

Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Volume Seventeen Issue Six

November & December 2008

\$2.50

Park Service completes busy year



Photo courtesy NPS

The Wrangell-St. Elias trail crew endured more than a month of rain while repairing Nugget Creek and Kotsina Trail along the McCarthy Road.



Photo courtesy NPS

Trail crew balances on moraines along the Root Glacier while repairing Erie Mine Trail at Kennecott.



Photo courtesy Jim Baker

The Wrangell-St. Elias Park maintenance crew poses on the deck of the newly-opened Visitor's Contact Station in Kennecott. In the early 1900s, during Kennecott's copper mining heyday, this building served as the General Store and Warehouse. It is now being used to greet area visitors and provide them information concerning the rich history of Kennecott, Alaska.

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

Today—October 25—is a perfect day to work on a “note.” When I examined the thermometer this early a.m. and discovered it read a whopping minus 16 degrees F., the thought of sitting at my computer, sipping on a cup of hot tea, and writing you (our reader) was very appealing!

Yesterday we were greeted with snow-flurries and a high temperature of 23 degrees *above* zero. It’s apparent winter is making a grand entrance in our town this year. (How could it be that just a few days ago, Rick and Jim Kreblin were “cruising” Long Lake in quest for those illusive Lake Trout!)

I hope you find the November/December *WSEN* interesting as well as informative. Jen McCormick, a visitor to our area and a guest at our B & B this summer, submitted a travel story. We are always eager to “see” McCarthy through the eyes of someone who visits the area for the first time. Thanks, Jen, for taking the time to share your experiences with us.

Inside are several park service related stories and/or announcements. As Rick and I were putting the final touches on the enclosed articles, an issue of great significance to local folks came to our attention. It concerns the local hire process used by the park service. Due to a lack of time and the complexity of the subject, Rick and I chose not to throw together an article for this issue, but to give more time for gathering facts and comments. Please read, however, on page 26, an editorial on

the subject written by Jim Stratton, Alaska’s Senior Regional Director for the National Parks and Conservation Association. Thanks, Jim, for taking the time to share your prospective on such short notice.

My neighbor and long-time resident of McCarthy, Jim Edwards, writes his opinion (page 26) on a yearly happening that effects most all of us, even those of us who live out in this remote part of the world—an event this is just around the corner. Jim, thanks for offering to share your thoughts with us.

As I was typing the last paragraph, Dorothy Adler and baby Logan, stopped by to pick up some outgoing mail. She informed me that she had gotten a good look at a wolf while taking a walk yesterday. The rabbit population is

quite high this year so I expect the wolves are not lacking plenty to eat.

I personally want to thank Rick who took the time to write on matters of the heart in his article on page 13, Is God good, or is He sovereign? We live in a world that is full of knowledge on all sorts of subjects and obtainable in a variety of ways. What we choose to believe with our hearts, is in my opinion, of utmost importance. So, thank you, Rick, for putting in writing something of eternal value.

On that “note” Rick and I wish you all a most blessed Thanksgiving and joyous Christmas season. See you next year!

WSEN welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Sarah Graham, TN; Rod Murray, AK; Maja-britte Logan, AK.

Table of Contents	
A note from the publisher.....	2
Items of Interest.....	3
Kennecott NHL gets major attention.....	6
The Great Alaskan Adventure.....	7
WRST trail crew finishes productive season.....	7
Off-road vehicle usage in Nabesna examined.....	9
White Touring Auto, 1915.....	10
WRST subsistence firewood permits.....	10
WRST Visitor Center Available Through the Winter.....	10
DOT survey crew on a mission.....	11
McCarthy-Kennicott Museum checks in.....	11
McCarthy Area Council holds annual meeting.....	12
Is God good, or is He sovereign?.....	13
THE KATALLA HERALD.....	14
Whither the ice worms? Team offers bounty.....	16
Book Review—Sarah by Kaylene Johnson.....	17
Museum Committee candidates sought.....	17
Cooking with Peggy.....	24
A LOOK AT THE WEATHER.....	25
FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.....	26
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....	27

Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

(Editor's note: I'm reluctant to bite into the "items" with my note, but I do have an announcement and request for future items. I welcome items from all my neighbors whether you are year-round or seasonal. While there are those who do not wish to participate (some don't think they are very interesting), others are willing "items" and definitely interesting, even if it is just reporting the everyday events in their McCarthy/Kennicott lifestyle. My request is to you who already participate or would like to. Each issue has its own deadline for incoming news or stories. It is the 15th of the month prior to each issue. For example, the deadline for the November/December WSEN is October 15th. If you have an item, you may call me at 907-554-4454, email me at BonnieK@starband.net or as does long-time subscriber and "items" participator, Dave Hollis, you may submit your item/s in handwritten form. That or the email method is always better for me as it reduces the mistakes on my part! I cannot thank those of you enough who have faithfully submitted items. WSEN readers love to read about you and even though you think filling your woodshed or building an addition to your cabin is "not very interesting," I can report to you that our readers love reading about your dai-

ly lives. Thank you for your consideration and participation!)

Art Phillips/Linda Warren: Art and Linda arrived at their McCarthy area home somewhat late in the season but not too late for dealing with some pesky trespassers!

Linda writes: "George (Cebula) had our cabin ready for us when we arrived. He had taken down the plywood from the windows and opened the place up for us. Unfortunately, we were welcomed home by all sorts of 'business cards' that the mice, voles, critters (?) had left for us! We arrived 'home' late at night and when we pulled the covers back to get into bed....Whoa!!—a bed full of rice. The little devils had made deposits all over the bed, between the covers, under the pillows, between the box spring and mattress. When Art had plumbed our house last year for running water, he drilled holes in the floor and then forgot about them. The mice must have had a great winter last year. It took three days of cleaning and disinfecting the whole house. There wasn't an inch of the place that the critters did not check out and leave a calling card. We have since plugged up all the holes and made sure to put any dry food into containers that the mice can't get into. Live and learn in the Great North Land!"

In spite of their unwelcome welcome, Art and Linda found time to

relax, take in some of the local sights and visit friends.

Jim and Audrey Edwards: Some of those friends were nearby neighbors, Jim and Audrey Edwards, who live just down the road and through the woods. The Edwards' social calendar these past couple months has included a wide assortment of visitors. One such guest was Aric Morton. I'm going to let Jim tell you all about Aric's visit.

"Aric was one of the group of relatives of old Martin Radovan who came in 2006. Martin prospected at Glacier Creek for some 40 years. He died in about 1974. Aric wanted another chance to go up into Radovan Gulch and look more closely at the cirque wall where Martin had focused on the maintained prospect. Unfortunately, the weather this summer was, shall we say, "crummy." We had a hard time finding a suitable day to fly over there. We even had overnight camping all laid out, but it just kept raining. Finally, we got one day when it was nice enough to make a visit to Dan Creek, where Martin, in the 'old days' and myself in the 1960s, maintained a gold claim.

"Aric and I were able to hike up the south side of Dan Creek to past where the old claim used to be on the north side, but, one, it was still rainy, and two, the creek was too high to cross and all the old cross-

Wrangell St. Elias News (USPS 011301) VOL. Seventeen, Issue Six, November & December 2008.

Published every two months at McCarthy, Alaska. McCarthy, PO Box MX Y, Glennallen, AK 99588-8998. Phone (907) 554-4454. FAX 1-866-487-7657. **E-mail: WSEN@wsen.net** "Copyright © 2008 by Wrangell St. Elias News. No part of this publication may be reproduced by any means without the express permission of the publishers."

Contributors to this issue: Peggy Guntis, George Cebula, Ned Rozell, Jim Edwards, Jen McCormick and Jim Stratton. Subscription price is \$14 for one year in the USA. Canada \$16. Other countries \$23. Advertising rates upon request. Deadline for publication in next issue is December 15.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT GLENNALLEN, AK. 99588.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Wrangell St. Elias News, McCarthy #42, PO Box MX Y, Glennallen AK 99588-8998.

transportation for this trip, by explaining the many points of interest along the route and up to Mike Monroe's oil storage tank in Kennicott. Flying the Wrangell Mountains with pilot Don Welty of Wrangell Mountain Air put the proper perspective of the many sites from the air.

"Mike caught a ride back to Anchorage with Art and Linda who eagerly shared their knowledge of the wonders of Alaska as seen from the road." While Mike returned earlier, Ted stayed on nearly 2 more weeks and found contentment in tinkering around George's cabin with a variety of projects. The two brothers made a road trip to Fairbanks and took note of the changes in that area.

Rick and I enjoy Ted's frequent morning visits over coffee. As always, Ted, it was a highlight of our summer/fall season to have you back in the area, and the opportunity to meet your oldest son, Mike. See you next year!

Tim Mischel and Kathy Drury: It's not fall anymore but, then, it isn't exactly winter either. Tim and Kathy live in the best of both worlds – McCarthy style. Tim owns property known as the Angle Station, located up the mountain above Kennicott. He also is a landowner on the west side of the Kennicott River, just down the road from Rick and me. In the summer and fall months, Tim and Kathy find themselves spending more time on their flatland. But, about this time of year, they begin yearning for the mountains. There is only one problem. They need snow to maneuver their way up the mountain trail to the station cabin. At the present we only have 2 inches on the ground. Not nearly enough for a snowmachine. So, in the meantime, Kathy says they are just "hanging out and wishing for snow."

We can expect to see them in the neighborhood (or up the hill) until the holidays then they plan on

heading south to visit family members on both sides. This year they plan to fly to Washington state where Tim has a 1965 red convertible Pontiac in storage – just waiting for some attention and a possible trip to warmer climes. Sounds like a great plan, Tim and Kathy!

February is a good month to return, says Kathy—plenty of light and plenty of that good old white stuff called snow.

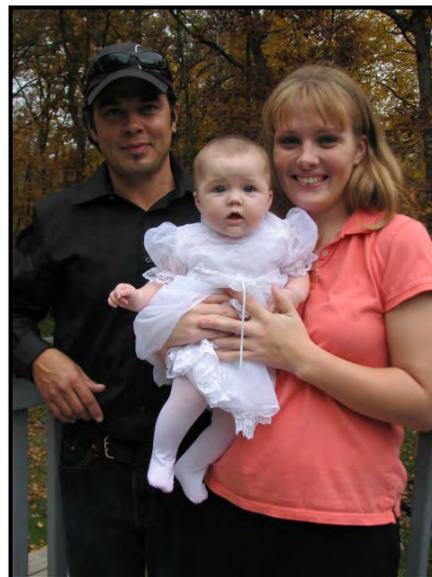
Howard and Chris Haley: Once again it is time for Rick and I to visit Chris' beauty shop and get our hair cut. When I called her tonight, she and Howard were taking it easy—something neither of them do too often. Both Chris and Howard worked full time this summer for the park service in maintenance. Chris said their weekends were filled with company.

One of their major projects this summer was the construction of a fine-looking woodshed. Since Rick and I were down for our last hair cut, Chris and Howard have completely filled it. Now the snow is here, outside projects are on hold and it's time for the Haleys to kick up their feet and rest a spell.

