

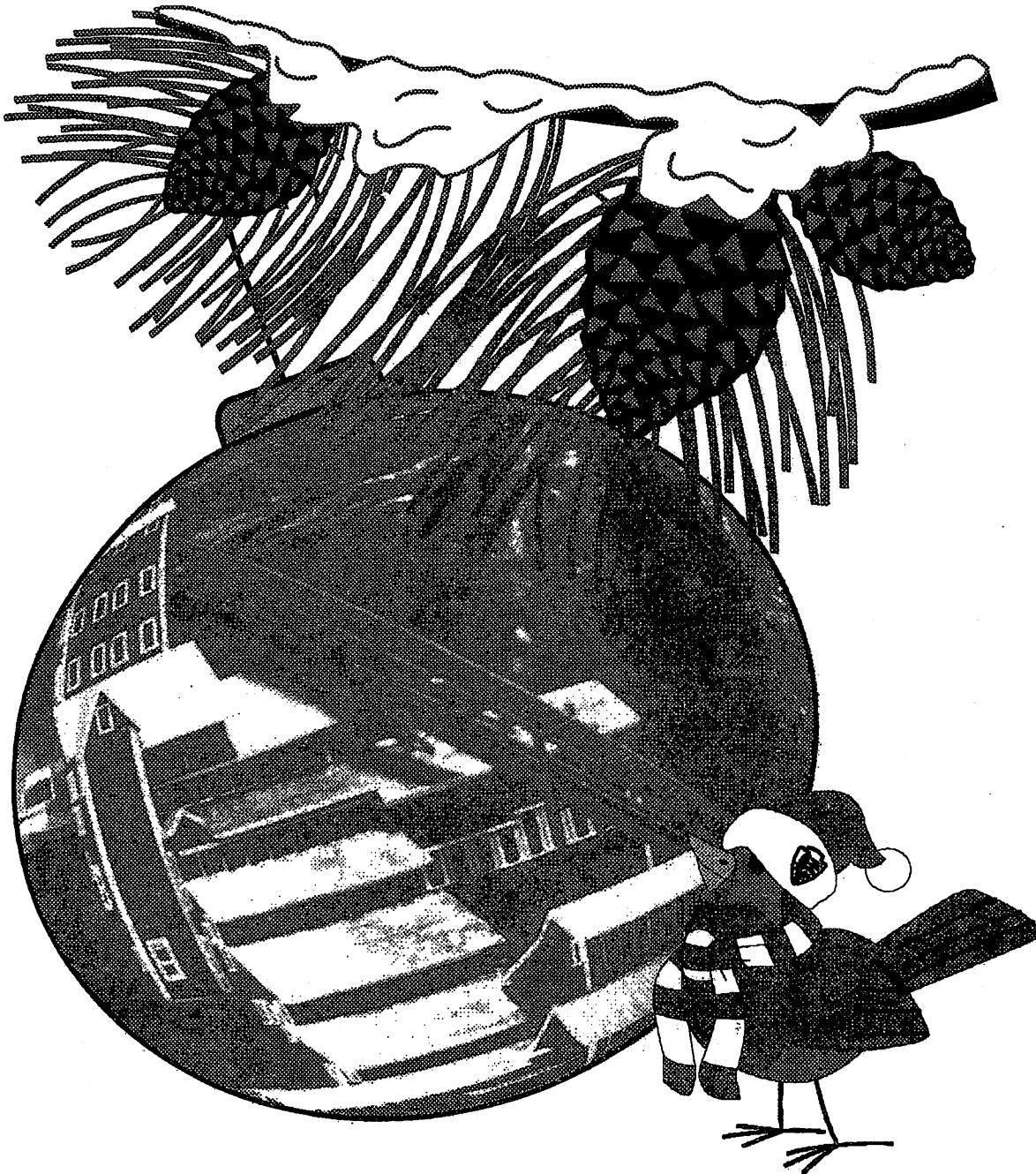
Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Vol. Six Issue Six

November & December 1997

Two Dollars



The National Park Service continues to look longingly at the 3,000 acres at Kennicott, and wonders if Congress will put it under their Christmas tree this year. NPS got \$1.2 million last year for "safety improvements" at the millsite, which it is sitting on until Congress approves another \$4.2 million for acquisition.

Almost 12,000 acres of University lands may also go to NPS if Congress passes S.660, the "university lands bill."

A note from the publisher

BY RICK KENYON

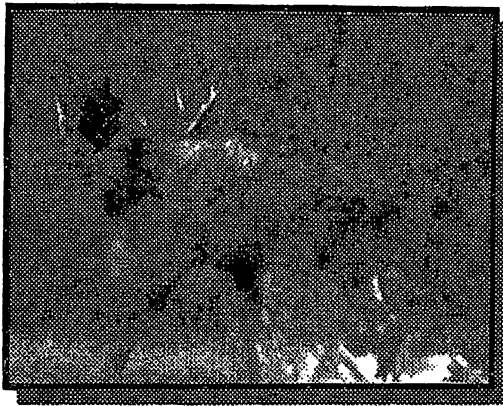
I started writing this column on October 10, lamenting the fact that we had no snow on the ground. Now, just 5 days later, there is 18" of the white stuff on the ground, having fallen steadily for the past 3 days with no reprieve in sight! I guess it just goes to prove the old adage, if you don't like the weather, just wait a little while.

We are going to press a little early this issue, as we have tickets to fly south on November 3. It has been nearly two years since we have seen parents, kids and grand-kids. Regular readers will remember that when we drove home the last time, in early February, we spent 20 hours stuck in a road glacier. So this time we decided to make the trip in November rather than January. The question now is, will the road still be open in two weeks? Such is life in the far north.

Our weather editor, George Cebula, will be taking the weather observations while we are gone. We will still be reading email, so if you need to contact us during November, please use that method if possible.

Several readers commented on the bear-in-the-garden in our last issue, and Jim and Marion Busey sent us a photo of a black bear in their driveway down in Colorado. Then we got word that a friend in, of all places, Florida, had

hit a bear with her car! We are glad to report that "our" bear was not seen again, but we did have a very large bull moose visit us. Fortunately for him, he came through the yard on September 21, the day after moose season closed.



WSEN staff photo

A day late...

HELP! We need your help. If you are moving, or have an

address change for any reason, please let us know. We are getting the back covers from your WSEN's, torn off by the Post Office, along with a bill for 50 cents (To reimburse them for destroying your WSEN). Then we need to send you another issue to replace the destroyed one, this time at first class mail rates. We have tried to get them to forward the *News* to you and just bill us, but so far we have not been successful. Several of you have sent us address change cards, and we thank you.

Wrangell St. Elias News welcomes aboard the following new subscribers: Genie Addleton, GA; Nelson Corcoran, Antarctica; Sam Gregory, NY; JoAnne Woolever, TN; Betty Ott, AK; Dan Ketchum, AK; Tom and Lynn Thomas, AK.

Wrangell St. Elias News

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Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Loy Green: Loy stopped by the other day just as I was beginning to gather "items" for this issue of WSEN. Naturally, Loy became my first victim! He along with the majority of McCarthyites are "getting ready for the winter." Loy says the box car parked in front of the town's museum is being painted inside and is expected to be completed this week. This project is essential to further prepare the car for Ron Simpson's added displays which we all can enjoy viewing this next summer season. According to Loy, the additional material includes maps and charts of Kennicott properties. The four new windows that John Adams installed in the box car this summer makes viewing an added pleasure as well.

Cal and Pat Ward: Rick and I received a surprise visit from our neighbors, Cal and Pat. Cal pilots a red, white and blue Supercub and it is always a treat when we see him taxi up to our place. (Especially when he brings Pat with him!)

Pat says she is "glad to be back" at their cabin which is located at the base of Fireweed Mountain. Although the Wards are retired, they do more traveling than anyone I know. I asked Pat where their latest adventure took them.

They attended two family reunions, she says. Cal's family gathering took them to Grants Pass, Oregon in June. Afterwards, Cal chauffeured Pat and her two sisters to their reunion in Saskatchewan, Canada the end of July. A

country church where Pat and her family worshiped while growing up held special services for them.

When the Wards returned here, Pat said she was met with "one of the best gardens" she has ever planted. In spite of being gone a good part of the growing season, Pat says she harvested terrific carrots and cabbages. One potato hill produced 30 good-sized spuds!

Jim, Jeannie, Aaron and Matt Miller: I managed to catch Jeannie in between chores. With what seems like an extended fall season, the Miller family is making the most of it. Hauling firewood is always a priority this time of year but their woodshed is nearly full now. Jim and boys are working on a family project together — rebuilding a jeep. After hearing about the fellows' latest mishap, I wonder if Jeannie has banned them to the shop. You see, Jim, Aaron and Matt recently returned from a trip to Anchorage where they met up with Stacie and had a great visit. (Stacie is doing fine with her studies in Fairbanks and was in McCarthy this summer tossing pizzas at the family business.) Jeannie sacrificed and stayed home and only gave the boys "two easy-to-find items" to get for her. Not only did she miss seeing daughter Stacie, but the boys totally forgot to bring home her requested items!

Aaron has his own personal tutor this winter, says Jeannie. Her name is Katy Steger and she is from Anchorage. Welcome to our town, Katy.

Elizabeth Schafer: Although Elizabeth is still in the area as I type this "item," she is expected to leave for Fairbanks soon. Congratulations, Elizabeth, on getting your teacher's certification and best wishes on finding a teaching job this winter.

Ben, Marci, Gaia and Ardea Thurston/Shaine: Ben, Marci and girls have left Kennicott for Port Townsend, Washington. Marci writes that they are settling into their winter quarters now and she is already planning her "winter garden of greens." The girls started school end of September so she is finding time to dig in the dirt and see if the potatoes, onions, leeks and carrots that she planted last spring survived being overgrown by blackberry brambles. Have a great winter, Ben, Marci and girls!

Terry and Dee Frady: Terry is presently in North Carolina for 2 weeks visiting his parents. Dee says she is staying busy catching up on those household chores that got left undone during her and Terry's busy summer season with the gift shop. The Fradys are hoping to add another addition to their local gift shop by next season. Most of the lumber, logs and supplies are here already, says Dee.

Larry, Rita, Joe and Garrett Hoare: Shortly after starting this column, I discovered that Larry and Rita recently had a phone installed at their place in Kennicott. I decided to give it a try and I was thrilled to hear Rita answer. They haven't spent a winter here

in our area for quite a number of years so they have their hands full getting the cabin winterized and projects done before the snow flies. In fact, as I write this item, Larry is in Homer where they lived previous to moving back to Kennicott. He is bringing in a moving van loaded with their things.

Joe, 11, and Garrett, 8, are busy with their studies. A retired schoolteacher with 18 years of experience, Rita says she finds home schooling "fun, easy and like dessert." PE for the two boys consists of hiking and hauling firewood.

