

Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Vol. Twenty-Two Issue Six

November & December 2013

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WSEN staff photo

Wedding bells

in place to keep folks as dry as possible.

The reception, although planned to be held at the Hostel, was moved to McCarthy Lodge's dining room and saloon, thanks



WSEN staff photo



On the afternoon of September 7th nearly 250 folks gathered for the marriage ceremony and celebration of Kennicott residents, Candyce Rodrick and John Montepare. The parking lot and yard of the Kennicott River Lodge and Hostel overflowed with family members, neighbors and friends of the bride and groom. Candyce is well known for her smiling face and wonderful service to the guests of fine dining at the McCarthy Lodge. John, known better as "Monte" to locals, owns and operates the small wilderness guide service, Kennicott Wilderness Guides.

In spite of the rain, attendees came prepared with umbrellas and rain coats. Canopies were

to the gracious invitation of owner Neil Darish. There was plenty of food and wedding cake to feed the hungry guests. It was an evening of love and laughter. Says the bride: "The biggest thank you to everyone involved in mak-

ing our day a success.

Rain and a venue change couldn't stop us! I have never seen 250 people move that fast."

Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. John Montepare!



Photo courtesy Dave Williams

The Power Plant's west gable wall reveals the completed wall and windows project done by local residents, Christi Haley, Dave

Williams and Michael Larson. Very impressive work! Note the scaffolding in place on the north end. See *Kennicott Wrap-Up* on page 8.

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

Today is September 28th. The fall colors are in full bloom and leaves are still (for the most part) on the aspen trees surrounding our field. Several neighbors commented the other day at mail that they believe we are a week behind normal schedule. No one is complaining!

Winter isn't far away, however. Last night our low temperature dropped to 25 degrees. A trace of snow showed up recently but nothing stuck. Our grass is still green. It is a beautiful time of year to pick up the yard and fill your wood shed.

We had an interesting sighting a couple weeks ago. I was sitting at my desk in the office typing away on *Items of Interest* when the motion detector alarm went off from down at the driveway. I peaked out the office door window and saw three "shapes." Thinking they were larger than a few local dogs on a neighborhood inspection party, I put on my glasses. Wow! Three grizzly bears. A sow and her two cubs. The cubs were almost as big as their mom. They didn't seem to be aware of the alarm that alerted us to their presence. Rick managed to get a quick picture before the three lumbered off.

As you can see by the cover pictures, our little communities of Kennecott and McCarthy have seen a fair amount of excitement and upgrades. Our Kennecott neighbors, Candyce and Monte, exchanged their wedding vows on September 7th. Their neighbor, Dave Williams, officiated and did a fine job.

Marie Thorn (do I dare say the better half of Dave Williams?) submitted several terrific pictures of the upgrades and stabilization

projects from the Park Service's summer work season. Thanks, Marie, for your patience in emailing us these detailed photos. I wish we could use them all.

Rick and I happened to be perusing our November/ December 1995 WSEN and found a couple stories we decided to reprint. "No-



ember in May Creek" was submitted by long-time subscriber Charlie Ricci (now deceased). The article was written by Dick Morris, who at that time, was a board member for the Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry. Dick was part of a volunteer group on

an artifact recovery trip that occurred in November 1986. Their adventures are well worth repeating.

In that same issue I discovered an article I had written entitled "Good news from the Wrangells." On occasion Rick or myself desire sharing a personal, and hopefully uplifting, word with our subscribers. This was one of those occasions. Honestly, I believe we all need to hear or read more "good news" year 'round. November and December happen to be two months that exude reasons for the giving of thanks and bundles of good news. I trust each of you recognize just how valuable you are to us whether you are a WSEN subscriber, an advertiser or, perhaps, a purchaser of this issue. Thank you for being a part of our lives and a part of this publication.

Wrangell St. Elias News welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Peg McCormack, CO; Dan Ausdemore, NE; David DeVilbiss (online); and Pat Sentz, AK.

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Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Matt, Amber and Riley Vial:
The end of our 2013 summer season was fast approaching as I met with Matt and Amber on the deck of the local grocery store. Matt's job with St. Elias Alpine Guides (SEAG) takes him on awesome adventures. He had just finished a ski trip to the Bagley Ice Fields, two ski trips to the Alaska Range and made a successful first ascent of a range in the St. Elias mountains. It's been a full and exciting summer, he says.

When he's not climbing mountains with SEAG or ice climbing on glaciers, Matt finds great satisfaction "playing" with his 22 month old daughter, Riley. She loves to run bases with her dad on the soft ball field (when a local game is not in progress, of course).

Amber's summer was spent doing a lot of purchasing for the Kennicott Trading Company, a gift shop in Kennicott. This was their first year in operation which meant Amber had plenty of purchasing to do. She spent much of her time contacting statewide and local artists, she said.

She and Riley were very active in the Little Kids' group that met Tuesdays and Thursdays at Wrangell Mountains Center. Six to

ten kids participated and enjoyed play time together and educational excursions, e.g. to the local museum.

The Vials spend the summers in McCarthy and winters in Lake Tahoe, CA. Next summer season they plan on returning to our fair town, but, this time, it will include a major change in their work description. Matt's background and education is in construction, he says. His dad is a general contractor and Matt had his own business for 6 years in Lake Tahoe. Although he and Amber have thoroughly enjoyed their longstanding work with SEAG, they have dreamed of, once again, being in business for themselves and returning to construction. According to Matt, he and Amber love the McCarthy area and have the support of the local community in their new venture.

Amber eagerly shared another item of great joy. Baby #2 is due in December. She and Matt will have a busy winter. Between the new baby's arrival, Matt's winter job of plowing snow, they will spend the time organizing their new business venture— MV Services.

Jenny Rosenbaum and Paul Hanis: When Jenny answered the

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phone, I asked her if she was too busy to give me an item of interest from their household. She responded, "I'm only cleaning potatoes." Although harvesting potatoes and other garden produce may not be the highest of priorities, it is a priority this time of year. Local gardeners do their best to beat the early snowfall that could happen any day; in fact, the weather forecast for our area is rain and snow mixed.

Jenny and Paul's garden did "really great" this year. The warm (and sometimes downright hot) weather and warmer nights gave her plants a boost. Another benefit for this year's growing season was the erecting of their three High Tunnels—a new and successful experiment offered by a government grant program.

