines. You can quickly rack a shell into the chamber when needed. Sometimes just that action and sound is enough to send the bear scooting off.

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

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

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

Carl Ben Eielson—Pioneer Alaskan Bush Pilot

BY KALEB ROWLAND

Have you ever been flying with a bush pilot and had engine problems? No doubt he spotted a lake or flat spot and expertly made a dead stick landing. You probably wondered who pioneered the techniques your pilot used to land safely.

His name was Carl Ben Eielson. He was born July 10, 1897 in Hatton, North Dakota and had a passion for flying from an early age. By the end of his life Ben was famous for his prowess as an Alaskan bush pilot and opening up the modern airways for the pilots of today.

During Ben's boyhood, planes were still a relatively new and untried concept. December 17, 1903 was when the first plane had been flown by one of the Wright brothers for 12 seconds. It wasn't until 1909 that the first successful flight for the U.S. Army was completed.

When Ben was in college he would sit in his class rooms and dream of flying. He worked navigation problems in his head and was constantly looking out from his classrooms to check flying conditions. Ben's father, Ole, was dead set against flying in general and Ben's flying in particular. Ole did everything he could to dissuade Ben from his passion—flying. Ole and most other people at Hatton thought flying in those “egg crates” was too dangerous, and Ben would crash and die at an early age.

The only problem for the people of Hatton was that Ben's passion could not be squelched. He had to fly.

In April 1917 America entered into war with Europe, and Ben saw his chance. He reported for active duty in the Aviation Section of the Army Signal Corps and was trained to fly.

Ben felt at home in the air, but he had one weakness—he got lost very easily. When he got lost, he would get mad, fly until he ran out of gas, and had to land. A report of one such episode is the following:

“Ben was on a check flight from Sacramento to Santa Cruz when he got lost and ended up over 40 miles off course and flying over Oakland. He ran out of gas and landed in a tomato field. The farmer came running out with a shovel and told him not to move, he had Ben covered with the shovel. Ben got the misguided farmer, who thought that Ben was a foreigner, straightened out, and asked to use a phone. The farmer consented and Ben called his commanding officer. The officer told Ben to ride back on a train and that he would send a flight instructor to fly the plane back.”

When Ben got back to the army base his commanding officer told him that he had ten days to fly plane #56 and then he would have a cross-country flight. If Ben failed and got lost he would no longer be with the Air Cadets.

Ben passed the test.

One month later the war was won by the Americans and Ben was never shipped overseas. On March 4th Ben was commissioned to Second Lieutenant, Aviation Section, Signal Officers' Reserve Corps. Ben was then honorably discharged from the army. Thanks to the paid training and flight time Ben was now equipped to fly. Now he just needed to find a flying job.

Although Ben would fly a lot in the lower forty-eight the only real good it did for his Alaska flying was that he had the stunt pilot mentality which would help pull him out of many a scary situation.

After his service to his country with the army Ben went to college again, but once again he could not

keep his mind on his studies and was very restless. He talked to a professor who suggested joining a flying club. Ben got together with some local business men who were interested in flying. After discussing the feasibility of owning a plane they bought a Curtiss JN-4 airplane. Ben was elated. He went back to his studies, but in his off time he flew and taught the other people in the flying club to fly.

Then his friend Hank Robinson wired Ben and said that his boss had cracked up stunting and wondered if Ben wanted his position. Ben resisted the temptation to join Hank's group of flying gypsies until after he had finished college for the year. Then Ben met up with and joined Hank. They traveled the countryside and flew in flying circuses all over America. Sometimes they slept in expensive hotels. Sometimes when their fortunes weren't so good they slept under the wings of their planes with the skies for a blanket.

An expedition the army made in four De-Havillands to Alaska turned Ben's eyes to the wonderful state of Alaska. He followed the planes' arduous journey by newspaper, and in his mind.

Later that summer Hank got hurt while stunting and Ben went back to law school. Once again his mind was in the clouds. While in college he worked as a guard at Congress.

At his guard job Ben met delegate Dan Sutherland and the two became friends. One day Dan offered Ben a teaching job at Fairbanks High School in Interior Alaska but Ben just said that he would think about it for awhile. Shortly after that Hank Robinson crashed into a bay and died. Ben decided that now there was nothing holding him and he took Dan up on the offer to teach at Fairbanks.

Ben traveled to Fairbanks and started to teach high school. He was the English teacher and a coach for the sports team. Once again he missed flying. Mid-winter one of Ben's students had a message for Ben, he said that his father and some other men wanted Ben to meet them. They were interested in flying too. They asked Ben if he thought flying would be feasible in Alaska. Ben thought it would be quite possible. They bought a Curtiss Jenny JN-4 biplane. The estimated cost for the plane was \$750 and freight was estimated at \$800.

The plane was delivered on July 1, 1923 and the assembling began. On July 3rd at 9:00 p.m. Ben did the final check on the plane and declared that it was ready to fly. Ben hopped in and his mechanic pulled the prop through. It coughed but did not start. He pulled the prop through again. The plane roared to life and took to the air. Ben was elated as he was in the air once more, this time in Alaska.

The next day Ben did an aerial stunt show for the 4th of July celebrations in Fairbanks and Nenana. The crowds loved this new and daring pilot who could so easily defy the forces of nature.

Ben's friend "Wrong Font" Thompson was the writer of the *Fairbanks News-Miner*. He put ads in his newspaper like: "Time flies! When will you? A thrill you will remember all your life!" The ads brought in customers from all over. All the trips so far were joy rides and those who waited the longest got longer rides because Ben was making each circle bigger so he could get familiar with the landscape.

Eventually the joy ride business dwindled. On July 16th Ben flew a stunt show for President Harding and he also got his first commercial customer. The mine was down at Stewart Creek and the lawyer for the mine wanted to fly out with parts to fix a problem. Ben's first

commercial flight made the front lines on all the newspapers.

After the first commercial flight with Ben as chief and only pilot under the Farthest North Airplane Company, he hauled supplies to all the mines within a 75-mile radius. After hauling tons of groceries out to all the mines, one morning Ben was woken up by one of his associates to haul a water pump to Circle City. It was on this trip, when he had no food, that his plane decided to quit. Ben landed on a gravel bar, got eaten alive by mosquitoes, and finally managed to fix the plane which had a dry radiator. Ben put water in the radiator and gave the prop a whirl. The jenny started. Ben then roared off into the sky and made his delivery.

Although Ben was flying full time, his pet project was securing an airmail contract. He traveled to Washington several times to get the contract awarded to himself. Ben finally got the contract, which included ten trips to McGrath and a De Haviland airplane. His first airmail flight made history. It was February 21, 1924. When he landed in Fairbanks after dark, he came in too low and crashed. He crawled out, and with help from some others, righted the plane. Ben reported the flight to the Postmaster General, who called the President and his cabinet to hear the official report on the first airmail flight to McGrath. The president was so impressed he sent a congratulatory letter to Ben.