The fifth member of the Hoare family is a 9 month old Black Lab and Husky mix puppy. Larry's brother from Sitka came for a visit and left this bundle of joy. According to Rita, he also helped Larry install 16 windows in their cabin. Not too long ago, Rick and I noticed a new light spring up "on the hill" and now we are quite certain it must be from one of those new windows! Welcome back to Kennicott, Larry, Rita and boys.

Matt Hambrick and Kris Rueter: Matt is hard at work building a scribed log sauna. When I called he and Kris last night, Matt apologized for the noise pollution his chain saw is making. I told him I wasn't calling to complain, only to find out what all that hard work was producing.

Speaking of hard work, I was told by a neighbor that Kris received an award from the National Park Service for her excellent work for them this summer. I asked Kris if this was true and she said that Margie Steigerwald, Interpretive Specialist, with the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park presented her with an end-of-season bonus

and a recognition for Kris's services as McCarthy and Kennicott's interpretive ranger this past summer. Congratulations, Kris, for a job well done!

It sounds like we will see more of Matt and Kris this winter. Matt informed me they now have 2 Bravo snowmachines; they just brought in a new one for Kris. I'm sure Matt can get it broke in while Kris is visiting her sister in Chicago next month! Another hard job for Matt, but someone has to do it.

Jim and Audrey Edwards: Life at the Edwards's Swift Creek home has finally quieted down, says Audrey, after a busy summer filled with guests from all over the world. One young couple from Germany — Harm and Birte — are still here and hope to remain for a year.

Now that Audrey has more time on her hands, she is experimenting with her latest purchase from the big city. A new Danby Twin Tub Washer. One of its beautiful features machine is the separate spin extractor. A few of us McCarthy ladies have had our eyes on this compact machine. Now that Audrey was the first one to venture out and do more than drool over it, she extends an invitation to come check it out. She really likes it, she says. Let's see, ladies, maybe she'll let us try it out while we're there! Limit, one laundry bag per lady!

Kelly, Natalie and Tessa Bay: I happened to catch Natalie while she was in between washing clothes and waiting for an incoming call today and I did manage to find out the Bays are booked for a flight. It's not with Wrangell Mountain Air and neither Kelly or Natalie are doing the flying this time. They

are expected to leave Alaska mid November and travel to Australia to visit Natalie's family and be gone for 5 weeks. Have a great, relaxing trip, you three, and leave the flying to someone else this time!!

Thea Agnew: I just discovered Thea has a phone now so I gave her a call and, sure enough, she answered. She says she plans on being here until December or maybe even longer and is busy working on her house. Her boyfriend, Tom McRoberts of Anchorage is visiting and they are enjoying our beautiful fall weather.

Thea describes herself these days as a "telecommuter." Living in a bush community such as Kennicott doesn't keep Thea from carrying out her duties for Alaska Children's Trust. With the aid of her newly-installed telephone and her computer, Thea continues to raise money for the non-profit organization whose purpose is the awareness and prevention of child abuse in Alaska.

George Cebula: The month of September was a busy one for our neighbor George. His brother Ted of Milwaukee and Ted's neighbor Bob Habermehl both arrived the first part of the month and gave George a hand at finishing his garage and building a woodshed. Bob is a retired electrician so Rick borrowed Ted and him one afternoon to help wire our garage, too.

Lilly Goodman: Lilly called tonight and I had the chance to get an update on her most recent accomplishments. She is one excited young lady and I don't blame her! First of all, she is the proud author of a fictional book titled, "Candle Sparks," which has been printed, sent to

her publisher and, by the time, this issue goes to press, should be on the shelves! She tells me the art work was done by Max Cott and Mark Vail's tapestry is on the cover.

I asked how her building project was coming along and she reports that, thanks to all the good help she has had, the roof to her house is in place. This summer has certainly been a productive one for you, Lilly. Congratulations on all your fine accomplishments!

Don, Lynn, Sarah and Rene Welty: The Welty family is getting settled in for the winter, says Lynn, who is staying busy as homeschool teacher for daughters Sarah and Rene. Sarah who is in the 7th grade says her favorite subject this year is literature. Math is Rene's favorite (at least at this early stage!). Rene is in the 4th grade. Both girls are enjoying their two bunny rabbits and have given them the names of Daisy and Gus. Recently, the girls entertained a friend from Cordova. Erika, age 12, came for a week long visit. One of their activities took them on a 20 mile (round trip) bicycle ride from their home up to Kennicott. (Sounds like a good PE project to me, Lynn!)

Don is home from his summer job in Anchorage and is not letting any grass grow under his feet. He has already secured a construction job for nearby landowner Wayne Smith. Wayne's cabin foundation is done and the plan is to complete the building during this winter season.

Al and Fran Gagnon: While Fran is visiting a long-time friend of hers in Anchorage, Al is busy improving his Kennicott property. As this goes to press,

Al's recent project is winding down for this time but the 10,000 gallon septic tank is in the ground and the drain system is in place. The weather was cooperative and no snow on the ground to complicate things, says Al. Even though the project moved 3 times as slow as he thought, (what else is new in the bush!) at least it kept a steady pace.

Al and Fran expect to spend the winter at their cabin at May Creek. Now that our winter birds have arrived in full force, Al says it's time to get home and fill his bird feeder! But, before heading home he has to make a trip to Anchorage. Word has it that he is shopping for a microwave. Last winter George Cebula introduced Al to the VCR technology for the "bush lifestyle." This year it is the microwave.

Chris Richards: Now that the busy summer season is over and winter is here, I decided it was time to give Chris a call and see how his guiding business did this year. "I just completed one of my best seasons ever! I had a great crew and I'm looking forward to having them back next year," exclaimed Chris. They expanded their guided glacier hikes this year and included ice climbing for the first time. Good going, Chris!

John Adams: John has been working on the McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church building's basement recently and he reports the sheet rock is now finished and he has begun work on a small outbuilding to house the church's generator. He says he hopes the finished basement will help provide a place for future community meetings.

John says he is also busy at

work getting his place ready for the winter and reports that his local bed and breakfast will be open throughout the winter.

Tim Mischel: Tim is back from quite an extensive trip to the lower 48. He says he flew to Dickinson, ND, where he met up with his mom, Goldie. Together they drove through Minnesota and Wisconsin visiting relatives then on to Denver to see his younger sister. It sounds like they had a great time! According to Tim, he expects to stay in the area until the temperature drops to - 20. After that, well...head south, he says, or maybe even Amsterdam for a visit. Before we hung up, I asked him if he was calling from the public phone in McCarthy and he informed me he was using his "cell phone." What is McCarthy coming to?!

Doyne and Kristi Houghton: Sunday morning as we were getting ready to start our weekly church service, Doyne and daughter Kristi surprised us all by driving up! The Houghton family are regular visitors during the summer but once winter arrives, we say our goodbyes until spring. Doyne and Kristi decided to take advantage of the holiday weekend and squeak in another trip before the snow flies. And, that is just what happened. The day after they left to return to Valdez, the snow began and is still going as I wrap up this column on October 15.

Doyne called us last night and reported that he and Kristi, 19, saw 11 to 13 grizzly bears at Long Lake on their way home Monday. I was glad to hear the bears were on the "far side" of the lake and not heading this way!

Kennecott mill and tram terminus model

Ron Simpson does it again

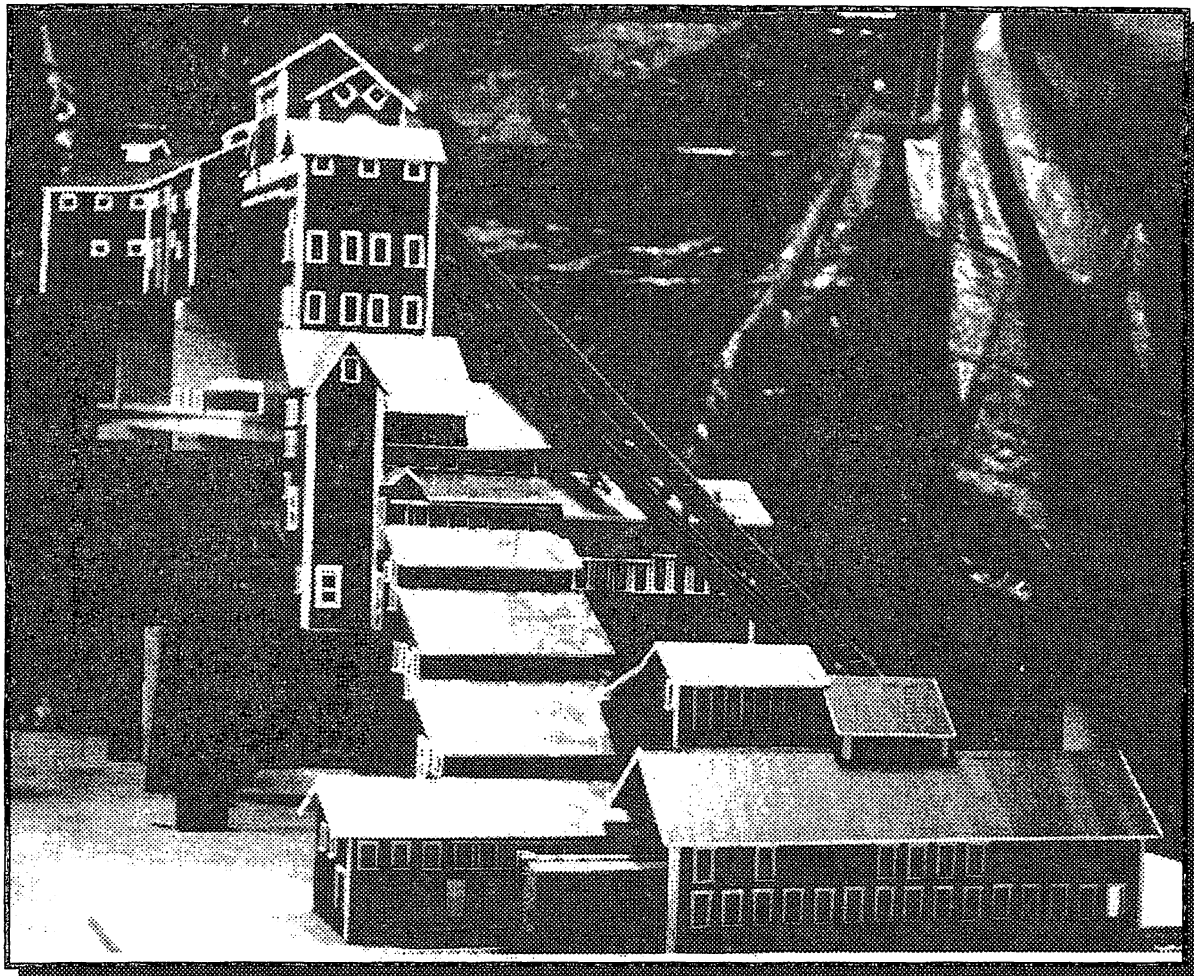


Photo courtesy Ron Simpson

Shown here is the recently completed Kennecott-Alaska mill & tram terminus model, 1:24 scale (1/2 inch = 1 foot), which is the same scale Ron has used for the Kennecott "staff row" models.