It took them a month and a half to finish setting up the tunnels, Jenny said, and it wasn't until mid-July before their plants benefitted from all their hard work. However, a boost they certainly received—pumpkins the size of basketballs, a bumper crop of green beans that are still producing, pea vines that are still putting out fruit in spite of the early frost the other night, to name a few. By the way, if you are into fried green tomatoes, Jenny has plenty she would like to share. She might even throw in some of the 20 lbs. of ripe tomatoes she picked yesterday! Now that they have the hang of tunnel gardening, she and Paul anticipate an early start on their garden next year.

It sounds like harvesting is a full-time job at the moment, but another large project is well underway. The foundation of their 23' x 23' straw bale house is almost done. They are building forms for the "stem" walls, Jenny says. (She's beginning to sound like a bona fide contractor now!) The

house project may take several years but it will be well worth all the effort. At the moment their "home" is a 12' x 16' cabin which is small when bringing in the garden produce to process.

This winter they will return to their seasonal jobs of (Jenny) bookkeeping/accounting from home and (Paul) his stints on the north slope. A month excursion to Texas to attend Jenny's sister's wedding is planned for mid-October. Have a wonderful time in the warm Texas weather and bring some of it home with you!

Dave Williams and Marie Thorn: While many of our neighbors have either headed south to winter homes or getting ready to embark on other adventures, Dave and Marie are more-than-ready to continue home-related projects. Says Marie: "Our plan is to keep the home fire burning, and the snow from crushing our carport tent that serves as the wood shop. We will continue with our hand-made kitchen project by building, sanding, sealing and installing drawer boxes (and drawer hardware) and drawer fronts as well as cabinet door hardware and shelves. We hope to proceed with the same process for the cabinet doors."

Dave and Marie's Kennecott house is really taking shape with each winter season. Their summer jobs with the Park Service keep them both working steady at the continued stabilization projects of the historical buildings in downtown Kennecott. One of the pluses of this seasonal job is the "fortune of being able to walk to work," says Marie.

Primed drywall in their house needs painting and they plan to install and seal the remaining wainscoting downstairs. They also hope to frame and finish a breakfast bar. Continues Marie, "We finished trimming 10 windows last

winter, but still have three more in need of trim wood preparation and installation."

At first it sounds like all work and no play, but Marie assures me that is not the case. "We look forward to cross country skiing, visiting with Matt (Smith) and Meghan (Seifert) who plan to be here for awhile after they return from seeing Matt and Kevin's mom and family back east." Baking, playing music, writing and reading are on their list of relaxing things to do this winter.

"If all goes well, we plan to work building the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival beginning in mid-March. This will be Marie's 9th year and Dave's 7th for attending the Jazz Festival. They will return home in time to start their Kennecott maintenance work on Mother's Day 2014."

Neil O'Donnell: When the O'Donnell family visit their McCarthy area property, it usually means we get to see Neil, wife Margaret, daughter Catherine and a friend or two. This visit, however, brought Neil by himself with a long list of "to-do's."

Rick and I were pleased Neil took time out for dinner with us. We spent the evening catching up on family news. Since we were in his neighborhood the other day, we decided to stop in and see how his list was fairing. This summer, in particular, brought with it an increasing amount of forest growth in our yards. Neil put in extra time this trip clearing the excess brush in his front yard. His hard work was apparent when we made our neighborly call. While there, Neil and Rick discussed an electrical-related subject. Not really certain of the answer, they decided to give Jim Guntis a call. If this issue had come up a week ago, the call would have been a local one. However, Jim and Peggy left

our fair town for their winter abode in Tucson. They had just arrived home (greeted by 104 degrees!). Jim was able to steer Rick and Neil in the right direction and all was well in that department by the time we headed back to our cabin.

Neil reports it was a very successful trip and he accomplished nearly everything on his list of to-do's. It was great seeing you, Neil, and hello to the family.

Christi and Howard Haley:

When I first contacted Christi for an "item," she was busy digging potatoes and harvesting her garden. After spending the last couple of years in Valdez working on apprenticeship for the Teamsters, she is "super thrilled to be back home" doing what she loves most—getting her hands dirty in garden soil and tinkering with home-related projects. In spite of the overwhelming feeling of work that didn't get done while she was in Valdez, Christi is enjoying every minute of the catching up.

The greenhouses are still producing produce, she says. Tomatoes are still growing in spite of the cooler night temperatures. But, then, that is where the wood stove comes in handy. A small wood fire at night keeps her plants alive and well. New this year was a homemade hooped greenhouse and a 10' x 20' weaved plastic car tent structure. Her plants enjoyed being pampered and she is enjoying the extra harvest.

Christi returned to her summer seasonal job this year—a member of the Park Service maintenance crew at Kennecott. "I had a good season this year. The old co-workers were glad to see me and I was glad to see them!" The work days are long, says Christi. She leaves home at 6:30 a.m. and doesn't get back until 11 or even 12 hours later. The job will come

to an end in a couple of days when she hopes to relax and enjoy the rest of the fall season.

Howard, in the meantime, is busy on his job with the Park Service, out of the Copper Center office. He comes home weekends when he can. This year he is head of the trail crew working mostly on the Copper Lake and Nugget trails. According to Christi, he hopes to continue working through mid-November, weather permitting.

Winter plans are still in the making. Christi may return to Valdez and put in a stint at keeping her nursing assistant license current. She says her license needs renewing every 2 years and she has a desire to keep her hand in the health care field.

It's been great having you back in the neighborhood, full-time, Christi!

Kathy Drury and Tim Mischel:

Now that we are well into the fall season here in McCarthy, that means heaters are turned on or wood sheds are getting filled. When the phone rang a few minutes ago, Kathy was checking to see if Tim could head over to our place and get an empty tank of propane filled. They wanted to stay on top of the heating situation.

Since I was looking for the last item of interest for this page, Kathy's call was right on time. I remembered meeting her daughter Annie over the Labor Day weekend and wondered if I could include her visit. She readily agreed. After all, Annie's trip to McCarthy was the highlight of Kathy's summer.

