

Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Volume Twenty Issue Six

November & December 2011

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Fall in the Wrangells—new beginnings

BY BONNIE KENYON

“Fall in the Wrangells is a time of astounding beauty and abundance—of changes, of settling in, and of prep-



aration for new life.” This sentence preceded the invitation to a celebration of the beginning of Paul Hanis and Jenny Rosenbaum’s journey together into a new life.

On September 10th at 3 pm, families and friends of Paul and Jenny joined them at the toe of the Kennicott glacier in McCarthy to witness and celebrate their commitment to a life of love together.

The casual, but widely-attended, event drew approximately 100 folks with nearly 20 friends and family members who came up from down below and others that came in from other parts of the state.

Paul’s parents, Bill and Allene Hanis, his sister and husband, Christina and Marcelo, were here from Colorado.

All of Jenny’s family in attendance were from Texas: Jenny’s mom, Jana Rosenbaum; dad, Rob Rosenbaum, girlfriend Linda O’Neal and her son

Chris Fredericks; Jenny’s siblings Robbie and Laura Rosenbaum; Robbie’s girlfriend Martina; Jenny’s cousins Jana Sue, Stephen and Timothy Rosser; her aunt and uncle Steve and Patti Rosser; childhood friend Andria Denny, also from Texas; and a couple of friends including Stephanie Piekert of Hawaii. (Locals remember Stephanie as a previous owner of The Potato.)

Paul’s best man was Richard Baranow from Eagle River along with Jenny’s brother and Paul’s sister’s husband. Jenny’s maid of honor was her sister Laura and Jenny’s friend Andria and Paul’s sister Christina.

Everyone stayed at Current Ridge Cabins, owned and operated by Andy and Cynthia Shider, giving opportunity for much quality family time.

An impromptu bachelorette party was planned and provided by Stephanie. A rehearsal dinner was held at Paul and Jenny’s Nizina property: bear and

(Continued on page 6)



WSEN staff photo

New WRST Superintendent Rick Obernesser (facing camera) talks with McCarthy area residents. Alaska Regional Director Sue Masica tells why she chose Rick on page 8.

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

Today is October 27th; there is an inch of snow on the ground and it's beginning to look a lot like winter in McCarthy. When I look at the colors of fall in Paul and Jenny's wedding picture on the cover of this issue, I am reminded that fall is gone and winter is now in the making. The trees have lost all their gorgeous warm hues, and our minimum temperature the other night was 2 degrees F.

What a bountiful fall season we had this year—one to remember! Besides the wedding of two well-known local folks, area residents welcomed the new Wrangell-St. Elias National Park superintendent, Rick Obernesser. He also is featured on our cover. Be sure to read his introduction written by Alaska's Regional Director Sue Masica on page 8.

Prior to going to press, Bruce Rogers, park planner, emailed us the summary of comments on the Proposed Action for Management of the Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark. We decided to make room for this recent development and place some of the other articles in the next issue. Please find the *summary* on page 11.

If you happen to live in Anchorage or be there on November 10th, you might want to attend the Alaska Mining Association's Annual Convention & Trade Show. It's History Night with Katy Ringsmuth and the honoring of the life and work of Martin Radovan, copper prospector. Katy gives us the heads-up on page 10. Thanks, Katie!

Please accept our apologies for the late arrival of the September/October issue to many of your homes. Although it was mailed from McCarthy on September 8th, more than a few of you, our

readers, reported that your copies didn't arrive until closer to mid-October! One subscriber in northern Georgia informed me he had received his copy about a week after the mailing date; however, another subscriber in south Georgia was one who didn't get his copy until well into October. Other states experienced similar experiences. We don't know why this happened, but we appreciate your patience. We trust this issue reaches your mail box quicker than the last!

MOVING? Writing (and thinking) about post offices and the mailing of our WSEN's, I want to encourage you to let us know ASAP when you change addresses. Nearly every issue we receive a couple notices from different post offices informing us that a subscriber's address has changed. Along with the notice is a copy of the back page. Although we are charged \$.50 per notice (and the post office eventually supplies us with the correct address), you may or may not get that particular issue. If this has happened to you and you are missing an issue, please let us know. Our main

concern is that you receive every issue you have paid for.

Last but not least—Rick and I wish each of you a happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas. We are thankful for you and your continued support of this humble publication. We are hoping you know how special you are to us. On a very personal note: Christmas is such a perfect time to acknowledge and give thanks for the perfect Gift Giver, our heavenly Father. Many of you, I know, have acquired a habit of doing this year 'round. But, for those of you who need to hear some good news during this holiday season, let me share something I read just as I began writing this *note*: Even if you had been the only one, Jesus still would have come...for you. Hoping you know how special you are at Christmas and all year long!

Wrangell St. Elias News welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Carl Cady, AK; Nancy Robinson, NH; Colleen Racine, NH; Estle Rosser, TX; Sam Brice, AK; Collett Group, OR; Ian Sharrock, AK.

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Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Carl and Marcia Elwood: It's always a pleasure to welcome folks to the area. When I write or say "area," please know that could mean up to 8 miles away. (McCarthy Road miles, that is.)

The Elwoods are not totally new to us. They purchased property at Mile 42 about 5 years ago and visited it off and on since then. However, this year significant changes brought Carl and Marcia to their Crystal Lake property to stay—summer and fall.

After spending 9 years in Mountain Village, they officially retired from their positions as pastor (Carl with the Covenant Church) and school teacher (Marcia in special education). The word retirement does not always mean a slower-paced life. In fact, Marcia says, "Retirement is busy!"

They arrived in early June with their truck/camper and promptly went back to work—building a shed/ bunkhouse combination and clearing a spot for their cabin which they plan to build next summer with the help of their son, Paul. A successful well was dug this summer, too.

Marcia is keeping her teacher's certificate up to date while enjoying extra time for her hobbies—beading and knitting. Carl enjoys the out-

doors and the activities that go with it.

The Elwoods have 3 children and 8 grandkids, located in Michigan and Minnesota. As I type up this "item," Carl and Marcia are preparing to take off in that direction for the winter. We look forward to your return next April and a big WELCOME to you both!

George Cebula and Art Phillips: As the busy 2011 summer season comes to a close, George and neighbor, Art, are finding time to visit other neighbors. Rick and I decided to get in line for a good "catching up" time. Last night the guys came for dinner. During our conversation I gleaned quite an item.

Pat Garrett, who is closely connected with our local McCarthy Museum and property owner in downtown McCarthy, needed a new foundation on her cabin. It wasn't a simple job. The 15' x 23' log building also needed to be moved out of the right-of-way and repositioned on her lot.

This is where Art came into the picture. He agreed to give Pat a hand. George, being a good neighbor, stepped up to the plate and agreed to assist Art. Using jacks to lift the cabin, 6" well casings to roll it, and Art's Skidsteer to push/pull, the cabin off the old, rotten foundation and onto the new concrete

block foundation, was challenging to say the least, but successful.

Congratulations, Art and George, on a job well done for Pat

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who will now have a safe and sound McCarthy home!

Kurt and Lindsay Jensen and family: “It’s an exciting day,” said Lindsay when I asked her for an item this morning. Exciting in more ways than one. First of all, McCarthy residents woke to falling snow, our first official reading for the season. Son Luke Allen was making the most of our nearly one inch of white stuff, while Lindsay filled me in on the news from the Jensen household.

Kurt, Lindsay, Luke Allen and his baby sister, Aleah, are moving to Palmer where they will make their home, once again, on Lazy Mountain, near where they wintered last year. Kurt just finished up another work season with the park service at Kennicott; Lindsay is busily packing and doing the last minute projects/chores that come with making a major move.

Their motivation for leaving McCarthy is to become a working part of Camp Challenge which is located between Palmer and Wasilla. Lindsay said Kurt will participate on a volunteer basis until February and then enter an internship for the Program Director position. He also is planning to continue his substitute teaching for the Mat-Su school district this winter.

According to Lindsay, ever since she and Kurt married, they desired to start or direct a kids’ Christian summer camp. They are excited with this new phase in their lives and the opportunity Camp Challenge is offering them—an opportunity to grow in their dream.

Although I’ve never visited the Camp, Lindsay tells me it is a great place for kids’ camps in the summer months. Because it is located on a lake, water activities are a highlight for young folks. Goodbyes are never easy, but for Kurt, Lindsay, Aleah and Luke Allen, new adventures are awaiting them and they are ready to tackle the challenges!

Sonny Asbury: In spite of a super busy summer working as a van driver for Wrangell Mountain Bus, our local shuttle service between McCarthy and Kennicott, Sonny managed to build a 16' x 16' addition to his cabin. The roof was “just” in place when our first snowfall of the season appeared on the scene. Great timing!

Now that the push is over on Sonny’s building project, he is making his annual travel plans to the lower 48—Texas, that is. His family which includes daughters, grandkids and sisters are eagerly awaiting his arrival to celebrate the upcoming holiday season. Tickets are in hand, including one for dog Mac. Have a safe trip, Sonny!

Michelle Casey: Another goodbye is in order, but not pleasant! Michelle stopped by the other day with the news that she is moving back to Woodland, WA. to spend some quality time with her folks. “I still have McCarthy in my back pocket,” (referring to her cabin and numerous friends).

Since her folks could no longer live in the family house and are now settled into an apartment in town, Michelle will take up residence in the house and move back into her old bedroom.

Michelle, her son Carl, and daughter Tracey moved to McCarthy in 2003, staying two years, where she worked during the summer season and had a cabin built down the road from us. In the fall of 2005, she and the kids moved to Valdez to attend school. Both “kids” are now grown and doing well, still living in Valdez. Tracey has since married Aaron Gerrard.

You are one special lady, Michelle, and your departure does not mean your removal from our hearts!

Kay, Beth and Holly Houghton: The Houghton ladies paid another visit to their cabin just recently. I think that makes five visits this year, and, if Holly can get a bit more time off work, they may squeak in

another trip before winter gets serious.

It’s always a pleasure to spend time with Kay and her daughters. Kay and Beth, her oldest daughter, own and operate the Village Pharmacy in Valdez. Holly lives in Anchorage and works in the medical field, as well. Rebecca, AnnaLisa and Kristi live in Virginia where all three young ladies teach in the same Christian school.