Constructed mainly of 1/4 inch plywood, the model is 5 foot, 3 inches from railroad grade to top roof peak and contains 174 windows, mainly of smoked plexiglass. Interior floors have been installed at all levels in preparation for interior lighting. The roofs on the Hancock jig extension and the tabling levels (floors 1 thru 5) are aluminum to simulate the

original iron corrugated ones while the remainder are fine-grade black-gray sand paper simulating the composite roofs.

The box car on the tracks is a "G" scale, which is proportionate to the structure and to the boxcars of the era. The lower levels are circa 1912, which is prior to a series of additions that more than doubled the tables area (levels 2 thru 6). Thus it does not reflect additions thru the 1920's. Just above the RR loading dock are the mill-grade bins and the high-grade bin. The double high-grade ore chute was completed after 1912, and the Han-

cock jig annex at levels 4 & 5 on the right was built about 1920, serving as the main access for the engineers who worked in the office just down hill from it. The top sections are circa 1930, except the trommel annex on the north end has been omitted.

Level ten includes both the Bonanza and Jumbo tram terminus.

Ron built the model while in Oregon this summer, then shipped it to Alaska where it graces his private display in Copper Center. From design to final paint took about six weeks.

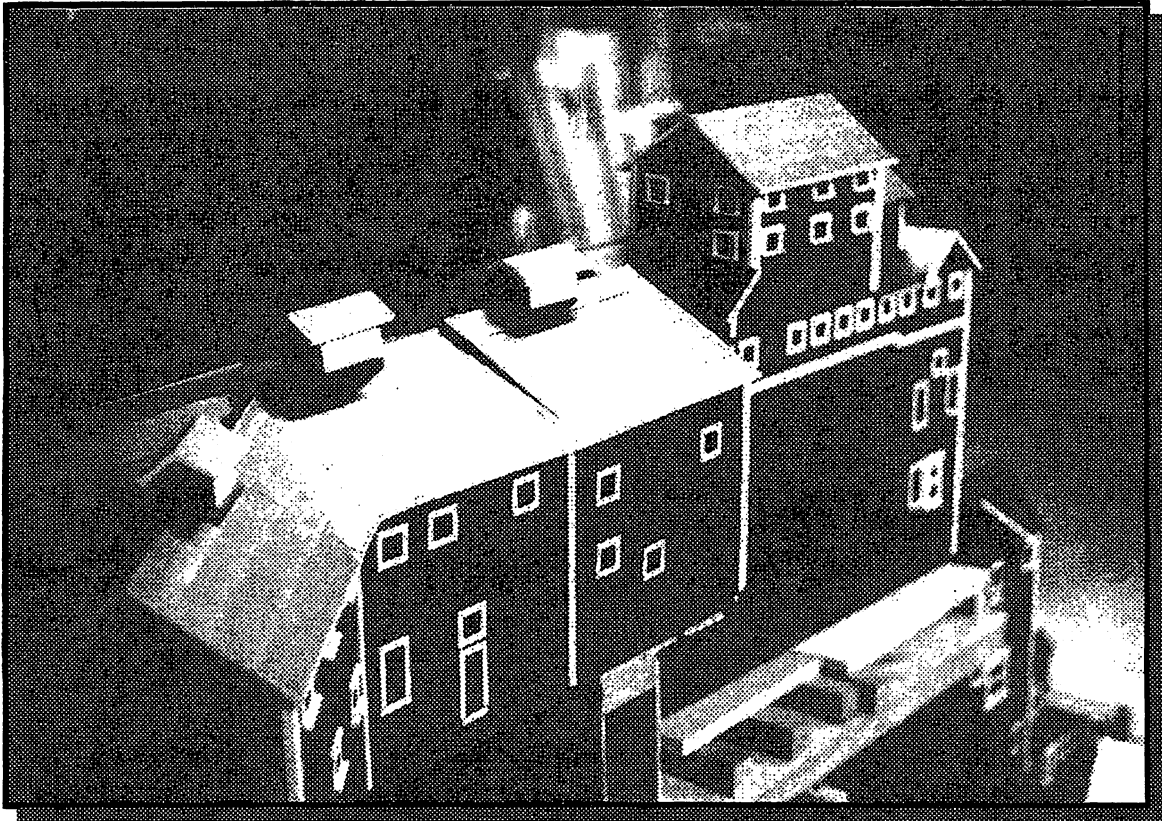


Photo courtesy Ron Simpson

View of Mill model looking from above.

Murkowski urges support for university lands bill

University could gain 250,000 acres — but must give up 11,990 acres of inholdings to NPS

Saying it would aid the university and the federal government, Alaska Sen. Frank Murkowski Sept. 11 argued for Senate approval of a land bill that would grant the University of Alaska at least 250,000 acres of federal lands in the state.

Murkowski, who chaired a hearing of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on the University of Alaska Land Grant Bill (S. 660), argued the bill would help the state finance the increasing cost of higher education. He also noted the bill would help the federal government acquire

up to 11,990 acres of land in 29 inholdings currently owned by the University inside national parks and refuges in the state, from Denali, Wrangell-St. Elias and Kenai Fjords National Parks to the Alaska Peninsula and Maritime Wildlife Refuges.

“The fact is that the university is a federal land grant university, but one that has received less land than almost any other land grant college in the United States. It has been unfairly deprived of lands that it should have received as its birthright. It’s an inequity that needs to be addressed for the benefit of Alaska’s students,”

said Murkowski.

Murkowski’s bill would allow the university to select 250,000 acres from currently uncommitted federal lands — no lands in parks or conservation system units being open for selection. Under the bill the university would gain up to an additional 250,000 acres from the federal government, if the state first would provide matching lands to the university. If the bill passes, the university would be required to give up its federal inholdings. The Alaska Legislature twice has approved such land grant bills.

Kennicott launch makes historic splash for Alaska

New state ferry serves double duty as Coastal Disaster Command Center

(Moss Point, Miss.) — With the crack of a champagne bottle against the bow, Alaska's First Lady Susan Knowles christened the M/V Kennicott on September 12 at the Halter Moss Point shipyard in Mississippi. The first addition to the state's ferry fleet since 1977, the M/V Kennicott also is the first large ocean-going passenger ship to be designed and built in the United States in 45 years.

The 380-foot ship will begin serving Alaskans next spring and is capable of regularly connecting Southeast and Southwest routes for the first time in the Alaska Marine Highway's history. The \$80 million M/V Kennicott has been designed not only as a passenger vessel, but also as a communications and logistics center for use during oil spills or natural disasters along Alaska's vast coastline.

"The M/V Kennicott represents the vision of the people of Alaska to create a ship that will connect our state with additional marine routes and respond to disasters with personnel, equipment and state-of-the-art satellite communication equipment,"

Gov. Tony Knowles said. "The M/V Kennicott became a reality because of a unique partnership between communities, state and federal agencies to design, build and pay for the ferry."

The vessel features a roll-on/roll-off design capable of carrying up to 750 passengers, 120 vehicles, and a crew of 25. With more than 100 state-rooms, the M/V Kennicott includes a dining room, playroom, solarium, theater and viewing lounges, and is designed to dock at all existing state facilities. A helicopter deck will support emergency response requirements and allow the vessel to be used as an emergency command post when needed. The ship will have a cruising speed of approximately 17 knots.

The contract to design and build the ship was awarded to Halter Marine Group, Inc., in 1995.

By law, each of the Alaska Marine Highway ferries must be named after a glacier. The name M/V Kennicott was chosen by 12-year-old Leah Jarvis, of Copper Center, who won a statewide student essay contest

to name the new ferry. Jarvis was intrigued by the glacier and explorer Robert Kennicott for whom the glacier is named. Jarvis was on hand as Mrs. Knowles christened the ship Friday.

"The name Kennicott represents the extraordinary natural beauty and bounty of Alaska as well as the extraordinary talents of men and women, from Robert Kennicott to the many individuals who have designed and constructed this wonder of modern technology," Mrs. Knowles said. "The M/V Kennicott represents the best of our state's history as well as the promise of our state's future."

Alaska guests attending the christening and launch of the M/V Kennicott included First Lady Susan Knowles; Department of Transportation Commissioner Joe Perkins; Alaska Marine Highway Director Gary Hayden; Rep. Gene Kubina, D-Valdez; and Leah Jarvis of Copper Center.

Delivery of the M/V Kennicott to Ketchikan, Alaska, is scheduled for May, 1998.

McCarthy Road EIS release delayed

Release has been delayed until early in 1998 for the McCarthy Road environmental impact statement (EIS), according to Project Engineer

Bill Townsend, Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT). A contributing document, the

inter-agency scenic corridor plan for the McCarthy Road is complete and awaiting distribution in late October.

"We can easily forgive a child, who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light." — Plato

Beetles losing habitat

Spruce bark beetle activity is decreasing in most of the Copper River Basin, not because there are fewer beetles — this was the “mother of all summers” for beetle flights — but because the area has been so heavily hit for more than five years that there's nothing left for the beetles to bore into and breed, according to Ed Holsten, U.S. Forest Service (USFS) entomologist.

Surveys flown by the USFS -

State & Private Forestry staff reported landscapes of many grey, dead trees.

A new spot for beetle activity was along the Lowe River east of Valdez by Wortmanns Creek. “So far it's small, less than 100 trees, but it has the potential to increase if next spring is warm and dry,” said Kathy Matthews, USFS aerial survey specialist. “A couple beetle areas near Kennicott Mine have gotten

bigger since last year.”

According to Matthews the majority of beetle activity in the region is from Copper Center to Chitina and that is low to moderate and declining. “The beetles are still working through some live trees.” The beetles have also found more trees in the Klutina Lake area and from the Bremner River to Tebay Lakes.

Reprinted from Ecosystem News, volume 1, number 3, 1997.

Chitina Natives offer cabins at park gateway

“Our park is poised on the same edge Denali National Park was 25 years ago,” said Marlene Johnson, president of Chitina Native Corporation. “We need to begin to address tourism issues now, or we will be left out.”

The new accommodations are a set of four rustic cabins about one mile north of Chitina on One Mile Lake and a deluxe log cabin on the hill near

downtown Chitina on Town Lake. The cabins are available for nightly rental. With demand, they may be available year-round. All have full kitchen facilities. The deluxe cabin has indoor plumbing and is large enough for small groups.