I met Annie at a dinner party that Barbara Rice gave shortly before she and John headed back home to St. Louis. When Kathy walked in the Rice's house with a lovely young lady by her side, I was more than curious. Kathy said she came to show off her daughter. I

soon was introduced (for the first time) to Annie who was enjoying her visit in spite of the near-constant rainfall. The ladies did manage to go for a walk on the ice, with crampons, of course, on her second day in town. I think that was about the only decent day for outdoor activities. A raft trip with Nik Merlino was scheduled but canceled due to weather conditions. (At least that leaves you something to do on Annie's next visit, Kathy!) They did participate in the Labor Day festivities at the McCarthy Lodge, says Kathy. Annie managed to get in several rides on Tim's 4 wheeler. No accidents were reported—only a few scrapes in the nearby bushes. Both Annie and machine survived the learning experiences of 4 wheeler travel.

Annie lives in San Diego and works in public relations. According to Kathy, Annie first visited McCarthy area in 1993. Kathy, her husband and their 3 children flew to Anchorage from Washington state, rented a van, bringing with them enough camping equipment and supplies for their two-week stay. Kathy's dad, Gordon Burdick, lived here at the time so the family came to visit him. It had been 15 years since Kathy and her husband had been and lived in McCarthy. Things had changed and still changing. For instance, the building that used to be The Depot (now the museum) was being used as a Latte stand in 1993. She recalled that Andy Shidner was the owner and operator. The Depot is now the Museum and houses a lot of history.

Kathy and Tim's summer season is about over. They plan to travel to Washington in early October to see and spend the holidays with family. They will return sometime after that.

Happy travels to you, both, Kathy and Tim!

Kennecott wrap-up

BY BONNIE KENYON

The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park's (WRST) maintenance crew took full advantage of the warm, sunny weather this summer season. Jim Baker, Maintenance Supervisor, says, "This was a big year for painting—a great summer!" The record-breaking hot, sunny days for our town far outweighed the rainy days which enabled the work crew to keep their paint brushes wet and busy.

At least 15 local residents from the McCarthy/Kennecott area, joined Jim's crew this season. He is well pleased with the end results of all their hard work. The following historical buildings received much-needed attention:

Cottage 32-8, located north of the Power Plant, gained a new foundation. Interior walls, exterior siding, doors, windows and porches were repaired and painted.

The **Power Plant's** windows and exterior walls continued to receive repair and painting, a leftover project from last year. Baker says it will be an ongoing project for summer 2014. Scaffolding was needed for this project.

The **West Bunkhouse's** siding was stripped on level one. New plywood was added to strengthen the walls. The siding was reinstalled, windows repaired and painting on the exterior walls will continue into 2014. This is a two-year project.

In order to keep the **National Creek Bunkhouse** from falling down, interior scaffolding was erected to support the build-

ing's deterioration. Work was also done on the roof to stop leakage.

The **Store** and the **Recreation Hall** floors were repainted. The roof on the Rec hall was inspected and repaired.

Painting was done as needed on the **Silk Stocking Cottages** 32-C and 32-D.

The interiors of the **Store toilet** and the **Rec Hall toilets** were painted and roofs were inspected and repaired as needed.

The **Machine Shop** and **Leaching Plant** received painting touch-ups and roof inspections and repair.

There is concern about the upcoming National Park Service (NPS) budget as to what employment will look like. Downsizing of maintenance staff will happen, says Baker, but it is still hard to predict if it will be in 2014 or later. The bigger projects will eventually end and turn to cyclical maintenance instead, which needs less staffing.

Possible Kennecott Projects for 2014 include: Cyclic touch-up painting of the Dairy Barn, Recreation Hall and Depot; West and East Bunkhouse stabilization.

Bradley Harris, Construction Manager for the NPS, reports that their contract work with Twin Peaks Construction has been completed. Stabilization of the Mill Building began in July last year and continued well into November. This year a crew of 18, of which approximately 15 were local hire, worked throughout the summer on structural upgrades through Level 6, said

Harris. The south side slope was stabilized. Stabilization of the north side slope was not completed due to the findings of potential blasting caps. According to Superintendent Rick Obernesser, the area has been fenced off and new strategies for stabilization of the north side slope is in the making.

It is hoped that funding will be available next year for a combination of fire detection and the Mill egress upgrades. This Phase Two project would include Fire Detection for all big buildings—Cottage 32-8, the Power House, Machine Shop, Mill Building, the General Store, the Recreation Hall and the Barn. Fire Detection would consist of cameras that would detect smoke.

The Upper Mill Building Stabilization project is a possible project for 2015. There is no money for it at the moment, says Jim Baker. It could be contract work, or a combination of NPS and contractors. The price tag for this project is estimated at 3.5 million.

When asked about a date for reopening the Mill Building for tours, Supt. Obernesser responded that for the moment 2015 is the earliest timeline. Last year the daily Mill tours by local concessionaire, St. Elias Alpine Guides (SEAG), were suspended soon after the July 4th festivities. The construction crew for Twin Peaks began their mobilization work soon after.

According to Mark Keogh, NPS, who oversees the concessions for the WRST, SEAG was once again the winner for providing historical tours of Kenne-

cott. A new contract was drawn up and signed by SEAG on July 2 of this year. The contract is good for 10 years. This year's daily tour took on the new name, Kennecott Town Tour. Keogh says that under this present concession there are certain required structures that must be included and, also, optional buildings. In spite of not being able to access the Mill Building this year, SEAG tour guides were able to take tourists into the East Bunkhouse, Machine Shop, Refrigerator and Leaching plants and the Power House.

A Kennecott area informational meeting was held by the Park Service on August 29th at the Tony Zak House in McCarthy. Bruce Rogers, Park Planner, reported that the next big planning process will be the Wilderness Stewardship Plan. "It is not for-

mally a plan yet as the park has not yet received full funding. However, we are positioning ourselves as a park to get funding. The process is starting with a park staff wilderness character workshop to be held in late September, and, if funding comes

gy for public involvement is to spend a lot of quality time talking to outfitter/guides, concessions, and air taxis that operate in the park. It makes the most sense to talk to the people who actually gets or facilitates the visitors getting into the park. We

want to engage in conversation: talking about issues that affect wilderness, quality of experience for wilderness users, and possible management strategies. This will probably be a longer-than-usual public involvement process. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve has the largest Wilderness designated area in the Parks' system, and we have no management plan for it,



Photo courtesy Steve Thorn

Extensive scaffolding erected to reach the Clear Story Power Plant windows and gables. Pictured in the photo are local crew workers: Brian MacMillan up in the gable; Mike Murphy on the scaffold deck and Mark Wacht on the ground level.

through, starting with public involvement in 2014. The strate-

so it is a national and regional policy priority."