Not one to rest too long, Chris said she is hoping to pay her family, including her grandmother who just turned 90, a visit sometime this winter. In the meantime, she and Howard are gearing up for a nice, long, quiet winter.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT! A baby girl, Ava Jane Gutierrez, was born to Dave Gutierrez and Katy Englund at 1:28 a.m. on April 10, 2008, at Mercy Hospital in Coon Rapids, MN. Ava weighed 9 lb. 4 oz. and was 21 inches long. Both Dave and Katy are well-known and loved by neighbors and friends in the McCarthy area, who wish them and Ava the very best in life. Katy is the oldest daughter of Peggy Smith.

Family and friends celebrated Ava's baptism on October 12th. As you can see in the picture below, Ava is all eyes on the camera operator. Says mom: "Ava is pretty observant when it comes to the camera and smiles at all the right times!"



GET WELL SOON, CAL!

Thanks to a "heads up" from Jim Kreblin of Long Lake and a phone call from Cal Ward, Jr., we are glad to report that Cal is recovering from a recent gall bladder surgery. As I type this on October 20th, Cal is presently still in Providence Hospital but hopes to be released in a few days. Thankfully, he was able to drive himself to Glennallen where he says he received excellent care from the medical staff at Cross Road Medical Center and then was flown to Anchorage. Being at the right place, at the right time helped Cal get the medical attention he seriously needed.

He is on the mend now but plans on visiting his brother in Fairbanks where he will complete his recovery before returning to his home in the McCarthy area.

Our prayers are with you, Cal. Get well soon!

Kennecott NHL gets major attention

BY BONNIE KENYON

Kennecott, Alaska—The summer of 2008 brought many changes for the Kennecott National Historic Landmark (NHL) within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park (WRST). A large amount of work was accomplished. On a visit to the site this summer, I couldn't help but notice the construction crew with their orange safety vests dotting the area; however, I had no idea just how much work was happening in the various buildings and the variety of projects that were underway. In a recent conversation this fall with Ken Hutchison, Program Manager for the Kennecott NHL construction projects, I was updated and made aware of the immensity of the work accomplished this summer.

The **Visitor's Contact Station** moved to a new location in what was once known as the general store/warehouse in the mining era during the early 1900s. The building received a complete structural framing and the interior of the store portion is now open to the public. Besides being greeted by a park service ranger, visitors can now receive or purchase historical and informational material. It is hoped that in the future the warehouse at the rear of the building will also be open to visitors.

The **General Manager's Office** has been an ongoing project for several years, says Hutchison, with major interior and exterior finish work completed.

The stabilization of the **Refrigeration Plant** was completed as well as a deck constructed. Future plans for this building include a self-guided tour.

Two **Silk Stocking Cottages** were re-roofed with historically correct wood shingles. One of the cottages was used for park service

seasonal housing this summer with plans for the second cottage to be available for use next year.

The **second cottage** in the set of four located at the north end of Kennecott was open for public viewing this year, complete with an interpretive display inside.



Photo courtesy Jim Baker

The **Jumbo mine's tram bunkhouse** received foundation stabilization. A volunteer group, the Teacher's Restoration Corps, under the leadership of park service Historical Architect, Grant Crosby, installed a new foundation and completed structural repairs and also conducted an inventory of the bunkhouse. Another project was documentation of the **Upper Mill building, the Hospital, the East and the National Creek bunkhouses**. This group consisted of college students who drew detailed drawings to help support the original construction and support stabilization of the buildings. One of the students this year, and others in the past, have been from Alaska. According to Hutchison, this ongoing internship program has provided valuable assistance in the stabilization work at the NHL as well as other parks in Alaska and provided the students with "real world" experiences.

The **Power Plant** received hardened walkways for access to and within the building. Both landings were open during the day time this

year with the prospect of future self-guided tours.

Under the 2016 Centennial Project and a matching grant through PERC, Propane Educational and Research Council, WRST is looking at the installation of new propane generators with a battery bank and inverters, and an up-graded power distribution system, says Hutchison. An engineering firm has developed performance specifications and the park service is working with an Alaskan firm to provide the new system. It is hoped that a skid-mounted building will be installed next summer.

Flood recovery projects such as the **National Creek Trestle** included complete demolition of the old trestle, rebuilding and placing the new bents in position. This involved a large amount of excavation to expose the footings, hiring a contractor to place new concrete footings and the handling and transporting of large amount of timber to rebuild the Trestle.

According to Hutchison, additional work is being planned with the help of an engineering firm to protect buildings from any future flooding upstream in National Creek.

Repair work was accomplished on the Root Glacier and Bonanza trails and additional vegetation clearing was completed by the trail crew.

A test well done this summer was not successful, says Hutchison, but the park service will continue to look for another site.

Hutchison added that they expect another busy summer next season.

I thank Ken for "walking me through" the above projects, and for sharing his expertise with simple explanations. Thanks, Ken!

WRST trail crew finishes productive season

WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS NATIONAL PARK—

The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve trail crew had a banner year, providing extensive work throughout the Park. The eleven-member crew included Crew Leader Eric Lutz and Cody Oatman, Jesse Heinbaugh, Kade Nelson, Joseph Devenport, Isaiah Carlson, Ryan Sanders, Ben Greeson, Luke Givens, Josh Dorsey, and Ian Dorsey. The National Park Service Centennial Initiative funded four of the eleven-member crew.

Working from McCarthy Road, the crew brushed 13 miles of the Kotsina Road, including lowering the high water level in one location without adversely effecting a resident beaver. On the neighboring Nugget Creek Trail, they brushed the trail 14 miles to the cabin and cleaned trenches to remove some intimidating mud holes along a ¾-mile stretch. Also along the McCarthy Road, the crew flagged a proposed trail from the northwest side of the Kuskulana Bridge four miles upriver and another from the Gilahi-



Photo courtesy NPS

Reopening flood-damaged Reeves Field Trail along the Nabesna Road was a priority for the park's trail crew.

na Trestle downstream along Gilahina Creek several miles. Their work at Gilahina was part of a partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, a one-week training session involving

14 people in trail design, layout, and mapping. Moving up the McCarthy Road, they cleared historic roads in and around Kennicott Mill site, brushed Silk Stocking Road, repaired slides on Root Glacier Trail, cleared part of Erie Mine Trail, and brushed the route up to Erie Mine. Flying out of McCarthy, the crew repaired windows and roofing in historic Bremner, mowed May Creek airstrip and cleared trails to Chititu Creek, toward Dan Creek, and to Young Creek.

Heading toward the north, the crew marked a proposed trail from the bluff top at Headquarters in Copper Center to the Copper River.

In Nabesna, they filled muddy spots in the first couple miles of Caribou Creek Trail and completed routine maintenance on the trail to Caribou Creek; they rerouted part of the Soda Creek Trail. Following the flood event this summer, the crew repaired flood damage on Skookum Volcano and Reeves Field Trails. They also repaired, rehabilitated, and documented Horsfeld, Chisana, and Solo Creek airstrips.

The Great Alaskan Adventure

BY JEN MCCORMICK

About two months ago, my husband and I arrived in Soldotna for our Great Alaskan Adventure. We made our journey in a 1993 Saturn packed to the gills, and our dog, Shasta in tow in the back seat. Our plan is to stay here until the end of the year. My husband landed a job that was OK with a short stay, and I managed to find some work as well. So, here we are.

Keep in mind, we are both much more familiar with urban life than rural. I grew up in the suburbs of Detroit, my husband is from Chattanooga, and both of us spent the last eleven years in Seattle. We

are city dwellers with a “Weekend Warrior” attitude, and this move was designed to tip that image upside down. Most of our friends and family thought we were a little nuts. To be honest, I kinda thought so too. I spent so much time fretting about small town life; I completely overlooked the fact that we would be encountering copious amounts of wild and unencumbered beauty. I had no idea that Alaska would prove to be this amazing.

When we first arrived, we did some exploring around town. That took about, uh, half a day. So then we quickly set off into the wilderness—hiking and camping any chance we got. Even though the

summer was dubbed one of the worst of all time, we managed to get in some good trips. I remember being struck not only by the grand scale of everything; the mountains, the lakes, the wildflowers—but also the noticeable lack of people. On one hike, we passed by a family and the father declared, “It is really crowded up there.” As we hiked on for another four hours, we encountered exactly one more group of people. Crowded? Not so much. We were definitely not in “weekend warrior” land anymore.

All of this adventure led to our week in the wilds of Alaska. After doing a good job of exploring the Kenai Peninsula, we decided it was

time to venture out into the vast expanse that is Alaska. It is daunting to look at a map of this great state and try to decide where to go with a tight budget and one week's time. I wanted to do it all!

Since my husband is a self-described mountain freak, we settled on the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park for the first part of our trip. There is little access to the park without a plane, so we needed to get to McCarthy by car in order to do some hiking and adventuring. A friend told me that the road to McCarthy, about 60 miles long, is treacherous. She warned us not to go over 40 miles per hour if we wanted to still have a car in working order at the end of the trip. But, she said, it was well worth the bumpy ride. Again, I had no idea what we were in for but knew that at least thus far, Alaskan wilderness had not disappointed.

And disappointed I was not. In fact, this journey takes the cake as the most beautiful part of Alaska I have seen so far. It may even be the most beautiful part of the United States that I have ever seen. The first part of the journey took us through Anchorage and north through the Mat-Su Valley. We were fortunate enough to have timed our journey right during the peak of the fall colors, and so along the way we passed brilliant reds and yellows in the mountains and by the side of the road. The sun was shy, but when it came out the vibrancy of the colors came along with it. Each ray of sun illuminated the bright tree leaves and the intense colors of the many mountain streams and lakes along the way. On the first night, we stayed in Lake Louise Lodge, north of the Mat-Su Valley. We hunkered down in a tiny but comfortable cabin and dreamed of what was to come: McCarthy.

The next day broke with some rain and clouds, as expected for this time of year. Luckily, that passed quickly and once again the sun

greeted us. There were still plenty of clouds that blocked many of the bigger mountains, much to the chagrin of my husband. It was hard to feel disappointed, though, when the sun beamed down on the nearby foothills and showed off all those incredible fall shades.



At last, we made it to the famed McCarthy Road. The first section had us enclosed by huge rock walls on either side and a hill steep enough to block our view of the road ahead. It was intimidating, as if we were about to ride a roller coaster—and in fact, we were! My friend was not exaggerating: the McCarthy road was quite the ride! We bumped and banged around for about two hours. Each turn in the road brought something new to take in. There was the Copper River, golden fields surrounded by mountains, the fall leaves twinkling in the sunny sky, and remnants of what was once a railroad to a copper mine. Also, since the weather was moody, we were lucky enough to see several rainbows casting their colors onto the mountains or over the already vivid autumn trees. We even had a picnic along the way in order to savor every moment on that beautiful road!