“Denali is so crowded that visitors are starting to divert to the Wrangells,” Johnson said. “But there aren't many accommodations near here - sometimes you're lucky even to

find a room.” The Corporation will watch the reception of its cabins as it plans the next step into the wave of tourism that is coming. “We have some of the most scenic land in the area.

For more information, contact Chitina Native Corporation, Chitina 907-823-2223.

Reprinted from Ecosystem News, volume 1, number 3, 1997.

Wanted: All tourism plans for Copper Basin-Wrangells

The Copper Basin-Wrangells area isn't short on tourism-related - and ideas. But the area does lack a clearing-house that lists all those plans: one that introduces similarly interested parties to each other for potential partnerships, to improve funding chances, or to avoid conflicts.

That was the prime conclusion of the Alaska Land Managers Forum tourism working group after visiting the

area this summer. To remedy this gap, the Forum is supporting the polling of all local entities - from the Copper Valley Economic Development Council and Chamber of Commerce to Ahtna Inc. to federal and state agencies - and asking them to share their tourism plans. Results will be compiled in a matrix database to be completed by October 1997.

The Alaska land Managers Forum is a statewide partner-

ship of state, federal, and Native land managing organizations formed to tackle issues that cross ownership boundaries. The Forum's tourism working group has chosen the Copper Basin - Wrangells as its first regional coordination case study.

For more information, contact Vicki Snitzler, NPS Copper Center 907-822-5234.

Reprinted from Ecosystem News, volume 1, number 3, 1997.

Visitation — up or down?

Editor's note: The "town talk" in McCarthy near the end of the summer was that visitation was down. Unfortunately, there is no accurate visitor count available at the end of the road. The closest we can come up with is the Glennallen Visitors Center, located at the "hub" junction of the Glenn and Richardson highways.

BY KEN ROBERSON

Through 9/7/97 - 19,698 visitors have signed in at the visitor center. This compares with 17,571 signed in for the same period in 1996. Some of the difference is attributable to more aggressive efforts to get visitors to sign in and some to increased visitation. The peak visitor day was July 13 with 446 visitors (included several tour

groups). In 1996, the peak day was July 10th with 320 visitors.

Visitors have come from every state plus Puerto Rico and Washington D.C. Visitors have come from 59 different countries (4,701 visitors) in addition to the U.S. to date including several countries and protectorates not represented in 1996 most recently Trinidad & Tobago. Canadian visitors have represented all provinces and territories but Labrador. Foreign visitors have come from the following countries (with number of visitors in parentheses): Argentina (6), Armenia (2), Austria (153), Australia (182), Bahamas (5), Belgium (77), Belize (2), Brazil (1), Canada (1,319), Chile (1), Curacao (2), Czech Republic (85), Denmark (10), Dominican

Republic (26), England (190), Finland (4), France (113), Germany (1,209), Guernsey-Channel Islands (1), Hong Kong (7), Hungary (4), India (7), Ireland (7), Israel (129), Italy (110), Japan (158), Jersey-Channel Islands (2), Korea (13), Liechtenstein (2), Luxembourg (17), Malawi (1), Malaysia (2), Mexico (6), Netherlands (197), New Zealand (42), Norway (14), Pakistan (9), Peru (3), Philippines (24), Poland (3), Portugal (2), Russia (1), Saipan (2), Scotland (11), Singapore (23), Slovak Republic (6), South Africa (12), Spain (15), Suriname (10), Sweden (371), Switzerland (311), Taiwan (44), Thailand (11), Trinidad & Tobago (2), Turkey (2), United Arab Emirates (4), Uruguay (2), Venezuela (4) and Wales (9).

FIVE STEPS TO DEVELOPING A RURAL TOUR PRODUCT *(from Alaska Village Initiatives)*

If you are thinking about starting or expanding a rural tourism product or visitor service, the Rural Tourism Center's five-step development process can help guide your efforts and hopefully save you time and money!

The **FIRST STEP** in starting any business is determining what you have to work with. Take time to assess and inventory your resources; personal, financial and those within your community, then consider the options. Ask yourself "what do I/we have to work with and what could possibly be done with it?" **STEP TWO** is asking "Will this work and what will it take? Is it feasible or realistic?" Many

business concepts never get past this point because while they seem a good idea, once they are on paper with some numbers attached, it becomes apparent the idea can not support itself. If the idea still looks good, **STEP THREE** outlines obtaining financing and other resources and creating a timeline for project activities. Getting the word out, hiring staff, and actual operations take place in **STEP FOUR**. **STEP FIVE** consists of "on-going operations," managing the product, operating it again and again, improving and refining it.

The Rural Tourism Center can help you assess where you

are in the development process, help you pick up missed steps and assist in guiding your business the next step. Contact us for your copy of the "5 Step Development Process." As a joint venture of the Alaska Division of Tourism and Alaska Village Initiatives, the Rural Tourism Center has been helping businesses, communities and individuals since December 1995.

For information on this or any other topic or service relating to rural tourism development please contact the Rural Tourism Center at (800) 478-2332 or (907) 274-5400. Our fax number is 907-263-9971.

"It has recently been discovered that research causes cancer in rats." — Anonymous

Residents petition for road upgrade

About 30 "significant property holders and/or business persons in the McCarthy area" have signed a petition to Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner Joseph L. Perkins, asking for immediate action on the proposed McCarthy Road upgrade. The 1997 "Needs List" published by DOT listed the McCarthy Road project as priority one, "top scoring projects generally eligible for funding in next 4 years," and gave \$22 million as an estimated cost.

The petition reads as follows:

We are in agreement on the following points concerning the Chitina to McCarthy road. Accordingly, we request the DOT&PF begin immediate

efforts to achieve improvements along this transportation corridor.

1. Currently, the road is in poor driving condition. It has degenerated to the point where most rental car companies refuse to allow their vehicles to be used on the road. Other visitors are simply so frustrated by the hazards the road presents that they bypass the area. As a consequence, the economy of the area is stagnating and one of the earth's outstanding scenic wonders is a dormant and nonproductive visitor attraction.

2. Initiation of a two or three phase federal funded capital improvement program should be immediately implemented in order to upgrade the road.

3. We appreciate the DOT&PF's argument that continued motor grading of the road is extremely labor intensive. This concern, in light of Alaska's declining operating budget revenues, leads us to believe that a hard surface is necessary on the road. Hard surfacing should be programmed into the capital project.

4. The State of Alaska must move forward with this project independent of the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service involvement. The National Park Service apparently prefers to maintain the status quo of this road. Present Park Service planning relegates many visitors to Richardson Highway viewpoints and pullouts where they can only gaze upon the Wrangells from afar.

M.A.C. annual meeting

BY LILLY GOODMAN

Sixteen members of the McCarthy Area Council met Friday October 10 in Kennecott for their annual meeting. Looking back on the past year of hard work and cooperation, the council thanked Richard Villa for his successful organization of the annual Fourth of July events, and the many McCarthy area businesses who made them possible. Other MAC sponsored events for the year included a footbridge ribbon cutting ceremony and barbecue; a community potluck and slide show about gateway communities with Luther Probst from the Sonoran Institute; a meeting at the new Hostel with Kristen Smith and

other representatives from the Copper River Watershed project; and a potluck dinner and informative meeting with Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior Don Barry.

The council has exciting ideas in store for the future such as organizing a farmer's market or a crafts fair, and creating a community center. Current projects involve finishing up details with the aquifer protection study and communicating with the Department of Transportation, and the National Park Service over McCarthy Road improvement plans.

Lastly at the meeting, new officers and board members were elected. Howard Mozen will remain president until June

while Ed LaChapelle and Carly Kritchen will be co-vice presidents, Laura Bunnell and Meg Hunt co-secretaries, and Thea Agnew treasurer. Beginning in June, Carly Kritchen will assume the presidency for the remainder of Howard Mozen's term. Matt Hambrick, Richard Villa and Mark Vail were elected to the board of directors as new members.

The council invites and encourages all community members and other interested persons to attend meetings and contribute ideas. The next meeting will be held sometime in February. The exact date and location will be posted at the mail shack, and announced on KCHU radio.

Good News from the Wrangells

BY BONNIE KENYON

April 21, 1976, is a date I will always remember. It's the day my husband, Rick, our 9 year old son, Rick Jr. and I left our home in Sarasota, Florida, heading north to Alaska. Pulling a 29' travel trailer behind a Suburban, our first stop was Daytona Beach to say goodbye to my mom and family. We took our time reaching Michigan where we relaxed and enjoyed an extended visit with Rick's side of the family.

With mixed emotions the three of us said our farewells to all, and began our trip north on May 26. People often ask us if we had a job awaiting us at the "other end." We did not, nor did we know anyone to even ask. Before leaving Florida, however, we pored over an Alaskan map and sensed a leading to make Homer, Alaska, our first major stop.

On June 14 my family and I crossed the border into our new home state. I can tell by the numerous exclamation marks in my diary, we were 3 happy campers!

Four days later on a Friday afternoon we pulled into Homer, found a place to park our trailer and did some sightseeing. As Christians, the Bible (which I have heard referred to as the Christian's "owner's manual") encourages us to "walk by faith and not by sight." This best describes our position as we sought the Lord that weekend.

Sunday morning we

Part 3 "North to the future"

attended a church service. I regret not writing down the name of the church or the pastor. It was a small turnout that morning. The pastor came up to us afterwards, introduced himself and asked Rick what kind of work he did. "I'm an airplane mechanic by trade," answered Rick. The pastor's comment, "That's interesting," sent our spiritual antennas up as we fully expected the Lord to provide us with the next step.

In attendance that morning was a young man who was also an airplane mechanic, the pastor informed us, and who very seldom came to church. After we were introduced, the fellow asked Rick if he would consider accepting a job in Valdez. It seems the owner of a small commuter airlines had hired this particular young man as the company's mechanic, but when this man woke up that Sunday morning, he just knew he didn't want to take the position. Would Rick take his place, if the owner agreed? Rick said yes and we proceeded to contact the owner of the air taxi who graciously gave Rick the job.

We arrived in Valdez on June 22 and Rick started work for Kennedy Air Service the next day. Directly across the road from the hangar was a trailer park owned by the Kennedy family. We were given our own spot rent free. It was during the year we spent in Valdez that I saw the heart of my heavenly Father towards His children's everyday needs. One example really stands out in my mind.