The three trips that followed passed without incident. On his fifth flight the "good" flights were finished. He came into McGrath for his customary landing and his skis on the plane ripped into the rotten ice and tore off the plane. Ben made hasty repairs and flew back to Fairbanks. Ben and his mechanic took off the skis and put the wheels back on. In April there was a lot of rain and he flipped the plane over twice in the muddy ball park that was

serving as a runway. The landing speed of the De Haviland was 60 miles per hour which didn't bode well with landing on the muddy ground. One passenger's remark after getting cut out of the upside down plane was, "Shucks, Ben, do you always land a plane like this?" On his eighth trip he had the customary crash at the Fairbanks field. The Post Office canceled the contract because, in the words of Jim Reardon, "Ben's mail contract was canceled because he piled up his plane. Three times." To make it final they told Ben to ship the plane back to Seattle.

Soon after Ben's mail contract was canceled a man by the name of Jimmy Rodebaugh bought two Curtiss Standard airplanes and formed the Alaska Aerial Transportation Company. He then hired Ben and another young flier by the name of Noel Wien as pilots for his new company. The Standards were a step back from the De Haviland but Ben was in the air again and that suited him just fine.

One day Ben landed and told Jimmy that he was quitting and going to Washington to fight for his airmail contract. He kept thinking about his route to McGrath and it disgusted him to think about his contract being canceled. When he arrived in Washington no one would admit to blocking airmail service, but no one was pushing it through. After making the round of postal offices several times and not getting his contract Ben went to Hatton, North Dakota to visit his family.

While at Hatton he decided to enroll in law school again. Shortly after enrollment Ben enlisted in the Army Air Service. Even though Ben was flying for the Army in the lower forty-eight his thoughts were always in Alaska. He told his superiors that the army should establish air routes from the United States to China. The answer was always the same: No, we can't spare any planes for such a route since there aren't any

THE McCARTHY WEEKLY NEWS

1919 May & June editions

The McCarthy Greenhouse has a fine showing of fresh lettuce, radishes, etc., today.

Owing to the rails, being up on the Chitina bridge, and the ice still running, no regular passenger trains have arrived this week, but one is expected on Tuesday next. Meantime a regular mail service has been given by the speeders.

On account of the fact that there are cases of influenza and smallpox in Cordova, Kennecott has established a detention camp which will be continued till the danger is over.

FERRY FOR NIZINA

While we are waiting for the verdict on the recent examination of the Nizina Bridge and site etc, we have the consolation of knowing that Bill Land has sent to Valdez for a license to run a ferry across that bad old stream.

He has purchased the boats which were used several summers ago by John Baltuff, and service begins this month.

GENERAL NEWS

Dan Campbell arrived from Shushanna last Sunday with mail. He will return to the interior camp in a few days in company with E.L. French & they will prospect in that district this summer.

Frank Iverson and his wife and Aron Erickson and family spent last weekend at Long Lake on a fishing and hunting trip. They had a fine time and some success but we understand the camera caught everything.

Game Warden Erickson has secured 2 horses from Bill Henly for use this summer.

TOWN TOPICS

First of May was moving day for a fact last Thursday where the boys from the Mother Lode mine came down. As the work is now done from the Kennecott end the gang was laid off.

May 3

A NEW VEHICLE

H.H. Mitchell lately received a fine large "dogmobile" from the outside, capable of hauling between 4 and 5 hundred lbs to the load with two dogs in the wheel. Mr. Mitchell will use this wagon principally for hauling ice and water this summer.

* * *

The Kennecott Copper Corporation operates the largest copper mine in the world five miles away. A fifteen mile run by automobile brings you to the Mother Lode mines, an extensive property now employing upwards of 50 men, and with untold wealth of ore in sight. The power plant and warehouse of the Mother Lode are located in McCarthy.

The Green Group, which is 5 miles nearer town, is steadily forging ahead as a big producer.

May 10

J.B. Hubrick has been making extensive improvements to his studio and residence across the track. A porch running the entire length of the building and extending from the top of the gable, new skylighting and new photographic appliances will make his studio as complete as any in Alaska.

MORE IMPROVEMENTS

A substantial improvement on the R.L.H. Marshall building is in course of construction.

The addition is 16 x 24 feet & is two stories high. The new rooms will be used downstairs to enlarge the grocery display and upstairs for a warehouse room. They are being finished in a similar manner to the original building, Dick Woodman and C. Graber are in charge of the construction.

May 31

PERSONAL ITEMS

Ed Young, of Chitina, who has been appointed Game Warden in place of Pete Erickson, arrived on yesterday's train & took over his duties.

John Tjosevig has been a couple of weeks visiting at the Mother Lode. He has renewed his acquaintance with old friends for a few days.

Con Miller, who has been suffering from an attack of the grippe, is now completely recovered, and is preparing for a trip to his property at the head of the Chitina. He purchased a couple of horses from the Brower Stage Line: Chitina, landing them here on Tuesday's train.

Mr. Hanfield, who has spent the winter at Kennecott, takes the trip with him.

Nels and John Tjosevig left for Nizina River yesterday morning to remove the pile driver to a place of safety against high water. Alex Kienwald accompanied them.

Last week a party of volunteer workers spent several hours at the Cemetery, clearing and putting plots in order, so that the place is looking more of a credit to the community. The volunteers were Mrs. Woodin, Mrs. Norman Erickson, W. Graham, John W. Nickell, & H.H. Mitchell.

Al Doze, who has kindly offered the use of his team to do the grading, will be at liberty to do his share very soon, and more volunteers are needed to help him.

John Barrett and Chas Veach have each a bear to their credit. Barrett killing his near the 4th July Pass, and Veach getting his on the homestead. Both animals were splendid specimens.

* * *

The horse market has kept up to its usual mark, the following purchases being recorded.

From the old Mother Lode Co.: to G.C. Gwinn, one team, \$450. W. Maher, one team, \$340.

French & Co. 3 head \$600. & 1 extra, \$150. John Barrett, one gelding, "Fox" \$175. W. Henry one gelding, \$175. Con. Miller, one team from Chitina, \$350. J. Murie, 1 team from Chitina.

June 24

EASTERN GAME HUNTERS

Captain J.P. Hubrick, the Alaska guide with headquarters at McCarthy, has three hunting parties signed up for the coming season, which he will pilot through the White river country. They are Richard Mitten and friends from Boston, Mass., Governor B.B. Comer and friends from Birmingham, Alabama, and Ottoman H. Van Norton and John B. Burnbaum, of New York City. Mr. Van Norton returned only recently from France and in his letter to Captain Hubrick he states that he met Jimmy Morris, of McCarthy in St. Michel last October. The three parties will arrive in Cordova about middle of August and go from here to McCarthy. They expect to spend four or five weeks in the game fields.