Finally, we came to the end. It is an easy journey for the directionally challenged like myself because

the road just simply stops. The only way to get to McCarthy is to park at the lot at the end of the road and trek across the footbridge over the river. Before doing that, we checked into our lovely accommodations, the Wrangell St. Elias News B & B. By following the signs on a windy back road, we were led to a lovely little cottage that couldn't have been more quaint and comfortable. I had the best night sleep there that I have had in ages, and our lovely hostess brought us fresh homemade blueberry muffins! Delicious!

After settling in, it was time to explore some more. We drove back to the end of the road and stood in awe of the glacier at the base of the mountain. There are several glaciers in the park, and even a chance to trek on them with one of the many guides in the area. Since we had a short stay, we decided to stick to the few hiking trails available instead. But first, we needed to explore the town. We took an evening stroll into McCarthy just to nose around. After a bit of walking, McCarthy revealed itself to us. It looked like a movie set for an old western. There were two restaurants and a hotel, as well as a community center where it looked like they hold writer's conferences and other community events. The center had closed down, like much of the town, a few days before we arrived. In fact, the two days we were there were the last two days the shuttle was making runs to Kennecott. We arrived just in time!

The next day, after spending the evening mulling over the logistics of living in McCarthy (a sign of a good vacation!), we headed to the shuttle to Kennecott. Kennecott is the neighboring community that historically served as the base for all the copper mining operations in the area. The mine was in operation for less than 30 years, shutting down in the late 1930s. All of the mining buildings remain, mostly dilapidated, giving the place a ghost-town feel. We imagined ourselves to be on

(continued on page 18)

Off-road vehicle usage in Nabesna examined

BY BONNIE KENYON

The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST) is in the process of developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the effects of recreational use of off-road vehicles (ORVs) along nine trails in the Nabesna area. According to an official newsletter of the Nabesna Motorized Trail EIS Planning Process, the "EIS is being written as one of the conditions of a settlement agreement resulting from a 2006 lawsuit filed against the National Park Service" by the National Parks Conservation Association, the Alaska Center for the Environment and The Wilderness Society.

The trails in questions are: Creek, Lost Creek, Trail Creek, Reeve Field, Boomerang Lake, Soda Lake, Suslota Lake, Copper Lake and Tanada Lake.

WRST held five public meetings in late March and early April of this year. The meetings took place in Glennallen, Tok, Slana, Fairbanks and Anchorage. Twenty-eight folks turned out in Slana; 22, Tok; 9, Glennallen; 26, Anchorage; 2, Fairbanks.

The purpose of the meetings was to present information to the public about the project and to solicit public comment. Twenty-one individuals provided comments; three government agencies and three organizations responded.

According to the Scoping Report issued in July, "Most of the comments received related to the issue of access. Many people at the public meetings were concerned that the temporary seasonal closure of the trails would become permanent and they would lose motorized access to the areas they

have been hunting and recreating in for years. Tanada Lake and Copper Lake trails, both seasonally closed as a result of the lawsuit settlement, were mentioned in several comments as being the most important trails to remain open.

"Many people that attended the Tok and Slana public meetings expressed the opinion that special interest groups used the court system to manage resources that they have no real knowledge of and have never enjoyed. They also feel that the decisions are already made and that the planning process is 'just a front.' There is strong sentiment that the maintenance of motorized and non-motorized access to fishing, hunting, recreation, subsistence, and to inholdings is critical and should be the main objective of this planning process.

"Many individuals are struggling with the conundrum of recognizing that environmental impacts are occurring, but wanting the trails 'left alone' for fear that a better trail surface will increase use. A few are happy with the current conditions and feel the muck-holes play a role in keeping use numbers down in the area. They feel that current trail conditions are just how it is and see it as a challenge offered by the area.

"Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition supports limiting access to non-motorized use only and feels that this action does not limit access it just changes the access method. They believe that there is currently an imbalance in the number of motorized and non-motorized trail opportunities in the area, with most trails being open to some kind of motorized use. One com-

ment said that expecting people to access the wilderness with an airplane, not ORV is acceptable. More prevalent is the opinion that ORVs are necessary to be able to access Park backcountry and wilderness experiences. Many stated that they do not have the time to walk great distances to reach a backcountry or wilderness destination within the Park. ORV access allows families to recreate together and allows ease of access for persons with disabilities and the elderly. One commenter said that more facilities and universally accessible trails should be created to allow more people to get off the road and enjoy nature.

"The majority of the comments support reasonable, appropriate and authorized motorized vehicle use for accessing private inholdings and subsistence resources so long as environmental impacts are minimized. The State of Alaska acknowledges that in certain areas, resource conditions that cannot be otherwise addressed may lead to restrictions that affect all user groups, including subsistence."

The 21-page complete Scoping Report is available for review at the park's website at: www.nps.gov/wrst/parkmgmt/planning.htm. Or you can request a copy by calling Bruce Rogers at 907-822-7276.

The WRST planning staff has developed a draft set of management alternatives. The draft was due to be available for public review and comment by mid-October. So, keep an eye out for the document. If you are on the mailing list, they will be mailed to you. They will also be posted on the park's website at the same address as the Scoping Report.

WRST subsistence firewood permits

COPPER CENTER—

In an effort to better manage forest and other natural resources, to protect firewood harvesting opportunities for qualified subsistence users, and to remain consistent with other land management agencies in the Copper Basin, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve is beginning a planning process this winter to develop a permitting process for subsistence firewood harvest. Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, section 13.485 (Subsistence Use of Timber and Plant Material), as recently amended, states that the superintendent may issue a permit for

the cutting of standing timber for appropriate subsistence uses, such as firewood."

"During this planning process, subsistence firewood cutting and gathering will be handled as it has been in the past," stated Park Superintendent Meg Jensen. "The noncommercial harvest of dead or downed wood for firewood by local rural residents is allowed without a permit; a permit is required for subsistence harvest of green logs (i.e., live standing timber) greater than 3" in diameter. Make sure you are harvesting firewood on lands managed by the National Park Service."

There is extensive standing dead (spruce bark beetle killed) timber in the Park; subsistence firewood harvesting is not likely to be substantially reduced. Firewood harvest near fish-bearing streams will be reviewed. The Park expects to begin scoping for an Environmental Assessment (EA) this fall and plans to host a public meeting. After preparing a draft EA this winter, a decision is expected by late summer of 2009 prior to the firewood harvest season. For more information, contact Barbara Cellarius, the park subsistence coordinator, at 822-7236.

WRST Visitor Center Available Through the Winter

Services provided in the Wrangell-St. Elias Visitor Center in Copper Center will continue throughout the winter, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. The Visitor Center will be closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Check in at the administration building before heading over to the Visitor Center. "Our excellent customer service, Visitor Center exhibits, the Park's award-winning film, and educational book and map sales items are available," said Park Superintendent Meg Jensen. "All are

cordially invited to come visit, browse the publications and exhibits, walk or ski the short loop trail, and enjoy the outstanding views of the Wrangell Mountains from the bluff."

White Touring Auto, 1915

This information comes to us from Dave Syren, who received it from Frank Morris:

Around 1918 or 1919, Henry Olsen, owner of the Golden in McCarthy, acquired and brought in a White touring car; since it was the only one of its kind in the valley, it was known simply as "the White." Olsen sold the vehicle in the early twenties to Jack Morris (Frank's father) and Bill Williams, who formed a partnership to provide a local taxi service. The understanding was that miners in Kennicott would be picked up in front of the Kennicott Store at 6:20 pm and be dropped off at the Golden in McCarthy, where they would be picked up

for the return trip at 11:00 pm. Of course this was good for the Golden's business. Each passenger was charged \$1.00. Children and women were free if accompanied by a man (those were different times!)

The White was a 5 passenger touring car body on a truck chassis. Sometimes there were more than 9 passengers, with up to 10 standing on the running boards. There was no heater, but there were isinglass curtains for winter travel. The large diameter wheels allowed the White to operate in rather deep snow, so it could operate most of the winter. It was a powerful car, capable of 70 miles per hour.

The taxi partnership ended in 1929, and Jack Morris ended up

with the vehicle. He loaned it to a friend to go duck hunting in the Dan Creek-Young Creek area (accessible by road in those days, via the bridge across the Nizina) and it came home the worse for wear. Morris decided it was not worth fixing. He gave Bill Berry permission to salvage the rear springs and canvas top in 1938, when the mines closed, and sometime after 1955 the rest of the car disappeared. You can imagine how, with no railroad and no road, it was hard to get parts and do repairs on anything out here. One wonders what happened to the rest of the car.

(Reprinted from the McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum October 2008 newsletter)

DOT survey crew on a mission

BY BONNIE KENYON

The Department of Transportation (DOT) had more than one mission in mind when they sent their survey crew, headed up by Ardelle Gervais, to the McCarthy area October 8-13th. This isn't the first time Ardelle has visited our town and made her marks in the dirt, snow, rain and on paper. It seems whenever she and her crew show up we greet them with all manner of weather! This time it was rain and snow. That didn't deter her and her crew, Josh and David.

Because I am not "survey" minded and understand very little of the amazing numbers these informational gatherers come up with, I asked Ardelle if she would describe in her own words the mission that was accomplished.

"The crew was there to retrace the boundary of United States Survey # 699, originally surveyed in November of 1912, and the north boundary of McCarthy Creek Subdivision, surveyed in 1996. For USS #699 we found one of the original 1912 corners, # 5 the southeast corner. This corner is monumented by a section of railroad rail set on end in the ground and scribed 'USS 699' COR 5.

The other four corners of USS #699 were originally scribed stones; the two on the south boundary are assumed to have been lost to flooding of McCarthy Creek.

In 1920 the General Land Office (GLO), surveyed the sections in the area and set monuments

where the section lines met with boundary lines of USS #699. These are called closing corners. During this survey we found and tied four of the 1920 caps.

The second part of this survey was to do control cross sections on the McCarthy Road and Edgerton Hwy at the flood damage areas. On the McCarthy Road the sections were done at the mudslide at MP 57.7, the Lakina River at MP 44.0, the Chokosna River at MP 27, Hug-a-Boulder at MP 19, the slide area at Kuskalana at MP 16.9, and at MP 5.

On the Edgerton Hwy the areas are Tonsina River, Tonsina Hill and the creek at the turnoff to the Chitina airport."

McCarthy-Kennicott Museum checks in

BY BONNIE KENYON

The October 2008 Museum newsletter arrived in my email box yesterday. Just in time to pass on the summer/fall news concerning our local museum's activities.

Thanks to the fine work of President Meg Hunt and Dick Anderson, a board member, another newsletter is born. Here are some of the highlights:

"Despite the lack of a full-time volunteer, we made some progress this summer. Jim Guntis has developed an additional display in the boxcar about the electrical works at Kennicott. Sunny Cook has continued her fine work

on inventory. Our photo collection is now in the safekeeping of Board member Dick Anderson, who received it from Bernd Hoffmann, who kept it for us all these years prior to his move to Washington State.