At the time we lived in Valdez, there was only one laundromat and it was several miles away from us. Because Valdez was experiencing an influx of Alaska pipeline employees, most of the time I had to wait in line for washers and dryers. As I impatiently stood in line one particular day, the Lord spoke to my heart and suggested instead of complaining I should thank Him that there were washer and dryers available. There is a chorus we sing that says: In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. I did what He said. A short time later Mr. Kennedy asked me where I was doing my laundry and when I told him, he informed me I was NOT to go downtown but within a few yards from our trailer there was a building that contained a couple washers and dryers. He fully expected me to use them; there was no charge for their use and soap was included! The goodness of God my Father overwhelmed me that day and I was reminded of the struggle and subsequent victory I experienced when I finally relinquished my washer before leaving our home in Sarasota, Florida.

Today as I write this I have two washers and a dryer and I can truly testify that the God Who created the universe and the earth on which we live is a wonderful and gracious Heavenly Father. He says in the Gospel of Matthew His children are worth more to Him than the birds of the air and that He well knows what things you need in

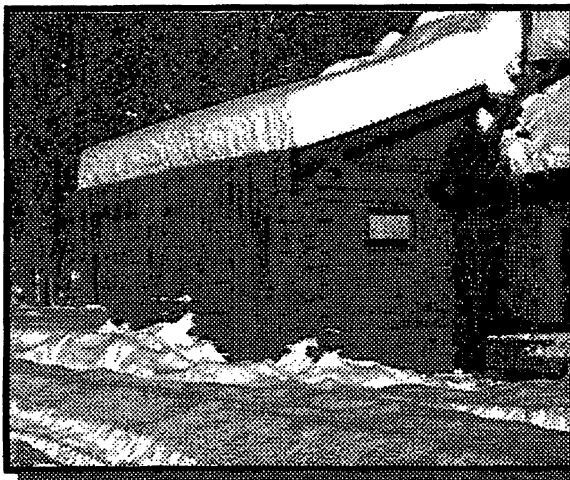
this life. Worry and anxiety are not necessary. Jesus tells us what our part is in receiving from our Father. "But seek for (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom, and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will

be given you besides. So do not worry or be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will have worries and anxieties of its own. Sufficient for each day is its own trouble." Matthew 6:33 & 34.

Editor's note: See the

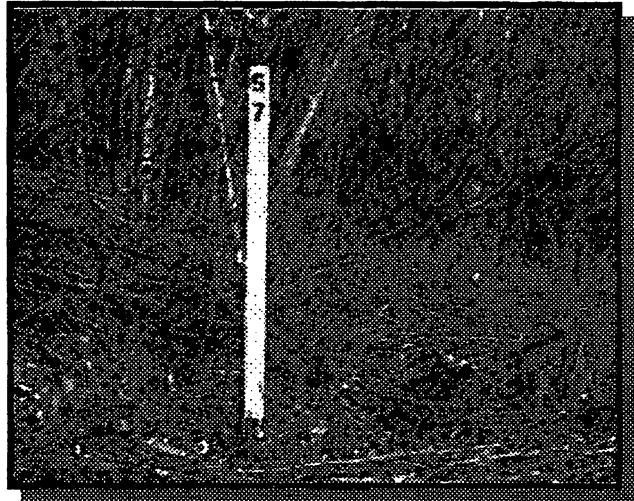
March/April 1997 issue for Part 1 and the July/August 1997 for Part 2.

Church services will be held at the Kenyon's cabin until spring, when we return to the new sanctuary. Starting time remains 10AM.



WSEN staff photo

Take 25" of snow, add some sunshine, and watch the icicles grow.



WSEN staff photo

The Department of Transportation put up these milepost markers in early October. Now you can more accurately report where the washouts are.

If you would win a man to your cause, first convince him that you are his sincere friend. Therein is a drop of honey that catches his heart, which, say what you will, is the great high-road to his reason, and which, when once gained, you will find but little trouble in convincing his judgment of the justice of your cause." — Abraham Lincoln

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OUR TOWN

November 1922 December

Sig Wold, who has been connected with the Kennecott Corporation for several months, has bought an interest with Roy Snyder in the Dodge Taxi Service

John Nickel has re-opened the barber shop in the Golden Hotel.

NIZINA PROJECT STARTS SOON

The Road Commission is expected here any day, according to Mr. Shipp. There will be about 200 tons of material hauled to the Nizina Bridge site in the next three months.

CHANGE OF MANAGEMENT

On and after this date, R. E. and L. M. Lander will assume active management of The McCarthy Weekly News. They will give the public all news in a clean and impartial manner. It is their intention to develop with the district, recording events in the cheerful manner of interested citizens.

R. E. Lander has been associated with firms Outside and is prepared to handle any commercial printing that is in demand.

The new managers will endeavor to give satisfaction to the reading public at all times.

Sunday School books will be here soon. Upon arrival services will be held as usual.

Nov. 4

A BIRTH-DAY

The News today prints its first issue of Volume 6.

Frank Cole wishes to thank all those who contributed so loyally to the

support of their paper in the past.

Oveid Violet who has been at The Mother Lode for some months left for Chitina on Tuesday's train. Mr. Violet reports that he has some very promising ground on the road to Fairbanks.

A bath is being added to the rooms above The Alaska Cafe.

The Northend local Condr. Shumacher as chief, made its first trip on the winter schedule Thursday. It is uncertain how often the train will tie up here for the night, but it will make at least six trips a week from Chitina to McCarthy.

Towns have an expression of personality! Woods, streams, and even mountains have a certain expression of individuality according to philosophers and poets. So why not towns. That great realist O. Henry has told us of the voices of great cities that fling their tentacles across the countryside, but no writer of note has never put the personality of a town on record. Towns like persons seem to confide in you. Some speak in a dreamy manner as tho they were old men sitting on cracker barrels and recalling the past. Others remind you of a young and boisterous kid, telling what he can do. While others, extend you a hospitality unequaled by the traditional Southern brand.

Such a town is McCarthy.

We are confident that a town with such an atmosphere of hopefulness

and tenacity of purpose can't help developing into a center of activities and becoming a junction of commerce.

The potentialities for better business are centered in this spot and in a short while progress will no longer be deferred!

We are soon to have better roads, which mean better modes of transportation: to one of the richest undeveloped mining districts in the world.

There will be many prospects and mines fully developed which means a larger population. This town being the logical center of activities we will enter into an area of prosperity that will be unequaled by any camp in the Territory.

The other night we saw a statement in a paper that a crab could lift 400 and some odd times his own weight. Now we're figuring on training a few of these crustaceans for freighting purposes.

R. L. H. Marshall has completed his warehouse near the depot. Emil Isaacson having the contract and finishing the work up in jig time.

The News has moved its plant this week. If anyone wishes to see us we are "at home" two doors up the street from the old location.

Nov. 11

**Thanksgiving
Poultry - FRESH
fryers and roasters.
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NEWSETTES

Mrs. Elizabeth Underwood left on Wednesday's train to catch the boat for Seattle. Mrs. Underwood will be missed by her numerous friends, but not for long, as she expects to return in the spring.

Nov. 18

TO CHANGE NAME OF DEPOT

Word was received at the commissioner's office this week that the C. R. & N. W. Would be glad to cooperate with the people of 'McCarthy' in changing the name of the town or station as the case might be.

After consulting most of the residents on the matter, a letter was forwarded on Wednesday's train to Mr. Caleb Corser expressing the wish that the name 'Shushanna Junction' be changed to that of McCarthy. This change will avoid much confusion in shipments that now exist.

LOCAL NEWS

According to information received by 'The News' from Kennecott, the 'Erie Mine' will be worked this winter. Some freight will be hauled in the near future by double enders and later by more efficient methods in case the ground warrants exploitation.

Chitina, Nov. 21st. Special to the News. Mrs. Griffith, who recently sold the Gulkana roadhouse, has leased the Chitina Hotel from Oscar S. Breedman with an option to purchase.

Mr. Breedman will take a two months vacation after the holidays and on his return will devote all his time to his interests in the Chitina Cash Store.

NEWSETTES

The Home Restaurant has been opened since Sunday and the genial proprietors Lou and Mrs. Anderton report a fine week's business considering the change of location.

As befits a first class place, The Home Restaurant is prepared to serve dinners 'en-famille' to their patrons. Mrs. Anderton announces that the new restaurant will specialize in Spanish and Chinese dishes.

The John Amber lot has been sold recently to John McCann of Kennecott.

Mr. Anderton and Lineneer are hauling a few logs for the Green Butte.

Nov. 25

LOCAL NEWS

Gus Carlson the well known miner, who is now employed at the Green Butte spent a few days in town this week. He reports that the temperature was 18 degrees above when he left camp. At McCarthy we had 28 degrees below the same day. Mr. Carlson returned to the mine, where he will be located until Christmas.

WELL-KNOWN MUSHER ARRIVES

Sid Johnston after an absence of two years rambled into town yesterday from Chisana. It took him ten days to make the trip out from Chisana. He arrived at the relief cabin one day ahead of Mike Knowles. Johnston states that the mail carrier was on mighty slim rations, having been sixteen days on the trail from McCarthy. Sid and his wife spent a busy summer prospecting on Pan

Creek over the line. Some of the ground is reported to be pretty fair, Sid and his wife taking out five hundred dollars in a short time by panning and shoveling in. Everybody is reported well in Chisana with the exception of Mrs. James who is suffering terribly with rheumatism. Mr. and Mrs. Johnston are located about forty miles up Pan Creek from Bonanza the nearest neighbor being Bill Wyers who recently killed a beautiful silver tip bear. Game is plentiful in the Pan Creek district and there is only enough game being killed to supply the wants of the prospectors. Sid will make the return trip after the mail from the Victoria arrives. Sid says that he will take any other odd letters when he goes back.

LOCAL NEWS

Old timers predict a cold winter. We do admit that the winter of 1917 was a little chilly but just because it has been 25 below zero the past few days, is no reason to get cold feet now. The weather is going to get warmer when the moon changes.

No idle men in town, the re opening of the Erie Mine taking most of those who came down recently from the Green Butte.

Dec. 9

Owing to illness we have been unable to do justice to this issue of the News: next week, however, the paper will be back to the usual standard.

Two cars of hay recently baled by Oscar Anderson at his ranch by Long Lake arrived here today. The shipment was consigned to local parties.

Dec. 16

NOTICE

The law requires, that in executing homestead

applications 1/8th of the land must be cultivated before patent is issued. If the applicant has not this much — he should ask that the area be reduced to the amount cultivated. Proper blanks for this purpose will be found in the Commissioner's office.

Dec. 23

Mrs. Lander and baby son are to arrive from Kennecott on Sunday's train. The youngest man in town is unable to speak for himself so he wishes to thank everyone for the fine Xmas presents that he received.

CHRISTMAS DOINGS AT MCCARTHY

An unusually excellent Xmas program was given at the McCarthy school last Saturday. The pupils and the grown ups fairly making things hum. There were several fine songs sung. One song entitled Once Unto the Shepherds sung by Mrs. O'Neill, Mariam Wells and Deanie O'Neill typified the true spirit of Christmas.

