

Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Volume Fourteen Issue Six

November & December 2005

Two Dollars

The dark
side of
Robert
Hale



Story page 6

Photo courtesy Marc Lester/Anchorage Daily News

Local resident suffers serious fall Page 12

It's breadmaking time in McCarthy! Page 11

Do you have your real property properly recorded? Page 13

Christian Radio comes to McCarthy Page 16

Dan Creek in 1913 Page 21

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

As I sat down to write "A note" last year around this time, we already had 8 inches of snow on the ground and were experiencing the sure signs of winter. This year I am pleased to report there is no snow on the ground and the temperatures are in the 20s and 30s. In fact, on October 18th the maximum temperature rose to 50 degrees! Those of us who still remain for the winter are trying to make wise use of the extended grace period. With the help of Kenicott neighbor, Mike Monroe, Rick was able to finish a mini-storage building and a new wood shed. There was even extra time for a massive fall clean-up in our garage.

If you are a *WSEN* subscriber, live in California, have moved recently and DID NOT receive your September/October issue, please let me know. Most of our readers who move let me know right away, so I can make the changes before an issue is mailed and your subscription is not interrupted. Otherwise the post office tears off the back page that contains the old address and stamps it with the new, sends it to me and charges me 70 cents. I then have to replace that copy with one going to your new address. Since the last issue I received a torn cover instead of the back page of a September/October issue. I have no way of knowing who is missing that

issue, so please let me know if you meet the description!

This issue of *WSEN* can be described as one of the most challenging (and heartbreaking) for Rick and me—the main source of that challenge being the lead story, "The dark side of Robert Hale." Our desire is to write and print the truth, but do so tempered with grace.

On September 26 Rick and I were informed of the felony charges against Robert Hale (Pilgrim) as reported by the Alaska Bureau of Investigation. The next day we became aware of the details of the Indictment by the Palmer grand jury of September 22. I cannot effectively describe the shock of discovering the extent of abuse this family—our neighbors—had endured from the hand of someone who should have been their devout protector. The dark side of Robert Hale has certainly come to the light and by those who know him best.

Since the family's arrival in our community in January 2002 until the summer of 2004, our growing relationship with the "Pilgrim family" was warm and trusting. Although Rick and I didn't always agree with some of Pilgrim's stand on issues, both sides were able to tolerate the differences. But, when Rick confronted Pilgrim on a community issue, we quickly experienced his wrath and had a glimpse of the dark side of this man we thought we knew. A definite break in our previ-

ous relationship with the family took place and remained until recently when the older children apologized and asked our forgiveness.

Due to the fact this publication has covered a great amount of "Pilgrim family" news, some of our readers have called and asked how we feel about the latest controversy surrounding this family. I cannot help but think of a letter written by a lady unknown to us by the name of Sandra Forman of Wasilla. She wrote a letter to the editor that was published in the *Anchorage Daily News* on October 8 that best voices my heart and that of Rick's. Here are a few excerpts: "I read the story about Papa Pilgrim with both joy and sadness. Joy because the children are finally getting help. Sadness because I know how painful this must be for them... I am grateful that the troopers are involved and are protecting these children. I hope everyone close to this family will do all they can to help these kids integrate into society and help them heal... I would like to tell the "daughter" who made the report how proud I am of her, and that she did the right thing. Don't look back; life gets better."

WSEN welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Erich Eiselt, MD; Cathleen Anderson, AK; Charles and Sarah Yates, MO; Daniel Maclean, AK; Rich and Gloria Reid, CA; Jim Chapman, AK; Ellen Jorgensen, NY.

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Contributors to this issue: Ken Smith, Peggy Guntis, George Cebula, Don Welty, René Welty, Lynn Welty and Ned Rozell.

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Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Kevin Smith: Once it is time to begin "Items of Interest" my search begins in earnest to find willing "items." Some people in our town enjoy their privacy and I respect that and try to accommodate them. When Kevin stopped over yesterday morning before mail, Rick and I questioned him as to his winter plans. It is always interesting to us what our neighbors do for fun (or work) in the winter months. For the most part, local job opportunities are for the summer season only.

Kevin is our neighbor just down the road a piece. He works the summer months for Kennicott Wilderness Guides which is located in Kennicott. When I asked him if I could share his winter plans with you, Kevin graciously agreed.

South America – Argentina, to be more exact – is Kevin's winter destination. He plans on leaving the McCarthy area soon and spending at least a month working with a friend (who also worked as a guide with Kevin this summer) guiding mountain trips on the tallest mountain in South America. He then will return to our country and travel to the Cape Cod area to visit his family.

South America experiences its summer season during our winter so he can be assured of plenty of sunshine and warmth. We can think about Kevin this winter when our temperatures take a dive into the sub-zero figures! According to Kevin, several other summer workers from our area plan on visiting Argentina so that must be the hot spot for this year. Have a great trip, Kevin!

Don, Lynn and René Welty: Speaking of trips... daughter René just returned from one. René's travels took her to the state of Maine where she, along with 6 other high school students, canoed down the Allagash River. Three teachers from Alaska's Chugach School District led the way – aptly put because the program is titled, "Voyage to Excellence Student Leadership Committee."

Rene said she had a great time. A highlight was the day the group spent in Boston. They visited a fine arts museum, the Harvard College campus and Harvard Square and took in some of the historical parts of the big city. I think cobblestone streets are a far cry from our McCarthy Road!

Lynn's job with the Park Ser-



WSEN staff photo

Don Welty hard at work on Rowcon shop project.

vice has come to a close for the season so she is able to concentrate on harvesting the garden. She has also donned her "teacher's hat" and René has begun her school work.

Don is more-than-busy working for Rowcon Services on their new shop project.

Lynn informs me that the Welty family has grown in size since the last item of interest was printed. Their chicken flock is now 9 in number. When the Collin's family left Long Lake this fall, they deeded over their 4 layers. In fact I can testify to the great quality of eggs produced from the crew, because René brought me a dozen the other day when she came by to use the Internet.

Another addition is "Lady," a border collie who has come to make her home with the Weltys. A friend from Fairbanks who raises border collies introduced the 5 month old pup to her new owners. Dave Persón, also of Fairbanks and a land owner in McCarthy, transported Lady to her new home.

Lynn says the chickens are not quite sure how to take Lady who seems to thoroughly enjoy herding the flock and sending them flying back to their coop!

The Rowland family: The Rowlands live down (or up) the road from the Weltys. Keith and Laurie have their hands full keeping hungry mouths filled. I don't mean just the 5 growing Rowland children, either. Recently they, too, acquired a flock of chickens – 31, to be exact. I hear the critters are having a hay day finding interesting places to roost. The other day Keith, on his way to Rowcon's new shop, made his way down the hill on his way to work. Nothing seemed unusual until he arrived at the site. Hearing clucking noises, he assumed Don Welty was jokingly making fun of him in his new farmer image. However, he soon realized the chicken sounds were coming from the undercarriage of his truck. It seems two of the

chickens went to work with Keith, says Laurie; one didn't make it there alive but the other survived the ordeal!

School is in full swing for Kaleb, grade 6; David, 6th; Daniel and Hannah, grade 5, and Jubal, first grade. Anna Wallin has returned as teacher's helper—Laurie's right hand. When I called the Rowland house this afternoon, I found out that the instructors had held a Pioneer Craft class for Hannah and Jubal earlier in the day, silhouette and splatter painting. Hannah is eagerly looking forward to the braided rag rug class, says Laurie.

Neil Darish: Neil tells me that McCarthy Lodge is in winter mode now. That means you need to plan ahead if you want to enjoy the benefits the lodge offers. Friday is "the" day and will be for the winter season. Noon to 5 pm all patrons can take advantage of the lodge's services such as showers, Internet service and laundry. If there is enough interest, he hopes to provide Friday night meals which will be served from 6 pm to 8 pm.

Neil informed me he will not be renting any rooms in the hotel this winter. He has successfully shut that portion of the business down until spring. I suspect Neil just might take a leisurely nap and maybe even read a few good books.

Sure hope you don't get bored, Neil!

Ralph, Merle, Bob and Tyee Lohse: These four Lohse men came for a visit during the first week in October. A fresh pot of coffee was in order. It didn't take long for Rick and the men to circle the kitchen table, find a seat and make good headway on the coffee. This was the first time that Ralph brought two of his brothers to visit. Rick and I have known Bob and his wife, Loni, every since we arrived at Long Lake in 1977. (They now live at Lower Tonsina.) In fact, if I recall correctly, Bob, Loni, Ralph and Linda were all at Long Lake that winter. We learned a lot from these wonderful folks.

Merle is another Lohse brother who we first met in early October. Merle is a retired police officer from Apple Valley, MN.

Of course, most of our readers recognize Tyee's name as he is Ralph and Linda's oldest son and often appears in the Items column.

Jim Kreblin: Just down the road from the Lohse's home is Jim's cabin on Long Lake. Jim's summer job with the Park Service ended 3 weeks ago, but his construction work didn't come to a close. His home project is to raise his cabin 2 feet and build a lower

level underneath the existing building. Jim refers to it as his "hi-rise" construction project. He called on his neighbor, Mark, up the road (Lohses are down the road and Mark Vail is up the road) to help him dig out from underneath the cabin so a new foundation can go in. That turned out to be a sticky job, says Jim, because they ended up digging into clay instead of normal soil. However, he is glad to report that part of the job is done. Now some real construction can begin. Another neighbor, Adam Tschappat, who also lives on the lake will help Jim raise the cabin.

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation	
For the month ending 11/30/05	
1. Total number of copies (net press run)	10,000
2. Total number of copies distributed	8,000
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4. Total number of copies of this publication	10,000
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Statement of Financial Condition	
For the month ending 11/30/05	
1. Total assets	10,000
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3. Total equity	2,000
4. Total assets	10,000
5. Total liabilities	8,000
6. Total equity	2,000
7. Total assets	10,000
8. Total liabilities	8,000
9. Total equity	2,000
10. Total assets	10,000
11. Total liabilities	8,000
12. Total equity	2,000



WSEN staff photo

Ralph, Merle, Bob and Tyee Lohse.

I'm sure Jim is grateful for neighbors! Hopefully the project won't take all winter because Jim has plans to visit family members in Wisconsin over Christmas and meet up with daughter Lindsay who is attending school in Jackson Hole, Wy.

Jim reports that Lindsay is doing very well and just returned from a backpacking trip in the Grand Tetons. She received a grade of 98.5% on her trip performance, says Jim. Because Jim purchased a year's subscription to *WSEN* for Lindsay, I will take the opportunity to say, "Hi, Lindsay, from all your McCarthy area friends! We miss you!"

Jim is reminding us that the annual Long Lake fishing derby will be the last Saturday in March 2006!

Mark Vail: Speaking of Mark... when I called him last night he said he was getting squared away for winter to arrive. He has his own building project—a new log cabin—which will serve him as his home once it is finished. He plans on turning his existing home into a studio. Mark has "too many projects" that are crowding him out of his living space. His new cabin will be smaller but without the wood-working tools and the yarn (to name a few) always calling out for his attention and space, he feels it will be just fine and comfortable.

According to Mark, winter has come to his place at Fireweed Mountain while just down the road at Jim's, it is still the fall season. Oh, well, Mark doesn't seem to mind. He's looking forward to a nice, quiet winter and starting the weekly Scrabble games up with the Lohse family.

J. Harold and Carol Michals: Mark's neighbors, Harold and Carol, have retired to Valdez for the

winter. A big piece of news is that Harold just recently celebrated his 94th birthday. Mark reports Harold is doing very well.

Harold, a belated happy birthday from all of your McCarthy friends and neighbors! Have a great winter, Carol.

Dorothy Adler: While some people leave for the winter, others arrive. Dorothy has been gone for about 4 months. She just got back the other day and it was great visiting with her and catching up. She and Stephanie Kerr spent half that time this summer working for Denali National Park doing rescue work on Mt. McKinley. She returned to McCarthy for two days before leaving again. This time, for the Brooks Range as a cook for a hunting camp.

She is so glad to be home, she said, that she's not quite ready to take off on any other trip. Dorothy's cabin was built by her and Betty Adams last November. She is already making plans to extend her loft and has put in an order for some lumber from John Adams' saw mill business.

Welcome home, Dorothy!

Anna Wallin: Another area lady getting ready for winter is Anna. Mike Monroe of Kennicott just finished helping Rick and I build a new woodshed. He offered his assistance to Anna and now she is sporting a good, dry spot for her winter wood. This last Saturday Kaleb and David Rowland helped her split and stack her first cord of firewood. Congratulations on a job well done! Now all we need is a good snowfall so Anna can try out her newly-acquired snowmachine which she purchased from Ed LaChapelle.