In spite of the distance between Virginia and Alaska, this family stays in close contact with each other and manages to find time for their McCarthy area friends. It is always good seeing you ladies!

Dave Williams and Marie Thorn: After working long (50 hr. weeks) and hard this summer on the park service maintenance crew, Dave and Marie are finally getting caught up on their sleep and chipping away at their numerous projects. When I called this evening, Dave was busy cooking stove-top enchiladas on their new Vermont cast iron woodstove. After spending 5 years using an outdoor cook tent (successfully protected by a solar-powered bear fence, I might add), they have become quite the connoisseurs of stove-top cooking minus an oven.

Maria and Dave are about to change that emphasis, however, when they bring in their first new propane gas range—complete with oven!! A town trip is in the making and their stove is winging its way to the store in Anchorage. They can hardly wait to try it out. Just in time for those Thanksgiving and Christmas goodies!

Dave is focusing on his “behind the scenes” cabinet making project. Their goal is to have a finished kitchen before too long. His research is helping him find just the right custom jigs and tools.

Marie found a 3' wide, white porcelain kitchen sink which will give her plenty of room for washing those big cooking pots and pans.

While Dave is pouring over the how-to books on cabinet making, Marie insulated their pantry and the hatch to their root cellar. She's even learned (through Dave's instruction) a how-to of her own—the art of pipe threading. Of course the down side on that bit of wisdom, is that she had to take her tools and expertise under the house. Thankfully, that job is done now and Dave has dubbed her a master pipe threader and the lead insulator at their house. Marie, you must be a quick learner and, Dave, I suspect you are a superb teacher!

Congratulations on all the upgrades to your cottage on the hill and sharing it with us.

Jim and Audrey Edwards: “Life is not boring, is it?” says Audrey. I thought that was my line, but it must be hers, too! Even when the summer season comes to an end and things slow down, McCarthy folks seem to always find plenty to do—inside and out.

Jim is going full bore on wood detail. “This is my season for getting firewood and getting rid of those dangerous limbs when there is snow to do it safely.”

Audrey has great hopes for a few inside jobs this winter. “Hopefully, Jim and I can get back to finishing some inside home projects, such as putting our bedroom back together. With the new condo in Anchorage, we now have plenty of ongoing projects there, too.”

This time of year Jim cannot help but think on the subject of “Daylight Wasting Time (DWT),” as he titles it. “I like clever progress, but there are always down sides. DWT is one of the dumbest in the book. In something over 60 years of actually thinking about it twice a year, I've seen no proof whatever that anyone, anytime, has ever seen even one minute of daylight actually saved. But, plenty has been wasted, in running around changing all the clocks, and then changing them back again...”

November 6th is the day, Jim, in case you need to circle it on the calendar! As Audrey says, “Life is not boring, is it?” (I'd do a smiley face here but I'm not sure how it would print out when Rick does the final layout.)

Jim Kreblin: Another Jim; another location—Long Lake. Life is never boring for this Jim, either. When we called this morning, he was on the “final expansion program” which is the completion of a 6' x 10' addition to his cabin. A bit more painting on the trim, caulking, inside insulation and he'll be finished—a “nook,” says Jim, “with a great view of the lake.”

Rick was down there this week, trying out his RC plane on floats. There was no ice yet to speak of, but that could change real soon. Jim informed me that on one of the maiden flights, Rick performed a “prop wash.” I asked for some clarification on that statement and Jim said Rick was “washing his prop” from all the dust of the McCarthy Road. Hmmm...I guess I'll ask Rick for a better picture!

Jim says he is planning on sticking around this winter and helping the kids move to Palmer this upcoming week. (For those of you who don't know, Jim is Lindsay Jensen's dad.) Jim may be losing Kurt, Lindsay, Aleah and Luke Allen but he (and dog Max) are gaining Maverick, the Jensen's dog. At least for the time being.

Also Jim is donning his grandfather's hat for a few days to babysit Luke Allen who, Jim says, makes himself right at home at his digs on the lake.

Trig Trigliano: Trig and Kitty (Trig's cat!) are all prepared for the long winter and they will both go into hibernation within the next few weeks. Do not wake them up until breakup as both of them can get very cranky upon waking. All kidding aside, Trig and Kitty will be enjoying a warm and cozy home with this summer's heating up

grades of oil and propane heat, along with the traditional wood stove.

Their winter projects will be mostly indoors working on their kitchen and, as Trig *jokingly* says, “installing the fuel rods for their new Chernobyl class reactor. After the reactor is up and running, plans are to install an electric heating system and high-intensity lights to illuminate the valley below.”

Visitors to Trig's place are encouraged to bring their dogs along with them to visit with Kitty. Please do not bring any cats as Kitty hates other cats!

Paul Hanis and Jenny Rosenbaum: Paul and Jenny have been pretty busy since their wedding on September 10th. After successfully recovering from bad colds, they were finally able to tackle the harvesting of their garden.

“I put up 6 gallons of kim chi (fermented, Korean-style veggies), blanched and froze (in our solar-powered DC freezer) a very, very large amount of greens from the garden. In addition to that, we've got over 20 heads of cabbage, a 5-gallon bucket each of beets and kohlrabi and plenty of taters waiting for our root cellar to be finished. All in all,” writes Jenny, “the work we put into the garden this year really paid off. And, for a first-year garden, it was a surprising burden to be overwhelmed with so much produce! I grew about 36 parsnips this year...just to see what they might do. I think with a little better soil and more coddling, they would do really well. And, OH MY, fresh, home grown parsnips sliced and fried in butter are better than desert!! They are getting an entire bed of their own next year and all the attention they want!”

Aside from harvesting the garden, Paul and Jenny built a root cellar this fall. Continues Jenny, “We're just waiting on the big, yellow machine to come by and do the hard work for us. It's quite the luxu-

ry to have access to and money for a machine to dig and place a pre-made root cellar for us. We're excited to be able to get our veggies out of their make-shift cold hole and into the real thing."

In-between all the above activities, Paul and Jenny are working for neighbor Jeremy Keller on a construction project near the McCarthy airstrip. They hope to be back on their home projects by the beginning of November—looking forward to downtime, more domestic time,

such as "using the stove-top waffle iron my aunt gave us—every day!"

Paul is quite an innovator. He masterminded an outdoor cast iron bath tub that has a carefully-planned wood burning "stove" with a tunnel underneath the tub that makes outdoor baths on starry nights "absolutely delightful," says Jenny.

When you get into the "downtime," Paul and Jenny, don't forget we have a date for tea and cookies!

Chitina 1 Stop Store Hours:

The following information was posted on the McCarthy mail shack. The One Stop is announcing their winter hours.

October 3, 2011 through May ?? 2012: Monday 1-3 pm and Thursday 1-3 pm. Open for gas and propane. Propane will not be pumped at temperatures below -20 degrees F. If temperatures dip to -40 F. and colder—the store is closed.

New beginnings

(Continued from Cover)

moose ribs over the fire and a hike down to the Nizina.

The Wrangell Mountains Center generously supplied a large portion of the sunflowers for the ceremony. Jenny's aunt Patti made all the bouquets and put all the flower decorations together. She arrived the night

before the wedding and stayed up until the wee hours of the morning and spent the entire next day completely devoted to making the flowers work out beautifully.

A barbeque and potluck-style reception was held on the lawn of Current Ridge Cabins.

Ian Gyiori roasted a pig with a lot of wonderful food provided by family and local residents. The three amazing cakes were provided by Maggie Nylund of Maggie's Bakery in Valdez; Sarah Nelson of Mile 12 of McCarthy Road; and Mary Convey, summer employee of McCarthy Lodge.

Alaska Grown, part 5—to the interior and beyond!

BY RICK KENYON JR.

The short winter days eventually gave way to more daylight. Spring had come! As the temperature rose, the snow level declined. Eventually, all that was left of winter were piles of hard, dirty snow and plenty of mud puddles. Spring "break-up" in Alaska is not a fun transition to summer, yet always welcome (after months of cold and darkness). I put away my snowsuit in trade for a rain jacket and mud boots. Sam, our dog, was especially glad to see dirt again and make use of his doghouse which had been buried under snow for several months!

The summer was 1977. The school year was finished and so was our stay in the busy town of Valdez. Our hearts were drawn in another direction—further into the interior. The 29' trailer that served as our home for a year quickly sold.

Mom, Dad, Sam and I drove the Suburban to a small town called Chitina. The pavement ended, and a dirt/gravel road began. We drove over the Chitina River and began winding up and down ravines on a pot-holed, narrow road called the McCarthy Road. This was the real "bush" of Alaska, and there were no telephones or gas stations after you drove through Chitina. A three-hour drive was quite common in those days, and one had to be careful

when meeting another vehicle, pulling over to allow them to pass. Speeding was not a problem, unless you wished to tear the rear-end out of your ride! (We found out that a railroad used this route many years earlier and that the State pulled the rails out and built a road instead.)

After what seemed like hours, we approached a place in the road that was washed out. Dad reviewed the situation, and decided to attempt to cross the small stream. He engaged the 4-wheel drive and eased along, but the Suburban got stuck anyway. There were no trees close enough to use a winch either. No houses nearby and we were in the middle of nowhere! We had not seen a house in many



WSEN staff photo

Hoffer's homestead cabin and greenhouse at Long Lake.

by at Crystal Creek. We drove past his homestead and within a few miles crossed over the Lakina River. Beyond it were a few cabins along a 3-4 mile long lake called Long Lake. On the right side of the road was a nice house built by a stream. Dad pulled in the yard and we met the owner, Hank Hoffer. Hank was a nice old fellow that lived at Long Lake during the summers and had a home in Oregon for the winters. He was a German and sort of gruff in his own way, but I learned to like him and he fell in love with Sam. We visited with Hank and eventually ended up building a guest cabin on his property later that summer.

As it turned out, McCarthy was just down the road about 15 miles. McCarthy would eventually become "home," but that is another story for another day!

(to be continued)

miles and this was before the days of cell phones.

We sat down on the ground and ate lunch that Mom had packed. I remember hearing some prayers going on also. It was afternoon already and darkness would be coming within a few hours. This was not an ideal situation to be in. It might be days before someone might come along this road and find us....