Other individual songs were: Christmas Tree Song by Deanie Marian. The recitations were fine and gave a fine touch to an enjoyable evening.

The title folks also entertained the big ones with a complete two act play entitled Santa's Volunteers which, in trouper's parlance went over big. Santa was good to all the folks and everyone says Christmas should come oftener.

AT KENNECOTT

There was an unusual amount of social activity during the Xmas Season. Saturday evening there was a dance which was very well attended. Sunday Mrs. Wilson entertained the Dr.

and Mrs. Mohr, and members of the staff house.

The Bills Club stood sponsor to Santa's visit, and everyone is saying that they were well remembered. The little folks especially.

Xmas afternoon there was a free matinee followed by dinner at the Mess Hall. In the evening there was a party at the Staff House.

Everyone says they intend to have Sig bring them to McCarthy for the Masque on the 30th.

MOVIE MAGNATES VISIT DISTRICT

Capt. Lathrop and ex-Senator Al Chamberland were passengers on Thursdays train to Kennecott.

Capt. Lathrop returned to Cordova the following day and Mr. Chamberlain stopped off to visit friends in the district for a short while.

Both gentlemen are prime movers in the Alaska Moving Picture Corporation, that has the studio in Anchorage. Mr. Chamberlain states that actual work on the first picture is to begin about May or June and that the stars are already under contract.

The plot of the picture is laid in the north and it is said to portray plenty of action.

According to the present schedule, a good many of the scenes will be taken in the Copper River Valley.

The approximate cost of the film will be \$75,000 against \$750,000 if it was faked in the states.

Furthermore, the directors are old timers and will have the scenes true to life in every respect.

Dec. 30

Mt. Drum's Southwest Ridge

BY DAVID HART

Judith Terpstra and I flew into the base of the Mt. Drum's Southwest Ridge (12,009') on Tuesday evening, June 10, 1997. Paul Claus of Ultima Thule Outfitters landed us on an unnamed 6,000 foot glacier after a thirty minute super cub flight from Chitina in the Wrangell Mountains.

By 7:00 PM we were snow shoeing up the glacier towards our ridge. It seemed strange to be placing wands on such a beautifully sunny evening; three days later we would appreciate our decision to do so. We would also come to understand why this ridge is aptly named the Hurricane Ridge. We reached our first camp at 8,000 feet by 9:00 PM.

The next morning was a dream come true - sunny and warm. We left camp at 10:00 AM and made quick progress up the wind swept ridge placing only one ice screw at a bulge at 9,800 feet. The route was straightforward, until we crested a rise at about 10,000 feet. Ahead, the horizontal ridge was narrow and corniced for a couple hundred yards. Near the end of this traverse, we had to drop off the ridge crest down a 50 degree snow gully for 100 feet, and then climb back up a 70 degree ice gully to regain the ridge. Here we found a perfect spot for our 10,200 foot high camp. By 1:30 PM we were digging in.

At this point our trip took a turn for the worse. A storm front had been slowly enveloping the larger peaks to the southeast. Mt. Blackburn had already disappeared, and Mt.

Wrangell was slowly being obscured. Snow flurries reached us later that afternoon. After dinner we listened to the Valdez and Glennallen weather forecasts on our tiny FM walkman. It was not good. Judith and I decided that if we were to have any chance of reaching the summit we would have to try it now. We packed a few things and left our high camp at 7:30 PM. By 9:00 PM we were climbing into the clouds and I could barely see Judith coming up behind me one rope length away. Half an hour later we reached 11,200 feet in increasingly deteriorating weather. Judith was a blur following up in my footsteps. I couldn't see a thing up or down. I had no idea which way to go. There was no question we had to turn around. An hour later we were back in camp.

It stormed all night long. Thursday morning we woke to more of the same. Our friends Dave Lucey and Paul Barry were due to be flown into base camp this morning. We were convinced that the weather would prevent this. To our amazement, later that afternoon we heard some whooping and hollering. Looking outside, we saw Dave and Paul appear out of the storm. They managed to land that morning, and follow our wands up to high camp. Quite a feat in the wind and snow. Paul said they couldn't have even left base camp without our wands to follow.

Now we were four.

By Friday afternoon it was apparent that the weather was not going to break, so Judith and I packed up camp and headed back to base camp. Paul Claus was due to pick us up in the morning. Even with wands leading the way back to base camp, it was a struggle to stay on the route. Visibility was terrible. We considered holing up a few times on the descent, but each time convinced ourselves to push on a bit further. Finally, we broke out of the clouds right above base camp. Whew, what a relief.

The next morning the winds had settled down a bit, but were coming in gusts. Paul Claus appeared around noon and flew us back to Chitina. We were disappointed that we didn't summit but the two days of climbing we did enjoy were tremendous. This route is not very difficult, yet steep enough to be interesting the entire way.

We were happy to learn that Dave and Paul summited this same day in terrible conditions. They were flown off two days later.

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Picture Journeys in Alaska's Wrangell-St. Elias, America's Largest National Park

Alaska Northwest Books, 1997, \$35.95 Limited Edition Hardbound; \$24.95 Softbound

BY BONNIE KENYON

As a professional photographer, your work is likely to take you to many places in the world. Which setting will capture your heart and motivate you to return year after year? George Herben, whose photographs have appeared in magazines such as *National Geographic*, *Life*, *U. S. News and World Report*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, *Smithsonian*, and *National Wildlife*, is quick to tell you he found his favorite landscape in the Wrangell and St. Elias mountain ranges.

Curiosity about the abandoned Kennecott Copper Mine and town first brought Herben to the Wrangells as a young man in 1954. Since then he has viewed and preserved those images for those of us who came to this region later and for those who, perhaps, can never travel to such remote places as is found in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

George's 128-page book is a pictorial collection of his journeys through what has eventually become the nation's largest park. In spite of the fact this park has been designated a World Heritage Site by the United Nations, relatively few people have seen the wonders that have earned these distinctions. In *Picture Journeys in Alaska's Wrangell-St. Elias*, you can journey through a part of Alaska that is only accessible by bush plane or on foot. George's 94 color photographs offer breathtaking views of towering peaks, an overwhelming variety of curving rock and ice glaciers in sunny and stormy weather. Most of the scenes are shot from the air with an occasional

landing for an up-close look. The small community of McCarthy just 5 miles down the hill from Kennecott serves as George's base for his numerous, adventure-packed flights into the backcountry with local pilot Gary Green.

"We were flying at 8,000 feet, staying well above the glacier, which forms the bottom of the cirque at about 6,000 feet. Towering above us at elevations ranging from 11,000 to more than 14,000 feet were ridges and minarets of rock and snow...Spires of granite towered over us as we turned in slow circles through a dazzling world of white, blue, and gray. Most stupendous of all was University Peak, a 14,470-foot cone of 55-degree ice jammed against the sky, so close to us and so high above that Gary had to bank the plane sharply to give us a view of the top."

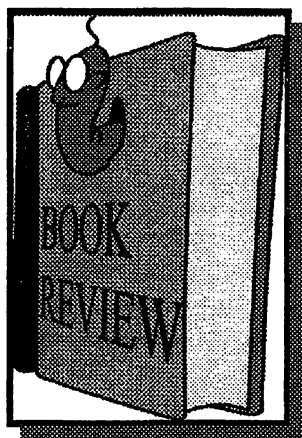
For those who desire a glimpse into the past 40 years of McCarthy and Kennicott's history, you will enjoy reading George's description of what he saw when he first laid eyes on this area in 1954 and the changes he sees as he continues his visits to date. Although I greatly respect George's expertise on capturing the beauty of this place I, too, call home, I find his emphasis on pro-environmental issues somewhat overwhelming for my taste. For example, on pages 70

and 71 of the final segment of the book called *Wrangell-St. Elias The View Ahead*, George laments the rate at which humankind can alter its habitat. "We are the only animal who can do this, and we are forever honing our talents." Personally, I do not see myself as an animal but as a human being created in the image of God, our Creator. In the next paragraph George continues, "I see this park as a

place set aside and protected from human depredation, where we can experience solitude and silence and beauty, where instead of overwhelming nature, we can be overwhelmed." Protected? I never saw the bulldozers poised ready to destroy this area as was purported in 1980 when this

area was set aside for "protection." Instead, the spotlight was turned on this area, visitors began coming and 17 years later our "protectors" finally built 3 outhouses for our guests. Whereas I am thankful for the facilities the National Park Service has built this year, I don't recall seeing the woods along the roadside littered with toilet paper *before* this was made a park. They are now.

If you agree with his philosophy, you will want this book on your shelf. Like me, even if you don't, you will still enjoy George's recap of history and his expert photography to share with friends and family.



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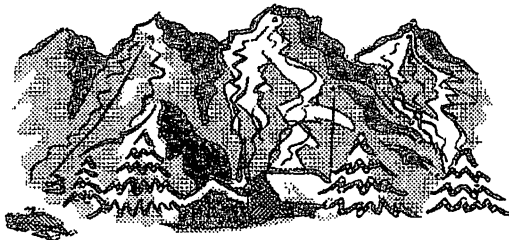
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The "Free the Chickens" Campaign was a success, says Dave Hollis, who is seen here releasing Jeannie Miller's penned-up critters. It appears Jeannie bowed to the pressure Hollis and his fellow van drivers exerted on behalf of the van's numerous Kennicott sightseers and, of course, the flock in question. Tom Turkey leads the way of escape — a Labor Day celebration that community residents and visitors alike can look back on with a smile!



photos courtesy Dave Hollis

The once free-ranging chickens are once again ranging free. So free, says Jeannie, that there are chickens running around all over the place. Having moved out of the chicken quarters, they are now roosting in nearby trees. Freedom for Tom must have been too much, however. A deceased Tom was found three days later after leading his relates to freedom.

Santa and the F.A.A.

Santa Claus, like all pilots, gets regular visits from the Federal Aviation Administration, and it was shortly before Christmas when the FAA examiner arrived. In preparation, Santa had the elves wash the sled and bathe all the reindeer. Santa got his logbooks out and made sure all his paperwork was in order. The examiner walked slowly around the sled. He checked the

reindeer harnesses, the landing gear, and Rudolf's nose. He painstakingly reviewed Santa's weight and balance calculations for the sled's enormous payload. Finally, they were ready for the checkride. Santa got in and fastened his seatbelt and shoulder harness and checked the compass. Then the examiner hopped in carrying, to Santa's surprise, a shotgun. "What's that for?" asked Santa



incredulously. The examiner winked and said, "I'm not supposed to tell you this, but you're gonna lose an engine on takeoff."