Goodbyes: With fall coming to a close and winter just around the corner, comes the sad occasion of

saying goodbye to our summer friends. **Toby and Sarah Miller** of Ohio spent their first summer in the McCarthy area. They both found employment at the McCarthy Lodge and found a place in all our hearts. The Millers called recently letting us know they had arrived safely at their home in Plains City. We already miss their smiling faces and hope they will consider returning to our humble town!

Barbara and John Rice said their farewells to us all on September 12. We can be assured of their return because they are property owners now with a new home which they have further plans for. The Rices are even considering spending a portion of one winter in McCarthy. Who knows—maybe they will choose this one! They, too, arrived safe and sound at their home in St. Louis. Barbara and John both worked at the McCarthy Lodge: Barbara, at the gift shop and John in the office.

Locals' night on the town: On September 20th, Neil Darish, McCarthy Lodge owner, opened the establishment's doors to the town's folks. The celebration? It's the end-of-the-season, said Neil.

It was "locals' night" with a full-course buffet cooked up by Joe, the lodge's chef. The fare included appetizers, pizza, lasagne, deep-fried salmon and chicken and vegetable soup. The dessert really took the "cake" – it was cheesecake – and a mad dash took place the moment it touched the buffet table! Homemade cookies were also a favorite of many.

Thanks, Neil, Joe and whoever else helped make this festivity a grand success! What a terrific way to end the season.

The dark side of Robert Hale

BY RICK KENYON

Robert Allen Hale, AKA Papa Pilgrim, is in jail. His accusers are not the National Park Service, but rather his own family. Indicted by a Palmer grand jury on 30 felony charges including sexual assault, kidnapping and incest, the future for the high-profile McCarthy area resident looks bleak.

WSEN readers are familiar with the Pilgrim family who became internationally known after the NPS closed the old mining road which was the only land access to the family's property some 14 miles from McCarthy.

A number of McCarthy area residents have had conflicts with the 64-year-old patriarch over the past two years, but the grand jury indictment and eventual arrest came as a shock. Area residents first became aware there was something terribly wrong when an Alaska State Trooper helicopter flew to McCarthy on September 23 to arrest him. Apparently Hale spotted the troopers and slipped away into the woods. Despite his distinctive appearance and only one road out of town, he managed to leave the McCarthy area and elude capture for two weeks.

Hale's wife, Kurina Hale, better known to locals as Country Rose, had apparently been trying to get her husband to turn himself in. She eventually told him to leave just days before the grand jury met, and reportedly asked local air taxi pilot Gary Green not to bring him back to their upper McCarthy Creek homestead where she and the smaller children had been living all summer.

"We're sorry for the things that happened and hope that God will help us through this," she said in a telephone interview with *Anchorage Daily News* reporter Tom Kizzia. "We haven't lost any sight of God through all this. It's just that sometimes sin is hidden."

The Hale family first came to McCarthy in January of 2002. After an aborted attempt to drive to Kennicott in the deep snow, they put on an impromptu Blue Grass concert at the McCarthy Lodge for a dozen or so winter residents. It wasn't long before the Pilgrims purchased the old Mother Lode Mine property at the end of the McCarthy-Green Butte Road. It also wasn't long before "Papa" appeared on the radar screen of the NPS when he wrote a *WSEN Letter to the Editor*. The subject was access—not to their own property, but the footbridge across the Kennicott River. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Superintendent Gary Candelaria had flown to Juneau to lobby the state on behalf of putting in "bollards" to block ATV access to McCarthy and Kennicott. Pilgrim's letter was one of several written by area residents, taking the superintendent to task for working against the best interests of the two communities by limiting access to them. The access issue would later come back to haunt him and his whole family.

From the beginning it was obvious that Pilgrim was outspoken in his faith. Area Christians were glad to have such a large family of believers come to the neighborhood. Some thought the local church would get quite a boost from 17 new members. But

all invitations to attend were quietly rejected.

However, it was apparent that Papa ruled the family with his strict interpretation of the Scriptures. The girls wore dresses—pants were considered "men's clothes." They were not to shake hands and all of the children were required to travel in pairs, never alone.

What seemed to be absent from his doctrine was the command to love one's enemies. Pilgrim seemed to almost welcome persecution, apparently seeing it as a mark of divine approval. Even close friends and supporters were treated as bitter enemies if they dared disagree with him.

On February 13, 2003, the Park Service acted to deny access to the Pilgrim's Mother Lode property. Rangers told locals that they could use the road for "subsistence", even with ATV's, but the family could not use an ATV or other motorized vehicle to access their home. The action outraged the McCarthy community who came to the aid of the family and launched a battle with the NPS that is still unresolved.

It also brought international attention to the Pilgrim family. While media such as *World Net Daily* did a series highlighting the access issue, the *Washington Post* published an article spotlighting the admittedly unusual past of the family patriarch. The *Anchorage Daily News* took up the cause with a series of articles called "Papa's Passage."

As our readers will recall, *WSEN* published many articles about the family, written by a number of reporters who are also

neighbors and knew or interviewed the family. *WSEN* also strongly supported, and still strongly asserts, the validity of the family's right to access their home—to Hillbilly Heaven, a term the family gave to their mountain property. But, unknown to us, their heaven was becoming anything but.

Pilgrim grew up in Dallas, the son of I.B. Hale, a two-time All-American tackle who was ranked among the very best of many great players during Texas Christian University's most triumphant football era. (He was inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame in 1985.)

A first-round draft pick for the Washington Redskins in 1939, the elder Hale instead chose a career in law enforcement. He became a top agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Fort Worth and a close associate of FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover.

Later he became chief of security for General Dynamics, the giant military contractor. He was chairman of ASIS International, a professional association of private security firms, when he died of a heart attack in 1971.

The Pilgrim children speak of Grandpa Hale in almost reverent terms, telling of his football accomplishments and of his expertise in training other FBI agents in the use of firearms.

In 1958, at age 17, Robert eloped to Florida with the teenage daughter of John Connally, the future governor of Texas who rose to national attention when he was wounded by gunfire when John F. Kennedy was assassinated. According to family members, Grandpa Hale was riding in the

car behind Kennedy and Connally on that tragic day.

Hale's marriage with 16-year-old Kathleen came to a tragic end barely one month after their elopement. In a death ruled as accidental, she shot herself in the head with a shotgun in the couple's apartment. Robert Hale was the only witness.

Hale spurned the country club life of his father and joined the fast-growing hippie movement. He met a woman named Rita Thabault in California. Their son, named Jesse, was born in San Francisco in 1967. The next year they moved to Sunnyside, a rural commune in Oregon. He also spent some time traveling in South America by horseback.

According to Hale, he was in the backwoods of Oregon when his father died. He said it took the FBI three days to find him, pick him up by helicopter and take him to the funeral in a small jet.

In 1974, at age 33, while in the San Bernardino Mountains trying to figure out what to do next, he met 16-year-old Kurina Bresler, daughter of Hollywood singer and actress Betty Freeman. Pilgrim said she asked him for a piece of cheese, which he attempted to find for her. He said she was standing near a beautiful waterfall when God spoke to him and said: "This is your wife, she is strong, she will bear you many children."

Pilgrim told Dorothy Adler of his conversion to Christianity in an interview in the May & June 2003 issue of *WSEN*.

"Still searching for some direction," writes Adler, "Papa, Country Rose, young Elishaba and now baby Joseph found them-

selves driving along in Texas, his home state. Papa described feeling "empty" from being raised with a life of "riches and pride" and not knowing what to fill that void with. Organized religion didn't work for them. Papa wasn't sure what to do. He started seeking God. After some time and a calling, the family ended up in the Rocky Mountains of New Mexico at 9,000 ft., where they were to live for 23 years. Papa said those early days were filled with studying the Bible for 14 hours a day. They dug a well, built a cabin, and lived a subsistence lifestyle. They worked for themselves raising vegetables, spinning wool from their sheep, making lye soap, sewing clothes, harvesting wheat, making cheeses. They were the 'hillbilly shepherds, the big Jesus family up on the mountain.'"

The New Mexico property was owned by actor Jack Nicholson, whose business agent was a friend of Freeman's second husband, director Joel Freeman.

After two decades in New Mexico, Pilgrim said he got another call from God—this time to head north. They packed the same 1941 Chevy truck that they had used for their honeymoon and started out for Alaska. When they reached the Yukon, Country Rose gave birth to daughter Lamb. They camped for three weeks while the baby was born and Rose regained her strength.

The family arrived in Fairbanks in 1998, hoping to find a place on the Yukon River to live. They went to Homer to look for a boat, but instead found new friends and work for the older children. But the jobs didn't work out and after several contentious years they heard about McCarthy.

“When we got to the rock walls in Chitina, we knew we were home,” said Pilgrim.

In 2003, with access to their 400 acres blocked by NPS, the family set up a temporary camp in a road right-of-way in the middle of McCarthy. Too many people, horses and goats, and soon friction with neighbors developed. People who had supported their right to access the Mother Lode property thought it hypocritical to block a town right-of-way by camping in it.

The Pilgrims got into the local tourism market. They started by taking tourists to Kennicott in what they called the Jelly Bean—an old VW that had been converted to a three-wheeler. Later they added a van. Wrangell Mountain Bus owner Kelly Bay felt they were competing unfairly. “First it was the Jelly Bean and we thought, ‘what the heck, they need the money,’ and we didn’t say anything,” said Bay. “Then they got the van, then the kids were selling tickets at the footbridge—it just escalated... I finally had it out with them.”

A dispute arose with Stephen and Kelly Syren who own and operate the parking lot at the end of the McCarthy Road. Things reached a peak when Pilgrim had several of the younger children set up a table in the right-of-way next to the bridge to sell tickets to the shuttle service. Tensions peaked until Stephen ended up being arrested for assault. The children said he had hit them with rocks. Witnesses said it was only a verbal altercation.

Last year they bought 10 acres of land near the end of the McCarthy Road and moved the camp onto the new land. An area for parking was cleared. Free day

parking and low overnight rates were welcomed by tourists but did not set well with competing businesses.

Things seemed to quiet down last winter, the family stayed more to themselves. But residents noticed that the older children were starting to move out. Word was that friends in the Palmer area took them in. When the two older girls left in mid-winter, eyebrows were raised but most residents chalked it up to the adult children wanting a bit more freedom than their father was willing to allow.

But the grand jury indictment identifies an incident that took place at the new McCarthy camp on Jan. 10 that left McCarthy residents shocked and appalled and resulted in a multitude of charges against Hale, including kidnapping, incest, coercion, three assault counts and three sexual assault counts.

The hunt started September 23 with the Alaska State Troopers’ helicopter arriving at McCarthy. Troopers searched the camp and found the woodstove still warm, but nobody was around. They asked residents if they had seen Papa Pilgrim. No one had. The blue van he had been using reportedly had a bad alternator and was out of commission. Several ATVs that should have been at the camp were missing. (They were later found in the woods near the camp.)

The troopers left after dark. By Sunday the van was gone and so was Pilgrim. Authorities at the border were notified of the arrest warrant. Reports came in from all over the state of people sighting the fugitive. It was said that one unfortunate man with a blue van, long white beard and floppy hat

was stopped three times in Anchorage.

After a while the reported sightings slowed down. On the morning of October 5, the *Anchorage Daily News* and other media outlets ran stories about how the troopers had backed off their hunt for Pilgrim, instead concentrating on the legal case.

Also that morning, railroad special agent John Waychoff returned to work after being gone two weeks from moose hunting. Handed a Wanted poster with Pilgrim’s photo and description, he said, “I’ll go out and I’ll catch this guy today!”

Then, while conducting a routine check of the railroad property at the end of Eklutna Park Drive, near the North Eagle River exit of the Glenn Highway, he saw the blue Dodge van listed in the Wanted poster driving toward him near the gate. He recognized Hale from the photo on the poster.

“I motioned for him to turn around, and I recognized the vehicle and the driver and he seemed in a hurry to turn around. I did a U-turn, boxed him in and initiated a felony traffic stop,” said Waychoff. He then contacted Alaska State Troopers who took Hale into custody.

Both the *Anchorage Daily News* and Channel 2 KTUU posted a video of the arrest on the Internet. Hale appears somewhat dazed as he sits, handcuffed, on the tailgate of agent Waychoff’s vehicle. He looks frail and tells the arresting officer of his hernia operations, knee problems and diabetes. Troopers handle him almost gingerly. Noticing the Wanted poster, he asks if he can see it. “Naw, it’s just your picture,” says the officer.