Then we heard it. A small airplane flew overhead and circled. We waved and the pilot saw our situation. After a minute, he flew on and we were left alone. The silence was loud as we pondered what to do. Thirty minutes later, we heard another noise. It grew louder. Help was on the way! The "noise" turned out to be a small D-4 bulldozer that was owned by Jack Wilson. As it happened, he was flying the road home that day (as most bush pilots did), looking for washed-out places in the road. He saw our predicament and came to the rescue.

It didn't take Jack long to pull us out and to fix the washed-out culvert. (We later found out that

Jack Wilson was an experienced bush pilot and hunting guide. He eventually wrote a book of many of his life experiences, called *Glacier Wings and Tales*.) Jack lived close



WSEN staff photo

Hank & Sam on the old Long Lake Creek bridge. (Later replaced with a culvert.)

AK Regional Director Sue Masica introduces new WRST superintendent

OCTOBER 7, 2011

Dear Wrangell-St Elias friends, neighbors, and partners:

I'm pleased to introduce to you Rick Obernesser, the new Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve Superintendent. The opportunity to lead the nation's largest national park attracted many candidates from across the country. I interviewed a variety of qualified candidates and chose Rick because he is one of the National Park Service's best. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and the communities that work with the park deserve the best.

Rick's career spans 30 years with the National Park Service, during which he gained a breadth of experience ranging from a dedicated park ranger in the field to a highly effective leader at the national level. As a park ranger at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Rick responded to incidents and provided emergency care to visitors and communities. While at Yosemite National Park he patrolled the backcountry on horseback and at Cape Cod National Seashore, he forged trust-

ed relationships with residents living on private property within the park. He is no stranger to remote, cold, and harsh environments and the resilience that lifestyle requires; he worked in Yellowstone National Park for ten years. As an incident commander on the 2010 Gulf oil spill disaster, he oversaw oil clean-up efforts under trying and tiring circumstances. Throughout his career, Rick has demonstrated stellar leadership skills and a keen ability to listen to people's concerns and perspectives, and work directly with them to address issues and solve problems. NPS has worked to build effective relationships with those of you who live, work and subsist near and within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve; my goal is to see that path of mutual respect continue to grow. I trust that Rick's deep experiences and well-developed abilities will advance that common purpose.

I also chose Rick because he is passionate about the National Park Service mission but is not rigid and inflexible in its interpretation. He's creative, an innovator. He does not shy away

from tough questions or issues. He investigates the breadth of possibilities rather than fixating on one solution. He has a straightforward, yet low-key style that I believe will work well with park neighbors and partners.

Rick plans to get settled in the Glennallen area in early December. He plans to host a community gathering at park headquarters early in the New Year, and will be looking for opportunities to meet many of you once he arrives. Until that time, the park is also planning to use its Facebook page to invite you to ask Rick questions and get to know him better. Stay tuned, more information will be forthcoming on the park's website at <http://www.nps.gov/wrst/index.htm>. You can find Wrangells on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/WrangellSt.EliasNPP>. Or follow the park on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/#!/WrangellStENPS>.

Please join us in welcoming him to Alaska and the Copper River Valley community.

Sincerely,

Sue E. Masica

Regional Director

Wilde Yukon River verdict met with hostility in Fairbanks

BY CRAIG MEDRED

Afederal magistrate's decision to convict an elderly Interior Alaska man of criminal charges for confronting National Park Service rangers on the Yukon River last

fall did not seem to be sitting well with Fairbanks residents Tuesday. Once more, many of them seemed to be saying, 72-year-old Jim Wilde was getting shafted for daring to stand up and question how the U.S. gov-

ernment does business in the 49th state.

This time the man handing out the punishment was U.S. District Court magistrate Scott Oravec, who ruled that no matter how "unwise" it might have

been for Wilde to follow the order of rangers to shut down his riverboat in the middle of the fast-flowing Yukon, the Central resident was duty-bound to comply. Oravec ruled Wilde guilty of “interfering with a (government) agency function,” guilty of “violating a lawful order,” and guilty, above all, of “operating an unregistered boat.”

Wilde’s attorney, Bill Satterberg of Fairbanks, had wanted a trial by jury, but saw his client denied that because of the relatively petty nature — by federal standards — of the charges.

Satterberg had been of the opinion a jury of Wilde’s Interior Alaska peers would have set his client free in a blink, and judging from reactions in Fairbanks, where Wilde was tried in April, he might have been right.

The Fairbanks Daily News Miner put up a five-paragraph story outlining the Oravec ruling on its website shortly after the decision was made public. Within a matter of hours, a string of comments had been published that was far longer than the article itself. Some in the heartland of the Alaska Independence Party seemed on the verge of calling for a second American Revolution.

Antifederalism flares up again in Fairbanks

A commenter using the name “bottomfish” quoted Revolutionary War hero and American President George Washington’s warning that “government is not reason; it is not eloquence; it is force! Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master.”

Another commenter, “Tommyguns,” got right to the point: “Past time for an Alaska Spring.

Throw the !@#% ^ & feds out of our beautiful state NOW!”

All this the fallout from an incident that began with two youngish rangers baiting the crusty, old Wilde into stopping his riverboat on the Yukon during moose hunting season last year. The rangers acted as if their boat was disabled and flagged Wilde down. He started to come to their aid until he realized what was up, and then things turned ugly. That was the one thing everyone who testified at Wilde’s April trial agreed on.

The rangers told Wilde they wanted to inspect his boat. He launched into a stream of profanity during which “[word bleeped by WSEN]” might have been the mildest word used, according to testimony at the trial. Wilde admitted later that he’d lost his cool and shouldn’t have done what he did. Park rangers Joe Dallemolle and Ben Grodjesk were less reconciliatory. They stuck to their story that not only had Wilde fled their riverblock, but then tried to, or at least indicated he might try to, ram and sink their boat.

For this, Wilde had been charged with disorderly conduct. Even Oravec refused to hold for the government on that charge. There just wasn’t evidence to support it, he said. The story that came out at trial, in fact, made rangers far more the aggressors than Wilde.

When he veered toward shore—he said it was to beach the boat to talk to rangers in a safe location; rangers said it was to flee—rangers gave chase. When Wilde didn’t stop as they wanted, Dallemolle pulled his sidearm and pointed it at the old man. When that still didn’t get

what Dallemolle called “compliance,” he grabbed the shotgun and aimed it at Wilde, his 73-year-old wife, Hannelore, and elderly friend Fred Schenk.

Dallemolle said he was going to make sure the old folks didn’t flee, though where he thought they might be fleeing was never clear.

The nearest village upriver was Eagle, an isolated community of about 150. Beyond that there is only Canada, which is largely unoccupied until one reaches the community of Dawson City, Yukon Territory, 105 miles upriver from Eagle. Dawson is a booming community of 1,300 along a frontier highway that runs north and west from Whitehorse to Chicken, Alaska, through a land with few human inhabitants.

The country along the road is almost as remote and desolate as the stretch of the Yukon River on which Wilde met rangers who’d seen only one other boat all day, despite being on patrol at the height of the hunting season. And wouldn’t you know it, but the second boat they met was some crazy old guy who was going to make a run for it.

Some might consider it a bored ranger’s dream; never mind the improbability that a trio of elders well-respected in their community were going to launch some sort of daring escape to Canada. Wilde yelled profanity and took off. The young rangers gave chase.

Wilde went to shore. There, the rangers, pumped up on adrenaline—they’d already pulled both a handgun and shotgun on the fleeing suspects — took Wilde down. He was wrestled to the ground and hand-

cuffed. Then they took him back to Circle, requiring Wilde's help to navigate the Yukon to get there. There he was loaded into a vehicle at the end of the Steese Highway and driven 160 miles to Fairbanks, where he spent a few days in jail while everyone tried to sort out exactly what had happened.

The story never got any better for anybody after that. Wilde admitted at trial he behaved badly. U.S. Attorney Stephen Cooper got caught trying to phony up some evidence. Hannalore, who grew up in Nazi Germany, compared the behavior of the park

rangers to Gestapo thugs she had encountered as a child. Angry Fairbanks residents staged a post-trial rally to protest the Park Service ever being in the state.

Alaska Gov. Sean Parnell and the Alaska Congressional delegation lashed out at the Park Service. Reasonable people just wished for the whole thing to go away, but it didn't. The arrest was round one, the trial round two, and by Tuesday night it was looking like the verdict was shaping up as round three.

Satterberg would not say whether his client would appeal.

Wilde has already spent a lot of money defending himself for what amounted to bad behavior on his part. Oravec's 31-page ruling, which took more than six months for the magistrate to write, suggested that he might have ruled differently had Wilde simply explained to rangers, clearly and without profanity, that he was going to shore to meet with them because it was safer.

But that didn't happen. And the rest is history.

Editors note: This story originally was published in the Alaska Dispatch (alaskadispatch.com) October 11. Used by permission.

Honoring the Life of Martin Radovan: Copper Prospector in WRST

BY KATHERINE RINGSMUTH

In summer 2010, the Alaska Region of the National Park Service, through its Abandoned Mine Lands program, initiated the process of physically closing dangerous mines at Radovan Gulch, located in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Before personnel could begin sealing adits, they had to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act and determine if the properties were eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. After fieldwork and archival research, an interdisciplinary team determined that the camps, prospects, artifacts, roads and trails at Radovan Gulch maintained historical integrity and

were historically significant on a local level. But the story went far beyond compliance; the examination of the site revealed a remarkable time capsule, preserving the life and work of the enduring copper prospector, Martin Radovan.

Martin gained notoriety as a prospector when he laid claim to the Binocular Prospect, a copper outcrop above the greenstone-limestone contact high on the face of a cliff overlooking a glacial cirque. Martin was supported in his endeavor by his wife, Augusta Louise Iverson. Although he never found his "copper mountain," the real treasure uncovered at Radovan Gulch was Martin's uniquely preserved properties and the history they

can convey to visitors about an important way of life in the Wrangell Mountains.