Alaska Grown—1981 continued

BY RICK KENYON JR.

When Dad drove in from a stint in Valdez, he spotted a black bear along the road several miles from our cabin. Knowing we were short on meat that time of the year, he pulled over and quickly dispatched the bear with his .44 magnum pistol. When he got to the cabin, Sam and I hopped in the truck and the three of us drove back up the road where we loaded up the bear and brought it home. After unloading food supplies that he brought in, we got to work skin-

ning the bear and processing the meat. Not having a freezer to store the meat in, we would have to can it in mason quart jars. That was a several day project, but the meat was hung in the cool shop and the temperatures not severe for that time of the year.

One overcast, rainy day, a silver and green Cessna 180 buzzed the cabin and we ran outside to see. It was Chuck LaPage, flying in Grandma Neta, Uncle Ron and Aunt Rhonda for a visit from Florida! We raced to the Suburban and drove down to the

gravel-bar airstrip where we welcomed our family with hugs and tears of joy. It was Grandma Ne-



ta's first visit to McCarthy and would be the first of many that would come in the years to follow.

Sam was excited to have more folks to hang out with, and he quickly bonded with Uncle Ron. They had a big time, exploring the woods and immediate property around our cabin. We made plans to visit McCarthy and Kennecott and sight-seeing. They would be with us a week before heading back to Daytona Beach, so we made every minute count. The evenings were filled with board games like Monopoly and Clue and were far from boring, to say the least!

There were a few adjustments to be made for our city relatives, however. One was the lack of indoor plumbing. The outhouse was a far cry from city living as well as the shower house in the back yard. Uncle Ron had a big time, trying to scare anyone taking a shower (especially Grandma Neta) with bear noises. Another big adjustment was the wild game meat that we ate. Aunt Rhonda was not convinced that bear meat was as good as we locals claimed; after all, it wasn't store-wrapped, was it?! Fortunately, our garden was producing well and we had salads every day and other tasty veggies to eat. The mosquitos were not very popular with our guests either, but we kept the

spray handy and head-nets as well.

That week flew by and it was time to bid farewell. Everyone had tears in their eyes as we hugged goodbyes and watched them leave. Many fond memories were made!



The rest of the summer was a blur with all the daily chores and activities that subsistence living required. There was firewood to put up, and that was a big project. I learned how to use a chainsaw and made trips into the woods, cutting down trees and stacking the wood in piles. Sam



often accompanied us as we went into the woods on these excursions, and he would scout the area in search of critters that might not be welcome.

While we might not see anything, he would bark and disappear into the brush with fur raised on his back. I often wondered if this was a "show" or if there really was something to be concerned about! I felt sure there was a legitimate concern

at times, though, based on the way Sam acted. At any rate, it was good to have a watch dog around!

Dad and I target practiced in the back yard with our guns. Many Sunday afternoons would find us setting up a few targets and checking

to see if a gun was sighted in or not. After shooting, one cleaned his gun before putting it up. Gun safety was a staunch rule and I learned to respect the weapon at an early age.

That fall, during hunting season, a bull moose stepped into the end of our meadow (yard) and Dad brought him down with a 30-30 rifle. More meat to process! As was the "bush" custom, we shared our bounty with neighbors. I recall how large the moose liver was. Cut in half, it filled a five-gallon bucket to overflowing. I loved liver, onions and bacon that Mom cooked on the stove for breakfast. We made several meals off that moose liver. There would be enough meat to last the winter until the next hunting season. (to be continued)

November in May Creek

BY DICK MORRIS

A cold Matanuska Glacier wind howled through the Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry grounds as a group of volunteers and Museum Director John Cooper prepared to leave on another artifact recovery trip on November 19, 1986. Starting from Palmer the objective was to travel 285 miles and reach the May Creek airstrip (area winter pop. 1) 15 miles southeast of McCarthy, Alaska (winter pop. approx. 8) and recover two vintage Ford trucks, one vintage Holt Artillery tractor, one vintage Ford Farm tractor and a rare type of steam churn drill. Once beyond the old mining and rail center of Chitina this meant winter travel over 60 unmaintained miles of single line railbed, that had been closed in 1938, that now masqueraded as a road. It also meant travel across ice and open water crossings when reaching several rivers and sizable creeks in addition to approximately 15 miles of something more honestly referred to, by cartographers, as trails. It was estimated that the trip would take anywhere from 4 to 7 days.

While obviously there are better times of year to travel in Alaska, the current state and federal environmental land use regulations combined with the personal schedule needs of the volunteer team members pretty much dictated this "access window" to the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. The advantages to be hoped for were clear weather, frozen ground, reasonable temperatures, minimal snow cover and low river water. The potential disadvantages at this time of year were extremely low temperatures, lots of snow cover, overflow on the river ice, thick shelf ice along the

open river and stream crossings and unseasonable high water due to unusually heavy fall rains. Before you read the rest of this account would you care to guess the type of conditions the team found?

The skilled team was comprised of Jerry Ware of Anchorage (Alaska Railroad Engineering Section), Dick Morris of Elmendorf AFB (Senior Master Sgt), Ken Rowland of Palmer (full time woodsman and retired machinist and welder), Chuck Strange of Wasilla (miner), Bob Teeling of Wasilla (heavy equipment operator), Les Greenstreet of Palmer (mechanic, equipment operator) and Dan Hovermale of Kenny Lake (aviation & diesel mechanic, heavy equipment operator) and all had signed on to retrieve the 1917 Holt artillery tractor, 1935 Ford stakebed truck, Model T Ford one ton truck, Fordson tractor and other items which had been donated to the museum in 1984 by May Creek homesteaders Al and Fran Gagnon. A previous trip by museum staff and volunteer Paul Boniface had gathered most of the equipment, with substantial help from gold miner Russ Hoffman, at the May Creek airstrip. The churn drill was donated by Chititu Mining Corporation only a day before departure and is especially unique as it was manufactured in Cordova. Skid mounted it sat next to Chititu Creek 1/2 mile from the vehicles. The odd lot of recovery vehicles making the trip included the museum's sturdy 1967 all wheel drive FWD Fire Engine (ex University of Alaska Fire Dept.), which has 3 cab heaters and room in the cab for 6 men, the museum's faithful (ex Air Force) 1967 International 1800 twin axle tractor, and Les Greenstreet's four wheel drive Dodge pickup, with all vehicles towing trailers. Four tracked vehicles were carried on the trailers: Two

snowmachines with sleds, the museum's Chevrolet V-8 powered "Husky" M-116 (ex Army personnel carrier), and a diesel "353 Jimmy" powered Nodwell (ex Arctic tundra sled freighting vehicle) loaned by Jack Reamer of Pearson Oil Field Services, Inc. of Anchorage.