Hale appeared before a judge in Palmer on Thursday, October 6 for arraignment. He was presented with the 30 felony charges against him, including kidnaping and raping his own daughter.

Hale told the judge that he was in the process of turning himself in.

"Actually, I found out I was wanted and I stopped the first trooper I saw and turned myself in. I told him, 'I'm Papa Pilgrim and that you're looking for me and I want to go with the troopers,'" Hale said.

No family members were present at the arraignment, but Kurt Stenehjem was. *WSEN* readers will remember Kurt as the pilot who crashed his Cessna 180 bringing in supplies during the Pilgrim Airlift, after the NPS had blocked their land access. He spent a week with the family after the crash before being thrown out by Hale. Apparently Stenehjem had been too friendly with one of the girls to suit Papa. He then spent a week with us here at *WSEN* and his story, *An Angel Falls to Heaven* was published in our November & December 2003 issue.

"I enjoy families, large families. You hope for the best. You're curious and try not to be cynical but it would perhaps answer a lot of questions," Stenehjem told reporters at the arraignment.

The family members have been helped through this difficult time by Jim Buckingham and his wife Martha. Jim is an Army officer stationed at Fort Richardson, Alaska. They opened their home to the children and have been helping with homeschooling and readjusting to life.

"Our primary concern as a family is the safety and welfare of Country Rose and her 15 children during this very difficult period in their lives," said Buckingham in a published statement. "We have been privileged to discover in Country Rose and her older children a genuine desire to do what is right before God and man ... a pursuit which has been greatly hindered by their father who demanded unwavering submission to his gravely misguided authority."

"Over the last six months of close contact with the older children, we have discovered young men and women that have purposed in their hearts to genuinely follow Jesus Christ, to amend the wrongs of the past and set an honorable and productive course for their lives in the days ahead. We, along with others who know them well, are committed to assisting the Pilgrim family in whatever way we can to achieve those noble goals."

Moses Hale, age 20, told us that he and his brothers only learned what had happened to their sister in recent days. He said they only knew that something was not right.

"Through the support of the Buckingham family and the Lord working in our lives, our eyes were opened to the sin and deceit which had been occurring behind the scenes and which was hidden from my brothers and I," said Joseph Hale, the oldest of the boys in a written statement. "When our sister came to us for help, we were united in our desire before God to take whatever action was necessary to protect her."

Joseph said the family hopes to be spared the agony of a long trial by their father changing his plea to guilty.

Although shocked and hurt by the revelations of abuse by the family patriarch, supporters were quick to come to the aid of family members.

"The criminal indictment of Robert Hale (Papa Pilgrim) last week on charges of assault and abuse against one of his own children is appalling and tragic," said Chuck Cushman, Executive Director of the American Land Rights Association, ALRA. "In working with the family over the last two years ALRA never observed anything out of order and we had no reason to believe that any misconduct by Papa Pilgrim was taking place."

"The immediate concern of all must be that the children be looked after, protected, and given every chance to recover and thrive," said Cushman. "Our heart goes out to them."

The ninth circuit court of appeals heard the Pilgrim's access case lawsuit on July 15 but has not yet released its ruling.

November 1st is the date set for Hale's Omnibus Hearing, which is open to the public and will be held in the Glennallen Courtroom. The trial date will be set at that time and will probably be held in Glennallen. The judge appointed a public defender after Hale said he made just 800 dollars a year from disability and social services. Bail was set at 50-thousand dollars and requires a third party custodian.

School news – “Teenth” Friday begins with a blast

BY LYNN WELTY

Rockets were flying on September 16th as fifteen area students assisted Matthew and Robert Shidner with their experiment.

Using Alka-Seltzer and water, they filled an old film container, quickly placed its lid on, then stuck it on the top of a cooler lid. And watched to see how far it would soar.

The ratio of water and Alka-Seltzer, powder versus pieces of Alka-Seltzer, and the angle of the cooler lid, were all tested. The results: a 50/50 ratio of water and Alka-Seltzer worked best, pieces of Alka-Selt-

zer traveled further while the powder fired sooner (as early as one second), and a 45 degree angle on the cooler lid projected the rocket best. The farthest rocket traveled 27 feet. Fun was had by all the rocket scientists!

Student Kaylin Moffitt invited Stephanie Kerr, a member of the local volunteer fire department, to speak to the students about fire safety. The students were divided into two groups. One group was given a scenario where their cabin caught on fire and the other group was told their campfire went out of control and started a wild fire. The individual groups discussed among

themselves the proper actions to be taken and in what order. The groups then shared their thoughts with the entire group.

Stephanie led the students in a discussion on what is safe and not safe to do in these kind of situations.

Kaylin then interviewed Stephanie about the volunteer fire department and its fire-fighting equipment.

“Teenth” Friday is designed to be a monthly event and open to all area students. It is a time for the students to share their projects and learn from community members.

School news – The Civil War and electrons

BY RENÉ WELTY

Friday, October 21, was another successful “Teenth” Friday for the McCarthy area home school students.

Nine students of all ages met once again at the McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church building where they shared school projects and presentations to their fellow students and teachers.

Kelsey Smith gave a very informative, and fun, presentation on the

Civil War, complete with pictures so as to put a picture into the audiences’ heads of what living during the Civil War was like. Her talk was full of fun facts about heroic men and women, generals (and their horses), and stories of the people during that time. Afterwards she led us all, teachers against students, in a game to test our knowledge. The students won!

Our special guest this month was local electrician, Rick Jurick. Kaylin Moffitt introduced Rick to

the group with his own display of an electric circuit. Using fish as examples of electrons moving through a complete circuit, he put into perspective a somewhat difficult concept for some of us. Rick followed up with a more detailed talk and answered our many questions.

A special thank you to Rick Jurick for his time and dealing with our difficult questions, and thank you to all of the students that participated, also to the teachers for the yummy snacks afterward.

McCarthy Road major maintenance

We asked DOT&PF Maintenance Chief Joe Junker for an update on the two-million dollar appropriation for work on the McCarthy Road. This is what he said:

This season we have installed 19 new culverts of which 8 got charged to the project. The brushing contract has been awarded to the low bidder, Heel, Inc., for \$160,000. Hopefully they will begin this fall or

early winter but contract is to be complete by October 2006.

We are in the process of getting “hug-a-boulder” bend surveyed in order to assess our options for widening that area. We are also beginning the process of putting out a contract to crush material for surfacing. This part of the project will be a substantial sum. Crushing could take place in 1 to 3 areas.

We are also waiting on some wetlands determinations needed to blade off the existing berms that are restricting drainage. Much of the berm that has been generated over the years of grading contains old railroad spikes and is not feasible to be pulled back onto the road surface. This is where we are currently.

It's breadmaking time in McCarthy!

BY BONNIE KENYON

McCarthy: – Laurie Rowland's up-to-date (especially for McCarthy) kitchen was the setting for a wholesome bread-making party. Eight local ladies gathered around Laurie's spacious island to watch Katie Helkenn of Kenny Lake demonstrate her tried and true Bosch food processor. The ladies in attendance were: Betty Adams, Hannah and Laurie Rowland, Peggy Smith, Lynn Welty, Chris Haley, Anna Wallin and Bonnie Kenyon.

The party began at 11 a.m. with an introduction to the Bosch Ultra Mill which did a fine job of grinding the Prairie Gold wheat berries that Katie brought with her. One trip through the mill produced a fine, light-colored flour that we women could hardly keep our hands out of!

As Katie blended the other ingredients in the food processor, she explained the benefit of adding leftover cooked oatmeal to the dough. It keeps your bread moist longer. Even those cooked potatoes you had the night before will add nutrition and moistness to your favorite bread recipe. Olive oil? It, too, keeps your bread fresh longer than other oils. She also informed us that sesame seeds are high in Vitamin C so they are a great ingredient to include in creating a wholesome loaf of bread.

Once the 5 loaves of bread were rising, Katie informed us the next project was to make homemade pizza for lunch. If it hadn't been for Chris's delicious "smoked salmon spread" and her own "moose spread," we ladies might have



WSEN staff photo

From left: Katie instructing Laurie and Betty on the benefits of rolling out bread dough to eliminate those empty air pockets!

fainted at the delicious aroma that emanated from Laurie's oven.

The third project was sweet rolls. Half of the ladies got into that big time. The rolled-out dough pretty much filled Laurie's island countertop. By the time the rolls came out of the oven, the Rowland



WSEN staff photo

Hannah Rowland (left) and Lynn Welty decide to give it a try, too.

"boys" came home from a hard day of work. You should have seen their eyes when they spotted the three huge trays of freshly-baked rolls. Katie and Laurie (thankfully!) made sure we ladies left with a plate of rolls for ourselves and husbands at home.

While the sweet roll dough was being decorated with raisins, butter, brown sugar, and even a few dried apricots, the other half of us ladies inspected the packaged "goodies" Katie had displayed on Laurie's kitchen window bench: 7-grain cereal, sesame seeds, coconut, milk chocolate chips, dates, wheat germ, dough enhancer and sunflower seeds. Several ladies split bags with each other and others made out orders for Katie to fill at a later date.

Laurie was in the market for a new food processor before Katie ever arrived on the scene so she is now making good use of her purchase. Since the party Laurie is cranking out sweet rolls and bread for her family, and for the after-church luncheons on Sundays.

Heartfelt thanks to Katie for coming to McCarthy and a round of applause for Marty, her husband, who was her driver for this special occasion. For those of you who might not know...Marty is one of DOT's road maintenance workers for the McCarthy Road. Although Katie may have preferred flying in, I could not help but be pleased that Marty had the opportunity to drive the entire road and pinpoint all the rough spots needing his attention. (The word was passed on to me today that the entire McCarthy Road is now graded!) I'm not quite sure who to thank for this great news – Marty or Katie!

If any of you ladies were not able to attend and are interested in the good wholesome foods that Katie is making available and the food processor or grain mill, you can contact her at: 907-822-3469.

Local resident suffers serious fall

BY BONNIE KENYON

McCarthy: – At 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 17th, local resident and businessman Jeremy Keller, met with a serious accident while crossing the McCarthy Creek footbridge.

Jeremy who lives with his wife, Allie, and son Bjorn near the Nizina River, east of McCarthy. was traveling between job sites, he said. Crossing the make-shift footbridge over McCarthy Creek has become almost a daily experience for Jeremy who owns and operates “i Build”, a local contracting business.

This particular day didn't seem much different for him and his assistant, Dan Elofson, that is, until Jeremy lost his footing while descending the McCarthy side approach of the bridge. His left leg twisted and struck a boulder, causing 4 fractures in the lower part of his left leg. According to Jeremy, three fractures occurred in the tibia and one in the fibula—both bones were broken in half.

Hearing his cry of pain, Dan immediately ran for help. Several local people rushed to Jeremy's rescue. Wayne Marrs, owner of St. Elias Alpine Guides, was the First Responder on the scene. Among those

who assisted were Ed LaChapelle, his son David and Brian McMillan.

Pilot Kelly Bay of Wrangell Mountain Air flew the injured to Anchorage's Merrill Field airstrip where Jeremy was met by Rick Peter, Thea Agnew, Howard Mozen, and Mike Loso – all familiar names to McCarthy residents. They trans-



WSEN staff photo

Jeremy enjoys the dinner and a visit with neighbor Keith Rowland.

ported Jeremy by vehicle to Providence Hospital where he underwent 2 hours of surgery. A large stainless steel rod was inserted from knee to ankle held in place by 5 screws.

Allie and Bjorn, at home on the Nizina without phone contact, once informed of her husband's situation drove to town to be at his side and to learn the art of physical therapy which, according to Jeremy, began the second day out of surgery.

The Keller family returned to the McCarthy area on September 28th. Jeremy attended a potluck benefit for him that evening at the McCarthy Lodge, adorned with leg brace and crutches. The Lodge also hosted a pizza/beer benefit for the Kellers the previous night.

Jeremy, Allie and Bjorn are grateful to their friends and issued this comment:

I am humbled and overwhelmed by the outpouring of support shown me and my family by our McCarthy community, as well as by our extended family and friends around the country. I struggle for an accurate way to express what I've learned about community. The generosity and caring that has touched my family from the moment of my mishap, has convinced me that our care and love for each other is the vital quality worth preserving as we navigate the coming change to this valley. You, my friends, raised \$1800 for us and donated countless hours and intangibles to ease our efforts and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Jeremy says he plans on staying in McCarthy until around the first of the year when he, Allie and Bjorn hope to return to their home on the Nizina. If all goes well, the Kellers will travel to the lower 48 to visit family members sometime around the first of November.

“If you will think about what you ought to do for other people, your character will take care of itself. Character is a by-product, and any man who devotes himself to its cultivation in his own case will become a selfish prig.” —Woodrow Wilson

Do you have your real property properly recorded?