Due to the research efforts of NPS cultural resources personnel, the Alaska Miners Association will be inducting Martin Radovan into the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame during its Annual Convention & Trade Show at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel on Thursday, November 10. The "History Night" festivities begin at 7pm, with Historian Katherine Ringsmuth giving a presentation about the significance of Martin's 46 year history in Radovan Gulch. Also in attendance will be several members of Martin's family from California. The induction ceremony is free and open to the public.

"More gold has been mined from the thoughts of men than has been taken from the earth."—Napoleon Hill

"Be a first rate version of yourself, not a second rate version of someone else"—Judy Garland

Summary of comments on Kennecott Plan

Editors Note: We got this from Bruce Rogers, Park Planner at WRST just before we went to press: Here is a summary of comments that we received on the Proposed Action for Management of Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark.

We had a staff meeting on the 12th and 13th to discuss the public comments and to modify the Proposed Action based on the comments received. The modified version will go out to all who commented in the next 2-3 weeks.

Then we will start developing alternatives to be analyzed in an Environmental Assessment. The public will get a chance to review a version of the EA, probably sometime after New Years (January 1, 2012).

As you can see, these were difficult to "summarize."

Summary of public comments.

Proposed Action for Management of Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark

1. Background

In May, 2011, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST) distributed a Proposed Action for Management of Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark. The document is a prelude to the Kennecott Operations Plan and Environmental Assessment and describes goals, protocols, and management proposals for National Park Service (NPS) management of the Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark (NHL). The document was made available for public review throughout the course of the summer and NPS accepted comments until September 16, 2011. Additionally, NPS held a series of meet-

ings throughout the course of the summer to discuss the document and facilitate public review.

The McCarthy Area Council (MAC) formed a sub-committee to review and comment on the document. Their review took place over the course of the summer. Their comments were submitted to NPS in the form of a re-write of the document.

2. Summary of Comments

NPS received 31 written comment letters on the Proposed Action for Management of Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark. These included the MAC subcommittee re-write, which was signed or otherwise endorsed by 43 individuals. Several individuals (4) signed the signature sheet as specifically opposed to the re-write, but only one specified why. Friends of Kennicott also submitted a comment letter, generally supporting and supplementing the MAC subcommittee re-write. Comments were received from several other organizations or agencies, including Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition (AQRC), the State of Alaska, and National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA).

The following summary generally characterizes public comments by general topic so that reviewers can get a feel for which issues are close to consensus and which issues are not. It is in no way meant to specifically portray or represent individual comments. Organizations are specifically named, individuals are not.

Management Concepts: The MAC subcommittee and Friends of Kennicott continue to support the concept of "light touch" (as defined in past planning documents) as a community vision for manage-

ment of the NHL. They support using the Management Concepts as a standard by which proposed projects are reviewed by NPS and the community. They support NPS/ community meetings to work on defining "light touch" relative to NPS policy and guidance on treatment of historic structures (specifically, the Secretary of Interiors Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties). These concepts were generally supported by commenters, though six commenters specifically opposed the concept of "light touch" relative to historic building stabilization/preservation and support whatever measures are necessary to preserve historic structures for generations to come.

Partnerships: The MAC subcommittee and Friends of Kennicott commented that the plan should recognize that partnerships are essential in the management of Kennecott and include commitments to work with others. They commented that most issues and initiatives in Kennecott or the surrounding area require at least cooperation and at best collaboration, where frequently neither the NPS nor other stakeholders alone have the resources to come up with needed creative solutions to complex problems. These comments were widely supported. One commenter suggested that partnerships relative to non-profits and concessions need to be expanded to include the greater Copper River valley.

Local Hire: The MAC subcommittee and Friends of Kennicott commented that ANILCA provides for local hire, that local hires provide invaluable local knowledge and expertise, and that NPS

should always first endeavor to fill positions in the NHL with qualified local residents. Several additional commenters specifically supported local hire and no commenters opposed it.

Communications: The MAC subcommittee and Friends of Kennicott suggested an NPS—community communications protocol that includes: 1) spring and fall meetings; 2) subject matter specific meetings during the course of the summer; 3) review—update of the Kennecott Operations Plan every five years; 4) a protocol for informing the community of upcoming meetings; and 5) provision of information and solicitation of comment about upcoming park actions prior to planning and budget decisions. Several additional commenters specifically supported this protocol and no commenters opposed it.

Motor Vehicle Use within the NHL: The MAC subcommittee requests that the NPS take the following actions:

- Post signs and circulate brochures notifying members of the general public (not including residents of the McCarthy/Kennecott region) that they are welcome to use the rights-of-way on foot or bicycle, and to come to Kennecott on the shuttle vans, but that no visitor ORVs, motorcycles, or other motorized vehicles are allowed in Kennecott. This restriction will in no way be seen to limit the rights of local residents within the NHL and residents of the greater McCarthy/Kennecott community (as guests of the NHL residents) to use their motor vehicles on the rights-of-way within the NHL.
- Notify ORV user groups throughout Alaska of the restriction of ORV use in the NHL.
- In conjunction with local businesses, provide adequate parking

for the motor vehicles of non-local visitors outside the NHL.

NPCA and AQRC are opposed to recreational ORV use in the NHL but support ORV use by locals and for subsistence purposes. Eight commenters (submitting six comments) objected to the actions proposed by the MAC subcommittee and would like to see ORV use continue as a means of visitor access to the NHL. These commenters noted that ORV access for visitors will facilitate increased visitor use of the NHL, that the actions as proposed by the MAC subcommittee are “unenforceable,” and that “local” is not well defined. All commenters were supportive of ORV use in support of subsistence activities. The State of Alaska asked the NPS to recognize the access provisions of ANILCA in their planning process.

Parking: The MAC subcommittee and Friends of Kennicott endorse the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between NPS and NHL landowners that includes: 1) designated and limited parking areas within the NHL, with exceptions for ADA and subsistence uses; 2) no parking restrictions during the winter months; 3) courtesy parking for remote access landowners; 4) NPS parking area for employees at the Dairy Barn; 5) NPS set an example by having employees and contractors utilize shuttle vans; 6) public education regarding lack of parking in the NHL.

Two commenters suggested developing more parking for visitors within the NHL.

Kennecott Arrival/ Orientation: The MAC subcommittee and Friends of Kennicott suggest a “series of public meetings” in summer of 2012 to discuss the arrival and orientation of visitors. This includes “what to do with the shuttle turnaround” and consider-

ing the needs of local businesses that operate the shuttle service. NPS has proposed improvements to the shuttle turnaround as part of this planning process that would facilitate its use for that purpose. Six commenters (in five comment letters) specifically supported the use of the current shuttle turnaround (with proposed improvements) for the intended purpose.

Roads: The MAC subcommittee and Friends of Kennicott encourage ADOT&PF to maintain the State Right of Way, from McCarthy to Kennecott, as a one-lane gravel road that maintains its historic character. Two individuals specifically supported this concept and added that ADOT&PF and NPS need to consult with adjacent private landowners prior to any proposed brushing or widening of this road. One commenter supports ADOT&PF improvement and widening of the road to enhance the visitor experience and improve safety.

Trails: The MAC subcommittee and Friends of Kennicott support maintaining local existing trails (Root Glacier trail, Bonanza trail, and the Wagon road) as non-motorized for Kennecott visitors. They support the proposed trail alongside the Kennicott Glacier. Five commenters specifically supported this proposed non-motorized trail; one commenter specifically opposed it because of a concern for bringing additional visitors into the specific area; and one commenter has concerns about potential for bear encounters. Three commenters asked for consideration of additional non-motorized trails in the area; and one commenter noted that trails that are currently motorized should stay motorized.

Walk-in Campground: The MAC subcommittee supports this

concept, as long as public input is sought and the potential for increased bear/human interactions is taken into account. Several commenters specifically supported this concept; one commenter specifically opposed it because of impacts to existing local activities in the area.

Mill Site Water System, Fire Suppression system, and Sanitary Sewer system: The MAC subcommittee neither support or oppose these proposed systems, but demand that the NPS consult with the community and specific affected Kennecott residents during the design phase of these projects, prior to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance or implementation. They ask that NPS give full consideration to the effects of the proposed systems on water quality and quantity, wildlife, landowner access, natural soundscape, and scenic quality. Five commenters expressed similar concerns regarding potential impacts to landowner access, water quantity, scenic quality, and wildlife.

Power Generation and Distribution: The MAC subcommittee asked for the development of a power generation and distribution plan, based on projected power requirements for the next 10 to 20 years. They ask that NPS use state-of-the-art technology to minimize the noise associated with the generator and that NPS give serious consideration to the use of alternative energy sources, including solar. Several other commenters asked that NPS give consideration to solar power. The consideration of hydroelectric power got mixed reviews—MAC subcommittee supports it for consideration as long as it “does not affect the flow, clarity, or purity of the source creek, as these creeks are essential water sources for lo-

cal residents.” Two commenters specifically oppose consideration of hydroelectric power and two commenters specifically support it.

Use of concessions for mill building (or other) tours at Kennecott: Several commenters support this concept, as long as competition for the concession is open. Two commenters specifically oppose the use of a concession, citing as reasons that taxpayers should not have to pay to see the mill and that NPS can do a fine job. One commenter suggested that NPS needs to consider concessions with eligible Native entities.

Interpretation: One commenter noted that NPS interpretation of the NHL needs to include information regarding glaciers, succession, climate change, local people/community, and the dynamic environment. Four individuals commented that Silk Stocking row should not be included as part of a “self-guided walking tour” for visitors because of all the private residences in that area.

Noise: Several commenters, including the MAC subcommittee and Friends of Kennicott, noted that the increasing noise in Kennecott adversely affects both landowners and visitors. Commenters requested that the Environmental Assessment consider the impacts of proposed activities on the natural soundscape and that NPS provide leadership in noise mitigation.

Vegetation: One commenter noted that vegetation should not be managed to replicate 1938 conditions. Friends of Kennicott asked that “site-specific decisions regarding clearing distances and standards will be made with consideration of the multiple site values and the fire risk entailed, with flexibility to deviate from fixed

standards to meet management goals.” Two commenters noted that exotic plant species control should not include the use of herbicides.