BEARS GET THE BENEFIT OF LUXURIES

Bears broke into the cache left by the Muncasters on Dan creek and devoured a great portion of the outfit. The luxuries were a total loss.

A BIG PRACTICE GAME

Everybody is invited to attend an area request to be present on Sunday afternoon at the ball grounds, when a big practice game will be held. The baseball game on the Fourth will be a tremendous attraction. Eddie Sommers, brother to our genial depot agent, and crack ball player has kindly consented to play for McCarthy.

BUSINESS CHANGES HANDS

Mrs. Drury, who was a recent arrival to McCarthy from the Fairbanks and Nenana country, has purchased Mr. C.K. Brown's interest in the laundry.

* * *

A number of prospectors have been working the creeks and benches in the vicinity of Tiekhel. Several good finds have been made.

EXCURSION RATES TO McCARTHY FOR THE FOURTH

Through the courtesy of the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad company excursion rates will be charged on the Fourth, half fare.

HORSES ARE COMMANDING BIG PRICES

Al Doze has sold his fancy team to John Barrett for \$300. Nelson has sold his team, sleds, etc., for \$550.

TRAIL NEWS

Harry Boyden and Louie Henderson left for Chisana this week with thirteen head of stock loaded from Marshall's.

Lysle Brown has returned to Chisana, and reports five inches of snow at Horsefeldt. Lysle's dog was poisoned while he was in Chisana. Many dogs have been poisoned in that district this spring and considerable agitation is being made. N.P. Nelson lost several dogs from his dandy team. Some investigation should be made by the authorities as the loss of dogs is a serious matter to Chisana people.

Warren Nelson has returned from his trip to the Creeks.

Mail for the Creeks left Monday last.

PURELY LOCAL GOSSIP ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS

Ranchers are very busy people these days. On the Lubbe ranch 13 acres are in seed. Micky Gallagher reports 14 acres in seed on his ranch at the Lakina.

Sixty horses are now on the trail, and more horses are coming from the States to fill in for the many hunting parties which will arrive here this summer.

William Longley had been appointed administrator in the estate of Olive Walters, deceased, known in McCarthy under the name of Molly Parks.

At the movie show tomorrow evening will be: Pathe News and "Baby Mine", 6-act comedy played by Madge Kennedy.

William Longley has been appointed administrator of the estate of Olive Walters, of McCarthy.

A complete line of ladies suits, waists and summer coats. Also children's goods in great variety. Mail orders given attention promptly. DOUGHERTY'S, CORDOVA.

MOTHER LODE CONSOLIDATED MINES CO. NOW IN CONTROL

James J. Godfrey, president of the Mother Lode Mines Company of Alaska, says that the deed of all the mining property and improvements thereon in Alaska has been delivered to the Mother Lode Coalition Mines Company. The Mother Lode Coalition Mines Company thereupon deposited funds to redeem all the ten year 6 per cent bonds now outstanding which were issued by the Mother Lode Copper Company of Alaska. The property is now being operated under the ownership and management of the Mother Lode Coalition Mines Company.

LATE ALASKA NEWS

A big potlatch will be held in Copper Center by the Copper river natives early in July. Elaborate arrangements have been made to receive visitors, and tribes within a radius of 400 miles have been invited. The chief of the Copper river natives will potlatch from 75 to 100 blankets and a large quantity of provisions.

A big run of salmon is reported on the upper Copper river and the natives have smoked large quantities for the coming winter. They have more fish smoked at the present time than during any previous year known. This means good times according to the native standard. There is much rejoicing among the tribes, many of whose members died from starvation last winter and the winter before.

A big bear has been bothering pedestrians on the Perseverance road near Juneau for the past week. Several people have encountered bruin in his rambles and the bear had it all his own way. An employee of the mines who was coming to Juneau was held up by the bear for a couple of hours before he was able to continue his journey. When he endeavored to cross the road bruin would block his way. When he sidetracked, the bear would do likewise. The game of tag ceased when the bear became tired of the exercise.

The Tonsina tribe of natives were practically wiped out by the recent influenza epidemic, but two members remaining. The natives are deathly afraid of the influenza and succumb easily to its ravages.

Birds blazing an electronic trail north during spring migration

BY NED ROZELL

During the next month, while many of us are sleeping, Alaska's population will increase by millions. The migrant birds are returning, and, thanks to tracking technology that gets better each year, we know where some of them are.

A male whimbrel that's probably headed to the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge in Interior Alaska is now in alfalfa fields just south of the Salton Sea in northern Mexico.

"I think he's putting on fat to do a nonstop flight from the Salton Sea to Alaska," said Bob Gill of the U.S. Geological Survey Alaska Science Center in Anchorage.

The handsome shorebird with the long, curved beak spent the winter on an island off the coast of Chile. On March 23, the bird took off from the island and flew more than 5,000 miles, nonstop, to northern Mexico. At times, backed by stiff winds, the whimbrel flew more than 60 mph. Gill has been following its progress using a satellite transmitter he and others surgically implanted in the birds last summer.

"We've got three in the air right now," Gill said. "We're just riding some good luck with the batteries (which are lasting longer than expected)."

Another whimbrel with a working transmitter spent the

winter in Ecuador and is currently near Bakersfield, California, almost ready to leap into the air and start for Alaska. The third is in Panama, also itching to head north.

"The birds showed up in Kanuti the last few days of April (last year)," Gill said, adding that he would expect them to appear in the Interior about the same time this year.

* * *

Several dozen tundra swans are transmitting their journey north, too. Craig Ely, also of the USGS Alaska Science Center, is part of a team that implanted satellite transmitters in tundra swans a few years ago. Those devices show that swans that wintered in the Pacific Northwest have already returned to their summering grounds near King Salmon, Alaska.

Swans that will spend their summers in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and another group that prefers Kotzebue Sound are now in Alberta. Meanwhile, swans that congregate on the North Slope during summer are currently in the farm fields of Wisconsin. Ely expects the birds to arrive in Alaska around the same times they appeared last year—early May for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Kotzebue Sound birds, and late May for the North Slope birds.

* * *

Short-eared owls that spent last summer near Nome may not

be on their way back, according to Jim Johnson of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage. Johnson and other biologists, including Luke DeCicco and Travis Booms of Fairbanks, fitted 14 short-eared owls with transmitter backpacks last summer, and the birds scattered as far south as Mexico.

Their transmitters were designed to last two years and are allowing Johnson to track the birds' springtime movement.