BY KENNY SMITH

A number of years ago, *Wrangell St. Elias News* reported upon the unfortunate circumstances involving the title to property owned by our neighbor and friend, Calvin Ward. Cal learned the title to his beautiful homestead on the south side of Fireweed Mountain had never been recorded and somebody else was saying they owned it.

In the early 1950s Cal had purchased this property from Wes Kennedy, an hotelier from Cordova, who later founded the Chitina Hotel. Cal thought that he had recorded the warranty deed from Wes with the State Division of Lands (or more accurately, at the time, its Territorial predecessor) as he went through what he thought to be the required recording process.

Wes died in 1958 and his sister, Louise Nance, inherited all his property, which included the Chitina Hotel. Louise had been working with her brother at the hotel up until his death. Soon after, she sold the hotel and moved to California. As the years rolled by and Louise grew older her nephew helped her out. One day he was looking through her legal papers and discovered a copy of the deed to the Fireweed Mountain homestead. It was in Wes Kennedy's name. Since Louise didn't recall any detail, the nephew checked with the recorders office in Alaska and found that no title to the property was recorded. The nephew then assumed, that the property rightfully belonged to his aunt. Over the next few years the nephew inspected the property and became concerned that the Wards may have mistakenly encroached upon his aunt's property. After hiring an attorney and surveyor he discovered that the Wards had indeed developed upon the property in question.

Eventually, this mess all turned out okay for Cal, since the nephew was an honest person and agreed to honor the deed from Wes to Cal. It did cost Cal a tidy sum though, since he reimbursed the nephew for his expenses. Cal's biggest regret was that he never took time to double-check the records.

So what happened? I think I have an idea because the same thing could have happened to my wife and me.

In early 1972 we made the last payment to the state on our property originally acquired in February 1963 at the state land auction in Copper Center. The state sent us two patent documents (very impressive and pretty pieces of paper indeed). These were proof of ownership giving us unencumbered title to our property. Having learned a little, very little, about property ownership, I at least knew we had to record it. I called the Third Judicial District in Glennallen and asked what to do. They sent us some forms, which we completed, had notarized and turned in. Afterward we received copies of the forms, which were stamped with the "recorders date stamp" that indicated, time, date, and newly assigned recorder serial numbers for our patented land. The forms were titled "Statement of Real Property Ownership." We also received a receipt for the four bucks in "filing" fees we had paid.

At this point, a bored reader might ask, what's the big deal about recording property anyway? The answer is: it might not mean much, depending upon the situation; on the other hand, you might lose everything you have in that property if you didn't record.

Here is the legal mumbo jumbo: Recording— "The act of entering into the book of public records the

written instruments affecting the title to real property, such as deeds, mortgages, contracts for sale, options and assignments. Proper recording imparts constructive notice to the world of the existence of the recorded document and its contents. It protects both innocent purchasers for value who act in ignorance of an unrecorded instrument and the grantee if the deed is altered or lost. Any conveyance not properly recorded is generally void as against any subsequent purchaser, lessee or mortgagee in good faith and for a valuable consideration who, without having actual notice of the unrecorded conveyance, records his or her subsequent interest in the property. From a practical point of view, the recording act gives legal priority to those interests that are recorded first."

Now, in most jurisdictions in the U.S. there are methods of listing property ownership registration in addition to and other than, the traditional recording process described above. Most significant of these are the tax rolls. As far as I can determine, if someone has been registered on the tax inventory for a particular property and has paid those taxes for a number of years, there is very little chance of somebody else coming in and claiming the property regardless of who happens to be first on the recorded list of owners. More accurately, if no taxes had been paid, the government probably has already taken ownership of the property without much debate. After that, government usually sells it at auction and provides a clean and dominant title to the subsequent owner.

But here in Alaska, in the unorganized portions of our state, there exists no other local government but the state. And here the state imposes no real property tax. Consequently, no tax records. So, having

your property recorded with the State Recorders Office in an unorganized area of Alaska, is most important.

Back to my wife and I and our land situation. Nine years after I thought we had properly recorded our patents, we sold a few acres. At that time we learned we weren't recorded. I called the District Court in Glennallen and asked Ms. Wava Schliesing for an explanation. I then found out that there had been two types of filing real property ownership in Alaska's unorganized areas. Both handled by the Alaska Court System and their various district's "Office of the Recorder." One was registering using the "Statement Of Real Property Ownership," which we had accomplished; the other was the traditional and voluntary recording of real property. Apparently, a person desiring to record land had to know enough to distinguish between the two processes or make it known that one wanted to do both. In our case, the recorders office had made no attempt to explain that there were two options

Today, I still shake my head in awe that this confusing bureaucratic disorder didn't and hasn't received any public scrutiny.

The required "Statement of Real Property Ownership" forms which we were sent after we requested our property be recorded in 1972, were discontinued sometime later in the 1970s. The law requiring completion of these forms went into effect on July 1, 1949, when the Territorial Legislature determined that property owners, outside of "the boundaries of a tax-levying or property-recording incorporated city, borough or other political subdivision where record of ownership

of real property is maintained" must file a statement of real property ownership. The apparent purpose for this was to assure that government knew all property owners so that real property taxes might someday be assessed on all real property in Alaska, not just on those in organized areas.

In 1972, the recorders office only sent us the tax forms, which incidentally, were further misleading because the documents contained no written reference to taxation. Essentially, what the territory and subsequently the state had accomplished in their zeal to develop a list of taxable property in unorganized areas was to establish a system where property owners in these areas recorded twice. However, law required you to record for taxation at that time and there never has been a law requiring one to record under the traditional method.

Back in 1949, Alaskans were working toward achieving statehood and the prevailing argument against statehood was that, if given statehood, Alaska had no tax base with which to support an independent government once federal government subsidy was eliminated. Alaska did receive statehood and along with an income tax survived very well. By the mid 1970s it was determined that attempting to collect taxes on real property in the unorganized areas was cost prohibitive and unnecessary (besides, the fat days of big oil were changing our economic environment by that time). Consequently, the law requiring that property owners list their holdings in unorganized areas was eliminated.

So, the State simply continued to record titles using the traditional and voluntary method that had also been in place all along. Records of "Statement of Real Property Ownership" were abolished almost overnight and old files probably destroyed. Nobody would ever know the difference. Except, of course, for those people who thought they had recorded their property way back when but unknowingly had only registered on the now defunct statewide tax rolls of real property owners in unorganized areas of the state. Some of these folk, who got trapped by this, may find out or have found out they lost their property since it was never "recorded."

To my knowledge, no public disclosure, explanation or apology for this has ever been forthcoming from state government.

Just taking a look at the impressive number of properties on the west side of the Kennicott with no record of an owner makes one wonder, why not? I have to point out here, that if a person believes that simply moving onto property in Alaska might ultimately lead to ownership, they better think again. Last year the state did away with the traditional form of adverse possession "squatter's rights."

If you are smart, you better check on your property and find out whether or not it is recorded. The good news is that the state has made it very easy to do this without having to retain expert title research services. The state recorders office now has a website. Here it is: <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/ssd/recoff/search.cfm>

Good luck to you.

"Government is instituted to protect property of every sort; as well that which lies in the various rights of individuals.... The invasion of private rights is chiefly to be apprehended..." —James Madison

"Why has government been instituted at all? Because the passions of men will not conform to the dictates of reason and justice without constraint." —Alexander Hamilton

McCarthy Area Council examines variety of issues

BY BONNIE KENYON

McCarthy: – On Friday, September 30, fifty people met at the Blackburn Center. The group consisted of McCarthy Area Council (MAC) members, other year 'round and summer residents as well as visiting dignitaries.

Presentations were given by representatives of Inter-Fluve, Inc., the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the University of Alaska Land Management (UA), followed by MAC's annual meeting.

Jeremy Keller, president, opened the meeting by introducing Dan Miller and Mike Brunfelt, engineers for Inter-Fluve, Inc., who are acting as independent consultants to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in their on-going McCarthy Creek flood-plain study. Inter-Fluve is an organization consisting of a professional team who focuses on integrating science and engineering for river and wet-land restoration.

Miller, a hydraulic engineer, and Brunfelt a fluvial geomorphologist, presented aerial photos of the creek's changes over several decades, technical details and alternative options to deter future damage from McCarthy Creek flooding. Ten options were presented for the community's consideration. Some of those options include doing nothing, buying out at-risk properties, levee construction, channelize the creek, in-stream mining, realigning the creek, re-establishing the east fork of the Kennicott River, raising, or moving the endangered Power House in McCarthy. It was agreed that no one alternative stood out as the one to push for at this time. The options will be discussed at upcoming MAC meetings.

Brett Nelson, Alaska State Conservation Engineer for the NRCS

Palmer office, was also on hand to answer questions and provide information relating to the McCarthy Creek study.

Dave Sanches, area planner for DOT&PF Planning out of Fairbanks, addressed and updated the group on access options across McCarthy Creek. The first option Sanches addressed was the 280-foot tram project. According to Sanches, in 2004 a congressional earmark was approved for \$200,000 to construct a tram across McCarthy Creek. The project was transferred to Western Federal Lands, (branch of FHWA) for construction. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has also been contacted regarding this project. Currently, the project will not move forward unless a local entity accepts maintenance and liability responsibilities. The funds must be obligated by December 2007 or else they may be returned to FHWA for redistribution.

Bridge options include a bulb tee type bridge or a steel bridge structure. The current estimate for DOT & PF to design and construct a bulb tee type bridge is approximately \$300 per square foot with an additional 20% for approach work. The cost per square foot for a steel bridge is approximately \$400.

Basically, if DOT & PF were to design and construct a bridge across McCarthy Creek the estimate could be as high as \$5,000,000 once completed, depending on bridge type, environmental documentation and right-of-way certification. Additionally, the community would be required to pay a 9% match for the project.

Mr. Sanches was asked about the possibility of an ATV type bridge. It could be looked into, said Sanches. A project such as this is often funded by the TRAAK pro-

gram, but at the present time there is no money available.

When asked for a time table for a bridge project, Mr. Sanches commented that it could take 7-10 years.

Sanches also addressed the McCarthy Road draft Environmental Impact Statement. The draft will go to FHWA in December for review. A draft for public review should be available next summer.

Kristie Sherman, Laurie Swartz and Mari Montgomery represented the University lands. Mari Montgomery, Director of UA Land Management, in Anchorage, presented maps of the university's most recent State Land Grant of 12,500 acres in the McCarthy-Nizina area. No specific plans have been laid yet for the designation of the land, said Mari. The primary role of the University of Alaska Land management office is to generate funds for the University.

When asked if the UA was involved in improving access to their land east of McCarthy Creek, Mari responded, "We have no plans at this time.... Generally, we are not road builders. In the past, people wanted affordable lots, not roads." She explained that instead of providing roads, UA created a land association to address the access issues.

Mari was questioned as to UA's acceptance of local firewood collection on UA land. Casual use, such as this, is allowed, answered Mari, with no permit needed.

There was some concern expressed by several at the meeting as to what UA intended to do with their newly-acquired parcel. Would they sell to Princess Lodge, for instance. Mari stated that although the Copper Center Princess Lodge and the National Park Service visitor center, also in Copper Center,

were UA lands, there were no current talks with Princess. "We work very closely with communities," said Mari. "We welcome their ideas. We try to be a good neighbor. As a policy we don't sell to conservationists."

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/ Preserve Superintendent Jed Davis was in attendance and asked Mari if the community could ask for stipulations on UA lands at this time. She responded "no stimulations now; that would devalue their land." She would not recommend that to the Land Trust.

The presentation portion of the meeting came to a close about 2:30 pm and, after a short break, nearly 30 people remained for the annual membership meeting of MAC. Jeremy Keller, president, opened the

floor to nominations for 7 Board of Directors and 4 officers. The slate of nominees was read and voted on. The results were as follows: Jeremy Keller, president; Andy Shidner, vice-president; Rick Petter, treasurer; Marie Thorn, secretary. The board members are: John Adams, Rick Kenyon, Kelly Bay, Ed LaChapelle, Stephens Harper, Elizabeth Schafer and Jason Lobo.

After MAC business was completed, other business included a discussion of a possible future MAC web site as a communications' tool for the whole community. Chat rooms, posting of meetings and information and a place for discussion forums. The idea of having a Starband setup at the center was also discussed.

Before the meeting came to a close, John Adams read a letter written by Joseph Hale (Pilgrim) to the

community. In the letter, Joseph asked forgiveness for any wrongs suffered on account of his family. (To read the entire letter, see page 35.)