"There is a mystery we are trying to solve, and maybe you can help. The Museum owns the magistrate records kept under Sheriff Reynolds—an invaluable source of McCarthy history. We cannot find this box of records anywhere! This is naturally of some concern to us. If you have ANY information that might help us track down these missing documents, we would surely appreciate it! Contact Meg

Hunt, mihunt@aol.com, or call Neil Darish, 907-554-4402, or write to Neil at P.O. Box MXY, Glennallen, AK 99588."

The Museum's annual meeting took place on September 5th. A decision was made to extend the Museum's opening season until September 15th instead of their usual closing at the end of Labor Day weekend.

Next summer the Museum building should be sporting a new sign made by local resident Terry Frady and may have available an updated version of the popular McCarthy Historical Walking Tour brochure.

"[A] wise and frugal government... shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government." —

Thomas Jefferson

McCarthy Area Council holds annual meeting

BY BONNIE KENYON

(Editor's Note: The following information was taken from the minutes of the annual meeting as prepared by Secretary Meg Hunt.)

The McCarthy Area Council (MAC) held their annual meeting on September 26th at the Blackburn Center in McCarthy. Approximately 25 people attended. Representatives of the Department of Transportation (DOT), National Park Service (NPS) and National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) were also in attendance.

Speaking for DOT, Nils Degerlund, Dave Sanchez, Steve Oswald and Meadow Bailey, gave a presentation. The Kotsina bluff section of the McCarthy Road is under study and documentation for possible upgrade and/or realignment. There are also 6 sites on the McCarthy Road scheduled for work: Mileposts 5, 14.7, 16.5, 27, 44.6 and 57.6. There are also 2 sites on the Edgerton Road—miles 21 and 28. Advertising the project for construction is planned for summer of 2009.

A pamphlet, "McCarthy Creek Tram Reconnaissance Study," was circulated with a form for com-

ments. A Power Point presentation outlined the history of the crossing area of McCarthy Creek, the need for a means of crossing, and the technical requirements for a tram of such a long span. The studies necessary for a federally funded tram take up the bulk of the costs involved. According to Meg Hunt, secretary for MAC, "There seemed to be consensus that everyone, on all sides of the tram issue, wants or needs a positive determination of where the right-of-way actually is. The DOT has the authority to assert the currently assumed right-of-way as the legal one."

DOT was asked by MAC members present at the meeting to use DOT study funds to definitively determine the right-of-way.

The Park Service also updated the attendees on a variety of issues. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park's (WRST) Superintendent Meg Jensen was on hand to introduce Wayne Challoner, the new Chief of Maintenance, who is responsible for facilities, trails, transportation planning and other infrastructure projects.

It was reported that WRST is collaborating with the Alaska Trav-

el Industry Association to send overflow Denali visitors to the Wrangell-St. Elias. Most visitation in the state was down but the visitation to WRST was up. According to the figures presented, the Kennecott Visitor's Center guest book had 7,480 signers in 2007 and 10,136 in 2008.

The federal office of Personnel Management has objected to the way in which WRST has done local hire. The Park's ability to hire locally, in accordance with ANILCA, is at stake. The NPCA is supporting Park efforts to save local hire.

MAC's Revenue Sharing application is about to be turned in. The specific decisions for spending the funds will be taken up at the next meeting in the spring.

The results of the Board and Officer elections are as follows: President Jeremy Keller; Interim Vice-President, Allie Keller; Secretary Meg Hunt; Treasurer, Tamara Harper; other Board members, Stephens Harper, Dianne Milliard, Keith Rowland, Gaia Marrs, Bill Morris, Charlie O'Neill and Elizabeth Schafer.

Bertha Krentz Ramer —1907 to 2008

Bertha Krentz Ramer, age 101, died peacefully in her sleep at her home in Tucson, Arizona, on September 1, 2008.

She was born in Winslow, Arizona, to Frank and Sara Krentz on January 17, 1907.

Bertha was reared in Douglas, Arizona, and graduated from the University of Arizona. She taught

school in Arizona and Alaska. She was preceded in death by her husband Peyton C. Ramer in 1970.

She was survived by her sisters Ann Prather and Carol Rice and numerous nieces and nephews.

Burial was in Grants Pass, Oregon, and at her request there was no memorial services.

Writes Kennecott Kid, Inger Ricci: "Bertha Krentz Ramer was a

teacher in Kennecott, I think in 1929. She and I had been writing to one another for quite a few years. I was very happy to receive a letter from her nephew letting me know that she had passed away. One by one, the older members are passing away. Just thought I would let you know. Thanks for letting the Kennecott Kids know when these things happen."

Is God good, or is He sovereign?

BY PASTOR RICK

Nebraska State Senator Ernie Chambers (D - Omaha) filed suit against God last year, asking a court to order the Almighty and his followers to stop making terrorist threats.

The suit, filed in a Nebraska district court, contends that God, along with his followers of all persuasions, “has made and continues to make terroristic threats of grave harm to innumerable persons.”

Chambers also accused God of causing “fearsome floods, egregious earthquakes, horrendous hurricanes, terrifying tornadoes, pestilential plagues, ferocious famines, devastating droughts, genocidal wars, birth defects, and the like.”

The suit says that God has had His chroniclers “disseminate in written form, said admissions, throughout the earth in order to inspire fear, dread, anxiety, terror and uncertainty, in order to coerce obedience to Defendant's will.”

Any rational person would conclude that if God indeed is the perpetrator of calamities that have been traditionally attributed to Him, He is not only not “good,” He is the very image of evil. If He is guilty as charged, why are we messing around with Osama Bin Laden? The real war on terror should be directed toward heaven rather than Afghanistan.

And, since the Bible instructs us as Christians to imitate God, then we should be busily about our Father's business—wreaking havoc wherever we can instead of building hospitals and feeding the homeless.

Sadly, the judge threw the case out, saying the Almighty wasn't properly served due to his unlisted home address.

Why do I use the term “sadly?” Because I think God would have no trouble defending Himself from these denigrating charges.

I would be happy to be called as a witness for the defense.

Why do millions of people, even those who are followers of God and even ministers — “His chroniclers,” as Chambers calls them, attribute calamities to God? I believe in part the answer to that question is that the devil has successfully marketed an inaccurate understanding of “sovereign.”

Is God sovereign? Of course He is. But what does that mean? Does it mean that whatever happens, God either causes it or allows it, therefore it is His will? Bad happens, therefore God is bad. Or at least He is erratic.

According to Wikipedia, Sovereignty is “the exclusive right to control a government, a country, a people, or oneself. A sovereign is the supreme lawmaking authority.” Is God in fact controlling people and events?

I think God would be happy to take the stand in His own defense. He might start out with recalling the creation, where he gave man dominion over the earth. (Gen. 1:28)

He would likely call King David of old to the stand, or perhaps a deposition would suffice. We already have the king on record saying such things as, “Give thanks to the LORD because he is good, because his mercy endures forever.” (1Ch 16:34 GW)

David's son King Solomon, said to be the wisest man ever, had his priests proclaim the same message, recorded in 2Ch 5:13.

Over and over the psalmists declare, “He is good, His mercy endures forever.”

Of course the star witness would be His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Of whom it is recorded that he “went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.” (Act 10:38)

Oppressed by who? The one the Bible calls “the god of this world.” (2 Cor. 4:4) Jesus called him a thief, who only comes to “steal, kill and destroy.” (John 10:10)

Can you picture Jesus taking the stand, raising his hand to take the oath? The nail-hole in his hand proclaiming the love of God for fallen mankind.

It wouldn't be the first time Jesus was put on trial. He was tried, convicted and executed. But after three days, when Jesus had paid the full price for your and my sins, the Father reversed the decision and the Holy Spirit raised Christ from the dead.

God told Job many years ago, “Are you trying to prove that you are innocent by accusing me of injustice?” (Job 40:8, CEV)

The smart thing would be to answer, as Job did, “You asked why I talk so much when I know so little. I have talked about things that are far beyond my understanding.” (42:3) “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye has seen You. Therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.” (Job 42:5-6 MKJV)

Is God good, or is He sovereign? I propose that the answer is, He is both. But He has chosen to let His goodness modify His sovereignty, rather than the reverse.

He has certainly been good to me. And I will swear to it, so help me God.

“I mean to live my life an obedient man, but obedient to God, subservient to the wisdom of my ancestors; never to the authority of political truths arrived at yesterday at the voting booth.” —William F. Buckley

THE KATALLA HERALD

Vol. 1. No. 39. Katalla, Alaska, November & December editions, 1908. Published weekly by J. F. A. Strong

THE WEATHER AND THE WEATHER WISE

A heavy snow storm began Tuesday forenoon and by night ten inches of "the beautiful" covered the ground. A heavy wind from the southeast kept the snow company at the beginning, but died during the evening. The snow was succeeded by a fall of hail, and the temperature abated perceptibly. And speaking of weather: Dr. Payzant says that four years ago there was a heavy fall of snow early in November, and after it a rain came and swept it away, and the ground remained bare the entire winter. At Christmas even the topmost peaks of Ragged range were brown and gray as in early autumn.

Charles Rosenberger, a ranking pioneer of this section, says the weather this fall has been the coldest since 1893. In that year cold weather set in early and there was a heavy fall of snow, but it disappeared later, the snowfall during the rest of the season being light.

Five years this winter, says Judge G. C. Britton, the weather was clear and cold from January to April, there being only an occasional flurry of snow.

Local and Personal

The heavy fall of snow has made good sleighing and wheels have given place to runners.

The survey party of the Copper River & Northwestern, now on Martin river, will make their next camp at camp 14, Copper river.

P. J. Erussard will put in an oil burning plant to heat his store building. The work is being done by L. T. Harris the tinsmith, who has an oil plant in successful operation in his

shop, and the fuel oil will be secured from the English company's wells on Katalla slough.

November 7

HILLS ARE SHOCKED Earthquakes Busy In Mountains

Beginning on Thursday Oct. 29, and continuing until the following Monday, up in the Carbon mountain country there was a succession of earthquake shocks-nine in all-which caused great commotion in that section. The cabins of the miners were rocked like boats in an angry sea, the trees were tossed to and fro as though shaken by a mighty wind, and the snow from their branches filled the air as if a blizzard was in full blast; and there were great noises, like discharges of heavy artillery, or the firing of explosives.

Such in brief is the story told by A. B. Hunt, of the Alaska Petroleum & Coal company, who came down from Carbon mountain a few days ago, from the Hunt coal claim whose development he has been superintending for the past several months. Mr. Hunt says that the series of earthquake shocks did no damage as far as known, but they were sharp and distinct enough to wake men from sound sleep, cause buildings to rock and dishes to tumble from their shelves to the floor. The first shock was felt about nine o'clock in the morning, and eight more followed at different times, day and night, the last on Monday morning, Nov. 2, after which the usual peace and quietude reigned. Over at Cunningham's camp the shocks were even sharper than on this side.