"A bird that spent the winter just north of Denver began moving north a few days ago and is now in eastern Montana, about a 500-mile flight," Johnson said.

Last fall, the owls impressed Johnson with how far they migrated, how they spread over western North America, and the routes they took. One bird flew from the Kenai Peninsula to Southeast Alaska, right over the Gulf of Alaska.

The farthest-north short-eared owl with a transmitter was, in mid-April, near Calgary. Johnson isn't sure if the owls will return to Safety Sound outside Nome, or even to Alaska, because short-eared owls prefer to breed where there's a good population of rodents.

"If the birds do migrate north to breed, we should see them on the move soon," Johnson said. "They were starting to nest near Nome at the beginning of June last year."

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.

Salmon on the Menu for Denali Wolves

NPS—

Surprisingly, salmon are an important item on the dinner menu for many wolves in Denali National Park, according to research published this winter in the journal *Ecological Applications*, by Layne Adams, a biologist with the U. S. Geological Survey's Alaska Science Center, and six colleagues.

Although the potential for salmon to be important to inland wolves had been suggested by other biologists, this is the first research to focus on the food source and its relationship to wolf and ungulate populations. The study looked at wolves in Denali north of the Alaska Range.

In the northwest portion of the park, it was found that the fall runs of chum and coho salmon formed a food supply comparable to the area's moose population. On average, around 80,000 chum and coho move into the flat, northwest portion of Denali each summer and fall, returning up the Kuskokwim and Kantishna Rivers.

Adams and his colleagues made use of bone samples from wolves that were radio-collared as part of a long-term study at Denali and that died in or near

the park during 1986-2002, and blood samples from moose, sheep and caribou studies in the same area. Spawning out chums were also collected from the Toklat Springs area, a spawning area just north of the park's boundary. The researchers then looked at the ratios of nitrogen isotopes in wolf bones and compared them to the prey samples to obtain evidence of the diets of individual wolves.

While the presence of salmon-related isotopes varied widely among 73 wolf samples, a clear pattern emerged. Wolves whose home ranges were in areas with salmon present but a low density of moose and caribou had very different chemical signatures than wolves whose ranges had few salmon or a high density of ungulates. Salmon contributed up to 34 percent of some wolves' diet. One result of a salmon diet is that wolf numbers were substantially higher where salmon were plentiful than would be expected for the ungulate abundance alone, Adams said.

"Ungulate densities were 78 percent lower in the northwest flats compared with the remainder of the study area, but wolf densities were reduced by only about 17 percent," he said. Given the estimated wolf diets and the relative abundance of wolves

and their ungulate prey, estimated predation rates on ungulates in the northwestern flats of Denali were about three times higher than those in the remainder of the study area, indicative of influences abundant salmon can have on wolf-ungulate relationships.

In addition to helping explain low moose and caribou densities in northwestern Denali, the study also has implications for wildlife managers in much of Alaska. "Current understanding and management of wolf-ungulate systems is based on the assumption that effects of other food sources are minimal," Adams said. That assumption may not be true where ungulate numbers are low and significant numbers of salmon are within the range of wolves.

"Spawning salmon provide a previously unrecognized and dynamic connection between inland wolves, ungulates and distant marine ecosystems," Adams said.

The journal *Ecological Applications* is published by the Ecological Society of America. An online copy of the publication is available at <http://www.esajournals.org/doi/full/10.1890/08-1437.1>

"The smallest minority on earth is the individual. Those who deny individual rights cannot claim to be defenders of minorities."—author and philosopher Ayn Rand (1905-1982)

CLASSIFIED

For Sale: 5 acres with well, cabin and large outbuilding. Mile 50 ½ McCarthy Road. \$70,000 Call 1-907-554-4428 in evenings, or if no answer, call 1-907-373-4193 in evenings.

For Sale: BEAR GUN Puma/Legacy Model 92 Lever Action carbine 20" barrel 454 Cassul with "peep" sight. \$375 call Rick 907-554-4454

Letter from WRST Superintendent Meg Jensen

Today we saw the first few drops of rain, and this past week we have felt the southerly winds blow, which can only mean one thing, that summer is fast approaching. 2009 was a great summer for Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve, and 2010 promises to be even better.

Our summer activities could not be made possible without our highly skilled returning employees as well as the addition of new folks. Please welcome Erica Edmonds, who joined us in January as the new Kennecott District Interpreter, and Carol Harding, our new Exhibit Specialist, who will be assisting in designing and installing park displays in Kennecott.

This summer Kennecott will host a Teacher-Ranger-Teacher (TRT). This is a unique park program for an experienced teacher to become a Park Ranger for the summer. The teacher takes the park experience back to their classroom and educates their students about the National Park Service.

The following is a list of some of the specific projects/activities we have scheduled for this year:

Kennecott Restoration:

Ken Hutchison, who worked in Kennecott as Historic Architect on the stabilization project, has moved on to Glacier Bay National Park. Jim Baker will be filling in as Project Manager while we recruit and fill the vacancy. The National Creek project continues, with the removal of the Assay Building and parts of the Hospital ruins to protect the trestle in case of future flood events. The East Bunkhouse will be stabilized with a new foundation and the banks of National Creek will be armored with a combination of large rocks and cribbing, designed to replicate the 'look' of historic Kennecott as much as possible.

Restoration work will continue on the Dairy Barn and as well as the Kennecott Visitor's Center inside the General Store. Other restoration work will occur in the Leaching Plant, as well as the Transformer House and the New School. Stabilization work on the Mill Building is scheduled to begin in 2012; we will be doing preliminary assessments and engineering this year to prepare for that project.

Please be careful in the mill town this summer; there will be heavy equipment in many locations. We know there is concern about noise, so we have established work curfews for evening and early morning work. Please let us know if there are any problems.

Interpretation:

This spring the interpretive staff will be moving to their offices in the General Store and welcoming the store displays and fixtures designed by Harpers Ferry. The General Store Visitor Center will recreate a shopping experience typical for a Kennecott miner in the 1930's.

This year we will also be operating a Backcountry information station that will help educate park visitors to low-impact camping techniques and bear safety, with emphasis on the Donohoe Basin. In addition, the interpretive rangers will be giving daily programs including history walks, nature walks, and screenings of the Kennecott History film. As in the past, the rangers will be hosting twice-weekly evening history programs at the Kennecott Recreation Hall. This summer, the McCarthy Area Information Station will be staffed only in the afternoons.

Resource and Visitor Protection:

The protection staff will include three general rangers this season as well as a couple of law enforcement rangers and a volunteer. We will

have an increased ability to provide emergency medical and search and rescue response as well as bear/human conflict management in the Kennicott Valley. The protection staff will be conducting regular patrols in the immediate area and in the backcountry to educate visitors on ways to reduce impacts on park resources. Enforcement of the park's food storage requirement and proper human waste disposal regulation will remain a high priority this season.