On Saturday, October 22, another MAC meeting was held at the Blackburn Center. A board meeting was held from 11 a.m. until noon with a regular membership meeting following. Approximately 17 people attended

Issues such as the McCarthy Creek access and parking was discussed. A survey to canvas property owners on the south side of the creek will be conducted by Jeremy Keller and Andy Shidner.

Upcoming MAC meeting dates are: Friday, November 25 at noon and Friday, December 30 at noon, both to be held at the Blackburn Center.

Christian Radio comes to McCarthy

BY RICK KENYON

The McCarthy area has a new radio signal on the air, 94.3 FM. Officially designated K232DL, the station is a licensed translator of the I Am Radio Network broadcast from Nenana, Alaska.

Currently, this network includes radio stations KYKD in Bethel, Alaska, and KIAM in Nenana, Alaska, with local translators in the villages of Ruby, Tanana and Bettles, and now McCarthy. They also broadcast in the Bristol Bay area through radio station KAKN in Naknek, Alaska, which is also heard in King Salmon and Dillingham.

The McCarthy station was one of 22 proposed new radio downlinks in villages throughout Alaska.

The station is a satellite-translator, or satellator. The system consists of the receiving dish, signal converter, 250-watt amplifier and a small tower for local rebroadcast. Because it is taken from satellite, it allows a true digital-quality signal on FM. The station is located on the

ridge southwest of McCarthy at the Rowland's home. In fact the antenna is on the ridgepole of their house! It is hoped that this location, along with the 250-watt power level, will provide a strong signal for much of the McCarthy, Kennicott and outlying areas. Signal reports would be welcomed. Call the Rowlands at 554-4498.

The KIAM network is the result of the vision and hard work of Bob and Dolores Eldridge. Bob & Dolores came to Alaska in 1964 and began their ministry serving with Victory Bible Camp. They then began an itinerant flying ministry to interior Alaska villages with Arctic Missions. Weather often prevented flying into villages to share the Good News of Christ. Bob felt led of the Lord to consider radio as a more consistent way to better send the Gospel message to interior Alaska villages and homesteaders. Radio can reach interior Alaska whatever the weather.

The Eldridges began the development of a Christian radio station

in 1980, and in 1985 station KIAM went on the air in Nenana.

Bob himself, along with Rob Bennett, came to McCarthy to install the equipment on October 5. They installed the dish and the antenna, but equipment problems prevented linking to the satellite. They drove all the way back to Nenana, got the problem fixed and returned on October 19, about 5PM. At 8:53, McCarthy's new station went on the air!

Like our other radio station, KXKM, K232DL offers a bush message system. Called the Mukluk Telegram, messages are broadcast at 10:10AM, 2:10PM and 9:10PM, seven days a week. Messages can be sent by: phone (907)832-5426, FAX, (907)832-5450, E-mail, AlaskaRadio@vfem.org or by snail mail to Voice for Christ Ministries, P. O. Box 00474, Nenana, Alaska 99760.

For the week-day schedule see page 34.

The world around us

BY DON WELTY

Living in Bush Alaska has many rewards and challenges. Along with the beautiful scenery and tranquility comes the challenge of generating your own power. Being sixty miles off the grid leaves only a few choices. Generators are the most often chosen source, but the quest for free quiet power from sun or hydro are always on the want list. Solar panels are quiet and make use of free energy but are not always cost effective. They are very expensive to purchase, a partial shading due to vegetation or obstruction causes a large loss of output, and unless you have a clear sky and direct angle onto the panels the output is much less than rated.

As I was contemplating how to boost efficiency of our solar panels, I thought about a tree that was causing some shading problems. I realized that this tree was more advanced at converting solar energy into power than anything available today. These humble life forms are able to use sunlight so efficiently, that if we could duplicate the process it would probably solve the world's energy problems. However, even our most talented chemists have yet to match the ingenious process of photosynthesis.

Photosynthesis involves a complex series of chemical reactions inside molecules called chlorophylls. Plants form sugars by using sunlight energy (photons), carbon dioxide, and water. These sugars are in turn used to form starch, fat, protein, vitamins, and other foods that make up the basis of the food chain for life on earth and, in addition, release life sustaining oxygen as a byproduct.

Borrowing technology from a spinach plant, a team of electrical and bio-medical engineers, nano-

technology experts and biologists has managed to incorporate a protein complex derived from spinach chloroplasts (in leaf cells) into a solid-state electronic device that they hope may one day power laptop computers and mobile phones. Spinach chloroplasts were chosen instead of solar cells because of their superior efficiency/size ratio. The photo-synthetic protein complex is tiny, as around 100,000 of these complexes would fit on the head of a pin making them the smallest known electronic circuits. ⁽¹⁾

While researching for this article, I read through pages and pages of the step by step chemical process of photosynthesis. I was curious how an evolutionist could explain the origin of such a system. Research came up with theories involving "green sulfur bacteria." This anaerobic bacterium is able to carry out photosynthesis in the absence of oxygen and also does not produce oxygen as a byproduct. As evolutionary biologist, Jonathan A. Eisen, explains, "The ability to carry out photosynthesis in the absence of oxygen is particularly important to evolutionary studies since it is believed that the early atmosphere of Earth had little oxygen." ⁽²⁾

While anaerobic photosynthesis is a somewhat simpler and different process, its complexity still defies gradual step by step evolutionary development. Recent research indicates that there was oxygen even in the "oldest" rocks on Earth, which evolutionists "date" to 3.7 Ga. This, in turn, suggests that there were green plants to produce it. However, evolutionists claim that the earth was being bombarded by meteorites till about 3.8 Ga.

Yet this latest research within the evolutionary paradigm shows that life existed almost as soon as the earth was able to support it.

There is just no room for "billions and billions of years" for life to evolve. And this life was not just the simplest type, but was advanced enough to photo-synthesize." ⁽³⁾

Quoting physical chemist, Jonathan D. Sarfati, Ph.D, F.M., "If the most intelligent human designers can't duplicate photosynthesis, then it's perfectly scientific to believe that photosynthesis had a far more intelligent designer. This is especially so since Darwinian processes could not have generated photosynthesis because there are too many intricate mechanisms necessary for it to work at all." ⁽⁴⁾ Irreducible complexity defies small gradual changes acted on by natural selection. Observable, repeatable, real science shows no evidence of increasing complexity through natural selection. Scientific evidence points to design.

I hope you will join me in giving thanks to our creator, marveling in his wisdom and power in this world around us.

(For more evidence on design of biological, geological, or astronomical subjects visit www.icer.org)

(1) Massachusetts Institute of Technology, <http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2004/spinach-0915.html>, 24 November 2004.

(2) The Institute For Genomic Research, 2002-07-08, <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2002/07/020708082404.htm>.

(3) Sarfati, Jonathon, Green Power: God's solar power plants amaze chemists, TJ 19(1):pg. 15, 2005.

(4) Ibid.

THE CHITINA LEADER

November 1913 December

Cordova, October 29

George C. Hazelet arrived at McCarthy this morning and there met Tom Lane, who had just returned from the Chisana, coming out over the winter glacier trail. He reports that the Hazelet expedition has about completed their work and have made a good trail, which is properly and conveniently staked. There was some delay in the work because of the necessity to return to Nizina for more horse food. Lane states that there is absolutely no doubt about horses drawing double enders being able to safely and expeditiously cross the Nizina and Chisana glacier parts of the trail from McCarthy to the new diggings. He says that the last government mail was taken in that way and the people of the Chisana were greatly pleased to learn that this short and safe method of reaching the diggings has been made an established fact. Traffic henceforth will be via this route. The mail today that left McCarthy will be taken over the glaciers, as will all future mail. Mr. Hazelet wires to Cordova that while he is satisfied that the new trail is in good shape, yet he will personally go over it, and started out this after-

noon. He will inspect the work done and if anything additional is necessary he will have it attended to.

This morning the population of Cordova was increased by the arrival of a baby boy in the household of Mr. and Mrs. McCrary, who recently came from Copper Center. They are occupying the Howell Lewis residence, formerly owned by Wm. Fusman.

Nov. 4

TO BUILD NIZINA BRIDGE

W. A. Soule, connected with the Alaska Road Commission, came over from Valdez Saturday night and this morning took the train for the interior. He is on business connected with the building of the bridge which is to cross the treacherous Nizina river. The commission will certainly construct this much needed bridge during the coming winter. It was intended to have done the work a year ago, but delay in assembling the material interfered. Part of the heavy timbers were landed at McCarthy but the balance will be taken in shortly. It is the intention to cross the canyon about seven or eight miles from McCarthy. The bridge proper

will be 525 feet long, with two spans of 150 feet each and three spans of 75 feet each. Then there will be approaches of piling on either side, aggregating 200 feet. The work of hauling the timbers and material from the railroad will be done by Jack Ingraham, who will commence about the 1st of December. The construction of the bridge will be under the direction of Lars Holland, who has had considerable experience in work of this kind in Alaska. He will commence about the first of the year, and Mr. Soule says that he will have it completed in about ten weeks, as he will put on a large force of workmen. When the spring break comes, the stampede and miners who wish to go into the Nizina country, or beyond to the Chisana, will find a safe method of crossing the treacherous Nizina to the gravel banks beyond, where the going is easy and good. The muck and grade of Sourdough hill will be avoided and the summer trail to the Chisana will thus be made a much easier and safe mush. Many of the obstacles that were encountered last summer will have been obliterated, and the lives of men and horses will not be endangered by the Nizina quicksands.

Nov. 11

OF GENERAL INFORMATION

Grant Reed, who has temporarily been filling the position of station agent at McCarthy for the C. R. & N. W. Railway during the absence of M. V. Lattin, has tendered his resignation. If he can be checked out in time he will return to Cordova on Tuesday's train. The position will be filled for the present by V. J. Dwyer of Strelna. F. H. Estabrook has gone to Strelna to look after the station there.

Rev. E. P. Zeigler returned yesterday from a few days spent at Kennecott and Chitina.

Mrs. W. R. Faddis and three children came up from Seattle yesterday on the Alameda. They took the train this morning for McCarthy where they will make their home. Mr. Faddis is connected with A. E. Todd in the general merchandise business.

Mr. Wm. A. Curtis and Mrs. Stella L. Jones were married at Chitina on the night of November 20 at John Palmer's Hotel, by the Rev. E. P. Ziegler. Mrs. John Palmer, Mrs. Max Giegould and Paymaster H. J. Brandt being the witnesses. Elaborate refreshments were served

immediately after the ceremony. Other guests added to the festive throng among whom were Roadmaster Harry Wilson and John Nelson. The happy young couple will make their future home in the new Chisana diggings. They recently passed through Cordova on their way to the interior.

On Tuesday evening last the newly formed camp of Arctic Brotherhood at Chitina completed their organization by the election of the following officers:

Past Arctic Chief, Horace Leach; Arctic Chief, Oscar Fish; Vice Arctic Chief, Paul d'Heirry; Arctic Recorder, Clifford Gelser; Arctic Keeper of Nuggets, A. G. Morey; Arctic Chaplain, C. A. Hull. Board of Trustees: Wm. E. Wood, chairman; J. L. Feaster, J. P. Rockefeller, Wm. Cameron, and Henry Gessner.

Forty charter members are now enrolled and it is expected to make this one of the strongest of all the Alaska camps. On Thanksgiving night, Nov. 27, the camp will give a dance and entertainment that promises to be one of the most enjoyable affairs ever given in the Copper River country.

Nov. 25

Cordova, December 15

Malcolm Brock, manager for S. Blum & Co., returned on the train last night from a trip to Chitina. He reports the interior town as lively and says the business men are do-

ing a good business. This is especially true of the hotels owing to the heavy holiday travel from interior points. Men are also constantly coming from and going to the Chisana and Nelchina camps. Several outfits left Chitina for Chisana while Mr. Brock was there. They were men who had been in the camp and had located ground and had come out for supplies.

Mr. Brock states that the people of Chitina expect to hear of several new diggings being reported in the upper Tanana before spring. There are many parties of prospectors scattered along the river who failed to reach the Chisana owing to the low water which prevented the steamers from reaching their destination. The miners have spread out over the country in the vicinity of the places where they were frozen in, intending to prospect until the rivers were frozen and they could proceed to the Chisana. Some of them are sure to find pay as the upper Tanana has always responded to intelligent prospecting and the Fairbanks men are experienced miners.

Dr. C. L. Smith, accompanied by his wife, left on this morning's train for Chitina, where he intends to locate.

Dec. 16

Cordova, December 18

A crew of carpenters and helpers left on the train this morning for McCarthy where they will

build a warehouse for the C. R. & N. W. Railroad to care for the freight of those who are going into the interior. The warehouse will provide shelter for the goods left at that point while their owners are making arrangements and taking a part of their supplies over the trail to the new camp.