The trip was to prove a great learning experience and started with an omen of things to come. Moving our convoy up the Glenn Highway and slowly climbing Bailey Hill, on the outskirts of Palmer, just at the crest of the hill the FWD fire truck engine stopped cold, not four minutes from the museum. Nearly an hour was spent discovering and repairing a blown electrical fuse while the rest of the convoy waited 20 miles ahead in Sutton, outside our limited radio range, wondering what had happened.

We had not used our equipment this heavily loaded before and soon learned that travel was to be as slow as five miles per hour on all hills, and the 285 odd miles between Palmer and McCarthy include mile after mile of hills and grades. Fortunately, though, the rest of the day's travel was reasonably uneventful, mechanically, even though it was a very long day. One light spot occurred while passing through the Eureka summit area as we passed through a scattered grouping of 30 or more beautiful caribou crossing the highway. Later heading south on the Richardson Highway from Glennallen and east on the Edgerton Highway from Cooper Center that first night was finally spent comfortably at the Kenny Lake farmstead of Dan and Karen Hovermale.

On the second day out at 5:00 a.m. Thursday morning we arose to a crystal cold -35 degrees and even the hardy farmstead cats were actively hovering around the door in an attempt to jump ship from the

barn to the warmer house and a coveted place under the wood burning barrel stove. It was less than inspiring to hear that the coldest spot in Alaska at the moment, -45 degrees, was our next destination, McCarthy.

In trying to prepare for unloading our tracked machines either near the town of Chitina or further on, depending on road conditions, we first spent several hours and eventually the whole day checking out our equipment, and starting the road and tracked vehicles. The Nodwell diesel engine particularly proved itself almost impossible to start. The problem eventually found was that the borrowed old Arctic tundra veteran had a number of unmarked and some curiously marked engine and fuel system controls. A final exasperated yank on the controls by mechanic Dan Hovermale hit the right combination and the engine fired right up!

After more time was spent warming the engine we discovered an Alaskan diesel engine nightmare in that the fuel in the rear, reserve, fuel tank was #2 stove oil instead of the expected higher grade Arctic diesel. The low temperature had congealed the fuel and it had the consistency of creamy Jello, which obviously made it unusable until such time as there was a marked increase in the outdoor temperature.

Despite these problems morale remained high and everyone pitched in on cooking, working on the equipment and on cutting a fair amount of firewood for the farmstead woodstove. After working most of the day Les Greenstreet, Bob Teeling and Dan Hovermale had everything running and all tools had been checked over, but by then it was late afternoon and daylight had slipped away. It didn't take any real urging on the Hovermale's part to get us to spend another night.

Starting 15 miles west of Chitina we left Kenny Lake Friday morning, day 3, in a -25 degree heat wave for the Chitina-McCarthy Road. Leaving Chitina via a narrow rail cut in the rocks the road drops sharply to the Copper River and then starts the winding climb along the ridgetops to McCarthy and follows the old roadbed of the former Copper River and Northwestern Railroad. In several places there are impressive slough offs that drastically narrow the "road" and extreme grades where the road leaves the railroad roadbed to bypass and go under impassable old trestles.

Starting immediately at the Copper River incline, even with chains, each one of these "special" spots put us to the test in getting our trucks up the far slopes. Both going in and returning driving surface conditions along the route varied widely between glare ice with water flowing over it to 12" of snow.

One of the really impressive remnants of the railroad is the iron Kuskulana River bridge. Completed on New Year's Day 1911, the rail span was later pressed into service as a highway bridge. Exclusive of relatively light latter day wooden timber approaches the remaining iron center span is 238 feet high, 225 feet long, and nine to ten feet wide with a plank driving surface on each outside edge and guardrails less than 16 inches high. You can imagine the weak looking wooden approaches were inspected thoroughly before we ventured onto them. The view, especially when looking down, while crossing in a large truck was most impressive. At least one crew member insisted on walking across rather than take their chances in a truck.

Shortly after crossing the bridge, the road unexpectedly deteriorated. The surface was good, but for nearly 20 miles the 20' to 30' high alders had overgrown the road so badly that they bowed and overlapped the center of the road at

windshield level, or lower. In pushing through the alders the heavy snow knocked from the branches made visibility impossible for up to ten seconds at a time and added to the driving difficulty. Four or five stops were made to trim low hanging branches when they were over about three inches in thickness. Needless to say exterior items such as cab lights, antennas, and mirrors took a severe beating and the constant drumming was unsettling.

Halfway up a 30 degree slope at Tractor Creek, a narrow steep valley, the fire truck first lost traction and then the engine stopped running. About an hour was spent repairing the ignition, but there still wasn't enough traction to make the hill. Probably due to the extreme cold this was the only time the four wheel drive wouldn't engage. Finally, we unloaded the Nodwell to assist the fire truck up the hill and about this time a sense of "gallows humor" sprang into being among us that most will always remember. Initiated by Les Greenstreet the question "Hey, are we having fun yet?!" became a humorous verbal banner and rallying cry when the going got tough.

It then became a combination of leap frog and relay as the Nodwell made the rest of the trip to McCarthy under its own power (at five to eight miles an hour) helping the International up several more hills. In one instance of helping while chained to the museum tractor trailer, the Nodwell "helped" the front bumper and axle leaf spring mounts right off the truck with the result that the front wheels jammed against the fenders. The truck had to be left about four miles out of McCarthy.

(To be continued)

Editors note: This story originally ran in our November & December 1995 issue.

A Balmy or Biting Winter Ahead? Ask the Bears

BY NED ROZELL

The neighborhood chickadees worried me the other day and the local red squirrel did nothing to ease my mind. The usually mellow chickadees attacked my bird feeder, emptying it of sunflower seeds almost as quickly as I could spill them in. A few mornings later, the squirrel woke me up with a steady tapping on my roof as it tossed down dozens of spruce cones from an overhanging tree.