Zone by Zone proposals: The following comments were made:

- Regarding small scale features, most commenters opposed "reconstruction" of these features (such as utilidors or boardwalks) as being inconsistent with "light touch" management concepts. One commenter supports full restoration of boardwalks in the Administrative zone, and two commenters support boardwalk restoration in specific locations.
- Friends of Kennicott does not support reconstruction of "lost" buildings.
- Friends of Kennicott does not support replacing windows in buildings that will be stabilized but not fully restored or adaptively reused. They also recommend a "very judicious approach to covering old paint with new."
- Two commenters do not support any new road construction associated with building stabilization.
- One commenter has concerns about safety hazards associated with the old tram lines.
- One commenter opposes the re-roofing of the tram terminus.
- One commenter opposes rebuilding the Machine shop decks.
- Once commenter notes that an elevator in the Company Store seems like overkill.
- Several commenters support re-locating or retaining archeological resources in their historic locations.
- One commenter supports full restoration, to 1938 conditions, of the Administrative Core zone.

The McCarthy Weekly News

1920 November & December editions

PERSONAL

Andy Taylor and Joe McLellan left yesterday for the Basin relaying their freight. They are on their way to the White River to do their assessment work.

Woody and Urlass came into town on Wednesday from Nizina.

Ed Mullen proprietor of the Long Lake summer resort, was in town a few days this week before leaving to spend the winter at Kennecott.

Mr. and Mrs. George Steel of Cordova were arrivals on Tuesday's train.

Deputy Marshal Kavanaugh returned on yesterday's train from Valdez.

Fred Lubbe returned from the coast yesterday.

J. H. Murie paid a visit to Strelna this week on business.

Mrs. J. Letendre left on Tuesday's train to make her home in Kennecott, where her husband is employed.

Mike Tierney, section foreman at 158, rode up to McCarthy on the speeder to record his vote on Election Day. He also visited his friends and renewed his subscription to the News.

INCOME TAX

List of persons receiving mail at the McCarthy, Alaska, post office who filed income tax returns for the taxable year 1919.

Fred Ahrens, O.W. Brehmer, John Conway, Chas. L. Graber, Jas. Hussey, Alfred Jackson, Peter Johnson, H.C. Kavanaugh, Iso Kriskovich, John Luckie, John Ludwig, Matt Madsen, R.L.H. Marshall, Peter McGill, Sam Means, John B. O'Neill, Archie Paulin, Chris Radovich, W.H. Slimpert, Tom Smith, Lars V. Swanson, Louis Widing.

CAPT. J. F. NORTHWAY ENQUIRED FOR

Bessie M. Robinson Breed of Blencoe, Iowa, sends the following: "I am sending you this in quest of my uncle Capt. J.F. Northway. He left Fairbanks,

Alaska, some 5 years ago. He had a boat & mines in Chisana or Shushana up Tanana River. He was a short heavy set man about 65 years old. I will thank you for any information you will be able to give me."

INFORMATION WANTED

The Governor's Office has been asked to assist in the locating of the following person:

Mr. Peter Theodoris—who left for Alaska in 1919. This information is desired by his brother, Mr. Theodore Theodoris of 110 North Washington Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, who claims that it is very urgent that he hear from his brother Peter Theodoris. Any information received will be kindly forwarded to the Governor's Office, Juneau.

The Governor's Office has been asked to assist in the locating of the following person: Mr. William Lewis Caldwell, about 49 years of age, medium weight and height. Last heard of six or seven years ago when he left for some mining town in Alaska. Any information received will be kindly forwarded to either the Governor's Office or to Mrs. Chas. H. Overmyer, 606 South Jefferson Street, Iola, Kansas.

November 6

KENNECOTT NEWS

The employees of the mechanical department are planning a big treat for their friends when they entertain on Saturday November 27th.

Joe Green, shifter on the tram at Bonanza slipped and fell the other day, smashing his shoulder.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Dillon left on Wednesday's train for Ketchikan. Ed has been employed on the electrical staff for over a year, and now intends to go into business on his account.

Mr. Seabright, overseas veteran, has been placed in charge of the Citizenship night schools at the mines, to enroll the pupils and put classes in order, in readiness for the instructor, who will soon arrive from Cordova. Mr.

E.L. French, who was in charge of the schools last term is now located in Seattle, having accepted a position with the Bon Marche.

George Peterson, who recently left Kennecott to engage in business Outside, writes that he is opening a paint and wallpaper store at Toppenish, Wash. and expects to do an extensive business both in the store and contracting. There is no other business there of the kind.

November 13

PERSONAL

Mrs. Frank Wills has received the sad news of the death of her eldest son, Willie MacDonnell, which occurred at Seattle on October 28th. He was a fine young man of 19 years of age. In accordance with his expressed wish, the body was cremated. Deepest sympathy is felt for the mother and family.

The local camp of the Arctic Brotherhood has received notice of the death of Max Klopfer at Port Angeles, Wash. on October 20th of paralysis. Mr. Klopfer was formerly a resident of this district and engaged in mining at Dan Creek till a year ago, when he went into business in Mora, Wash.

Mr. A.F. Ahrens has received news of an addition to his family, a twelve pound daughter who arrived on Sept. 7th. Baby and family are all doing well & he expects them home before Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Loveseth of Cordova arrived this week. They will locate at Kennecott.

A charge has been made by the Deputy U.S. Marshal against K. Kennedy under the National Prohibition Act. Owing to the illness of Judge Smith the hearing was postponed and will come up before Judge O'Connor next week.

T.J. Hinckley of New York has arrived in the interior to complete plans for the placing of the Hubbard-Elliott Development syndicate on a commer-

cial basis. The company owns forty two claims on Elliott Creek, to which will be freighted machinery & supplies during the winter.

One compressor is on the ground and two more are at Strelna awaiting transportation. There is plenty of capital to carry them through the season. About fifty men will be employed. A spur will be built by the Copper River and Northwestern railway from Strelna to the mines, a distance of about 18 miles.

November 20

KENNECOTT NEWS

A very quiet wedding took place last Saturday evening at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Louis Wolfe at Kennecott, when Miss Linda J. Nottingham, a member of the hospital staff, and Mr. John L. McAllen, foreman of the Mother Lode mine, were united in marriage. The ceremony was performed by Judge O'Connor, after which a very delicious dinner was served by Mrs. Wolfe.

The happy pair are the recipients of the good wishes of the entire camp.

John McAllen, foreman at the Mother Lode Mine, who was married a few days ago, came down to the Lower Camp Thanksgiving Day to have dinner with his bride. It being customary to extend every courtesy to a newly wed, some of his bachelor friends invited him to partake of an appetizer of real good stuff before dinner. Johnny was "on the spot." The cache, however, was supposedly in the cold storage plant, thither the party repaired, politely allowing their guest to enter first.

Two hours after dinner, Mrs. McAllen was worried over the non appearance of her husband and sent out a search party. They found him a prisoner in the cold storage plant, minus the drink and the big turkey dinner, but plus "hiuy sonik."

The drama entitled "The Interrupted Honeymoon" or "Locked in the IceBox" is likely to be the chief topic of conversation at Kennecott for some time.

November 27

KENNECOTT MECHANICS BALL

"Some dance, the Mechanics Ball, we'll tell the world it was" such was the opinion expressed by the newest arrivals from the "outside" and endorsed by every one present.

The Recreation Hall was transformed from its usual bare appearance, into a regular fairyland.

Hundreds of streamers of crepe paper, in all the colors of the rainbow, hung in festoons, making an artificial ceiling, thru which gleamed Jap lanterns of every color. The windows were curtained with similar hangings of cream with side curtains of red and blue.

Huge bouquets of pink roses and yellow daffodils decorated the punch table and piano. A fine painting, from the brush of Mr. Overgarde, and emblems of mechanics, held the place of honor at the head of the hall.

The Grand march, led by the chief electrician and Mrs. Paget started punctually at 8:30. Wonderful music was supplied by the orchestra with Miss Schultz at the piano, violins, L. Lorenz, & W. Clark, Saxophone H. Singer, Drums etc. Rex Seymour. Mrs. O'Neill and Mr. Healy also assisted at the piano.

Mr. Arthur Dunseth was in charge of the punch bowl, and displayed a nimble wrist. Later, lunch was served. Every art of the many expert ladies who had assisted in the preparation, combined to tempt everyone to indulge in an enormous lunch, which everyone did and enjoyed.

Dancing was speedily resumed, and the party unwillingly "broke up" at a very late hour. The committee and ladies who assisted are much to be congratulated upon the great success. Some very handsome gowns were worn by the ladies present among those we noticed were:

Mrs. Neiding in a brown beaded crepe de chine, Mrs. Gillespie blue georgette with scarlet and jet trimming. Mrs. Papen, dark blue printed georgette. Mrs. Sadlier, copenhagen blue tricolette. Mrs. Paget, black charmeuse relieved with white. Mrs. Osborne, champagne colored georgette. Mrs. Schneeberger, navy satin. Mrs. Lloyd, navy blue embroidered tricotine. Mrs. Schultze, black crepe dechine. Mrs. Wolf, black taffetta. Mrs. Erickson, very dark navy satin. Mrs. Powell, alicé blue charmeuse. Mrs. Dennis, black satin and georgette. Mrs. Olsen, black embroidered gown.

Mrs. Johnson, black satin. Mrs. Jensen, navy and white crepe de chine. Mrs. Rol, black piped with scarlet. Mrs. White, grey duvetyn. Mrs. Duthie, black satin. Mrs. Lomell, brown printed satin. Mrs. Richards, white crepe de chine. Mrs. Overgarde, black silk. Misses Schultz, blue and black brocaded satin, Johnstone, black satin embroidered in red, Kathryn Dennis, blue and white organdie.

Among the McCarthy ladies present were: Mrs. Refior, blue taffetta, Mrs. Barrett, blue crepe de chine, Mrs. Underwood, navy blue taffetta. Mrs. Woodin, black satin, Jean and Margaret Woodin, white pongee. Mrs. O'Neill, navy blue accordion pleated crepe de chine. Mrs. Rosich, pink satin. Mrs. Cole, navy blue georgette.

December 4

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Peter Buhl, a late employee of the Kennecott Co. has secured its final citizenship papers.