A survey has been completed for a new aerial tram, from the Jumbo Mine of the Kennecott Mines Company to the railroad. This property is expected to be in the producing class before the end of next season which will greatly exceed the amount of shipments by the Kennecott Mines Company.

The road commission teams are now busily engaged in hauling freight along the overland road for next summer's use. Work on the Nizina bridge will begin shortly after the first of the year, as soon as the ice is strong enough to support the false work.

The Mother Lode Mines Company has 400 tons of high grade ore sacked at the foot of their new aerial tram. The ore will be sledded to McCarthy later in the season. This will be the first shipment of ore from this rich property.

Chitina boasts of not having a single vacant house, cabin or shack and

a steady demand for houses continues.

The Copper River is sufficiently frozen to permit the passage of horses, without danger of breaking through.

ALASKA CONSOLIDATED IS SHIPPING COPPER

The Alaska Consolidated Copper Company, operating on the Kuskulana, has a small crew of men working taking out and sacking high grade ore. They have loaded a car of copper ore at Strelna which was sledded from the mine to the railroad, a distance of 20 miles. The company plans to ship several carloads during the winter.

CANADIAN MAIL SERVICE TWO MONTHS BEHIND OURS

The first mail to leave Dawson for Donjek, Snag and Chisana by heavy horse team got away December 5 with freight teams dispatched via Black Hill, Scroggie, Steward City so that mushers and freighters to the Chisana diggings can go through the canyon in absolute safety.

A trail is being staked from the upper end of the Nizina canyon to Porphy Point, following the bars of the river, thus avoiding channels and all danger of accidents.

Dec. 23

Newborn moose calves fight slim odds

BY NED ROZELL

Any moose calf alive in mid-summer is a lucky animal. If the calf was born a twin, it has probably seen its sibling pulled down and eaten by a bear. If the calf was born alone, it probably stood close to its mother as she reared on her hind legs and pounded a predator with her hooves.

In late May all over Alaska, female moose find a secluded spot to give birth to a calf, twin calves or sometimes triplets. In the weeks that follow, many of these gangly newborns fall prey to bears and wolves. In most areas of Alaska, more moose calves die than survive.

Mark Bertram is a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wildlife biologist at Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. While a helicopter pilot distracted cow moose from the air, Bertram and others have scrambled to birthing sites and attached radio collars to newborn calves. By following radio signals after the calves stopped moving, the biologists were able to find dead calves and determine what killed them.

In the study at Yukon Flats, an area larger than Maryland where Alaska's longest river reaches north of the Arctic Circle, Bertram found the remains of a majority of the 29 moose he collared in a 1998 study. Fifty-five percent died in one month. Three-quarters of those baby moose were killed by either black bears,

which are abundant in Yukon Flats, or grizzly bears.

When Bertram approaches a kill site, there's usually not much left to identify the carcass as a moose calf. He said bears generally crush a calf's skull to first eat the brain, tongue and other soft tissue, then work their way back to consume the entire carcass. A moose calf is a major score for a bear or a wolf, as is seen in the woeful numbers of calves that reach their first birthday.

"It's real common for just 30 percent of calves to survive their first year," Bertram said.

In studies done elsewhere in Alaska and the Yukon, the numbers agree. North of Tok, 25 percent of calves collared survived their first year. Just 19 percent survived in a study performed in southwest

Yukon. Around 30 percent made it through a year in two studies done around Galena and Nelchina. Terry Bowyer, a biologist at the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Institute of Arctic Biology, collared cow moose in Denali National Park and kept track of their young for four years. Only five calves out of 44 made it through their first summers. A vast majority of those were killed by grizzly bears.

There is at least one area in Alaska where the outlook for moose calves has not been as bleak recently. Tanana Flats, south of Fairbanks between the Tanana River and the Alaska Range, is "Moose Heaven,"

according to Rod Boertje, a predator-prey research biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. At three and one-third moose per square mile in the central 2,600 square miles of Tanana Flats, the area has more moose than just about any comparably sized area in North America. Because moose far outnumber the predators there, lots of moose calves survive the first few rocky weeks of life. Fifty-eight percent of the Tanana Flats calves lived to see their first birthdays.

Tanana Flats moose are able to swamp predators with more calves than they can eat, Boertje said. It's a luxury moose don't have in other areas, such as Yukon Flats, which has only about .3 to .4 moose per square mile and more bears than Tanana Flats.

Moose calves are often easy prey for bears and wolves until they gain some agility, Boertje said. "Caribou calves can outrun bears in 10 days," he said. "It takes moose calves about five weeks until they can outrun a bear. They're vulnerable for a lot longer."

Boertje said the moose calves that survive are probably the ones that stick close to the cow no matter how frightened by an attacking bear or wolf. Those that let their mothers fight their battles for them are probably the moose that survive to be adults in a struggle that is lost more often than not.

This column is provided as a public service by the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks, in cooperation with the UAF research community. Ned Rozell is a science writer at the institute. He can be reached by email at nrozell@dino.gi.alaska.edu. Ned Rozell wrote this column in 1998.

KXKM license renewal

On September 27th, 2005, Terminal Radio Inc. filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission for renewal of the license of KXKM which is licensed to serve McCarthy, AK. The station trans-

mits from a site located 5.5 km west-southwest of McCarthy, Valdez-Cordova census area, AK, with an effective radiated power of 0.1kw. This station rebroadcasts KCHU 770AM Valdez. Individuals who wish to advise the FCC of facts relating

to the renewal application or to whether this station has operated in the public interest, should file comments and petitions with the FCC by Jan. 6th, 2006, by writing to: FCC, Washington, DC 20554.

Dan Creek in 1913

BY S. R. REID

Dan Creek, Oct. 11 – On the morning of September 14, 1912, George Howard Birch stood on the bank of Dan Creek and gazed with dismay upon the remnant of a fine hydraulic plant which he had been operating for three days. Dan Creek stream had gone mad the previous evening and gave vent to its fury by rushing down the valley carrying dams, pipe lines, old-time prospectors cabins, sluice boxes, and huge trees all in mad confusion to be finally picked up by the Nizina river below. Sharp points in the creek and high bars, cuts, and ground sluices were all leveled and the creek valley, and for three miles or more the creek had taken on the appearance of a glacial moraine.

Many an older engineer would have been completely appalled with the wrecking of his plant and the loss of \$70,000 but Mr. Birch proved equal to the emergency and with his veteran assistant Charles Range, began at once the work of selecting what remained of value and drawing plans for an almost new plant.

The plant now completed has been constructed with a view of withstanding any unexpected floods, in fact to stand anything except cy-

clones or earthquakes. In some places the pipe lines have been placed 60 feet above the level of the creek. The main dam is at the canyon about 3 miles from the mouth of the creek. Over 10,000 feet of pipe line varying from 30-inch to 15-inch is now in place and 650 feet of flume leads the water from the dam to the pen stock.

About 1,800 feet of 5-foot flume has been built and the riffle blocks are 12 inches. Two 6-inch giants will be worked in the cut, while a 5-inch giant will be used for stacking tailings. The plant also includes electric and telephone equipment, a 10,000-foot per day saw mill, blacksmith shop, store, finely equipped bunkhouse and a well appointed mess house.

Twelve years ago Dan Creek was in its infancy and held by individual prospectors who prospected the ground but did but little practical work although it was known that a rich pay streak existed. The ground was thawed and the boulders were too large to hoist with ordinary windlasses.

The Dan Creek Mining Co., with head offices at 45 Broadway, N. Y., became interested and gradually began to acquire interests on the creek and benches.

The company's interests now embrace 700 acres of high grade gravels. The extremely high cost of moving freight kept the company from going ahead and but little was accomplished until after the advent of the railway to McCarthy.

Three years ago it might be said the company began to prospect a little. Last year the plant was only installed in season to be destroyed by the flood. Mr. Birch, who is a graduate of the Columbia School of Mines has with his force of 25 men accomplished a splendid season's work and bids fair before this time of next year, to get good returns. Mr. Birch like other operators in the district would like to see the government build a bridge across the Nizina. Discussing the matter recently Mr. Birch said:

"The bridge will improve the interior mail service and will eliminate the dangers encountered by travelers on foot, and will reduce the cost of general freighting. As it is now, if a piece of machinery is broken and duplicates are required, it is likely to be right in highwater season, thus causing a week or even two weeks delay before you can reach the railroad."

Reprinted from *The Chitina Leader* October 21, 1913

DEET delivers: A scientist who studies Alaska seabirds that give off mosquito-repellant chemicals sent me a paper from *The New England Journal of Medicine* that was published in 2002, but had some good bug-related information I had missed. Researchers at the University of Florida compared commercial repellants on mosquitoes they breed at the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory. Deep Woods OFF!, with a 23.8 percent mixture of the chemical DEET, "provided an average of five hours of complete protection against (mosquito) bites after a single application." Mark Fradin and John Day, who co-authored the study, wrote "only products containing DEET offer long-lasting protection after a single application." They also tested Skin-So-Soft Bath Oil, and found it provided an average of 9.6 minutes of protection. Of DEET alternatives, the most effective was a soybean-oil-based repellent that worked for about 1.5 hours. They noted that repellants don't work beyond 4 centimeters from the site of application, and that garlic, vitamin B1, and wearable devices that emit sounds don't seem to work. The authors also wrote, "DEET has a remarkable safety profile after 40 years of use and nearly 8 billion human applications. Fewer than 50 cases of serious toxic effects have been documented in the medical literature since 1960."

NPS news

BY RICK KENYON

We received the following Email from NPS Park Planner Vicki Snitzler last week:

“I wanted to let you know that Jed Davis, our superintendent, is facing a critical medical situation. Last week he was diagnosed with liver cancer. He will be headed to Arizona shortly to start a treatment regime at the Mayo clinic in Scottsdale. It may be awhile before we know how long he will be there or what his prognosis is.”

“In the interim, he has asked me to serve as acting superintendent. I will do my best to keep park projects moving along. Please feel free to contact me any time if you have any issues or concerns.”

“I will do my best to keep you informed of Jed's condition as I can. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.”

According to Vicki, as relayed by local Ranger Stephens Harper at the recent MAC meeting, the Access Handbook will likely be ready for review late this winter. He said the next draft will have no fees, and will actually be two documents—one for

existing access and one for new routes.

Vicki Penwell, the Nabesna District Interpreter for the National Park Service, has been selected as the 2005 Freeman Tilden Award recipient for the development of Ahtna Cultural day camps for children of the Copper Basin. The programs brought children of all races together with each other and Ahtna elders to learn about subsistence activities.

This year's Excellence in Interpretation Awards Ceremony will be held during the National Association for Interpretation Workshop in Mobile, Alabama. It is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The ceremony will take place in the Mobile Convention Center Ballroom.

The awards ceremony will recognize employees from many different agencies. The National Park Service, the USDA Forest Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Association for Interpretation will be making presentations.

We also received the following letter from Megan Richotte regard-

ing the volunteer interpretive ranger program.

“This past summer Bonnie Kenyon, Michelle Casey and John Adams volunteered to help extend the hours of operation of the Park Service's McCarthy Road Information Station (MRIS) at mile 59 McCarthy Road into the evening. The volunteer program was suggested and discussed at a June community meeting at Tony Zak's. After a short training program in mid-July, Bonnie, Michelle and John started staffing evening hours in the MRIS. For the rest of the summer they helped many park and community visitors upon their arrival in McCarthy. Thank you very much to our community volunteers! Due to the success of the pilot program, we would like to expand next summer to cover additional evenings each week. If you are interested in volunteering for Summer 2006 please contact me by early summer.”

Megan Richotte

Kennecott District Interpreter

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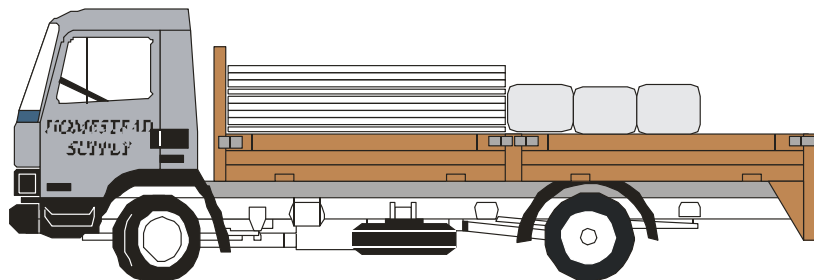
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Biologist helps streamline subsistence hunting permits

Fisheries biologist Elijah Waters will tell you right up front “I’m big on hunting!” So, when he transferred from Roseburg, Ore., to the Glennallen Field Office, he started wondering why it took BLM employees up to 15 minutes to process a subsistence hunting permit application. When an office issues more than 2,500 permits (more than half the permits in the state), it means a lot of people can be waiting in line. Back in Oregon, the state government had things computerized so he knew there was a better way.