It seemed as if the tiny critters had something to tell me. I wondered if they or other animals have the ability to predict what kind of winter we'll have.

I called Pierre Deviche, an associate professor of animal physiology with UAF's Institute of Arctic Biology, to find a reason for the chickadees' feeding frenzy.

The birds were busy caching seeds for later, he said. Chickadees' actions are probably regulated by internal rhythms rather than an ability to sense bad weather, Deviche said. The chickadees' bustle was perfectly normal. In a way, they were predicting that winter was indeed coming, but they weren't telling me anything about how cold it's going to be.

Deviche said he hadn't heard of any scientific studies on ani-

mals' ability to predict the severity of winter. That subject would be a particularly hard one to research, he added, because it would take many, many years of observations.

Other scientists told me the same thing. A library search led me to just one study, on the woolly bear caterpillar. The woolly bear is a fuzzy larva of the tiger moth found in the Midwest and Northeast. According to legend, a person can tell what kind of winter is ahead by observing the woolly bear's coat. If the brown segment between the two black segments is long, the winter will be mild. A narrow brown band means a long, cold winter is ahead.

Biologist Charles Curran began studying woolly bears beginning in 1948. For the first three years, the caterpillars had wide brown bands, accurately forecasting three consecutive mild winters. The caterpillars failed the next year. Curran gave up the study in 1955 after finding two groups of caterpillars living near each other that had vastly different predictions for the upcoming winter.

Another researcher, anthropologist Richard K. Nelson, lived, hunted and trapped with Alaska Natives above the Arctic Circle for more than a year. He detailed their observations of animals'

predictive behavior in his book, *Hunters of the Northern Forest*.

Nelson wrote about an Indian who trapped fish in the Black River country for about 70 years. The old man set fish traps on creeks and noticed each fall he would catch fish earlier during years when the creeks froze up early. When there was a late freeze-up, the fish came out later than usual.

Koyukon Indians say the winter's snowfall is predicted by snowshoe hares. If the hares leave wide footprints in the fall, it indicates extra-furry hind feet, a sign that heavy snowfalls will follow.

Kutchin Indians from Chalkyitsik say that black bears can predict how severe a winter will be. Prior to a mild winter, the bears will make their sleeping places close to the den opening; if a cold winter is ahead, bears will sleep far away from the opening.

Though some might dismiss the preceding paragraphs as folklore, Nelson pointed out that the animal predictions are based upon centuries of observation by Native people. Since observation is the backbone of any scientific study, perhaps the Native beliefs are the most valid long-term animal weather predictions that exist.

This article 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.

We ran this story in the November & December 2000 issue of WSEN, but after the unusual weather this summer we thought our readers might enjoy it again.

"It has been said that all Government is an evil. It would be more proper to say that the necessity of any Government is a misfortune." —James Madison

A PROCLAMATION

Reprinted from The McCarthy Weekly News—1925

In keeping with a custom established by those who founded this great nation, a day is set apart each year to give thanks to Almighty God for the many blessings which He has bestowed upon us. A sincere observance of this day serves to remind us of our duties to God, to our nation and our fellow men.

The President of the United States, having designated and set apart Thursday the twenty sixth day of November, nineteen hundred and twenty five as THANKSGIVING DAY.

Therefore, I, Geo. A. Parks, Governor of the Territory of Alaska in conformity therewith, do hereby summon all people of the Territory to the observance of this anniversary and recommend that they refrain from their usual occupations and gather in their homes or in their accustomed places of worship and there to give thanks to God for his manifold blessings. Remembering that Alaska has prospered and has not been visited with pestilence or calamity during the year, let this Thanksgiving Day be observed in a manner expressive of spiritual faith and profound gratitude to the Creator.



The Close of the Season

When the nights grew long and frosty, in the flame of the autumn glow,
We braced our tents for the winter, against the coming snow.
The creek dropped down to a whisper, the ice on the edges grew,
The slush ice started running and the seasons work was through.
Then we piled up our tools and boxes, hung up long lines of hose,
Put on our boots and followed the trail where the water flows.
Wading the sunless canyons, through slush with aching backs,
But our hearts were light within us and we didn't mind our packs.
So we finally came to Dan Creek and entered the camp of a friend,
Who was going to travel with us through to the journey's end.
Then we felled a couple of spruce trees by the side of the old saw-pit,
Whipsawed some good clear lumber and soon our boat was built.
Out where the creek meanders, through the wide Nizina Bars,
The last of the nails were driven 'neath the light of the autumn stars.
And, after the strands of oakum were hammered into the seams,
The gum of the spruce was melted and poured in the space between.
We fashioned with axe and drawknife our oars from the clean spruce wood,
And when the work was finished we saw that it was good.

From Chilkoot Pass and submitted by Cliff Collins

Good news from the Wrangells

BY BONNIE KENYON

When I think of the months of November and December, the word *gift* comes to mind. How about you? November for Thanksgiving and a time we like sharing with friends, family and neighbors. December for Christmas—a gift-giving time that surpasses any other holiday.

Yesterday I read my daily devotional for the day and it went into some detail on the word *gift* as used in a very special scripture. It says: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23.

What a contrast! Wages and gift. These two words are so opposite in meaning that we could easily overlook the full import of their significance. The phrase “wages of sin” refers to the payoff which comes as a result of serving Satan. I have found that the deceptive thing about sin is that it so often comes disguised as pleasure and fulfillment. Satan, being the ultimate deceiver, lures people into a life of sin by promising them all kinds of future bliss. However, the real payoff is disintegration, destruction and death. Where, you may be asking me, is the “good news” in all this?

The good news is “the gift of God.” What a beautiful contrast to the wages of sin! The word gift used in the above scripture means “an endowment, something given freely.” God, your Creator and mine, freely bestows grace (His unmerited favor) on all those who call upon His name. Blessing, benefits, and

life. Which do you prefer: death or life? Wages or gift?

I, personally, know what it is like to live on both sides of this issue. There came a time in my life when the wages of my sin nearly cost me my physical life on this earth. And, there came a time when I chose to receive life and to have my name placed on God’s gift list. What a difference it has made!

Why does God go to all the effort to reach out to you and me? Why does He bother and take time to save your life when you don’t deserve it? Or send someone into your life that tells you how much He cares?