Mr. Hunt and his party of nine men had a hard trip down

from the mountains, and were three days in making the journey which under ordinary conditions is made in one. The delay was due to the heavy snowfall of last week. On this side of Bering lake the snow was fully four feet deep. Mr. Hunt also says that Bering river was frozen almost up to the head.

INTERIOR'S GREAT FUTURE

Edward C. Hasey who recently came out from the interior of the Copper river country spoke glowingly of its prospects to the Cordova Alaskan. He thinks there will be another Butte City in the Chittina country when the mines have been developed and put on a producing basis. He also said that the interior will be a bee hive of activity next year as the railroad company now has the means of transportation so well in hand that a large number of camps can be established and the work prosecuted on a much more extensive scale than it was this season.

A STRANGE FISH WASHED ASHORE

A queer fish, a stranger in these parts, was found on Noname point, this side of camp 1, where it had been washed ashore by one of the high tides of the past week. Local ichthyologists who have examine it are unable to classify this derelict denizen of the deep, but it probably belongs to the shark family (squalidae sharkibus). The color of the skin is pink and silver; it has a small tail and double fins, big, blunt teeth and is about five feet long and weighs about 175 pounds.

The flesh of the sea beast looks like India rubber which has been bleached on an Alaska tundra. It has a mouth of

generous size, and its habitat must have been the Far East, since neither the Alaska malamute nor the bold seagull will eat its flesh.

Price of Game in Dawson

Caribou and moose retail in Dawson at the rate of three pounds for a dollar, and mountain sheep at fifty cents a pound. The hunters receive fifteen cents a pound for moose, twenty cents for caribou and twenty-five cents for sheep. The sheep are killed in the White river country.

November 14

PERILOUS VOYAGE

Made By Two Men In A Small Boat

George Osborne and John Mongroat arrived in Katalla Thursday night from Cordova, which place they left three weeks before in a small boat. The men had a terrible experience, being caught in the ice on Copper river flats, buffeted by the winds and pinched by cold and hunger, for, before they at last succeeded in reaching camp 7, Martin river, they had been three days without food. They had camped at Kopenheinik, and then made Cottonwood point, and from there they tried to reach camp 7, but could not make it and were forced to return to Cottonwood. Most of the time they were unable to light a fire by reason of the Copper river zephyrs and the lack of proper fuel, and their suffering from cold, wet, snow, wind and hunger was intense. Finally arriving at camp 7 they were cared for and the men then came overland to Katalla.

Osborne says when he left Cordova most of the railroad laborers had been laid off. Trains were being operated to camp 10, where a recent wind

had covered the track with sand. Osborne and his companion came to Katalla to spend the winter, it being stated at Cordova that railroad construction work would start up actively here early next spring.

November 21

TO BUILD TO THE TEIKHILL NEXT YEAR

Prior to his leaving for Seattle a committee of the Cordova chamber of commerce interviewed Chief Engineer Hawkins of the Copper River & Northwestern, as to the completion of the road to the Bonanza copper mines. Mr. Hawkins said it was the intention of the company to have the railroad completed to the mouth of the Taznuna by July 15 next, and to the Teikhill river by the end of the season. He also said it was proposed to resume railroad operations the latter part of February or the beginning of March, and the road would be in position to handle material and supplies intended for the interior.

November 28

A BUSY SEASON Promised For This Section Next Year

The Seattle Times of Nov. 16 say:

At least six big coal mining corporations will begin active work in the Bering lake anthracite coal fields near Katalla next year. Shipment of coal from these mines will commence regularly by July 1, 1910, and coal operators predict that within two years more coal will be coming from Alaska for general commercial purposes than is supplied from this state.

Coal has been mined in the fields near Katalla for some time and a few operators are practically prepared to begin shipping as soon as rail or water transportation lines are provided. The coal mined in the past has been shipped on scows and used in the

Guggenheim railroad construction, or in near by camps.

It has been the practice during good weather, to ship coal from the Bering lake or Kayak coal fields on scows, which have been towed to Katalla for unloading. This method of transportation is unsafe during the winter months, but provides for temporary summer needs.

Until the last congress passed more liberal coal land laws, which permitted the acquisition of lands of sufficient size to justify development work, the coal operators had not accomplished much in the Katalla fields. Since then work has picked up and next spring will begin in earnest.

Annual meetings of at least six big coal companies interested in the Alaska mining properties will be held early in December. It is now planned by the capitalists interested in the district to authorize immediate work and money will be voted for the purpose.

A branch of the Guggenheims' Copper River road is extending into the coal fields near Katalla, and it is declared that the Dr. Bruner road will also be completed next year. In addition, two coal companies who fear to depend upon other lines are planning roads of their own and will be in position to haul coal as soon as the mines begin regular shipments. The prospects for railroads indicate that the transportation problem will be solved fully.

December 5

THE CHRISTMAS OF THE PRESENT

Christmas day this year in Katalla was ushered in with a snow storm, and from a weather standpoint, was most dreary. But nevertheless the Christmas spirit was abroad, and the day passed pleasantly withal. On Christmas eve there were a number of dinner parties and many of the homes had Christmas trees

for the children and grown-ups, among them Mr. and Mrs. Williams and Mr. and Mrs. Frost, for their sons who had as guests Peter Snow, and Leslie Cheney. Mr. and Mrs. Walstein G. Smith also had a tree for their little folks, as did also Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. M. Barrett, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Durkee, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Neeley, Mr. and Mrs. Fels, and also Mr. Clark Davis.

On Christmas night there was a public tree in Pioneer hall on which there were presents for everybody, and after the gifts were distributed, the school children rendered their program and a dance followed, with a nice lunch at midnight—and apparently everybody had a good time.

A Double Wedding

A double wedding on Tuesday evening served to mark the opening of the merry season of Christmas. The contracting parties were Mr. Fred Runnels and Miss Gladys Keenan, and Mr. Sam Bartholomew and Miss Nellie Cheney. Judge Britton performed the marriage rite at the home of Mr. Bartholomew on the sandspit.

THE BLOWS CONTINUE TO FALL

It is stated that the steamer Portland of the Alaska Coast company will not hereafter make Katalla a port of call.

At the same time comes the official information to Postmaster Williams that the steamer Bertha will "carry mail without compensation, the only provision made being that the mails that are carried shall be contained in locked pouches and that NO PAPER SACKS SHALL BE HANDLED."

This means that hereafter no newspapers, magazines or other periodicals will be received at or sent from Katalla, provided that no other steamer calls and agrees to carry mail WITHOUT COMPENSATION.

It means that a community of two hundred people are to be deprived of the privileges that are accorded the people of the interior and in Nome, where mail must be transported by dog team—and Katalla only 1,100 miles from Seattle on an all water route.

It means that The Herald, with an outside circulation considerably greater than its local list, is denied mail privileges except at letter rates.

Katalla has had so many jolts and knocks—has had her eyes so frequently painted black, that those of us who are still left upon the battlefield, are becoming "case-hardened." But no concatenation of cruel circumstances can efface us completely. There are well authenticated reports to the effect that busy times and seasons are in store for Katalla and this immediate section in the near future, but in the meantime we still need courage and patience in carload lots, and these are of the virtues developed by pioneer life.

BUYING LUMBER FOR USE HERE

According to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer of Dec. 3 it looks as though the Copper River & Northwestern is preparing for construction work at Katalla the coming spring. This is evidenced by the placing of a large order for lumber by the Katalla company, for use here, and it also indicates that the construction work is to be done by the Katalla company. The Seattle paper says:

"On Tuesday the Katalla company placed an order for 1,000,000 feet of fir lumber, to be shipped north early in the spring. This lumber is to be used for cribbing purposes, to be used principally at Katalla, and will be framed at the mills, ready to be used immediately on arrival in the north. A Tacoma concern was the lowest bidder on this order."

December 26

Whither the ice worms? Team offers bounty

BY NED ROZELL

A five-man team just returned from a walking tour of Alaska Range glaciers where they had hoped to spot the mythical ice worm, a fingernail-clipping size creature that lives on ice and dies away if from it. After 11 days of moving, they found no worms.

Before the team left Talkeetna on an air charter a few weeks ago, Dan Shain of Rutgers and Alaska Pacific University professor Roman Dial grilled a few mountaineers to find where they had seen ice worms in the past. Longtime Denali National Park Ranger Roger Robinson told them his spots. Dial then called mountaineer Brian Okonek in Washington, who backed up Robinson's stories about encountering ice worms on climbing trips long ago.

"We put together a route that hit all the hot spots," said Shain, who studies leeches and earthworms when he's not looking at ice worms. "It'd be hard to search more extensively than we did."

At dusk, when ice worms usually head to the surface, the team searched Pika, Crown, Kahiltna, Granite, and other glaciers.

"After making that trek in Denali, we concluded that worms weren't there, and never were there," Shain said. "However, that

changed when we went to Learnard Glacier."

After the Denali trip ended with what Shain called a "fantastic" float out in packrafts on the Tokositna River, he and Dial went down to Learnard Glacier near Whittier. Shain had been there years before, and had seen many worms. Not so this time.

"The worms were just about gone," Shain said. "We found about one worm every 10 square meters; there used to be hundreds per square meter."

Shain and Dial saw that Learnard Glacier was quite similar with a steep upper part and a wide lower valley to Crown Glacier in the Alaska Range.

Shain also noticed that the glacier had shrunk since the last time he was there.

"It was dramatic to see that much ice loss," he said.

Shain now thinks that the Alaska Range glaciers probably had ice worms in the days that Robinson and Okonek spotted them, about 20 years ago, but perhaps those glaciers shrunk like Learnard, losing the snow portion that is critical habitat for ice worms' favorite food, algae.

"They may be on their way to a local extinction," Shain said of the

Learnard Glacier ice worms, which Dial noticed were quite large, perhaps the burly survivors of the once-ample population.

As for the ice worms on the colder glaciers of Denali National Park, Shain thinks "they're likely gone." Dial was more optimistic.

"I'm just not going to give up on them yet," Dial said. "I'd be really sad if we're losing ice worms before we lose the glaciers."

The worm hunters are offering an iceworm bounty to people who travel the glaciers of Denali National Park.

"We'll give \$100 to anyone who comes up with a sample of an iceworm and the lat/long (at which it was found)," Shain said. "We may have missed the worms of Denali."

For more info about the bounty, Dial's email is roman@alaskapacific.edu.

The next step for the ice worm hunters is to search for more worms. Dial will comb Chugach Range glaciers, and Shain will go to British Columbia and southern Alaska next year. Before that, though, Shain is on his way to Brazil, where he will look for earthworms that are longer than he is tall.

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

(continued from page 26 "Daylight Wasting Time opinion piece by Jim Edwards)

gained even one second of time that the sun is up.

So I have had to believe that this thing about changing the clocks twice a year, is a complete and utter lie.

Now I look around our house and I find 13 time pieces, and each truck has one also, so 15. Changing each of all these clocks takes some bit of time, and again, it accomplishes absolutely NOTHING. Oh yes, and there seems to be a clock in one's head — you get used to doing the routine of the day, and suddenly, to satisfy some totally useless

whim that is a lie, I must adjust that too.