Teamwork with a friend in BLM’s Division of Information Resource Management led to a modified software program that retained a significant amount of repetitive information — such as name, address, and driver’s license number — that carries over from year to year. BLM tested and refined the program for the past four years. “We liked it so much we started showing it to other agencies like the Forest Service and National Park Service,” says Waters. He also gave demonstrations to the Federal Subsistence Management Board! It got their attention.

This year, a new interagency internet-based refinement of the process, developed by the Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Subsistence Management during the past year, comes on line for the first

time. An application that used to take 15 minutes to process now takes just three. The system also assigns permit numbers automatically, improving what had been a cumbersome process due to the number of variations in the types of permits. It will also flag multiple permit requests.

And for the second year, hunters will report their success (or lack thereof) directly to the office issuing their permit. “We enter the reports daily from the field offices and everyone on the system has instant access to the data. It’s really pretty slick. And if there’s a question as to the legality of a kill, we can track it back to a specific hunter, usually within a day,” says Waters.

All the information goes into the same federal permit harvest database whether it is a moose permit in Nome, a muskox permit on the Seward Peninsula, a deer permit on the Tongass Forest, or a caribou permit for the Nelchina herd in the Copper River Valley.

“Timely reporting of harvest data is critical to the management of the resource,” says Taylor Brelford, the BLM representative on the Federal Interagency Staff Committee. He likes the new system because it improves management by allowing for mid-season adjustments to bag limits where the Federal Subsistence Board has delegated this authority to local managers. Last

year, the BLM Glennallen District Manager was able to authorize cows to be hunted during the winter caribou hunt based on recent population survey results and the fall harvest data for the area. The permit harvest data is also used by the federal board to easily review harvest patterns in relation to wildlife population levels and to adjust season and bag limits.

Subsistence Permits Now Available at Glennallen Field Office: BLM-Glennallen Field Office has started issuing permits for the 2005-06 federal subsistence hunting seasons for moose and caribou in Game Management Unit 13. Permits are granted to anyone who can provide evidence of meeting all federal residency requirements of Game Management Unit 13 or 20D (excluding Fort Greely), and can provide photo identification and a current Alaska resident hunting license. As a consideration to Delta Junction residents, GFO staff traveled to Delta Junction to issue permits over the course of two days, where 700 permits were processed. Subsistence permits will be available at the Glennallen Field Office from now until March 31, 2006. It is anticipated that nearly 3,000 permits will be issued this season.

(Reprinted from BLM Alaska Frontiers Fall 2005)

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“One of the best ways to get yourself a reputation as a dangerous citizen these days is to go about repeating the very phrases which our Founding Fathers used in the great struggle for independence.” —Charles Beard

Local building projects

Museum gets new deck

The town's museum is now sporting a "new look," thanks to John Adams of McCarthy Building Services. A recently constructed wrap around porch and deck complete with ramp has been finished. Although it won't be fully appreciated until next summer tourist season, we all are pleased with the upgrade. Many thanks to John for a job well done. I'm sure you are



glad you completed your project before the McCarthy area experienced its first lasting snowfall of the season!



WSEN staff photo

Rowcon Service gets new equipment shop.

The new Rowcon Service's shop seems to dwarf workers David Rowland (left) and Don Welty (right). Forty-feet wide by eighty-feet long and about 26 feet tall, the building is to be used mainly for winter maintenance projects on the Rowland's fleet of heavy equipment. They hope to heat the building with a waste-oil heater, according to David Rowland.

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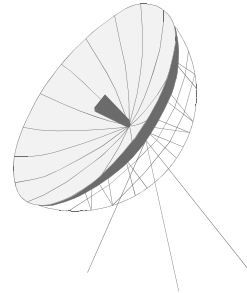
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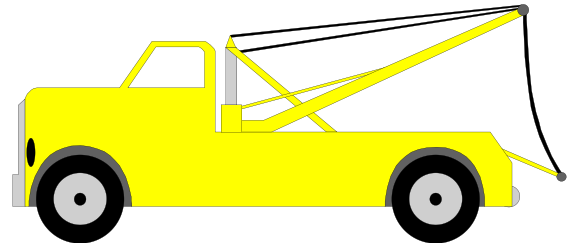
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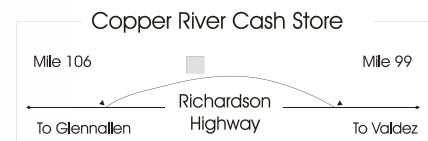
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Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

Hi everyone! Here I am back in Tucson in 90 degree weather (yes, it's October 10), and McCarthy with its cool breezes and fireplaces lit at night, is just a fond memory. I brought some more recipes to share with you from those wonderful people.

Thanks to my daughter Kim and her husband Richard, all summer long we had as much halibut and salmon as we could eat. There's a great advantage to having someone in the family who loves to fish, runs a halibut charter in Homer, and will even clean and smoke or can the fish for you! I needed one of those quick fix 'em, throw 'em in the oven but taste fantastic recipes and Kim gave me one. It's a real McCarthy recipe, too, because you can substitute and use whatever you have in the house.

HALIBUT

Cut the halibut into 1" chunks. Dip them in egg, or milk or egg substitute if you're watching your fat. Then dip them in a combination of crushed Cheezit crackers (I used low-fat) and grated Parmesan (or whatever cheese you have.) Put the chunks on a lightly-greased or sprayed cookie sheet and bake until done. Do not overbake. Talk about easy and good!

The next is from Chris Haley. Chris has a barber shop/beauty salon set up in her wonderful house that she and Howard are so ably building. When Jim and I went to get our hair cut this summer, Chris and I talked food and recipes. She told me about some Thai wraps a friend had made for her. Chris was even neighborly enough to make some and bring them up to the house so Jim and I could try them. I would like to give you that recipe as well as one for salmon she gave me which is absolutely wonderful.

THAI WRAPS

Soak Spring Roll Skins (can be purchased at Carrs in Alaska or other groceries in lower 48) in hot water till soft enough to roll.

Ingredients:
shredded carrots
green onions
shredded cabbage or spinach
cilantro, to taste
mint leaf
cooked rice
chopped chicken, pork, beef or tofu

Place meat and rice on a spring roll and sprinkle with other ingredients. Roll like a burrito and dip in sauce and eat. Sauce: 1 tablespoon sugar, 1 tablespoon vinegar, salt and some cayenne pepper.

I am one of those cooks who likes to know exact amounts and reads the recipe every time I cook! My last two cooks are the kind that say, "Use a little bit of this...." I must say though, both recipes were wonderful.

CHRIS' HONEY-ORANGE GLAZED SALMON with TOASTED COUSCOUS

4 - 5 oz. salmon fillets
salt and ground black pepper, to taste
1 orange (1/4 c. juice, 1 tsp. finely grated orange peel)
1 tablespoon honey
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
2 teaspoons peanut oil
1 cup whole wheat uncooked couscous (Chris says you can substitute a multi-grain rice for this)
1 teaspoon curry powder
1 1/2 cup reduced sodium chicken broth
2 chopped green onions
1/2 cup shredded carrots

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Coat a baking sheet with cooking spray. Season both sides of salmon with salt and pepper. In a shallow

dish, whisk together orange juice, peel, honey and cumin. Add salmon and turn to coat. Transfer salmon to prepared baking sheet and brush on any remaining marinade. Bake 10-12 min. until fork tender.

Meanwhile, heat peanut oil in a medium saucepan over medium high heat. Add couscous and cook 1 minute until golden. Add curry powder and stir to coat. Then add chicken broth, green onions and carrots; bring to a boil.

Remove from heat, cover and let stand five minutes. Fluff with a fork and season with salt and pepper. Serve salmon with couscous on the side.

I made this one several times during the summer because it was good and I love cumin! And now for a WONDERFUL BREAD. Our granddaughter, Anna Wallin, spent her first winter in McCarthy so we were eager to see how she had fared. She did an absolutely wonderful job—from hauling her own water and chopping wood to driving in snow and ice (she's from Tucson) and perfecting her cooking skills. I had all the confidence in the world that she could do it but to hear her talking about generators and invertors and then eat this wonderfully moist bread made us even prouder grandparents than we already were. She's another who puts "a little this..." but as a special favor to me she gave me her Zucchini Squash Bread recipe with exact amounts. Taste and enjoy.

ZUCCHINI SQUASH BREAD

(2 loaves)
3 eggs
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup oil
1 teaspoon baking soda
2 cups sugar
3 teaspoons cinnamon
2 cups grated zucchini

1 teaspoon baking powder
3 teaspoons vanilla
1 cup chopped nuts
3 cups flour

In a bowl, beat the eggs until foamy; add the oil, sugar, zucchini, and vanilla. Mix lightly, but well. Add the flour, salt, baking soda, cin-

namon, and baking powder and mix. Stir in the nuts. Divide the batter into two 8 1/2 X 5" greased loaf pans or one 9 X 13" cake pan. Bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour or until toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

That's all for this month. Have a wonderful holiday wherever you are. If you have a recipe to share or a request for one, you may e-mail me at jgelec@starband.net or write to me at 11270 E. Golf Links, Tucson, Az 85730.

A LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

August 2005 will be remembered for its warm and wet days. The high temperature for the month was 84 on the 11th, 12th and 13th (85 on Aug. 17, '04 and 80 on Aug. 8, '03). There were 12 days when the high was 70 or higher and 7 days when the high was 80 or higher. The first freeze was on the 28th as the temperature fell to 27; this was enough to kill some of the garden plants. There were only 2 days when the low was 32 or below and the low temperature for the month was 27 on the 28th (27 on Aug. 30, '04 and 27 on Aug 23, '03).

The average monthly temperature at McCarthy was 54.8 compared to 56.2 in Aug. '04, 51.5 in Aug. '03, 51.7 in Aug. '02 and 55.0 in Aug. '01. *Silver Lake had a high temperature of 85 on the 13th and 14th (85 on Aug. 18, '04 and 80 on Aug. 11, '03). There were 11 days with highs of 70 or higher and 6 days with a high of 80 or higher. The low temperature at Silver Lake was 29 on the 28th (31 on Aug 30, '04 and 30 on Aug. 23, '03). Silver Lake had only 2 days with a low of 32 or lower. The Silver Lake average temperature was 55.9 (57.8 in Aug. '04, 51.9 in Aug. '03, 53.2 in Aug. '02 and 55.0 in Aug. '01).*

The August precipitation at McCarthy was 3.90 inches compared with 0.74 inches in Aug. '04, 2.30

inches in Aug. '03 and 4.86 inches in Aug. '02. There were 17 days with a trace or more of rainfall recorded. *The precipitation at Silver Lake was a bit lighter with 3.14 inches recorded (0.37 in Aug. '04, 1.64 in Aug. '03 and 3.08 in Aug. '02). There were 14 days at Silver Lake with a trace or more of rainfall recorded.*

September 2005 will be remembered for its clouds and precipitation. The high temperature at McCarthy was 68 on the 11th (65 on Sept. 9, '04 and 66 on Sept. 11, '03). The low temperature was 24 on the 29th and 30th (15 on Sept. 18, '04 and 12 on Sept. 17, '03). There were 12 days with the high 60 or above and 5 days with the low of 30 or lower.

The average monthly temperature at McCarthy was 47.4 (40.5 in Sept. '04, 42.1 in Sept. '03 and 44.6 in Sept. '02). This was about 14 degrees warmer than the record low of 34.3 of September 1992. *Silver Lake had a high of 64 on the 9th and 12th (69 on Sept. 1, '04 and 66 on Sept. 12, '03) and a low of 28 on the 29th and 30th (17 on Sept. 18, '04 and 14 on Sept. 17, '03). The Silver Lake average temperature was 46.4 (40.0 in Sept. '04, 40.7 in Sept. '03 and 44.8 in Sept. '02).*

There was no snow recorded at McCarthy in September (8.2 inches in Sept. '04, 1.1 in Sept. '03, 00 in Sept. '02 and '01, and 29.5 in

Sept. '00) and the total precipitation was 2.82 inches. The average for September (1968-2001) is 2.56 inches and compares with 4.95 inches in Sept. '04, 0.98 inches in Sept. '03, 1.47 inches in Sept '02, 2.07 inches in Sept. '01 and 10.82 inches in Sept. '00. There were 23 days with measurable rainfall, compared with 13 days in Sept. '04. *Silver Lake's total precipitation was 1.49 inches (2.13 inches in Sept. '04, 0.94 inches in Sept. '03, 1.51 inches in Sept. '02, 1.49 inches in Sept. '01 and 6.12 inches in Sept. '00). Silver Lake had 17 days with a trace or more of rainfall. No snow recorded at Silver Lake.*

The first 10 days of October have been cloudy and wet, with about average temperatures. The first snowfall of the season was the morning of the 10th with about an inch of wet snow. The highs have been mostly in the 30's and 40's. The low temperature has been below 20 only a couple times. Winter should be here to stay very soon.