Being unable to secure a long partner to help him cut a large quantity of wood, Al Doze has secured the services of Chris Peterson till Spring.

William Godfrey left for Kennecott last Wednesday. Bill believes in boosting your home town, intending to buy four corner lots in the near future.

A letter was received by John Nickell from the Kennecott orchestra requesting arrangements be made for a sleigh to be at Kennecott on the 15th, to bring a large party down to the dance which is to be held that evening in the A.B. Hall.

Widing and Nelson, who own valuable property on Dan Creek, are in for the Christmas holidays.

Whilst attempting to separate a couple of fighting dogs last Monday night, Mrs. Roy Snyder got nipped in the arm. In a few minutes Henry Olsen had his car ready and was up to the hospital with the patient where such prompt treatment was administered that Mrs. Snyder was able to return the same evening.

Dad Wakefield, who has charge of the transportation of supplies from Kennecott to the Erie mine, was a visitor to town on Friday evening.

December 11

Dry wood is good wood

BY NED ROZELL

My friend says that among his most satisfying moments are those he stands contemplating his pile of firewood. He inhales the sweetness of birch, the tang of aspen and the sharp bite of spruce while he ponders the moisture wafting out of his wood.

My friend knows how to have a good time. And he is appreciating a process that is important in places where people burn wood and release its smoke into an air column that doesn't stir much in winter — burned dry wood results in much better air quality than wetter wood.

"I think it's a big issue," said John Davies, a longtime wood-burner and senior researcher for energy policy at the Cold Climate Housing Research Center in Fairbanks. Researchers at the center recently collected firewood from people in Fairbanks to check it for moisture content, and are also measuring the drying progress of cordwood they have stacked on the grounds of the center in Fairbanks. Fairbanks often exceeds Environmental Protection Agency air quality standards. Its poor winter air quality is due in a large part to the emissions from wood smoke. People make the problem worse when burning unseasoned wood.

"If you go from 20 to 30 percent moisture content in wood, just a 10 percent increase, there's a 67 percent increase in PM 2.5 (particles in the air that are harmful to breathe)," Davies said.

Experts on the matter claim that firewood is at its best as an energy source when it contains 20 percent moisture or less. The average wood burner probably doesn't possess a moisture meter or have the time to put her wood into an oven and calculate its dryness via before-and-after weights, but there are simpler methods to get a ballpark figure.

"When you look at your woodpile and your logs have a lot of checks in them, and if you get a hollow sound when you knock them together, you're probably in the 25 percent or less realm," Davies said.

Dry wood also doesn't hiss or bubble when burned.

Foresters at the Alaska Division of Forestry were so impressed with Fairbanks fourth-grader Linnea Schultz's science project that they displayed Schultz's poster, "A burning question: how long should birch firewood be dried?" at the Tanana Valley State Fair in Fairbanks. Schultz concluded that birch firewood that had been split and dried for 16 months had more than 20 percent moisture remaining. She found that split birch dried for 28 months

"had a moisture content below 16 percent and was dry enough to burn properly."

Green, split firewood "cross-stacked" on pallets and covered with a sheet of plywood at the Cold Climate Housing Research Center dried to about 16 percent moisture during one hot Fairbanks summer, Davies said. Humid and damp areas require much longer air-drying times.

"I think people down in Juneau just watch their wood get moldy," he said. "I'm being facetious, but the amount of moisture in the air makes a big difference as to how fast firewood dries."

As for his own wood supply, Davies prefers to have two years' worth in his shed.

"That way, the stuff you're cutting this spring isn't for next winter, but for the winter after," Davies said. "That means you have to have storage space for two years."

Davies uses about three and one half cords of firewood each year, so he has a wood shed that can accommodate about seven cords. This ideal wood-drying scenario can be a challenge for those heating very large spaces or using outdoor wood boilers that require huge amounts of wood, Davies said.

"They might use 15 cords per year, so that means you've got to store 30 cords. That's a big pile of wood."

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

"Wars in old times were made to get slaves. The modern implement of imposing slavery is debt.
—American poet Ezra Pound (1885-1972)

Microwave link nearing completion

BY RICK KENYON

Copper Valley Telecom (CVT) has been making good progress this summer on the new microwave link between McCarthy and the fiber optic cable at Chitina.

Once completed, the link will allow long distance calls from McCarthy that are made from cell phones to avoid the problematical satellite link. Calls made from fixed phones using an ATT long distance plan will continue to be routed to ATT's satellite uplink, at least for the near future.

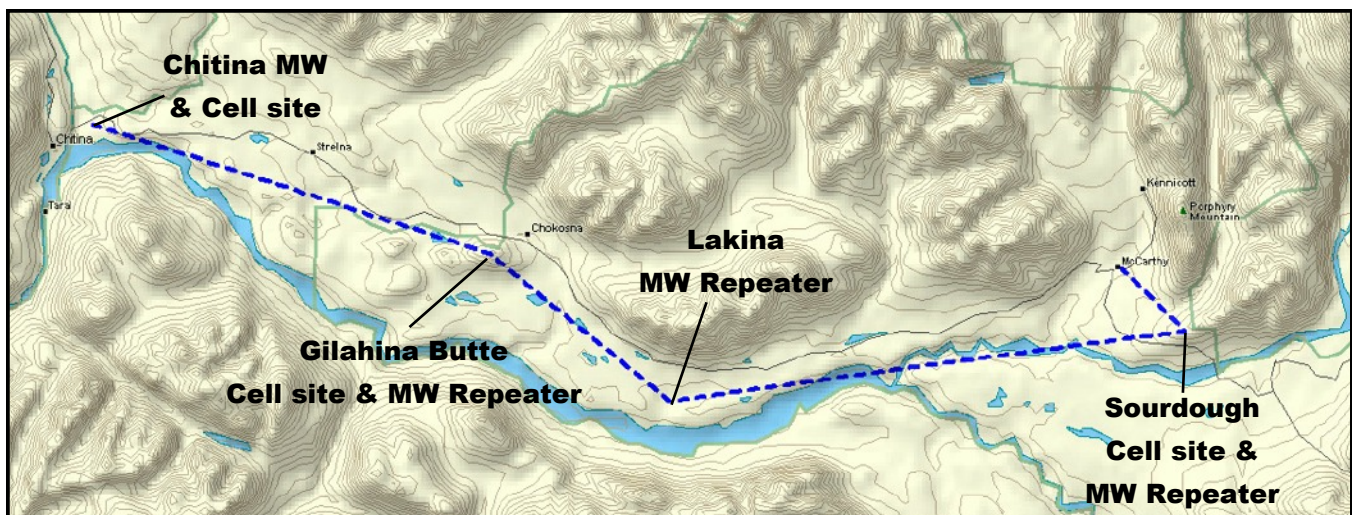
The new system will also allow for high-speed data for the McCarthy-Kennecott areas. According to Jim Gifford at CVT, data speeds in this area should be comparable to what the Glennallen and Valdez area currently enjoy. Basically, comparable to what Starband users have enjoyed over the past years, but without the problems inherent in a satellite link.

The system will also provide several other benefits to area residents. Cell phone repeaters will be installed at several locations and should provide cover-

age along pretty much the entire road corridor.

Another benefit will be the web cams installed at the Lakinna, Gilahina Butte and Chitina sites. A web cam has been available at the Sourdough site for several years. The cameras will be able to be accessed at the company's web site <http://www.cvineternet.net/>.

As we go to press in late October, technicians have been aligning the antennas and powering up the system. If all goes according to plan the new service should be available by November 15.



The additional Cell sites at Gilahina Butte and Chitina should provide pretty much full cell phone coverage when driving the McCarthy Road. Additionally, web cams will be located at all four cell/repeater sites.

"A great many people mistake opinions for thoughts." —banking executive and author Herbert Victor Prochnow (1897-1998)

"[W]hen the resolution of enslaving America was formed in Great Britain, the British Parliament was advised by an artful man, who was governor of Pennsylvania, to disarm the people; that it was the best and most effectual way to enslave them; but that they should not do it openly, but weaken them, and let them sink gradually." —George Mason

"In times of universal deceit, telling the truth will be a revolutionary act." —British author George Orwell (1903-1950)

"The welfare of the people in particular has always been the alibi of tyrants, and it provides the further advantage of giving the servants of tyranny a good conscience." —French Algerian author Albert Camus (1913-1960)

Denali Surveys Propane Autogas in Alaska's Pristine Wilderness

LIVONIA, MICH—

Denali National Park and Preserve has been weighing propane autogas against various alternative fuel options for their fleet vehicles by testing a ROUSH CleanTech propane autogas Ford F-250 over a six-week span.

Propane autogas received a welcome reception in Alaska with the success of last month's Alaska Propane Technical Summit that exemplified how propane autogas technology can promote job growth and environmental sustainability throughout the state, capturing the interest of local municipalities, government officials and other stakeholders, including Matanuska Electric Association.

"One of the reasons we've looked at moving toward propane autogas has been to lower the amount of conventional liquid fuels that move across our state and spill onto rural roads and inside national parks," said John Quinley, assistant regional director for the National Park Services in Alaska.

Two ROUSH CleanTech propane autogas Ford F-250 pickup trucks have been demonstrating how propane autogas can perform in the sub-freezing Alaskan weather for the past nine months through a program coordinated by the Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority. But just how this clean-burning technology performs in the remote operations of Denali National Park — a 6 million acre wilderness with a single main road — has been the ultimate test of propane autogas performance.

"I'm using the ROUSH CleanTech pickup for my work in daily routine road maintenance, going out to check with the crews, looking at road conditions, and in daily supervision out in the park," said Tim Taylor, the east district road manager for Denali National Park and Preserve. "I've seen absolutely no difference whatsoever between it and the other vehicles in the fleet, other than the starting and fueling procedures. It has the same pep, same power and it pulls fine."

Many Alaskan fleets operate on ultra low sulfur diesel fuel that is trucked in by ice road trucks. The process is considered expensive and dangerous, and fuel spillage often occurs in remote locations where the terrain is rough. More than 4 million gallons of propane surfaces from the North Slope in Alaska every day, making this domestic alternative fuel readily available. In fact, 90 percent of all U.S. propane supplies are produced domestically. In addition, propane autogas is non-toxic and, if spilled, will not harm soil or groundwater.