I say, if you want to start earlier in summer because the sun is up, then go ahead and start earlier. Especially above the 60 degree N. Latitude line, where in summer it is light anyway both ends, and winter it is dark anyway both ends.

How did we ever, ever, get started doing such a silly, stupid thing? I can just picture two politicians laughing, and saying, "If we can pull this off, we can bother several million people every

year, spending some of their precious time, doing such a wasteful, stupid action, and running around changing every clock, lest it be the agent of being too early or too late for some event, before it is time to change it back again."

I say, do it earlier if you want, or do it later if you want, but leave the darn clocks ALONE!

P.S. The amount of daylight each day was exactly the same back in the days when the sun went around the earth, too!

Book Review—*Sarah* by Kaylene Johnson

BY BONNIE KENYON

Winter in McCarthy is the perfect time to settle in with a good book, a fragrant, steaming cup of tea and simply relax. October, for the most part, is not considered “winter” for us, although sometimes it does bring early surprises. Maybe it was the 10 inches that arrived the first week of the month that spear-headed my desire to nestle in and read that first winter book.

When a friend arrived mid-month, she didn’t come empty handed, but, to my surprise, gifted Rick and I with *Sarah—how a hockey mom turned Alaska’s political establishment upside down*. The cover grabbed my attention. It beautifully displayed the picture of my governor, and now the vice-presidential candidate. Here was my first winter selection!

A few days later (including a couple early morning stints) I had finished the 160-page, hard-

back book, and thoroughly studied the 50 color photos. It was an easy read and I highly recommend it, no matter what side of the political fence you are on. I came away feeling I had finally “met” the governor of my state. Since I am writing this prior to the November elections, by the time you receive this issue, she may either *still* be Governor or she may very well be Vice-President. Either way, *Sarah*, enabled me to enter her life and give me a picture of who this fine lady is.

Speaking of “lady” it is apparent to me that whether Sarah Palin was hauling in a humongous salmon in Bristol Bay, harvesting a moose, or riding a snowmachine, she remained a lady and not ashamed of that fact. Needless to say, I am impressed! I can see that I’m not the only one. *Sarah* has risen to #3 on the New York Times Best-seller List.

The author, Kaylene Johnson, is a writer and long-time

Alaskan who makes her home on a small farm outside Wasilla. She enjoys hiking, skiing, and horse-back riding in the backcountry. She is married with two sons and two grandsons. Her award-winning articles have appeared in *Alaskan Wilderness Discovery Guide*, *Alaska Magazine*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Spirit Magazine*, and other publications. She received a BA from Vermont College and holds an MFA in Writing from Spalding University in Louisville, Kentucky.

You can purchase the book in hardback for \$19.95; a new paperback edition for \$15.95 or an audio edition for \$19.95.

The publisher is Epicenter Press of Kenmore, Washington. For 20 years Epicenter Press has put out numerous books in their Alaska book Adventures division. You may order your copy by calling their 24 hour Express line at 800-950-6663 or visit their website at: www.EpicenterPress.com

Museum Committee candidates sought

The Alaska State Museums (Alaska State Museum, Juneau and Sheldon Jackson Museum, Sitka) are seeking candidates for appointment to the Museum Collections Advisory Committee (MCAC). The MCAC is responsible for approving donations, acquisitions, and deaccessions for the Alaska State

Museums. Members serve a three year term without compensation. A minimum of two teleconferences are held annually, in the spring and fall. Candidates should have knowledge and significant experience in at least one of the following areas: Alaska history, fine arts, natural history, archaeology, anthropology, or museology. Inter-

ested individuals should send a letter of interest and resume by November 28, 2008, to: Bruce Kato, Alaska State Museum, 395 Whittier Street, Juneau AK 99801-1718. If you would like additional information before applying, please contact the Alaska State Museum.

CLASSIFIED

16x20, 3-sided log cabin kits. Add sweat, doors, windows and some materials, for a cozy home! \$11.5K each. E-mail for materials list. Located in McCarthy. (907) 782-3730 or advenak@advenalaska.com



Providing digital wireless service in the park.

While enjoying the vast wilderness, you can count on Copper Valley Wireless to provide the biggest coverage footprint plus the friendly, local customer service touch.

Offering cellular service from the wilds of Prince Williams Sound to the headwaters of the Copper River and Valdez drainages, Copper Valley allows you to keep in touch while exploring beautiful Alaska.

800-478-6612

Glennallen: 907-822-3551

Valdez: 907-835-2231

(An Alaskan Adventure continued from page 7)

the set of "Deadwood" and took in the eerie sights of each brightly painted red mining building.

And then it was off to hiking. On that first day, we hiked up the Bonanza Mine trail until we found the perfect spot for lunch: a viewpoint of the glorious Mt. Blackburn, the third tallest mountain in North America. As we walked up the trail, the clouds slowly parted, teasing us with small views of the mountain. Once we got to our picnic spot, the clouds parted and we were able to take in Mt. Blackburn in its entirety. This, of course, was the pinnacle event for my husband. We sat and stared at the mountain for hours, taking breaks only to eat and nap in the warm sun. It was a perfect day.

The next morning brought more rain and clouds that didn't look like they were going to budge. We set out anyway, with the intention to make the most of our time in McCa-

rthy. We had both fallen in love with the place and no amount of rain could change that. Again, we took the shuttle up to Kennecott and quickly found our way to the Root Glacier trail. The rain came and went, and the views, although not as stellar as the day before, were still spectacular. The rain cleared just in time for a trip onto the glacier. Without crampons we couldn't traverse too far, but enough to find a rock to have our picnic. The landscape was so different from anything else I had ever experienced—gray and rocky and cold, but oddly compelling. I felt like we were having a picnic on the moon. We ate up our lunch and spent as much time as we could on the glacier before being hit again by cold and rain. On the walk back, I saw fresh bear feces and plenty of berry plants stripped of their fruit. I had a strange feeling we were being watched by a bear

family out there in the woods, but we made it back to the shuttle without incident. The day before we had encountered some hikers who had just seen a black bear on a nearby ridge, so the possibility of an encounter was definitely on my mind.

On our second night at the Wrangell St. Elias News B&B, our hostess Bonnie brought us some yummy cinnamon rolls and we relaxed over dinner in our cozy cabin. I was glad to not be camping since the rain was coming down hard that night. The next morning we left to travel on to the second half of our trip—Valdez and back to the Mat-Su Glacier. I will never forget our time in McCarthy—what a magical place.

No matter where the remainder of our Alaskan Adventure takes us, McCarthy and the Wrangell-St. Elias Park was worth the price of admission.

Scheduled Air Service from Anchorage to McCarthy with stopover in Gulkana!

Now you can leave Anchorage at 8:30 on Wednesday or Friday morning and arrive in Gulkana at 9:45, McCarthy at 11:00. Or, you can leave McCarthy at 11:15 and be back in Anchorage by 2:00pm the same day! (Leaves Gulkana at 12:45) This service is year around.

www.coppervalleyair.com

Copper Valley Air

Ellis Air Taxi, Inc.

DBA Copper Valley
Air Service, LLC

Phone 822-4200

Or toll-free 866-570-4200

Gulkana Airfield Box 234, Glennallen, AK 99588

RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEPARTURES, ARRIVALS, CONNECTIONS.

Ellis Air will not be responsible for damages resulting from the failure of flights to depart or arrive at times stated in this timetable, nor for errors herein, nor for failure to make connections to other airlines or of this company. Schedules are subject to change without notice. Schedules shown are based on expected flying times. Because weather and other factors may affect operating conditions, departures and arrivals cannot be guaranteed.

HOMESTEAD SUPPLY

*Lumber, building materials and hardware delivered
to the McCarthy area at Anchorage prices!*

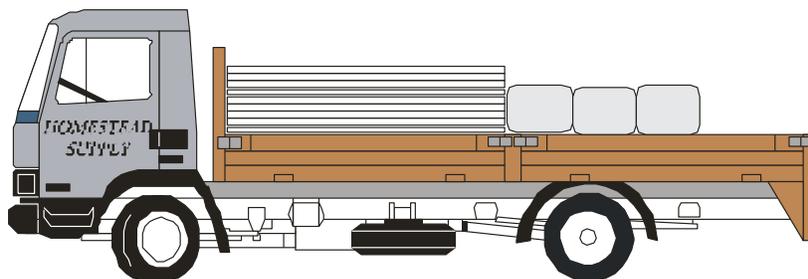
Give us a call or come in and browse our new ACE
Hardware store.

NEW! Greenhouse and potting supplies!

907-822-3987

or

FAX 822-5209



Mile 115.5 Richardson Highway (Box 49) Glennallen

"Americanism means the virtues of courage, honor, justice, truth, sincerity, and hardihood—the virtues that made America."

~ Teddy Roosevelt

MOTHER LODGE COPPER MINES COMPANY OF ALASKA LLC
201 Barrow Street #1 • Anchorage, AK 99501

COPPER RIVER RECORD

Community Newspaper
for the Copper Valley
Subscribe * Advertise * Contribute!
P.O. Box 277 Glennallen, AK 99588
907-822-3727 phone and fax
mail@copperriverrecord.com

Wrangell St. Elias News

Subscriptions \$14/year
Online-only \$11/year
PO Box MXY, Glennallen AK 99588
907-554-4454

MARY KAY

stress-free
holiday **Shopping**

This season, get **fabulous gifts** for everyone on your list...all from the comfort of your home. Just call me or visit my **Web site**. You'll find pampering products, fragrances and more at your **convenience!**

Tammy Rowland
Independent Beauty Consultant
www.marykay.com/trowland1
(907) 581-5881



Valdez Realty

"The Dirt Merchant"

Cor. EGAN & HAZLET
WALTER M. WOOD - BROKER P.O. BOX 868
(907)835-2408 VALDEZ, AK 99686
vldzrlty@evalaska.net

Invest in your own recreation lot at Mi. 27 McCarthy Hwy. 23 lots available in accessible small & large parcels at Chokosna River Tracts.

Broker is Owner.

Sourdough Drilling WATER WELLS

Paul Barr
Sourdough Drilling
PO Box 721
Soldotna, AK 99669
907-262-5494 or cell 907-398-7898

www.PropertyRightsResearch.org

Julie Smithson, Researcher
213 Thorn Locust Lane
London, Ohio 43140-8844
propertyrights@earthlink.net
740-857-1239 (voice/no fax)

Be sure to visit mccarthy-kennicott.com or www.wsen.net for current conditions on the McCarthy Road, weather information, breaking news and more.

ROWCON SERVICES

GENERAL CONTRACTOR
McCarthy, Alaska 554-4498

Keith Rowland, Owner
Lifetime Alaskan

Excavation & Gravel Products
DEC-approved septic

♪ Over the river and
through the woods, ♪
a-freighting we will go.