A few interesting weather facts for the summer of 2005. The high temperatures May thru August reached 70 or higher on 59 days (83 in '04) and 80 or higher (June thru August) on 9 days (31 in '04). Total precipitation May thru August was 12.37 inches (4.06 in '04).

Have a great winter.

"The best portion of a good man's life is the little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and love." —William Wordsworth

KIAM week-day radio schedule

Monday - Friday (except as noted)

AM Schedule

12:05-12:06 Insights - Chuck Swindoll
 12:29-12:30 Beyond the Call
 12:30-12:32 Full Pardon - Harry Greene
 1:05-1:06 Back to Genesis
 1:29-1:30 Portraits of Grace-John MacArthur
 1:30-1:32 Free Indeed
 2:06-2:35 Unshackled
 2:35-2:36 Bible Minute - Woodrow Kroll
 3:05-3:06 Dobson Family Minute - James Dobson
 3:29-3:30 Mercy Minute - Don Stevens
 3:30-3:32 Answers with Ken Ham
 4:05-4:06 Susan B. Anthony List
 4:29-4:30 Global Minute
 4:30-4:31 Lighthouse Report
 5:05-5:06 Family Night Guy
 5:29-5:30 A Woman After God's Own Heart
 5:30-5:56 Through The Bible - J. Vernon McGee
 5:56-5:59 A Word from the Word
 6:07-6:10 USA Sports

6:30-6:33 USA News Headlines
 6:33-6:36 Today's Father - Ken Canfield
 7:10-7:13 USA Sports
 7:30-7:33 USA News Headlines
 7:33-7:35 Mom Sense - Elisa Morgan
 8:07-8:09 Home School Heart beat
 8:30-8:55 Back to the Bible - Woodrow Kroll
 8:55-8:59 How To Manage Your Money
 9:30-9:34 Joni and Friends - Joni Eareckson Tada
 10:10-10:29 Mukluk Messages
 10:30-10:59 Focus on the Family - James Dobson
 11:30-11:54 Money Matters - Howard Dayton
 11:55-11:59 Mission Network News - Peter Brooks
 PM Schedule
 12:07-12:11 Family News in Focus - Bob Dittmer
 12:11-12:14 Cal Thomas Commentary
 12:14-12:27 Proclaim
 12:30-12:56 Walk In The Word - James MacDonald

12:56-12:59 Eye on the Middle East-Elwood McQuaid
 1:30-1:59 Insight for Living - Chuck Swindoll
 2:10-2:29 Mukluk Messages
 2:30-2:59 Turning Point - David Jeremiah
 3:30-3:44 Storytime
 3:45-3:59 Adventures in Drama
 4:07-4:10 USA Sports
 4:30-4:34 A Word with You - Ron Hutchcraft
 5:30-5:31 Answers with Ken Ham
 6:07-7:29 Native New Life (Monday)
 6:30-6:32 A Word from the Word (Tues-Fri)
 7:07-7:21 Native Strength for Today (Tues-Fri)
 7:30-7:56 Adventures in Odyssey
 8:07-8:22 Stories of Great Christians
 8:30-8:59 Unshackled
 9:10-9:29 Mukluk Messages
 9:30-9:55 Family Life Today - Dennis Rainey
 9:55-9:59 Home School Heartbeat
 10:30-10:59 Grace to You - John MacArthur

SATURDAY

AM Schedule

2:06-2:35 Unshackled
 8:07-8:21 Storybook Room
 8:21-8:26 Keys for Kids
 8:30-8:55 Down Gilead Lane
 9:00-9:27 Paws and Tales
 9:30-9:55 The Pond
 9:55-9:56 Sounds Wild

10:10-10:29 Mukluk Messages
 10:30-10:56 Adventures in Odyssey
 11:30-11:59 Ranger Bill
 PM Schedule
 12:30-12:55 Money Matters Wknd - Howard Dayton
 2:10-2:29 Mukluk Messages
 2:30-2:55 God's Great Outdoors - Gerry Caillouet

3:00-3:55 Weekend Magazine - Bill Maier
 6:00-6:59 The Bluegrass Hour - Adam White
 7:07-7:25 Native Strength for Today
 7:25-7:40 Native Crosswinds
 7:40-7:55 Native Praise Broadcast-Roger Holmberg
 8:30-8:59 Unshackled
 9:10-9:29 Mukluk Messages
 9:30-10:49 Native New Life

SUNDAY

AM Schedule

2:06-2:35 Unshackled
 7:06-8:29 Sunday Morning Praise
 8:30-8:56 Moody Presents - Joe Stowell
 9:06-9:59 Sunday Morning Praise
 10:10-10:29 Mukluk Messages
 10:30-10:55 Hour of Decision - Billy Graham

11:05-11:59 Moody Church Hour - Erwin Lutzer
 PM Schedule
 12:06-12:09 USA Sports
 1:06-1:59 Classical Music Hour
 2:10-2:29 Mukluk Messages
 2:30-2:59 Radio Theater
 3:06-3:09 USA Sports
 5:06-5:30 Northern Light - Paul Holmes

6:30-6:56 Adventures in Odyssey
 7:06-7:51 Thru the Bible - J. Vernon McGee
 8:00-8:15 Science, Scripture and Salvation
 8:15-8:29 The Storyteller
 8:30-8:59 Unshackled
 9:10-9:29 Mukluk Messages
 9:30-9:56 Let My People Think - Ravi Zacharias
 10:30-10:59 Sounds of Joy - Dave Freeland

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

This is a memo from Joseph Hale 10/28/05 to our dear friends and neighbors in McCarthy:

It was our desire to be with you at this meeting, but since we cannot be, John graciously offered to read this for us. Please bear with me as I try to share my heart.

We well remember the day we drove into McCarthy. Our hearts were overwhelmed by your kindness, and we fell in love with your town. You were gracious to us and we wanted to reciprocate, but we truly did not understand what it meant to be a good neighbor. Our hearts weep for the pain and misunderstandings that we have caused in the town, and we want to ask your forgiveness individually and collectively. We need your help to be the people that we want to be, and though we don't deserve it... we beg for your patience and understanding. It took years for us to become the people that we are, so we know that it will take some time for us to adopt a manner of living that is truly acceptable before God and man.

We love McCarthy!!! The whole spirit of the community is something we always dreamed of being a part of. We would count it a special privilege to be a part of what you are doing there. We tried in our own simple way to express that feeling a bit this summer as we worked and sought to apologize to those we had offended in the past. I know there is much more apologizing we need to do, and we will try to make restitution as we have contact with you personally.

It is our plan to work a bit in McCarthy during the early winter months and finish putting up our visitor's center on our property as you come into town. We will spend some time here in Palmer, trying to round out a bit of our educational

needs and return to McCarthy in the spring to prepare for the tourist season. We are putting a small add in the Milepost today which will advertise our horseback riding. We have bulldozed a sight for a future home for our family across the street from the parking lot. It is our intent to build there as funds are available and the Lord is willing.

We know there will be a lot of unexpected interruptions to our plans, but we will proceed as we are able. We wanted you, our friends and neighbors to know that it is our desire to live and dwell among you... if you will still have us.

Joseph

For Mama and the children

The older children issued this statement on their web site:

"We hold no bitterness, anger or resentment towards our Papa but simply desire that he be held accountable for his actions before God and man. We would pray that he would openly confess his sin before God and repent ... knowing that God is able and willing to both forgive his sin and save his soul. This is the hardest thing we have ever had to do, but we want to be clear about our desire to separate ourselves from evil ... which required us to physically separate from Papa. The requirement that we count the cost of following Christ has required that we be obedient to the Scripture which says, 'He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me.' Matthew 10:37."

"We are so thankful to have the love and complete support of our Mama in this very difficult time. We trust her explicitly and know that she would lay her life down for us. We also are grateful to have the love and support of the Buckingham family. They have truly been a

'father to the fatherless' during our time of real need and provided us with daily love and counsel. Our lives are filled with joy and hope of a new life before us."

ALRA statement on recent developments with the Pilgrim family

The criminal indictment of Robert Hale (Papa Pilgrim) last week on charges of assault and abuse against one of his own children is appalling and tragic. In working with the family over the last two years ALRA never observed anything out of order and we had no reason to believe that any misconduct by Papa Pilgrim was taking place.

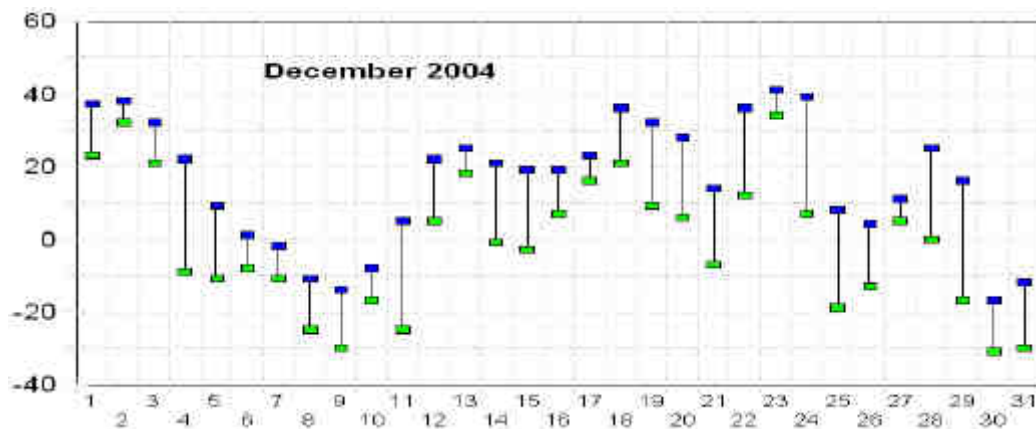
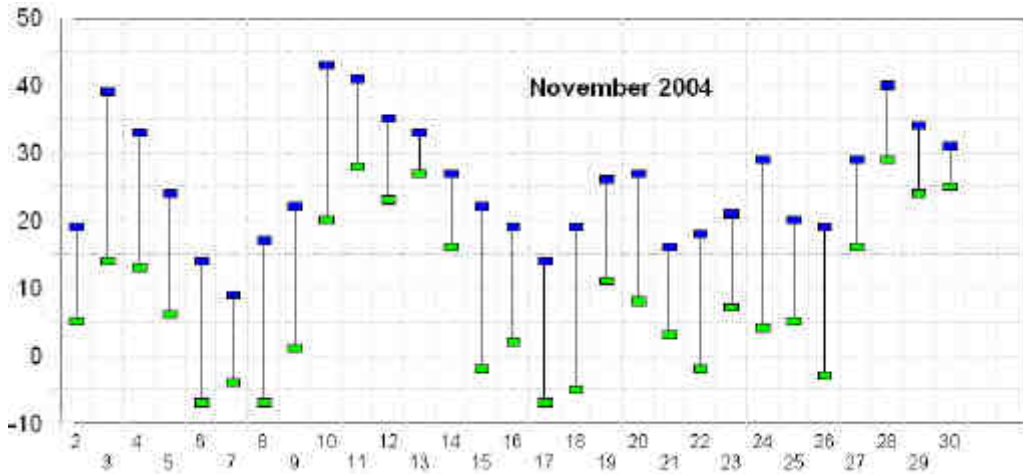
The immediate concern of all must be that the children be looked after, protected, and given every chance to recover and thrive. Our heart goes out to them.

Today, two years later, the land issues remain the same. The National Park Service is still blockading reasonable and feasible access to the McCarthy Creek homestead where the mother and her younger children continue to live. Almost all of the property is owned (and always has been owned) by the victims of this latest criminal development: the children. Their absolute right to access to their property continues.

The American Land Rights Association will stand by these children and all other Alaskans that are facing unjust access restrictions to their lands affecting their daily lives. Now more than ever before it is critical that the Pilgrim children get a fair deal so that they may have the opportunity to move on from recent events.

You have to admire their courage and the resiliency of their statement, "Our lives are filled with joy and hope of a new life before us."

Wrangell St. Elias News
McCarthy #42
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Wrangell St. Elias News

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