Submitted by Chuck LaPage

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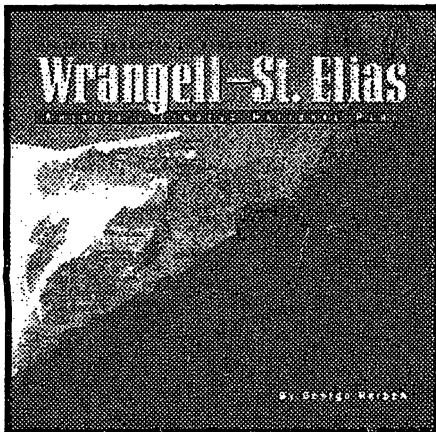
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Picture Journeys in Alaska's Wrangell-St. Elias America's Largest National Park



By George Herben
ISBN 0-88240-490-3, 128 pages
\$24.95 Softbound, \$35.95 Hardbound

"Much more than a book of beautiful outdoor photographs, this is a personal account of one talented man's 40-year love affair with a place." — The Oregonian

"The photos offer breathtaking views...Most of the scenes are shot from the air...on flights that were adventures in themselves." — Wisconsin Bookwatch

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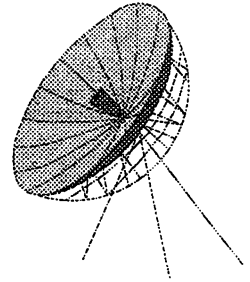
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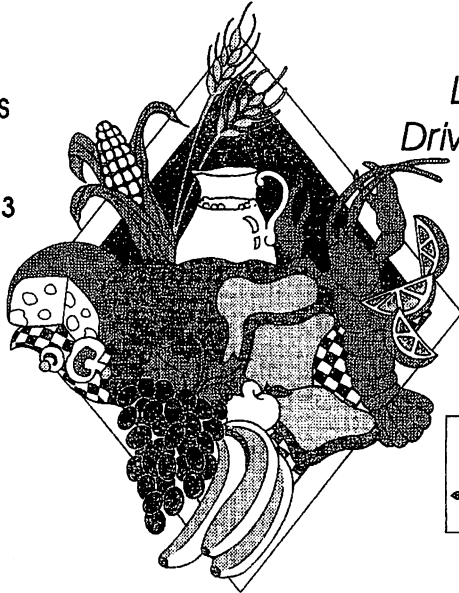
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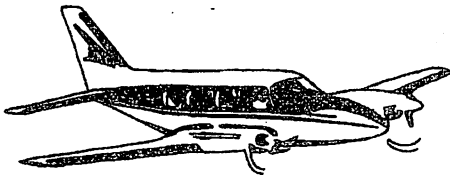
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Cooking with Carly

BY CARLY KRITCHEN

A few years ago I read an article written by a gardener in the Fairbanks area who was a prolific pumpkin grower. I've tried every year since then to grow pumpkins, but I can't say that I've had much success trying to grow them outside, even using several different methods of protecting them from our surprise frosts. I do grow a few of them each year in the greenhouse, but it's still my dream to look out my kitchen window and see pumpkins in my own pumpkin patch!

I like to bake a pumpkin or two in the oven, and freeze the pulp for later use. It's very easy to do. Just cut a clean pumpkin with the seeds scraped out into medium size chunks, place skin side up on a lightly oiled cookie sheet, and bake in a 325 degree oven until you can pierce the skin with a fork. Let cool, then scrape the pulp off of the skin, clean the stringy parts out, then mash the pulp and freeze in plastic containers for later use. Don't throw the seeds away! Clean them, then bake them on an oiled cookie sheet at 250 degrees for about one hour. Or, bake for about 30 minutes, then brush with an equal mix of soy sauce and garlic, and continue baking for another 30 minutes. What a treat for a cold autumn night!

Although most of us think of pumpkins as the main ingredients for desserts, this soup is really delicious and different. I think I got this recipe from my friend Libby, who served this soup at the Powder

House restaurant in Cordova.

Pumpkin Parmesan Soup

- 1 ½ to 2 pounds pumpkin, seeded and cut into chunks
- 3 large baking potatoes
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 2 cups water
- 1 sprig rosemary, or ½ tsp. dried
- ½ cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- 3 tablespoon dry Marsala wine
- ¼ tsp. ground pepper
- ¼ tsp. nutmeg
- salt and pepper to taste

In a large saucepan, combine pumpkin, potatoes, onion, broth, water and rosemary. Bring the mixture to a boil, reduce the heat, cover and simmer for about 30 minutes or until the pumpkin is tender. Discard the rosemary sprig, if you used one. Allow the soup to cool enough to peel the pumpkin. Puree the soup in a blender, or mash with a potato masher. Return the puree to the saucepan, then heat soup to a simmer. Add the Parmesan cheese, wine, pepper, and nutmeg. Serves about eight.

This is one of the best pumpkin cakes I've ever tasted. It's from the Oregon Wheat Growers League, and although it's made as a layer cake, it also makes a good sheet cake in a 9 x 13 pan.

Pumpkin Cake

- ½ cup shortening
- 1 ¼ cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 ¼ cups flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. baking soda

- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. nutmeg
- ½ tsp. ginger
- 1 cup cooked pumpkin
- ½ cup milk

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Beat shortening and sugar until fluffy; blend in eggs.

Sift together flour, baking powder, salt, baking soda, and spices. Add dry ingredients alternately with combined pumpkin and milk. Spoon into two greased and floured 8-inch cake pans. Bake 30 to 35 minutes or until cake tests done. Cool 10 minutes; then remove from pans. Cool completely before frosting.

Cream Cheese Frosting

- ½ cup butter
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 3 ounces cream cheese
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 pound powdered sugar

Combine melted butter and cream cheese and blend. Add sugar, salt and vanilla, then beat again. If the mixture is too thick, add a little milk and beat again. (I usually double this recipe for really thick frosting!)

If you like chocolate, you'll like this recipe! The combination of the pumpkin and chocolate flavors is really different. The recipe makes three loaves, and they look pretty enough to give away as gifts!

Chocolate Pumpkin Bread

- 2 ½ cups white flour
- 2 ½ cups whole wheat flour
- 4 cups sugar
- ¾ cup vegetable oil
- ¼ cup low-fat milk
- 3 cups cooked pumpkin
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. cloves

3 teaspoon baking soda
2 cups chocolate chips
1 cup chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly oil three loaf pans. Combine the flour, sugar, oil, milk, pumpkin salt, cinnamon, cloves and baking soda in a large bowl. Stir until well blended. Stir in the chocolate chips and nuts. Pour batter into the loaf pans evenly, then bake for 65 to 70 minutes. Cool slightly before removing from pans.

These cookies have a cake-like texture.

Pumpkin Orange Cookies

2 ½ cups flour
½ tsp. baking soda
½ tsp. salt
1 cup butter
1 cup sugar
½ cup packed brown sugar
1 egg
1 ¼ cups cooked pumpkin
2 tablespoon orange juice
1 tsp. grated orange peel
1 ½ cup chopped walnuts

Combine flour, baking soda and salt in a medium bowl. Beat the butter and sugars in a large

bowl until fluffy. Add egg, pumpkin, orange juice and peel; beat until combined. Beat in flour mixture and nuts. Drop dough by rounded Tbsp. onto an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for 12 to 14 minutes. Let cookies cool, then frost with Orange Glaze. Makes about 4 dozen.

Orange Glaze

1 ½ cups sifted powdered sugar
2 Tbsp. orange juice
½ tsp. grated orange peel

Combine ingredients until smooth. Spread about ½ tsp. on each cookie.

A LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

August 1997 was warm and cloudy with well above average precipitation. There were 9 days when the high temperature reached 70 or above and 5 days when it only made it into the 50's.

The high temperature for the month was 78 on the 4th (74 on Aug. 16, '96 and 73 on Aug. 11, '95).

The first freeze was on the 15th as the temperature fell to 31, this was only for a short time and most of the garden plants were spared. There were 7 days when the low was 32 or below and the low temperature for the month was 29 on the 20th, 26th and 29th (28 on Aug. 8, '96 and Aug 22, '95). The average monthly temperature at McCarthy was 53.3 compared to 50.5 in Aug. '96, 51.8 in Aug. '95 and 56.2 in Aug. '94). *Silver Lake had a high temperature of 80 on 5th (74 on Aug. 16, '96 and 73 on Aug. 22, '95). The low temperature at Silver Lake was 33 on the 29th and 30th (33 on Aug. 28, '96 and 32 on Aug. 22,*

'95). *The Silver Lake average temperature was 55.7 (51.9 in Aug. '96, 52.9 in Aug. '95 and 58.7 in Aug. '94).*

The August precipitation at McCarthy was high with 4.02 inches compared with 2.30 inches in Aug. '96 and 1.43 inches in Aug. '95. There were 20 days with a trace or more of rainfall recorded. *The precipitation at Silver Lake was lighter with only 2.74 inches recorded (1.57 in Aug. '96 and 2.61 in Aug. '95). There were 13 days at Silver Lake with a trace or more recorded.*

September 1997 was another average September in both temperature and precipitation. The high temperature at McCarthy was 70 on the 4th (69 on Sept. 4, '96 and 70 on Sept. 20, '95). The low temperature was 12 on the 30th (8 on Sept. 30, '96 and 25 on Sept. 28, '95). There were 5 days with 20 or below and 9 days with the low above 32. The average monthly temperature at McCarthy was 44.1 (40.2 in Sept. '96 and 48.0 in Sept. '95). This was 10

degrees warmer than the record 34.3 of September 1992. *The high at Silver Lake was 69 on the 4th (70 on Sept. 5, '96 and 71 on Sept. 21, '95). The Silver Lake low was 18 on the 30th (15 on Sept. 30, '96 and 30 on Sept. 28, '95). The average temperature at Silver Lake was 45.8 (42.0 in Sept. '96 and 49.5 in Sept. '95).*

There was no snow observed at McCarthy in September and the total precipitation was 1.83 inches. This compares with the 1.26 inches in Sept. '96 and 4.32 inches in Sept. '95. There were 14 days with measurable rainfall.

Silver Lake had only 1.07 inches (1.26 inches in Sept. '96 and 2.44 inches in Sept. '95). There were only 4 days of measurable rainfall recorded at Silver Lake for the month.

The first 10 days of October were a continuation of the cool and sunny days of late September. The first snow was recorded on the 14th and 15th with 10 inches on the ground. The lowest temperature has been -9 on the 13th. Winter has arrived.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

BY BONNIE KENYON

Towns, like persons, seem to confide in you. Some speak in a dreamy manner as though they were old men sitting on cracker barrels and recalling the past. Others remind you of a young and boisterous kid, telling what he can do. While others extend you a hospitality unequalled by the traditional southern brand. Such a town is McCarthy," wrote R. E. Lander, editor of the McCarthy Weekly News in his November 4, 1922, issue.