The protection staff will continue to work with area guide services, McCarthy/Kennecott VFD and other area residents to better coordinate emergency medical and search and rescue response. If you are interested in signing up as a volunteer and being involved in NPS sponsored emergency response training and backcountry patrols please contact Park Ranger Matt Smith at matt_smith@nps.gov, cell 907-960-1011 or Park Ranger Stephens Harper at stephens_harper@nps.gov, cell 907-554-1144.

Group Size limit in Donoho Basin:

As you know from last year's discussions, new regulations are in effect this year, from May 15 to September 15, for camping in the Donoho Basin:

All groups of eight or more must register to camp at Donoho Basin.

Education and registration can be done online (through our web site), by phone or in person at the **Kennecott Visitor Center (554-1105)** between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Registration includes contacting the park, reading, signing and hiking with the registration.

- Guided groups in Donoho Basin are limited to no more than 12 Clients.
- A minimum ratio of one guide per six clients must be maintained.
- Unguided groups are limited to no more than 12 persons total.
- Minimum camp distance between associated groups is one-half mile.
- To register please e-mail the park at wrst_donohocamping@nps.gov, or contact the park at 1-907-822-5234 during normal business hours.

Resource Management:

At the Mill Building, there will be an archeologist mapping and doing small scale testing around the site this summer in preparation for a larger crew next summer as we get ready for stabilization of that structure. A wildlife biologist will be conducting bird surveys along the length of the McCarthy Road in May and June. Invasive plant species work will continue around the park this summer with several SAGA work crews in the Kennecott area. In addition, fire ecology monitoring will begin on the Chakina Fire area to better assess long term effects of last summer's fire.

Trail Crew:

The park's trail crew will be working in the Bremner area and well as other park locations.

New Shuttle Bus Turnaround:

Look for installation of a new sign, a covered waiting area and information kiosk. This addition to the National Historic Landmark will help ease traffic flow through the site and provide an amazing first look at Kennecott. This winter we received the new map, information and orientation signs. Look for them to be hung in early spring.

Special events:

The Far North Film Festival will be held June 8 and 16. For more information check out the website Far North Film Festival @ www.farnorthfilms.com

Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve will host the National Park Service Alaska Leadership Council June 15-18. Look for all the NPS Superintendents in Alaska as well as the Alaska Regional Director and her key staff who will be in attendance during this time.

Wrangell St. Elias Alaska Geographic Store is hosting the Alaska Geographic's Founder's Council retreat in Kennecott this year from Sept 9-12th.

Front Country Planning:

We plan to embark on a front country planning effort, beginning with advance scoping meetings in McCarthy/Kennecott this summer, which will address a variety of management issues in the park's front country along the Nabesna and McCarthy Road Corridors and in the Kennecott/McCarthy area. These meetings will be early brainstorming to identify issues and concerns which should be covered in the planning process. We also want to discuss in detail the geographic area(s) which should be included in this plan. We are looking forward to this process and hope to have lots of public participation from the Kennecott and McCarthy communities. This is an opportunity for us to work together on a common vision for our collaborative efforts in the area. Most of the planning work will be done in 2011 and 2012.

Mine Adit Work:

The park will secure entrances at Peavine and Nelson Mines this summer to protect public safety.

Public Meetings and Notices:

Last summer, the park agreed to host monthly meetings for the McCarthy/Kennecott community to discuss issues of concern with residents. The first of these will be in

McCarthy May 5 (after the mail plane, approx. 11:30 am) at the Tony Zak building to talk with area residents regarding access to in-holdings, the Right-of-Way Certificate of Access process and progress to date, as well as 'next steps'. Meeting dates for remainder of the summer 2010 season will be:

- June 18
- July 14
- August 18
- September 8

Topics, times and locations will be determined as we go through the summer. Please let me or Stephens Harper know if you have specific topics you would like the park to address at these meetings.

New Informational Signs: We have worked with the AK Department of Transportation staff to reach agreement on signage along the McCarthy Road. Additional signs will be installed which will show boundaries between public and private lands, as well as boundaries between the park and preserve. Informational kiosks similar to the ones already along the road will be installed near the east side of the Kennecott River footbridge, near the McCarthy Museum, at the McCarthy airport and at the Root Glacier Trailhead. These kiosks will include maps that show visitors where public lands are and will hopefully reduce trespass on private land.

Cutting Firewood/Chainsaw use:

As a followup to previous discussions, the park's Subsistence Resource Commission is working with NPS staff to propose new regulatory language to address harvest of firewood/chainsaw use in the McCarthy-Kennecott area. Don Welty is a member of the subcommittee working on that effort with us.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon in the next few weeks! It should be a great summer.

Sincerely,
Meg Jensen

(Carl Ben Eilson, continued from page 17)

planes that will fly that far. Ben also thought that a military base should be established in Alaska. That didn't go over very well either. Ben met Billy Mitchell who agreed that planes would open up Alaska. Billy fought for airplanes in Alaska so enthusiastically and was such a nuisance that he got court-martialed and resigned from the army.

After Ben's term ended with the Army Air Service, he was waiting his turn at a barbershop when he received a long distance call from Hatton. His father, Ole, was on the phone and said that he had a telegram from an arctic explorer by the name of Vilhjalmur Stefansson. He was helping an Australian named George Hubert Wilkins organize a transpolar flight across the Arctic Ocean. They would fly from Point Barrow to Spitzbergen and wanted to sign Ben on as chief pilot. Ben agreed enthusiastically. He returned to Fairbanks on February 17, 1926 and made arrangements for the expedition. The arrangements included a smooth runway, mechanics, and warm hangars.

The expedition would be heralded with disaster. The first two attempts were shadowed by crashed planes and long hikes out, but in 1928 they finally had the right conditions and made the transpolar flight. Upon arrival in Spitzbergen Ben and Captain Wilkins were re-

ceived by huge banquets and gatherings all over the world. Everywhere they went people wanted speeches about the flight. The routine of banquets and speeches got very tiring. The King of England knighted Wilkins who became Sir Hubert Wilkins and Ben received the Lief Erierson Memorial Medal with the inscription "Transpolar Flier of Norwegian Ancestry for Viking Deed in Daring."

After returning to Fairbanks Ben bought the Fairbanks Airplane Corporation from Noel Wien and started servicing by air all towns that had freight for him to haul. One day in October a call came in from the motor ship Nanuk which was icebound close to North Cape, Siberia. On board the ship were fifteen passengers and one million dollars of fur. The fur market was sagging so it was imperative to haul the fur out as quickly as possible so it could be sent to market. The captain of the boat offered Ben fifty-thousand dollars if he would transfer the cargo and people to Alaska.