Subscriber and a good friend of mine, Carolyn Elliott, forwarded me an email that blessed her and she wanted to share it with me. Due to space I had to edit it but herein lies the answer—the reason.

God is crazy about you. If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it. If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it. He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to talk, He’ll listen. He can live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart. What about the Christmas gift He sent you in Bethlehem; not to mention that day at Calvary. Face it, He’s crazy about you!



bestowments all come to us from a loving, heavenly Father Who gives, and gives, and keeps on giving. Why? Because it is His nature to give.

Dick Mills, the author of my daily devotional, concludes his message with: The wages of death is earned. The gift of life is freely received. Before a conversion we were on Satan’s payroll, now we are on God’s gift list! Satan’s final payoff is death, but God’s ultimate gift is eternal

God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again.—Jesus

(Joh 3:17 MSG)

The McCarthy Weekly News

1922 November & December editions

LOCAL NEWS

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

Sam Means the well-known animal photographer is recovering from his siege of illness.

November 4

BASKET BALL IN THE OFFING

Tuesday evening a group of the young men of the town got together to discuss the ways and means for a basket ball team. The same bunch will meet again early next week and practice will begin in earnest. There are more young men in the town this winter than for several years past so the chance of producing a winning team looks pretty good.

Mr. Al Doze who is employed at "The Green Butte," was in town election day.

Miss Dugger, manager of one of the ladies' furnishing shops at Cordova, was in town Thursday. Miss Dugger carries a fine stock of goods. She stated that her trip was very successful both here and at Kennecott.

November 11

LOCAL NEWS

Mrs. Pete Johnson from Mile 183 has gone to her ranch for the winter.

Rumors of a meeting for the purpose of discussing a skating rink for Our Town and a good ski trail from Kennecott to here have reached our ears. We hope this rumor is based on fact, as we know of no better way of enjoying Alaska's unequaled winter moonlit evenings than in exhilarating Outdoor Sports.

Thursday evening the Pioneers held their regular meeting. The subject of maintaining the hall came up during the evening's business, and it was finally decided that a committee composed of two Pioneers and one other man be appointed. This committee is to under-

take the formation of a basketball team and to arrange for some matches when the team is in shape to play.

A dance was decided on and is to be given on the evening of the 25th. While dancing was on the carpet a motion was passed to hold a Mask, New Year's Eve. This will give Kennecott a chance to hold the Christmas celebration in their hall.

Two new members were admitted to Igloo before the meeting dispersed. The initiates were John McCann and Chas. Veach.

Thanksgiving Poultry - FRESH fryers and roasters.

Iverson Ranch, P. O. Box 303.

The Mother Lode Out-put

New York, By Mail.

The Mother Lode Coalition Mines Company, when additions to the Kennecott mill are completed, expects to increase copper output by 1,000,000 pounds monthly, bringing production to 3,000,000 pounds or at an annual rate of 36,000,000 pounds contract with Kennecott, expiring 1928, for treatment at cost of 12,000 tons of ore monthly, does not imply restriction of copper output to 36,000,000 pounds, as it can be increased by shipping out a larger quantity of high grade ores.

Production cost is estimated to be the lowest in the world. It is now less than 6.9 cents a pound, including depreciation and taxes against 7.6 cents of '21 and 8.66 cents for 1920.

Net earnings for the first four months of this year applicable to the 2,500,000 shares of stock outstanding, approximated \$520,000 or at a yearly rate of \$1,560,000. During this period copper output was 8,028,352 pounds at a net profit of 6.47 cents per pound. On the basis of four months showings, earnings were at an annual rate of 62 cents on a share of stock.

Initial dividend of 50 cents a share, was paid last June. Dividend policy of

the board of directors has never been stated. In some quarters another payment of 50 cents is looked for in December, but current rate of earnings does not seem to bear this out. It is possible that before the end of the year an offer to exchange shares for Kennecott stock may be made.

Kennecott holds 45% of Mother Lode outstanding stock.

NEWSETTES

Mike Knowles and Pete Brenwick left Thursday with the Shushanna mail.

Among those who attended the Armistice Day Dance at Kennecott were Mr. and Mrs. O'Neill, Mr. and Mrs. Boroughs, Mr. and Mrs. Anderton, Messrs. J. P. and H. I. Gaskell, Cole, Sid Walling, Ben Jackson, Van Anderson, Nichols, Longley, Mrs. Underwood and Mr. and Mrs. Snyder. A pleasant time was enjoyed by all.

November 18

TO CHANGE NAME OF DEPOT

Word was received at the commissioner's office this week that the C. R. & N. W. would be glad to cooperate with the people of 'McCarthy' in changing the name of the town or station as the case might be. After consulting most of the residents on the matter, a letter was forwarded on Wednesday's train to Mr. Caleb Corser expressing the wish that the name 'Shushanna Junction' be changed to that of McCarthy. This change will avoid much confusion in shipments that now exist.

SCHOOL NOTES

That McCarthy has reasons to be proud of her school is one thing most of us overlook. Here are the facts: We have only seven pupils attending in the district, but they would make far larger towns than ours bow their heads. For the past two months there has not been a single pupil either absent or tardy. Since the beginning of the term only one and one half days absence are noted. A record of this nature cannot receive too much praise. It is a sure

sign of the interest the children take in their studies and a true index of the character of instruction used. Incidentally, the boys have a perfect record of attendance.

November 25

LOCAL NEWS

A number of people entertained on Thanksgiving: Mr. and Mrs. Hubrick served the festal fowl to Jack Schultz, Ben Jackson, Eric Danielson and Peter Buhl. Mr. J. B. O'Neill and wife entertained Mr. Gaskill and Andy Taylor. Mr. and Mrs. Snyder entertained Sig Wold, Joe Summers and John Conway. Mr. and Mrs. Doze entertained Wm. Longly. Mr. and Mrs. Burroughs entertained Mr. and Mrs. Lander.

Everyone reports a fine time and noble rations.

Green Butte Shuts Down For Water

On the last of November the Green Butte closed down for the winter leaving only a small crew.

The men left at the mine will block out ore and finish some other essential pieces of work, already begun.

The management reports a large quantity of high grade ore blocked out, and states that the shipment of copper has already begun. There is one car load at the lower end of the tram already sacked and awaiting transportation. Teams began hauling to the railroad Wednesday. The first load was a record, fourteen tons being hauled on bob sleds.