Lowboy & Heavy Freight Service



♥ *McCarthy* ♥ *Bed & Breakfast*

Cozy, quiet cabins, all with private bathrooms & showers. Pull into our conveniently located homestead on the McCarthy Road, 1/2 mile from the Kennicott River footbridge.

- Continental breakfast & fresh coffee
- Private baths
- Gazebo kitchen
- Picnic area
- Tire repair

Jwadam@starband.net
PO Box MXY Glennallen, AK 99588-8998
(907) 554-4433

WRANGELL MOUNTAIN TECHNICAL SERVICES

Providing Civil Engineering and
Land Survey Services

Serving the Copper Basin and throughout Alaska

On-Site Water and Wastewater Designs
Engineering Consultation
Residential Home Inspections
Construction Inspection and Management
As-built Surveys, Boundary Surveys, Sub-
divisions, Construction Surveys

ALLEN MINISH, PE PLS

Mile 32.1 Edgerton Hwy
P. O. Box 118, Chitina, AK 99566
907-823-2280

Your gateway to adventure...

McCarthy Lodge • Ma Johnson's Hotel

Explore the possibilities at www.mccarthy lodge.com

1-907- 554 4402

We've Been A Part
Of The Local Scenery
Since 1852[®]



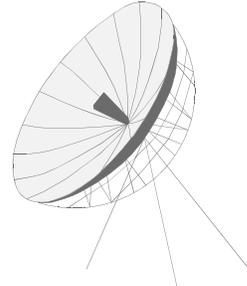
Wells Fargo was one of the first companies to do business around here. So, you might say we've grown up together.

Thanks for all your support over the years.

Glennallen Team

The New **Caribou Hotel**

*Getting tired?
Stop at the Caribou Hotel!
The coffee pot's always on!*



**Warm atmosphere — Hot Tubs — Satellite TV
Full Menu Restaurant**

Mile 187 Glenn Hwy. 822-3302 Glennallen, AK

**First in Fuel, First in
Service; Family
Owned Since 1892.**



Residential & Commercial
Heating Oil
Gasoline
Diesel Fuel
AvGas and Jet Fuel
Chevron Lube Oils and Greases
Tanks/Accessories

Call Us: 822-3375
Mile 188.5 Glenn Highway
Box 276
Glennallen, AK 99588

CROWLEY®

Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

Dear Friends, I'm writing this just as we are getting ready to leave McCarthy and head south for Arizona. We've had a very rainy, cloudy summer this time but the people are always smiling so you can try to ignore the weather. At least we didn't have to worry about fires!

Let me tell you about my new addiction – Peggy and Kurt Smith's McCarthy Mercantile. It's more than a grocery store; it's become the daytime town meeting place. Some people are there when the doors open to get their morning coffee, others of us make a run for it right after mail so we can have coffee, ICE CREAM, pick up our fresh fruits that always look so good and then go out and sit on the porch and talk to our friends or tourists who've dropped by. I'm telling you all this to set the stage for two very special mornings when all the baked goods were done by a young man from New Zealand. Pete Willocks (we call him Captain Kiwi) and his friend, Steve, work for Wrangell Mountain Air; Steve as a pilot and Pete as a shuttle bus driver. During the winter they are co-managers of Awaroa Lodge in Abel Tasman National Park in New Zealand and this is the 3rd summer we've been lucky enough to have them here in McCarthy. Pete offered to do the baking for Peggy twice this summer and even though it is hard to surpass Peggy's baked goodies Pete's were so different and beautifully presented that it was hard not to make a pig of yourself. I didn't worry about that part, I just went ahead and bought about four different ones!

I'd like to give you the recipe for PAVLOVA which is a sort of signature dessert for New Zealand. This could be great for you to serve over the holidays.

PAVLOVA

4 egg whites
 1 ¼ cup Caster Sugar (regular granulated sugar)
 1 teaspoon White Vinegar
 1 teaspoon Vanilla Essence
 1 tablespoon cornflour (cornstarch)

Preheat oven to 180C.(350). Using an electric mixer beat egg whites and sugar for 10 minutes or until thick and glossy. Mix Vinegar, Vanilla and Cornflour together. Add to meringue. Beat on High Speed for a further 5 minutes. Line an oven tray with Baking Paper. Draw a 22 cm circle (about 12"-14"). Spread Pavlova mixture to within 2 cm (1"-2") of the edge of circle. Place in oven then turn oven temperature down to 100 C. (about 210 to 225 degrees). Bake for 1 hour. Turn oven off. Open oven door slightly and leave Pavlova in oven until cold. (At Peggy's, Captain Kiwi just left it open all night and decorated in the morning.) Carefully lift Pavlova onto a serving plate and decorate with whipped Cream and Fresh Fruits and Chocolate and Love!!!

COME ON BACK TO MCCARTHY, CAPTAIN KIWI. WE LOVE YOU.

Before I get to my next recipe I want to pass along some product news. I was making rye bread and wanted to grind some flax seeds and some caraway seeds and absolutely could not find anything to grind them with. For my birthday I had received a gift certificate to Tablespoon Talk and was wondering around the store looking at all the wonderful things and I told the salesperson my problem. She walked right to the Kuhn Rikon Vase Grinder. If I hadn't had the gift certificate I probably wouldn't have spent \$30 on a grinder but oh, am I glad I did. Since then I went to kuhnrikon.com and read some of the comments and

they were all wonderful. Some people had as many as 10! If you are looking for something of that type at least go to the website and look at them. Guess what I want for my next birthday!

Now back to a recipe. Of course our summer isn't complete without fresh Halibut and I'm always looking for new recipes. I found this one in a book called Alaskan Halibut Recipes. I cooked it for company one night without trying it first and was really lucky because it will now go down as one of our favorites.

HALIBUT WITH ORANGE SAUCE

1 ½ pounds halibut steaks
 ½ cup orange juice
 2 green onions, diagonally sliced
 1 tablespoon lime or lemon juice
 3 tablespoons oil, divided
 ¼ teaspoon ground ginger
 1/8 teaspoon salt
 Seasoned flour
 Orange slices

Place halibut steaks in shallow baking dish. Combine orange juice, green onions, lime juice, 1 tablespoon oil, ginger and salt. Pour over halibut; marinate 30 minutes.

Dip halibut in seasoned flour. Saute in 2 tablespoons oil until halibut flakes. Turn steaks halfway through cooking time. Remove halibut and keep warm. Add marinade to skillet and reduce to half the volume (about 1/3 cup). Pour over halibut. Garnish with orange slices. Serves four.

Now that it is near the holiday time, do you ever look for a sweet to put out for friends or unexpected company. I found it this summer! Rick and Jim were getting together to play chess one night and I didn't have anything sweet. I looked in my Taste of Home Quick Cooking collector's Edition and found a real winner. It's quick and the ingredients

are ones you usually have in the cabinet. Try this and I promise you will like them.

FUDGY BUTTONS

2 tablespoons butter or margarine
1 ½ teaspoon baking Cocoa
½ cup Confectioner's Sugar
½ teaspoon milk
2 tablespoons creamy peanut butter.

In a small saucepan melt butter; remove it from the heat. Add cocoa and mix well. Stir in the sugar. Add milk and stir until smooth. Add peanut butter and mix well. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto waxed paper; flatten tops and shape into 1" patties.

This recipe only makes about 14 buttons so I always have to at least double it.

I'm going to include one more because it would really be a nice cookie for the holidays. It comes out almost pure white and looks and tastes so good. I never would have

found this recipe if it hadn't been for my son-in-law, Richard Frost, saying that he hated it when people made the mistake of not putting the fork tracks on the peanut butter cookie and then by mistake put it on another kind. It turns out he hates peanut butter and always used that fork track to tell him which cookies not to eat! I got thinking about it and realized that peanut butter cookies are the only ones I ever flatten with a fork and didn't think I had ever seen it called for on another cookie but I decided to look at the recipe books I have available to me out here in McCarthy. It just so happens that I had picked up one at a garage sale in Homer (surprise, surprise) called "When You Use My Recipe Don't Forget To Pray for Me" compiled by Women's Ministries of the Alaska Assemblies of God. The copyright date is 1968-1979. I looked through the cookie recipes and was surprised to find one (other than peanut

butter) that called for flattening with a fork. I decided to try it. It is wonderful and I've now made it several times this summer and plan to make it again for the holidays. Since it is white, Richard could never mistake it for a peanut butter one! It's called

DUTCH COOKIES

submitted by Kathy Olson, Anchorage

2 cups sugar
1 pound margarine
2 eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla
5 cups flour
½ teaspoonful soda
½ teaspoonful salt

Cream sugar and margarine. Add eggs and vanilla. Add dry ingredients. Chill dough. Roll in balls. Flatten with fork dipped in flour. Bake at 375 degrees about 10 minutes. Makes 5 dozen.

Have a wonderful holiday. We'll get together again soon.

▲ LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

August 2008 will be remembered for its cloudy and wet days. The high temperature for the month was 73 on the 2nd (81 on Aug. 17, '07, 74 on Aug. 8, '06 and 84 on Aug. 13, '05.) There were 2 days when the high was 70 or higher. The first freeze was on the 11th as the temperature fell to 28, this was enough to kill a few of the garden plants. There were 3 days when the low was 32 or below. The low temperature for the month was 28 on the 11th (28 on Aug. 29, '07, 29 on Aug. 29, '06 and 27 on Aug 28, '05). The average monthly temperature at McCarthy was 51.7, compared to 54.2 in Aug. '07, 51.5 in Aug. '06, 54.8 in Aug. '05, 56.2 in Aug. '04 and 51.5 in Aug. '03. At Kennicott, the high was 70 on the 2nd, the low 34 on the 11th and the average temperature was 52.0.

The August precipitation at McCarthy was 4.17 inches, compared with 1.86 inches in Aug. '07, 3.24 inches in Aug. '06, 3.90 inches in Aug. '05, 0.74 inches in Aug. '04 and 2.30 inches in Aug. '03. There were 19 days with a trace or more of rainfall recorded. The average precipitation for August (1984-2007) is 2.62 inches. Total precipitation at Kennicott was 4.30 inches.

September 2008 will be remembered for the cloudy and rainy days. The high temperature at McCarthy was 67 on the 1th and 6th (68 on Sept. 12, '07, 67 on Sept.14, '06 and 68 on Sept. 11, '05). The low temperature was 22 on the 25th (21 on Sept. 30, '07, 19 on Sept. 24, '06 and 24 on Sept. 29, '05). There were 8 days with the high 60 or above and 10 days with the low of 30 or lower. The average monthly temperature at McCarthy was 45.1 (44.6 in Sept. '07, 45.9 in Sept. '06, 47.4 in Sept. '05, 40.5 in Sept. '04

and 42.1 in Sept. '03). This was about 11 degrees warmer than the record low of 34.3 of September 1992. At Kennicott, the high was 68 on the 2nd, the low 26 on the 29th and the average temperature was 44.5.