On October 22nd 1929 Ben and his mechanic, Earl Borland, showed up at the Nanuk after a 4 hour and 20 minute flight in a Hamilton all-metal airplane. Between October 22nd and November 9th the weather was bad enough that no one could go out to the ship. On the 9th the weather was still bad but Ben

and Earl decided to try the flight anyways. They took off from Teller and were not seen again for several months. As soon as they were missing and the weather cleared up a little bit (which didn't necessarily coincide very well) Harold Gillam and Joe Crosson showed up at the Nanuk in open cockpit planes on December 21st and 22nd respectively. When the weather cooperated they took off to find Ben and Earl. On the 27th of Dec. Joe found the Hamilton. Then the search began for the two fliers. The crew of shovellers shoveled the rock-hard drifted snow until the 16th of February when they found Earl Borland. Two days later they found Carl Ben Eilson. The altimeter had been faulty and they flew into a hillside and had been thrown hundreds of feet from the plane. The search was over and every one returned to Fairbanks for the funerals and to continue their duties.

Today the name Carl Ben Eilson has a ring of heroism to it. His name is forever etched into people's minds when they think of Mt. Eielson and Eielson Air Force Base. His flight pioneering has made it possible in Alaska, the land of harsh and unpredictable weather, to travel hundreds of miles in just a few hours. Carl Ben Eielson was a great man, and he will forever be appreciated by the people of Alaska.

McCarthy Road Signage

BY DANNY ROSENKRANS

Park staff and area residents have long recognized the need to communicate information and educate park visitors regarding the complex land status within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. We submitted a plan to install signs and kiosks

within the McCarthy Road ROW to AKDOT&PF to address this need. These signs will identify federal and nonfederal (private) lands, trailheads, waysides and the location of the Park, Preserve and Wilderness unit boundaries. In April, we were given permission by AKDOT to proceed. Once the signs are fabricated and shipped to Alas-

ka, we will install them. Our plans include installation of land status information kiosks at the McCarthy Airport and Chitina Wayside and up to 36 NPS signs along the McCarthy road corridor this summer. For information contact Land Manager, Danny Rosenkrans at 907-822-7240.

"Nothing is so unbelievable that oratory cannot make it acceptable."—Roman philosopher Cicero (106-43 B.C.)

University Land Bill—dead in the water

BY BONNIE KENYON

The 26th Legislature Session ended April 18th and so did the hopes of the University of Alaska's (UOA) Land Bill, referred to as House Bill 295 and its counterpart Senate Bill 225. Mari Montgomery, Lands Manager for the University, said in a phone interview with *Wrangell St. Elias News (WSEN)* on April 29th, "I am very disappointed." According to Montgomery the Bill never got out of committee. Because of a May 1st deadline, the land that the University acquired in House Bill 130 in 2005, was "conveyed back to the State of Alaska's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on Monday, April 26th." DNR should be in the process of recording the deeds, says Montgomery.

According to Representative Cathy Munoz, who co-chaired the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee, "several legislative attempts over the past 10 years have resulted in a lawsuit filed by the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC) to stop the sale of any of the lands. SEACC successfully challenged the university on the constitutional dedication of the funds clause."

A nearly identical bill introduced by then-Gov. Murkowski in 2005 passed but was shot down by the Alaska Supreme Court in 2009 when the court said it violated the state constitution's dedicated funds clause. The clause prohibits setting aside a source of revenue for any one purpose.

Gov. Sean Parnell introduced HB 295 and SB 225 this session with land parcels the same as

Murkowski's bill. Although Gov. Parnell's bills took care of the legal issue by funneling funds into general state coffers, it did not provide the university guaranteed money, according to Earthjustice lawyer Kate Glover, of the Juneau firm representing plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

In testimony, University System Executive President Wendy Redman called the land grants process frustrating. President Mark Hamilton told Parnell in a letter last year that the university needs land resources to build a greater education system. "The University of Alaska is a land-grant college without the land," he wrote. Many college systems are funded through land grants but Alaska's received little land compared to others in the nation.

The nearly 200,000 acres included in the bills were located in Southeast (34,655 acres), 150,953 acres in the northern Interior and the Southcentral tracts totaled 14,230 acres, mostly in the McCarthy area.

The lands near McCarthy were tracts that ran from Long Lake to the May Creek area. (The cover of the March/April 2005 *WSEN* contained a map of the land in question.) They bordered the Nizina River and formed a corridor that ranged between one and three miles wide, and ran from several miles east of the Nizina Bridge area to Long Lake at Mile 48 of the McCarthy Road.

At the time of the 2005 transfer, McCarthy area residents came together with a rare show of unity in opposing this state legislation. Many opposed the bill because they were concerned the University would quickly subdi-

vide and sell the land in small parcels. A common theme widely heard was that the community needed the state land to act as a "buffer" between private lands and federal park/preserve lands, as well as the fear that the land would end up in federal hands. None of those things happened.

Residents in other communities affected by the land transfer were concerned about losing forest access for wood gathering and hunting or restricted access by private ownership of otherwise public land usage.

In an earlier interview with Mari Montgomery for the May/June 2005 *WSEN*, she stated: "Our administration has asked that McCarthy lands be removed from the list of lands scheduled to be transferred to the federal government under S. 293." She also stressed that it was DNR, not the University, that originally put the 12,500 acres near McCarthy on the state's list. The state land transfer provided the University with a portfolio of income and educational properties to provide steady income and the ability to expand its research capabilities.

A good portion of local folks in the McCarthy area will welcome the transfer of the University land back into state ownership, but, others who were hoping to get their own piece of property within these special parcels, will have to look elsewhere. According to Mari Montgomery, things could change in the future, if a new land bill were to pass in their favor.

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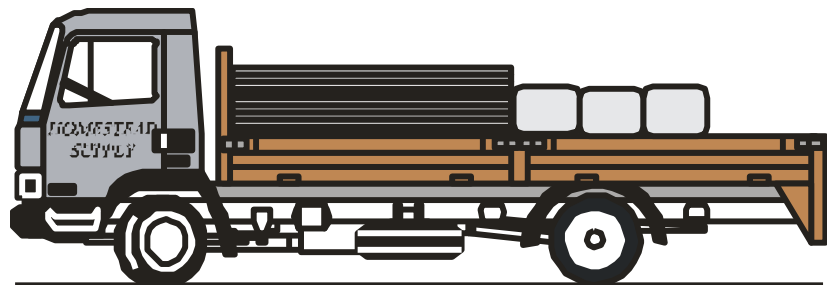
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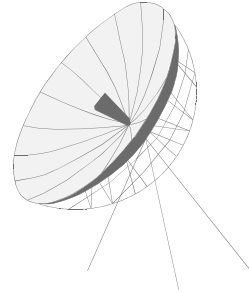
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Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

Happy Spring everyone! My calendar says it is April 5 so spring and summer are just around the corner. That means that before I write again I'll turn 70 and be in McCarthy with all my friends. Turning 70 doesn't bother me at all since I know that's the age when you become very wise.....at least that's what Jim told me when he turned 70. My family and friends threw a surprise birthday party for me a month early and it was absolutely fantastic. Kim was even able to fly in from Alaska for two days and make it perfect.