It is nearly 75 years later and our town is still speaking. I asked myself, "What are we saying and what are others hearing and seeing?" While it is true many write glowing reports of the beauty they see in this area, there are others who see something else. One journalist, after a recent visit, described frequent parties where alcohol flowed freely. (He even coined a new phrase, "red-neck hippy.") Other party-goers have admitted that illegal drug use is common at these affairs. Is this the kind of hospitality we want to exhibit to those who come to experience the rich history of this place and to take home a part of our present lifestyle? I don't think so.

Alaska's Governor Tony Knowles has proclaimed October 23-31 as Alaska Red Ribbon Celebration Week — a time for all Alaskans to join together and demonstrate their commitment to healthy, drug-free lifestyles by wearing and displaying red ribbons. The "97" Red Ribbon theme is "I've Got Better Things To Do Than Drugs."

Communities across the state and nation are coming

together to hold anti-drug rallies, parades, community meetings and school events to raise awareness about the threats drugs pose to our communities.

At the time the above information came to my attention, we were experiencing a major snowfall (25" on the ground so far and it is still snowing) so holding a parade was out! Calling for a community meeting was another near impossibility due to the hardship of traveling back and forth in these conditions. I decided to take the time and space in our publication to share my thoughts and invoke my community to awareness of potential dangers to our rural lifestyle and economic growth by the infiltration of a known enemy called drug abuse.

Although the number of year round residents isn't changing much from when I first moved to McCarthy in 1978, (it is still approximately 40) the summer population explodes. Just before starting this article, I talked to one of our local business owners. Could questions be posed to job applicants concerning drug use? I asked. It was this person's understanding that they could not ask about a person's use of legal substances (for example, alcohol), but could ask about a potential employee's use of illegal drugs. Most people will not readily admit to using an illegal substance, but if it is discovered later that the person lied on their application, this would be a legitimate reason to terminate the individual.

A recent study found that of the domestic violence incidences

police responded to, 94% of the assailants and 43% of the victims had used alcohol and/or other drugs in the six hours prior to the assault. Since the nearest state trooper is located 125 miles away, crime due to substance abuse is something McCarthy can do without.

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services reports that alcohol is implicated in nearly half of all deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes and fatal intentional injuries such as suicides and homicides; and victims are intoxicated in approximately one-third of all homicides, drownings and boating deaths. With the poor conditions of our local roads, we certainly don't need people driving under the influence of any mind-altering substance!

I believe our community stands at a crossroad concerning its future. Some may look at issues like bridges or upgraded roads as our "enemies," but I say let's look in our own homes, our backyards, and in our own businesses for the real enemy. Substance abuse destroys individuals, families and income. It degrades and tears down what we as a community are attempting to build up. I ask you who call Kennicott and McCarthy "home" to decide today what you want your town to say to others tomorrow.

Business leaders, you can make a difference in our future by the decisions you make today.

Nearly a dozen of you regularly hire seasonal help every summer. I realize it is hard to regulate what your employees do on their own time but could I suggest that we all take a

hardline stand against the use of illegal drugs in our community. We can discourage it from the beginning by questioning tentative employees. If we find out later they have lied to us on their applications, have the courage to take a stand and let them go. I believe we all have a responsibility to our community's present and future growth and the quality of life in our town.

I quote from B. C. Forbes in the October 20, 1997, issue of Forbes magazine:

"Admittedly, certain American cities are infested with political corruption. Graft is rampant, usually under cover, sometimes flagrant. All classes know it exists; it is common talk. Yet in how many cities do

the business leaders feel that they are in the slightest degree blameable? A second-generation Bostonian of wealth once complained bitterly to me that too many [business people] failed to discharge their social obligations, failed to realize that their positions also carried responsibilities. Modern business will prove short-sighted if it fails to discharge its social obligations."

If it is true that towns have an expression of personality, what do the communities of Kennicott and McCarthy express to the outside world? What do we speak to them? Maybe what I should ask is, what do we want to speak and deposit in others? Do our actions say, "We extend a welcome hand, we care about

you; we give you our best." Or do we show ourselves unfriendly — with our hands out only to collect their hard-earned money, quick to party and turn our backs on known destructive and degrading activities? Substance abuse, whether legal or illegal, degrades and creates a false front to those who deserve better from us, better from our communities, and better from those who represent us in our places of business.

Let's decide to stand together against an enemy that is known to kill, steal and destroy. Let each of us take up the "97" Red Ribbon theme and say to each other and to our visitors of tomorrow, "I've Got Better Things To Do Than Drugs."

What's making that odor?

How much does an outhouse cost?

BY RICK KENYON

Although there is a lot of talk about "rural sanitation" these days, the old tried-and-true outhouse is still the mainstay for areas without running water or electricity. Today's question is, how much cash does it take to build one of these facilities?

Well, it seems it depends on who you are, and where you are. (And maybe, how you do your accounting?) Take the two facilities on the east side of the Kennicott River, financed by the University of Alaska, and built by local talent. The reported cost of these two units was about \$10,000, or \$5,000 each.

Then there are the National Park Service built restrooms — two on the west side of the

Kennicott River, and one on the east side, near the Museum. Those of you who were in town last year probably heard the rumor going around that the privy by the museum cost the taxpayers \$40,000. I called John Jarvis, who is the Superintendent here at WRST, and told him of the rumor. He just laughed, and said that was funny. When pressed for a more accurate figure, he told me that all three NPS outhouses were built for a total cost of about \$3,000, or \$1,000 each. (Honest, that's what he said.)

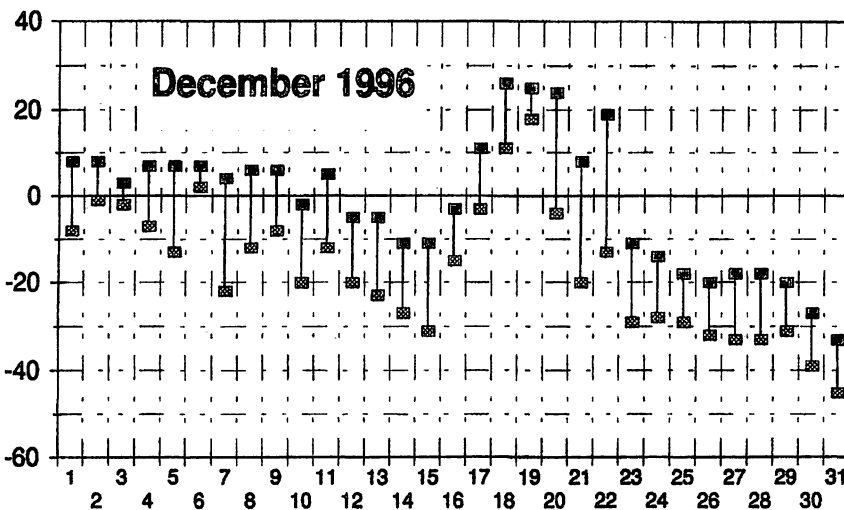
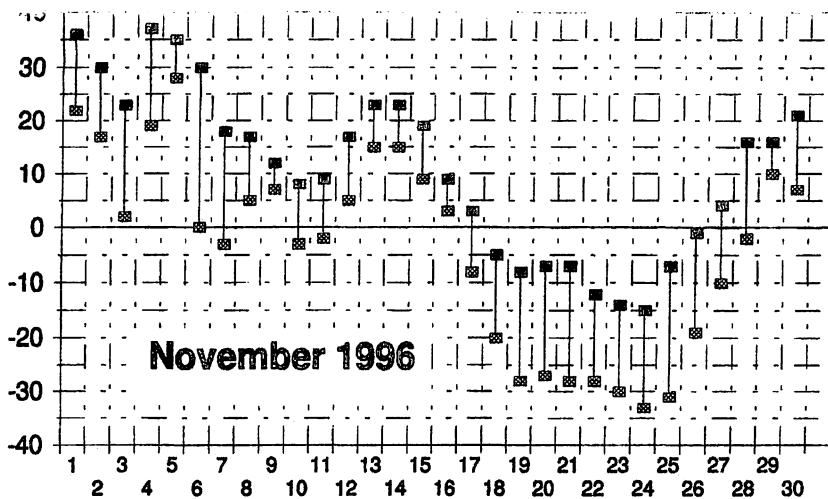
Contrast that with the following: This past week one of our subscribers sent an article from the Anchorage Daily News telling of a two-holer in a national park in Pennsylvania

that must surely set the record for elaborate privies. A gabled roof made of slate shipped in from Vermont, capstones that serve as porch railings that are quarried Indiana limestone, and certified Joe Pye Weed seed at \$720 a pound (for the landscaping) helped put the cost of this beauty at (you might want to sit down for this) a whopping \$333,000. It took more than a dozen Park Service designers, architects and engineers two years to figure out how to spend that much of your money on a two-hole outhouse that is locked up during the winter and has no water in the summer.

So, whether the nice facility in McCarthy cost \$1,000 or \$40,000, it sounds like a bargain to me!

Weather - What can we expect?

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WIND CHILL TEMPERATURE CHART

| Wind MPH | Temperature in Degrees Fahrenheit | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| | 35 | 30 | 25 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 0 | -5 | -10 | -15 | -20 | -25 | -30 | -35 | -40 |
| calm | 35 | 30 | 25 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 0 | -5 | -10 | -15 | -20 | -25 | -30 | -35 | -40 |
| 5 | 30 | 25 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 0 | -5 | -10 | -15 | -20 | -25 | -30 | -35 | -40 | -45 |
| 10 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 0 | -10 | -15 | -20 | -25 | -30 | -35 | -40 | -45 | -50 | -55 | -60 |
| 15 | 15 | 10 | 10 | -5 | -10 | -20 | -25 | -30 | -40 | -45 | -50 | -60 | -65 | -70 | -80 | -85 |
| 20 | 10 | 5 | 0 | -10 | -15 | -25 | -30 | -35 | -45 | -50 | -60 | -65 | -75 | -80 | -85 | -95 |
| 25 | 10 | 0 | 0 | -15 | -20 | -30 | -35 | -45 | -50 | -60 | -65 | -75 | -80 | -90 | -95 | -105 |
| 30 | 5 | 0 | -5 | -20 | -25 | -35 | -40 | -50 | -55 | -65 | -70 | -80 | -85 | -95 | -100 | -110 |
| 35 | 5 | -5 | -5 | -20 | -30 | -35 | -40 | -50 | -60 | -65 | -75 | -80 | -90 | -100 | -105 | -115 |
| 40 | 0 | -5 | -10 | -20 | -30 | -35 | -45 | -55 | -60 | -70 | -75 | -85 | -95 | -100 | -110 | -115 |

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