There was one inch of wet snow recorded at McCarthy in September, on the 23rd and 24th (Trace in Sept. '07 and Sept, '06, 00 in Sept. 05, 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 2.18 inches. The average for September (1984-2006) is 2.95 inches and compares with 4.76 inches in Sept. '07, 2.70 inches in Sept. '06, 2.82 inches in Sept. '05, 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 the record 10.82 inches in Sept. '00. There were 16 days with measurable rainfall, compared with 18 days in Sept. '07, 15 days in Sept. '06, 23

days in Sept. '05 and 13 days in Sept. '04. Total precipitation at Kennicott was 2.90 inches, with 6.3 inches of snow. There was still 4 inches of snow on the ground at the end of September.

The first 12 days of October have been cloudy and wet, with about average temperatures. There has been about 11 inches of snow,

with 2 inches currently on the ground. The total monthly precipitation so far is almost 2 inches. The highs have been mostly in the 40's. The low temperature has been below 20, 3 times with a reading of +7 on the 8th. Winter should be here to stay very soon.

A few interesting weather facts for the Summer of 2008. The high

temperatures May thru August reached 70 or higher on 22 days (59 in '07, 45 in '06, 59 in '05 and 83 in '04) and 80 or higher (June thru August) on 2 days (9 days in '07, 2 in '06, 9 in '05 and 31 in '04). Total precipitation May thru August was 10.26 inches (6.03 in '07, 7.06 in '06, 12.37 in '05 and 4.06 in '04). Have a great winter.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Freeze on local hiring threatens local Jobs, operations in National Parks

BY JIM STRATTON, SENIOR DIRECTOR, ALASKA REGIONAL OFFICE, NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) has several unique provisions that benefit Alaskans. One of the most important is the ability of the National Park Service and other federal agencies to hire local residents without going through the normal, albeit complex and cumbersome, federal government hiring process. Putting Alaskans to work in our national parks is one of ANILCA's promises to Alaska and the Park Service has done a good job of using this local hire program to put Copper Valley and McCarthy residents to work in Wrangell-St. Elias. In fact, over 75 percent of seasonal hires (65 out of 85) at Wrangell-St. Elias are local residents working under the local hire program. But actions taken in August by the White House Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to disallow local hire have placed this

program, and many local families, in jeopardy.

Since receiving notice of the local hire freeze, the National Park Service has been steadily trying to get that order reversed. When OPM first halted local hire, they said it was because the Park Service had never received approval. The Park Service quickly dispelled that argument by providing documentation that OPM had in fact approved the program in August 1981; all federal land managers have been using the program in Alaska since 1982. But OPM has stuck by the unwarranted hiring freeze, and continues to disallow the use of local hire even though it clearly states in ANILCA that local hire is legal.

Federal agencies like the Park Service benefit from the local knowledge residents living in and near national parks bring to the job, as it makes for much smoother park operations. Moreover, hiring local residents is very important for the economies of many small communities here in Alaska. In McCarthy, for example, over 30 people are working under local hire,

mostly at Kennecott. If the local hire freeze were to remain in place, all locals who worked for the Park Service last summer would now have to re-apply for their jobs through the government's competitive process and compete against people from across the country who may on paper have more experience and training and therefore, score higher on the job application. In other states, the Park Service is required by law to hire competitively based on these scores, not on where a candidate lives. The result could be that many locals will be displaced from jobs they've held for years. Next summer's park operations could also be affected, as new hires unfamiliar with the region will need to try to find a place to live, adjust to rural Alaska living, learn about surviving in the wilderness, and be trained for new jobs.

The Park Service and Department of Interior are trying to reverse this bad situation. The Alaska Congressional delegation is helping as well. But so far, the White House isn't listening.

"Daylight Wasting Time"

BY JIM EDWARDS

I suppose nearly everyone has opinions that differ from someone else's, and sometimes it is fun to ponder these other ways to look at it. So I try not to tell the other fellow what he/she should think.

However, there is one that bothers me a lot, because it causes me a

lot of wasted time, and try as I might, I can not find ANY justification whatever, that makes any sense. This is what I term, "Daylight Wasting Time."

In my life, I have watched the sun/earth relationship happen about 28,000 times, and I have studied how it works enough to see that it is pretty regular. I have also read about the history of TIME, and

what use we have for measuring it. My conclusion is that the daylight available each day is exactly the same each day, (at least in the span of a human life). And how we measure time, has no effect whatsoever, on the amount of daylight available.

So for me, I refuse to use the word "savings" in connection with time. In all the years now that people have been "saving" time, they have not

(continued on page 16)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

September 22, 2008

WSEN

McCarthy, AK

Rick and Bonnie,

I am enclosing two CDs containing the scans of 35mm slides that were taken between the intersection of the Edgerton Cutoff with the Richardson Highway and Kennicott. The dates range from the summer of 1950 to the fall of 1954. I have also included some of the photos that were taken during the 1950 survey between Chitina and the Million Dollar Bridge. I have attempted to provide a short description in the file name for each photo.

You can use any of the photos in WSEN but I would appreciate the favor if you could give me credit with any published photo.

We did not have all of our slides scanned but I believe that the ones that we did have scanned provide an overall picture of conditions in the area at that time. The same is true of the slides taken during the Copper River Survey in 1950.

We really enjoyed our visit with the Haleys and also our visit with you and the "Cowboys." Listening to the Cowboys tales and experiences was quite entertaining to say the least.

The McCarthy area has grown considerably over the last 50+ years but it has retained some of the "Ghost Town" atmosphere. I am glad that the Park Service has taken over control of the buildings in Kennicott since, if funding is available, they will be able to preserve and restore many of the structures that would be impossible for a private party or group to accomplish.

I note that the DC3 made several trips to and from McCarthy this summer. My first wife and I were on one of the first trips from Valdez to McCarthy via May Creek in 1954—

perhaps the first one. If the early register of the McCarthy Lodge is still in existence, I believe that my name is on the first or second page of registrations.

Your summary of our trip to McCarthy in WSEN was an enjoyable surprise and reminded me that I needed to get the CDs off to you folks.

Sincerely,

Bob and Paula Leitzell

(Editor's note: THANKS to Bob and Paula for the wonderful photos. We will share them with WSEN readers periodically. Here is one of The Golden as it looked in 1954 to start out!)



6 October 2008

To: Rick and Bonnie Kenyon

Subject: WSEN- Peggy's Kohlrabi Receipt; Volume 17, Issue 5, page 30

While waiting for the mail to arrive at the airport last June, Peggy said she was looking suggestions for Cooking with Peggy, and I suggested kohlrabi, thinking that was unlikely to have been featured in her column before. Well, lo and behold if she didn't dig up some recom-

mendations from Mark Vail for inclusion in WSEN!

This is to let you know The Rest of the Story: Before 1950, Barbara Keck Rice's and Glenda Dilling Bentz's parents started an annual Keck-Dilling Breakfast, always held in a remote park. Most of the original organizers of this affair have passed on, but Glenda, Barbara and her sister Sally Keck Yates have continued this long-standing fall fun-fest. The Breakfast was held yesterday at a Saint Louis County park and was attended by almost 30 people from the now extended families. Great Grandma Ginny Keck, last surviving original parent, attended this year.

Unannounced, I had all the McCarthy Connection members in attendance gather for a picture and sharing of Peggy's first Kohlrabi receipt.

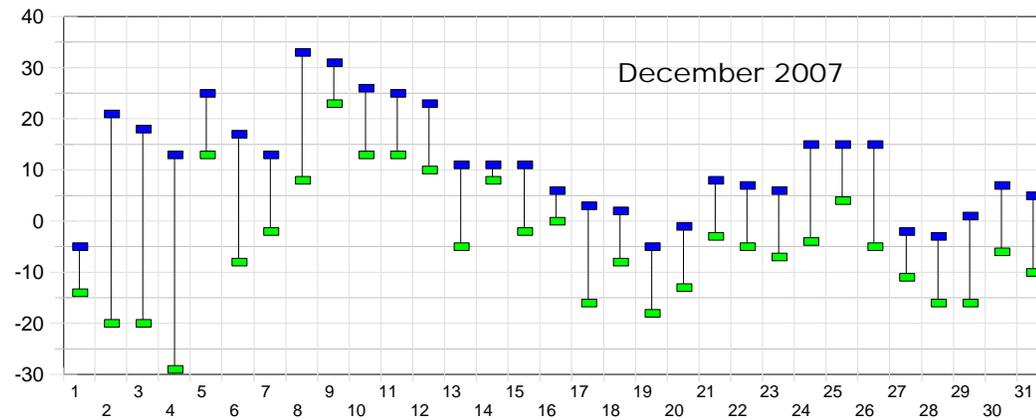
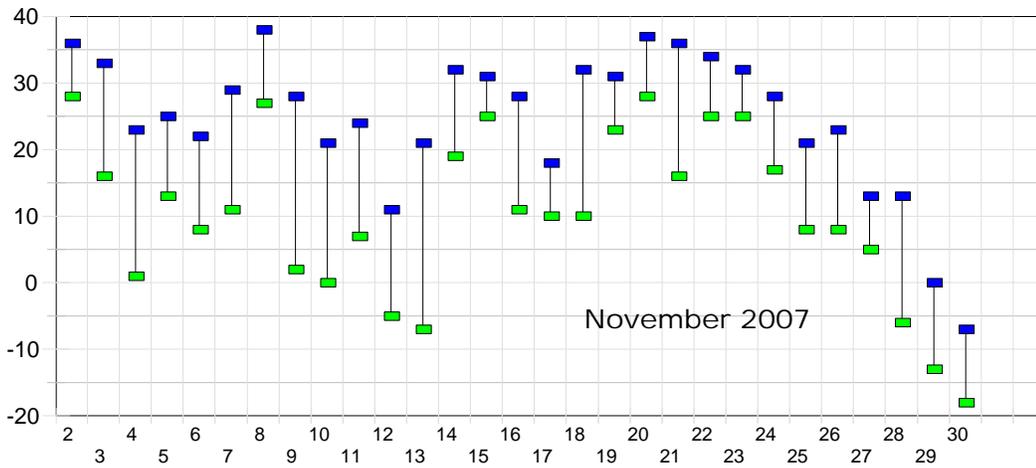
I think you know all in the picture: Chuck Yates, John Rice, Jerry Bentz, Barbara Rice, Albina Izmaylova, Sally Yates, Glenda Bentz

Apologies to Mark Vail and Peggy for the lime juice in plastic—it's all that was in the 'fridge. Most, but not all, had never tried kohlrabi. I haven't heard if the Saint Louis area's supply of kohlrabi is gone this morning.

Regards,

Jerry Bentz





Wrangell St. Elias News

B & B



Enjoy our "Aspen Meadow."

- ◆ Private cabins for 2 to 4.
- ◆ Convenient access by automobile.
- ◆ Historic homestead setting. Enjoy Alaskan bush living.
- ◆ Quiet, Peaceful location away from the crowds!

Phone (907)554-4454 or Email WSEN@starband.net

See us on the WEB at <http://mccarthy-kennicott.com/WSENBB.htm>