"National Parks should be leaders in sound environmental practices because they are stewards of some of the most amazing landscapes in the country. By weighing alternative fuel options like propane autogas, we're taking steps toward reducing harmful environmental impacts," said Quinley. "Propane has so much availability in Alaska, so utilizing these propane autogas vehicles is a great match for Alaska National Park Service."

Propane autogas burns cleaner in engines than gasoline and diesel, resulting in reduced main-

tenance costs and the potential for a longer engine life. Historically, propane autogas costs about 30 percent less per gallon than gasoline.

"Denali National Park and Preserve, with its remote, rugged terrain, is the perfect place to prove ROUSH CleanTech propane autogas technology is an environmentally sustainable and economically feasible alternative fuel that can perform in the starkest of conditions, while minimizing operational costs for the park," said Todd Mouw, vice president of sales and marketing for ROUSH CleanTech. "Environmentally friendly propane autogas can help keep our national parks beautiful for many generations to come."

While the propane autogas vehicles work to prove their power and performance in the secluded parklands of Denali, additional Alaskan business fleet managers are showing interest in this alternative fuel solution.

"As a kid in Oklahoma 60 years ago, I drove tractors, trucks and cars that burned propane. They were extremely economical and the engines lasted forever. The crankcase oil never turned black. When disassembled for overhaul, the engine interior inside looked brand new. I have always been convinced propane is the fuel of the future — easily handled, economical, in great supply and clean burning," said Joe Griffith, CEO for Matanuska Electric Association. "I am going to try it for a backup fuel for my new 180 megawatt power plant and potentially some of our fleet vehicles."

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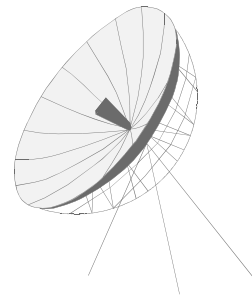
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New Road Weather Cameras Installed at Glenn & Parks Highway

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA—

Traveling Alaskans will be able to monitor traffic, weather and the condition of the road at one of Alaska's most traveled intersections thanks to a federal program that funds Road Weather Information Systems (RWIS).

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) completed the installation of three sites at the intersection of the Glenn and Parks Highway.

The Road Weather Information System (RWIS) sites include cameras, a temperature data probe for seasonal weight restrictions, sensors for pavement temperature,

winds, precipitation, moisture, and traffic speed. This highway section is one of the most highly traveled highways in Alaska and is also part of the Glenn Highway ITS Safety Corridor project that will include a network of travel time sensors and cameras.

The new RWIS sites will be extremely useful to multiple agencies and the traveling public in monitoring traffic, weather, and road conditions. Agencies benefitting from this technology include ADOT&PF Maintenance and Operations, ADOT&PF and Municipality of Anchorage Transportation Planning staff, traffic and safety personnel, and local law enforcement.

The information from these sensors is available on roadweather.alaska.gov website and will soon be available on the 511.alaska.gov. 511 is a traveler advisory program that provides notices in multiple formats: on the webpage, through GovDelivery, by telephone, RSS feeds or through Facebook.

ADOT&PF's RWIS system is a federal program funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and complies with the FHWA Road Weather Management Program. ADOT&PF's vision is to implement the FHWA model of a Weather Responsive Traffic Management program on high traffic corridor roads.

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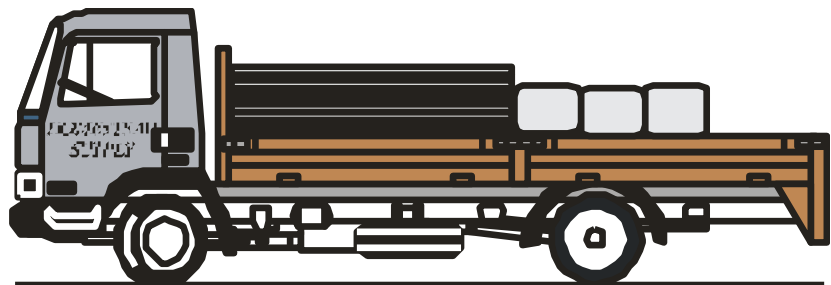
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Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

Hi Faithful Readers. As I write this, I am still in McCarthy looking out the upstairs windows at the gorgeous fall leaves. It's September 11 and the temperature early this morning was 28 degrees and now this afternoon, it's 75. Everywhere around us and as far as you can see is the beauty of yellow and orange leaves on the trees and red berries and leaves turning red on the ground. You just want to take picture after picture to show the world out there that McCarthy is a fantastically beautiful place to live.

On with the business at hand.....FOOD! Randy and Shanna Elliott and all five of their children recently came to the house for dinner. We hadn't seen them for ages and it was wonderful to just sit and chat and eat, of course. They still spend part of the year here in Alaska at their place in Kenny Lake and then spend a good part of the winter months in Ajo, Arizona. This year all the children entered the Cooking/Baking contest at the Kenny Lake Fair and every single one of them won a prize! I would like to share the recipes with you because, of course, they are wonderful.

First, from daughters Shayla, age 6, and Karina, age 3, is a recipe they got from their Aunt and won 2nd place with at the fair:

CHOCOLATE PEANUT BUTTER NO-BAKE COOKIES

Boil 1 minute:
 2 cups sugar
 ½ cup baking cocoa
 ½ cup milk
 ½ cup butter

Take off the heat and mix in:

3 cups oats
 ½ cup crunchy peanut butter
 1 teaspoon vanilla

Drop onto wax paper by spoonfuls to cool.

Next we have one from sons, Anadyr, age 8, grade 4 and Alex, age 11 who won 2nd place for cakes with this recipe they got from their Grandma.

MEXICAN WEDDING CAKE (otherwise known as pineapple cake)

Mix:

2 cups flour
 2 cups sugar
 2 tablespoons baking soda
 2 teaspoons vanilla
 2 eggs
 20 oz. can of crushed pineapple

Grease and flour the cake pan (they didn't tell me what size pan but I am going to guess an 8" square).

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Bake about 1 hour or until tests done.

Let the cake cool completely. The boys said it goes well with cream cheese frosting and have included that recipe too.

CREAM CHEESE FROSTING

1 stick butter
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 3-4 cups powdered sugar
 1-8 oz. package cream cheese

Mix with hand-mixer, adding powdered sugar a little at a time. Spread on cake immediately.

Next, from son, Jaylen, age 10, who won 3rd place for the Quick Breads contest, a recipe that he found in the Williams-Sonoma Kitchen Library, Muffins and Quick Breads.

WHOLE-WHEAT BANANA NUT BREAD

2 ½ cups whole-wheat flour
 2 teaspoons baking soda
 1 teaspoon salt
 1 cup butter, room temperature
 2 cups sugar
 2 cups mashed ripe banana (about 4 large bananas)
 4 eggs

1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans
 Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour 2 medium (8 ½") loaf pans.

In a medium bowl stir and toss together flour, baking soda, and salt. Set aside. In a large bowl beat together butter and sugar. Add the mashed bananas. Beat the eggs until completely mixed and add to the butter/sugar/banana mixture. Stir in the nuts. Add the combined dry ingredients and stir until just blended.

Spread evenly in the two prepared loaf pans. Bake 55-65 minutes. Cool in pans for 10 minutes, then turn onto wire rack to cool completely.

Wouldn't you love to follow a judge around at one of these fairs and taste everything that's there! Thanks, Elliott children, we'll enjoy making and eating all of these recipes you've shared.

Now a couple recipes from Lindee and Larry Satterfield. They made their home in Alaska about 15 years ago. Lindee said they explored Alaska together by air, waterways, roads, trails and off the beaten path. That first drive down McCarthy road 12 years ago brought them to a new favorite place on earth. After much sweat and labor the cabin was built. They acquired an entertaining handsome black dog named Kobuk and

they now enjoy their little "peace" of heaven at the end of a gravel road. If you look in the September/October issue you'll see Lindee with a bunch of us at the Piano Man truck and an article about Larry's very innovative "cold storage" invention. All that and they cook too! First let me give you one of Lindee's "experimented recipes" (her words).

LARLINAKS CHICKEN (short for Larry and Lindee in Alaska)

¼ cup soy sauce

¼ cup honey

Microwave so it mixes up well.

Marinate chicken breasts for ½ hour in the sauce.

Roll the chicken in crushed Banana Nut Crunch cereal.

Bake at 400 degrees for 20-25 minutes.

This sounds so wonderful but I wasn't able to find any Banana Nut Crunch in Valdez so will have to wait to try it when I get to Tucson in a few weeks.

And now an "experimented recipe" from Larry.

ROTEL NOODLE SALAD

Boil up some Egg Noodles / Rinse / Cool

Throw in a can of Rotel Diced Tomatoes and Green Chilis (without the can of course)

Mix in a can of cooked turkey breast. (Remember, not the can....)

Mix it all up good. Refrigerate. Eat as a cold salad.

We're having this one tomorrow for lunch, Larry, thanks.

Now I just have room for one more but it is one ALL of you should try. It's from Barbara Rice, better known as the fantastic cook of the day! Would you believe she cooks every single lunch that is served after church on Sunday, never even knowing how many people will be there! Barbara, her husband John and good friend Marcheta Long (you may see a recipe from her in the future!) just left the other day for their home in Missouri. The recipe I'm about to share was served to us one Sunday. I have never been a lover of cooked vegetables. Give me any raw one and it's like dessert but

cooked..... That Sunday I had two (maybe 3) helpings of Barb's

CARROT SOUFFLE

2 pounds carrots

½ cup butter

½ cup white sugar

3 tablespoons flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

1 teaspoon vanilla

3 eggs beaten

Melt and cool the butter.

Cook carrots until soft. Drain and mash.

Mix everything together.

Bake in a greased casserole at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or more.

Let me leave you with a "cooking hint from yesteryear."

Set a piece of crumbled paper on fire on top of the stove and singe the chicken well to be sure no feathers get into the gravy.

Don't worry, everyone, I'm not really suggesting that but I found it in a book that was written back in the early 1900's and thought I would pass it along!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

A LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

August 2011 will be remembered for its cloudy and wet days.