Now, how about some recipes for those spring and summer days ahead. The first three are using vegetables that grow in your gardens or are at a great price in the supermarkets.

POTATO PANCAKES

8 large potatoes, peeled and grated
 ½ teaspoon salt
 3 eggs
 1 tablespoon grated onion
 ¼ cup cream or rich milk
 About ½ cup flour or enough to take up some of the liquid (should be thin batter-like)
 Drop by large spoonfuls onto a hot greased griddle and fry until brown. Don't turn until well set.
 Makes about 6

STUFFED TOMATOES

Cut the tops off and scoop out 6 tomatoes
 Mix the pulp with: ½ cup fried bacon
 ¼ cup celery, chopped
 1 small onion, chopped
 1 cup Pepperidge Farm herb dressing
 ½ teaspoon salt

Pepper

Stuff the tomatoes and top with shredded cheddar cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for at least 30 minutes. (My girl friend cooks hers for an hour or longer!) You'll be able to tell the consistency you like by looking at them while they cook. Some like a much softer tomato and, of course, it depends on the softness of the tomato when you start as well as the size of the chopped celery and onion. They are really good so give it a try.

COLESLAW SALAD OR NUT-TY SPINACH SALAD

1 package fresh spinach (10 oz.) ,
 tear into pieces
 1 package cole slaw salad mix
 (shredded cabbage & carrots),
 16 oz.
 6 green onions, thinly sliced
 Small bag of slivered almonds
 2 tablespoons of sesame seeds
 2 packages Oriental Ramen noodles
 (use both packages of noodles
 but only one package of flavoring)

DRESSING

¾ cup salad oil
 1 teaspoon Accent
 2 teaspoons salt
 1 teaspoon pepper or Mrs. Dash
 4 tablespoons sugar
 6 tablespoons Rice Vinegar (may be found in the Chinese food section.)

Mix spinach, slaw and onions in a large bowl. Brown almonds in small non-stick skillet. When almost brown, add sesame seeds until both are brown.

When cool, add to spinach mixture. Refrigerate. Prepare dressing. Before serving, crumble noodles over spinach. Pour dressing over salad, mix and serve.

If you are making this ahead of time, do not add the almonds and sesame seeds until you add the noodles.

I may have given you this recipe before but I love it so I wanted to share it again!

Now I would like to pass along a recipe for a Breakfast Casserole that you can make for your family or in the larger amount for a church breakfast. You can put it together the night before and bake it in the morning or do it all in the morning. My girlfriend takes it to the Easter breakfast at church every year and it is one of the first things eaten. I took it this year to a family Easter brunch and it was wonderful.

BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

First the smaller one. Use an 8" square casserole well sprayed with Pam or whatever.

4 pieces bread, torn up
 2 eggs, 1 cup milk—beat together
 4 oz. cheddar (or any) cheese,
 shredded
 1 can cream of mushroom soup

Layer ingredients in order in the 8" square baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-60 minutes.

NOTE: You may add 6 oz. of browned sausage, chopped green pepper, diced ham, chopped onion etc. Sprinkle these over the bread layer. (I added the sausage, green pepper, and onions and it was delicious.)

REMEMBER, this dish can be prepared ahead and refrigerated overnight. Then bake it as directed.

If you need a larger amount use one of the foil roaster pans and be sure to spray first.

The ingredients and amounts are as follows:

Enough torn bread to cover and fill the pan ¾ to top (about a 24 oz. loaf of white bread)

Ham, sausage, green pepper, onion, etc.

1 dozen eggs and 4 cups milk

Several kinds of cheese (whatever you have on hand, Cheddar, American, Velveeta, Swiss, Jack, etc. Use about 1 lb. of cheese total)

4 cans mushroom soup.

Remember to layer in order.

Cook for about an hour at 350 degrees and then maybe another 45 minutes at 250 degrees.

Now, how about one more that I tried for the first time for this same Easter brunch. I got it from a

friend who got it from the internet so where it started I don't know but it was so good I brought the leftovers home and sneak a piece every couple of hours!

PRALINE BACON

1 pound of sliced bacon (I suggest getting a bacon that isn't too thin. I used Hormel original)

3 tablespoons brown sugar

1 ½ teaspoons chili powder

¼ cup finely chopped pecans

Line two (you might be able to do it on one) baking pans with foil. Arrange the bacon in a single layer on the foil. Bake at 425 degrees for 10 minutes; drain.

Combine the brown sugar and chili powder; sprinkle it over the

bacon. Sprinkle with pecans. Bake 5-10 minutes longer or until bacon is crisp. (You can try draining the pieces on a paper towel but I noticed that sometimes they stick so I just put them on another piece of foil or at least loosen them from the foil they were cooked on. Because of the brown sugar, they can stick a little). As far as I'm concerned the bacon does not have to be served hot. It's a personal preference. I'm eating the leftovers right out of the refrigerator and it tastes like dessert!

Guess that's all for this time. I'll be writing next time from McCarthy. Yippee!

▲ LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

February and March 2010 were above average in temperature and below average in precipitation. There were 9 days of February data missing and again I filled in with Kennicott data.

The high temperature for February was 43 on the 18th (38 on Feb. 18, '08, 41 on Feb. 18, '08 and 41 on Feb. 3, '07). The lowest temperature recorded in February was -10 on the 12th and 13th (-11 on Feb 5, '09, -10 on Feb. 9, '08 and -42 on Feb. 23, '07). The high was 40 or above on only 2 days and the low was -5 or lower on 3 days. The average February temperature was 16.5 (13.2 in '09, 6.8 in '08, 1.7 in '07, 11.6 in '06 and 12.3 in '05). This is warm compared to -5.9 in '99.

Mike Monroe in Kennicott had an average temperature of 22.5.

The February precipitation was 0.78 inches of liquid (1.01 in '09, 0.81 in '08, 0.05 in '07 and 1.72 in '06). Total snowfall was 9.7

inches (14.4 in '09, 9.9 in '08, 2.5 in '07 and 8.6 in '06). McCarthy began February with 29 inches of snow on the ground and ended the month with 25 inches. Kennicott had 0.80 inches of liquid and 10.4 inches of snow.

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

The high temperature for March was 49 on the 28th and 31th (45 on Mar. 26, '09, 47 on Mar. 9, '08 and 40 on Mar. 21, '07). The low temperature for March was -13 on the 13th (-25 on Mar 3, '09, -11 on Mar. 11, '08 and -40 on Mar. 3, '07). The average March temperature at McCarthy was 23.0 compared to 15.0 in Mar '09, 21.7 in Mar. '08, 4.2 in Mar. '07, 10.0 in Mar. '06 and 28.7 in Mar. '05. The high reached 45 or higher on 5 days and the low was -10 or below on 2 days. Kennicott had an average temperature of 25.8.

March liquid precipitation was 0.03 inches (0.93 in Mar. '09, 0.51 in Mar. '08 0.21 in Mar. '07 and

trace in Mar. '06) and snowfall was 15.4 inches (15.4 in Mar. '09, 11.3 in Mar. '08, 3.7 in Mar. '07 and 0.1 in Mar. '06). March started the month with 25 inches of snow on the ground and ended the month with 22 inches. Kennicott had 0.20 inches of liquid and 2.0 inches of snow. Kennicott started the month with 26 inches of snow on the ground and ended March with 18 inches.

The total snowfall for '09-'10 was 73.3 inches, thru 3/31 (118.4 in '08-'09, 73.4 in '07-'08, 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 31 inches on January 17th . This compares with an average ('80-'09) of 65.1 inches and a snow depth of 27 inches. The greatest snow fall so far was 118.4 inches in '08-'09 (110.6 in '03-'04 and 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 low-

est was 16 inches in '86-'87 and '98-'99.

A short summary of the rest of the winter months show about average temperatures and precipitation.

The average temperature for October 2009 at McCarthy was 32.8 with a high of 61 on the 11th and a low of -3 on the 31th. Liquid precipitation was 2.18 inches and snowfall was 5.3 inches. Kennicott had an average temperature of 35.3 with a high of 57 on the 11th and a low of 3 on the 30th. Liquid precipitation was 2.70 inches and 7.2 inches of snow.

The average temperature for November 2009 at McCarthy was 6.5 with a high of 33 on the 12th and a low of -35 on the 19th. Precipitation was 1.41 inches, with 20.0 inches of snow on the ground at the end of the month. Kennicott had an average temperature of 11.8 with a high of 36 on the 27th and a low of -19 on the 19th. Precipitation was 2.25 inches and 28.2 inches of snow. There was 15 inches of snow at Kennicott at the end of November.

The average temperature for December at McCarthy was 11.0 with a high of 35 on the 2nd and a low of -30 on the 31st. Precipitation was 2.07 inches and 23.2 inches of snow. There was 26 inches of snow on the ground at the end of 2009. Kennicott had an average temperature of 14.5 with a high of 36 on the 1st and 26th and a low of -20 on the 31st. Kennicott also had 26 inches of snow on the ground at the end of the year.

No data was recorded at McCarthy in January. Kennicott

had an average temperature of 3.6 with a high of 26 on the 17th and a low of -23 on the 1st and 2nd. Precipitation was 0.85 inches and there was 14.4 inches of snow. At the end of January there was 29 inches of snow on the ground at Kennicott.

The snow should be gone by the end of April, with high temperatures usually in the 50's.

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.

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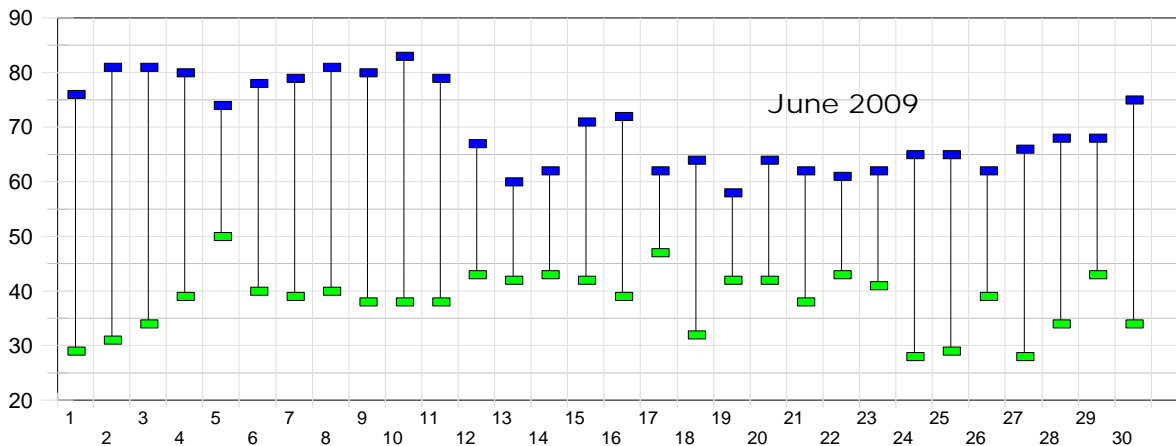
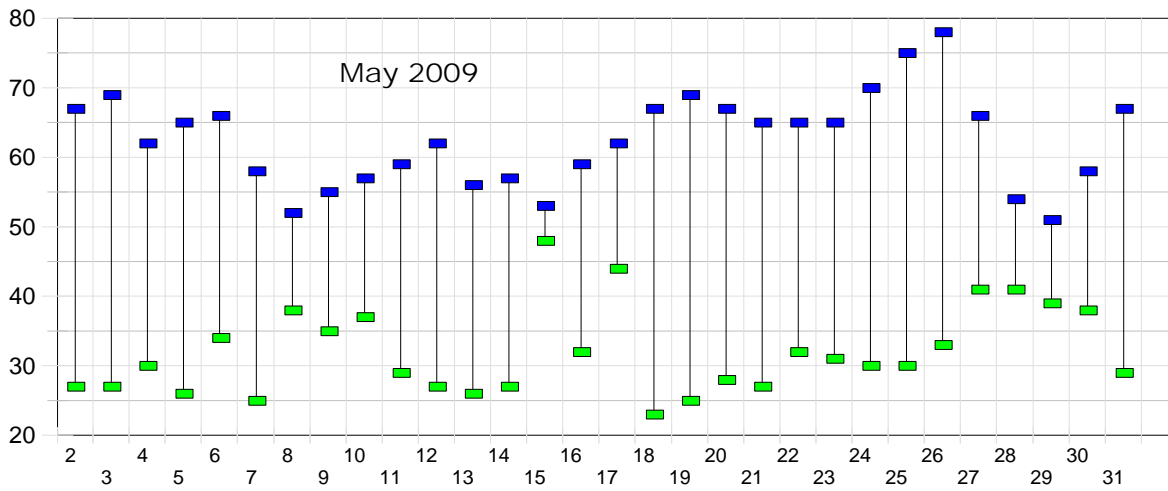
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