The high temperature for the month was 72 on the 12th (82 on Aug. 3, '10, 83 on Aug. 4, '09, 73 on Aug. 08, '08 and 81 on Aug. 17, '07.) There were 6 days when the high was 70 or higher. The first freeze was on the 11th as the temperature fell to 30, this was enough to kill a few of the garden plants. There were 7 days when the low was 32 or below. The low temperature for the month was 28 on the 29th and 30th (29 on Aug.

31, '10, 32 on Aug. 1, '09, 28 on Aug. 11, '08 and 28 on Aug. 29, '07). The average monthly temperature at McCarthy was 51.2, compared to 55.1 in Aug. '10, 52.4 in Aug. '09, 51.7 in Aug. '08, 54.2 in Aug. '07, 51.5 in Aug. '06, 54.8 in Aug. '05 and 56.2 in Aug. '04.

The August precipitation at McCarthy was 2.51 inches, compared with 1.85 inches in Aug. '10, 3.64 inches in Aug. '09, 4.17 inches in Aug. '08, 1.86 inches in Aug. '07, 3.24 inches in Aug. '06, 3.90 inches in Aug. '05 and 0.74 inches in Aug. '04. There were 24 days with a trace or more of rain-

fall recorded. The average precipitation for August (1984-2011) is 2.69 inches.

September 2011 will be remembered for the sunny and warm days.

The high temperature at McCarthy was 67 on the 12th and 13th (72 on Sept. 16, '10, 71 on Sept. 6, '09, 67 on Sept. 1, '08 and 68 on Sept. 12, '07). The low temperature was 16 on the 27th (18 on Sept. 25, '10, 14 on Sept. 29, '09, 22 on Sept. 25, '08 and 21 on Sept. 30, '07). There were 8 days with the high 60 or above and 6 days with the low of 25 or lower.

The average monthly temperature at McCarthy was 44.1 (43.9 in Sept. '10, 44.2 in Sept. '09, 45.1 in Sept. '08, 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 in September 1992.

There was no snow recorded at McCarthy in September (4.0 in Sept. '10, 00 in Sept. '09, 1.0 in Sept. '08, T 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). The total precipitation for the month was 1.05 inches. The average for September (1984-

2009) is 2.95 inches and compares with 1.82 inches in Sept. '10, 0.40 inches in Sept. '09, 2.18 inches in Sept. '08, 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 10 days with measurable rainfall, compared with 7 days in Sept. '10, 9 days in Sept. '09, 16 days in Sept. '08, 18 days in Sept. '07, 15 days in Sept. '06, 23 days in Sept. '05 and 13 days in Sept. '04.

A few interesting weather facts for the Summer of 2010. The high temperatures May thru August reached 70 or higher on 41 days (37 in '10, 51 in '09, 22 in '08, 59 in '07, 45 in '06, 59 in '05 and 83 in '04) and 80 or higher (May thru August) on 8 days (9 in '10, 24 in '09, 2 in '08, 9 in '07, 2 in '06, 9 in '05 and 31 in '04). The all time high of 88 was recorded on Jul 8, 2009. Total precipitation May thru August was 9.14 inches (8.23 in '10, 5.68 in '09, 10.26 in '08, 6.03 in '07, 7.06 in '06, 12.37 in '05 and 4.06 in '04).

Have a great winter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

July 4, 2011

Dear Bonnie:

Each edition of the *WSEN* is quickly opened to *The McCarthy Weekly News* just in case my family name shows up.

Lo and Behold the May/June copy had a blurb (on page 19) stating that "Mr. Paget has been appointed chief electrical engineer" under Kennecott News.

He arrived with my two brothers Chet (5) & Ken (6) and my mother nine months pregnant with one of the last Kennicott Kids to be born there.

His real name is John Howard Padgett. I even had to have my birth certificate corrected years later when I ran across it in family papers. So I'm now awaiting the July-Aug. *WSEN* to see if maybe Irma June Padgett (Paget) made the *McCarthy Weekly News*! My mother was also Irma (Frances) Padgett.

Dick Osborne, our next door neighbor on the mountain side

of the tracks across from the power plants, was born and is noted on the same page as my Dad's arrival. Maybe his name was Dennis, not Dick.

Love you *WSEN*,

Sincerely,

Irma June Padgett Haaland
Roseville, CA.

(Editor's Note: Irma, thank you for such an informative and interesting letter! Because we didn't do *The McCarthy Weekly News* in the July/August issue, I researched the News we have on microfilm during that time frame to see if I could find your birth announcement. I'm sorry to report that I didn't find it! However, I hope you spot your mother's name mentioned in this issue, on page 15.)

October 7, 2011

Hi,

I love getting my *WSEN* newsletter and keeping up with the great people there—always

makes me lonesome for James, but also I remember how he loved his place there in your community.

Judi Morack, James Sill's
sister

Fairbanks, AK.

October 26, 2011

Dear Bonnie,

I enjoy reading your magazine from cover to cover. I was first in McCarthy in 1971 and I doubt there were more than 3-4 people around McCarthy then. I rented an airplane while working on my commercial pilots license and, with my best friend, we spent several days exploring the Kennicott mine site and then flew over to May Creek and hiked up to the Chititu(sp) mining camp. I met an old timer who was care taking the camp. I believe his name was Charlie. He was 87 years old and had built the cabin he was staying in in 1915. Needless to say, I listened intently to every story that he

shared! Such rich history and I was blessed to get it firsthand. I visited several more times in the 70's and then didn't return until around 1992 or so. What changes had taken place during the intervening years! Now it was a tourist attraction, now I couldn't walk through all the buildings at the mine site, and now there was a lodge at the mine site and lots of other people.

In 1995 I bought a five acre tract on the Sanford River with the intent of building an adventure tourism business. However, at the same time I was building what would become a very successful plumbing and heating

business in the Palmer area. Finally, just a few years ago, I decided to sell the property. The park service made me an offer I couldn't refuse, so I sold it to them. By that time, I had had enough frustrations dealing with government bureaucracy and didn't want to start another business where I would have even more paperwork....

One year in July I invited our pastor's son to come with me on a flying and hiking adventure to Mt Sanford. We landed along the Sanford Glacier, just below what the USGS calls the steepest gradient in North America. We hiked up a ridge and watched

the ice falling from the hanging glaciers near the summit of Sanford. The weather was clear and calm. The temperature was near 70F at 7,500'. Several herds of Dall sheep and caribou were visible on the surrounding ridges. My young friend Chet, not known to be much of a talker, paused and said, "Here we are in God's Cathedral, but where are the people?"

I get a good feeling in my soul every time I see the Wrangell Mountains. I'll be back!

Blessings,
Danny Whatley

"If, from the more wretched parts of the old world, we look at those which are in an advanced stage of improvement, we still find the greedy hand of government thrusting itself into every corner and crevice of industry, and grasping the spoil of the multitude. Invention is continually exercised, to furnish new pretenses for revenues and taxation. It watches prosperity as its prey and permits none to escape without tribute."—Thomas Paine

Aspen Meadows



of McCarthy

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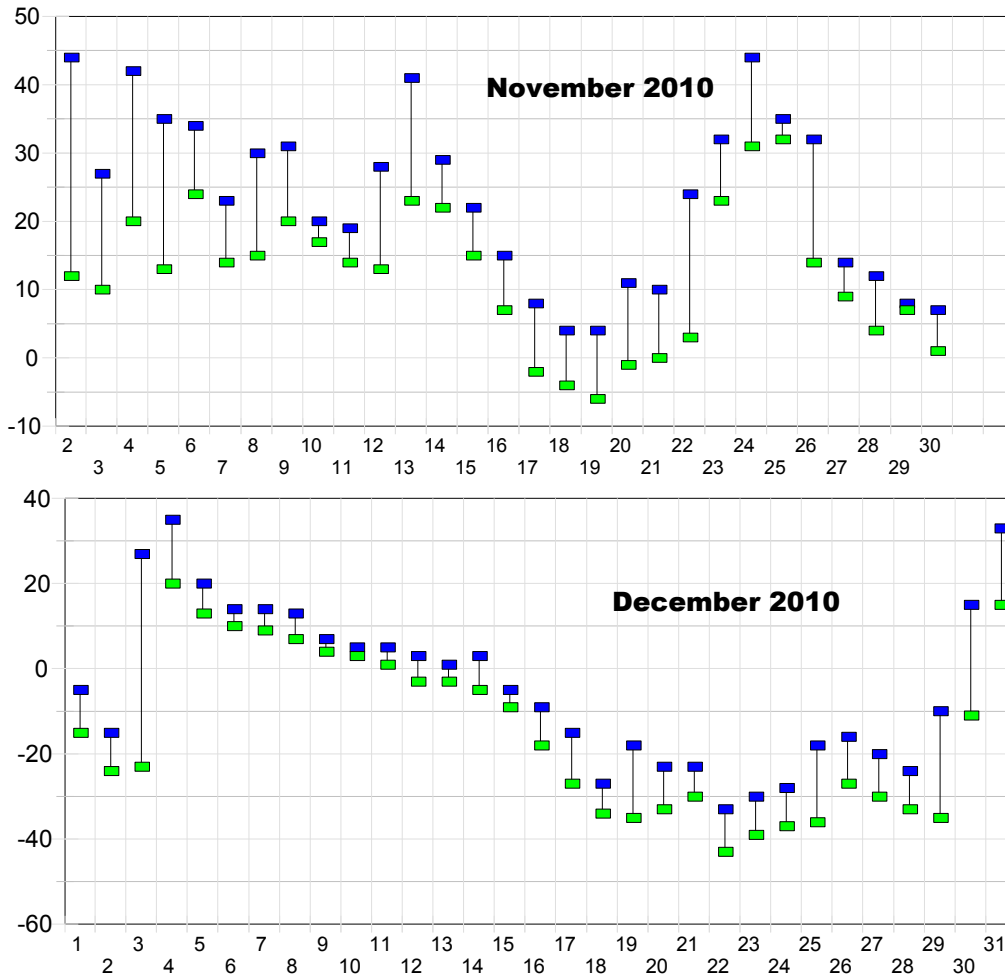
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