Among those leaving Green Butte for the outside are Ernie Lottfedt and Harry Gaskill. Mr. Gaskill's brother, James, has also announced his intention to visit a warmer climate.

Mr. Barrett states that the mine will resume operations in the spring and that there will be a larger crew employed during the coming season. Experts have pronounced the Green Butte a high grade proposition; and that it has a fine chance of making one of the leading properties is beyond doubt.

December 2

LOCAL NEWS

Gus Carlson the well known miner, who is now employed at the Green

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

LOCALS

Sunday a party of skiers came down from the 'Glacier City' for a try-out on our hills. They were joined here by Mr. and Mrs. O'Neill and a pleasant time was enjoyed by all. Mrs. O'Neill walked or rather skied off with the championship. Among those present from Kennecott were Miss Pallette and Ptolemy.

Mike Tierney the genial foreman at mile 162 was in McCarthy for a few days this week visiting his many friends. Mr. Tierney is contemplating a trip to the states this winter but will return in the spring to resume his position with the road.

Leo Woody of the Kennecott Corporation is visiting in McCarthy for a few days this week.

December 9

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

December 16

DOINGS HERE AND THERE

Thru the efforts of the entertainment committee New Year's Eve will be one swell affair so obey the impulse to make another fellow laugh and clown it with the rest of us. IF people observed the spirit of Christmas the year round what a wondrous world t'would be!

Charles White, hoistman at the Mother Lode, underwent an operation for appendicitis Thursday at the Kennecott Hospital. The patient is reported to be doing well.

Mrs. Brown, well-known throughout the district for the excellence of her Nizina roadhouse, was in town a few days this week visiting her many friends and laying in a large supply of food.

NEW CITIZEN FOR MCCARTHY

Between eleven and twelve o'clock Monday McCarthy had a new toothless citizen added to her roster. The young

man came in over the well known stork route and was promptly nick-named Caruso by an inmate of his present domicile on account of his well-developed tenor howl.

Both mother and the 7 1/2 lbs. son are reported ok while the old man won't report more than a headache.

Mr. Paul Latham manager of the lower camp of the Nizina Mining Company spent a couple of days in town this week, returning to Nizina Thursday. Mr. George Nickles, manager of the upper camp, also made the trip in. Mr. Latham reports that preparations for consolidating the upper and lower camp at the site of the present upper workings. The timber to be used for the coming season is cut and hauled and some of the lower camp equipment is on the move. There are some twenty seven tents, stoves and other camp equipment still to be hauled beside about three thousand feet of light weight rail, five thousand feet of hydraulic pipe, giants and nozzles.

A great deal of good pay ground is on the benches, but at present there is no attempt being made to recover this class of placer gold. The system being to work out the entire creek bed and then to come back and get what pay that remains in the higher ground. During the year of 1921 there was \$229,000 in gold taken out of the Copper River basin, according to the latest government report on this subject. There were about 100 men employed; the production averaged around twenty two hundred dollars per shovel.

December 23

There were about twenty people down from Kennecott during the Christmas holidays.

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

Capt. and Mrs. Hubrick left McCarthy Sunday for a trip to the states. They will be gone about four months. Capt. will go to Rochester N. Y. and get a line on all the latest methods of photography, and Mrs. Hubrick will visit relatives and friends at Springwa-

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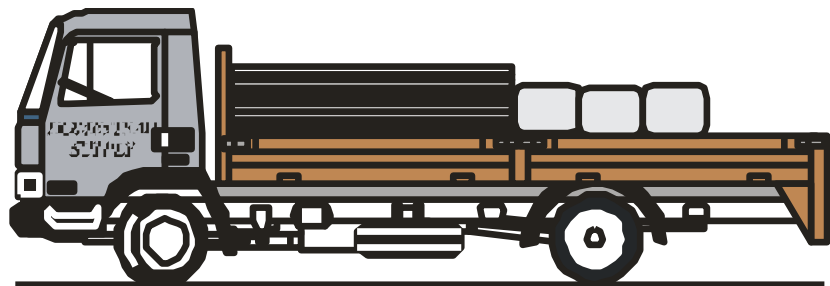
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Mile 115.5 Richardson Highway (Box 49) Glennallen

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www.coppervalleyair.com

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Copper Valley 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.

4G LTE service now available from Copper Valley Telecom

VALDEZ—

On Monday, September 30th, Copper Valley Telecom turned on 4G LTE wireless data at ten of its cell sites in Valdez, Prince William Sound, and Cordova, making the company the first to provide 4G LTE over a cellular network in the region.

Wireless carriers categorize data speeds using the terms 3G, 4G, and 4G LTE, with 4G LTE representing the fastest speeds available in the industry. 3G typically provides between 1 and 1.5MB download speed. 4G technology typically gives a consumer 5 times more speed than 3G. 4G LTE often conveys speeds of 10-15MB.

“We are a small carrier relative to most of our competitors, but we have delivered 4G LTE data to consumers in our region before any of these larger carriers,” said Dave Dengel, the company’s Chief Executive Officer. “Our commitment to this region and our extensive knowledge of its unique weather and terrain give us an important advantage.”

Copper Valley’s 4G LTE coverage extends throughout the city of Valdez, along the Richardson Highway as far as Robe River Subdivision, along the Alaska Marine Highway route to Cordova, around Naked Island, Shoup Bay, and Tatitlek, and throughout Cordova including downtown, Whitshed Road, and the Copper River Flats.

Dengel also stated, “A key component of our 4G LTE deployment was to secure the best possible coverage for our customers when they travel. Residents of our region are extremely mobile – they travel frequently to Anchorage, the Mat-Su Valley, Fairbanks, Hawaii, and throughout the continental U.S. Our roaming partnerships with key national and regional carriers means that our customers will now have access to the largest 4G LTE network in the nation.”

The company is currently working on plans for upgrading more sites throughout the region to 4G LTE in 2014.

THE MOBILE

S4X4G LTE



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12:45

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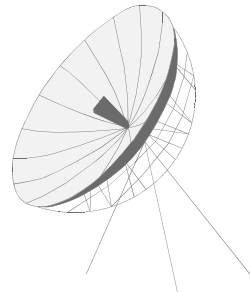
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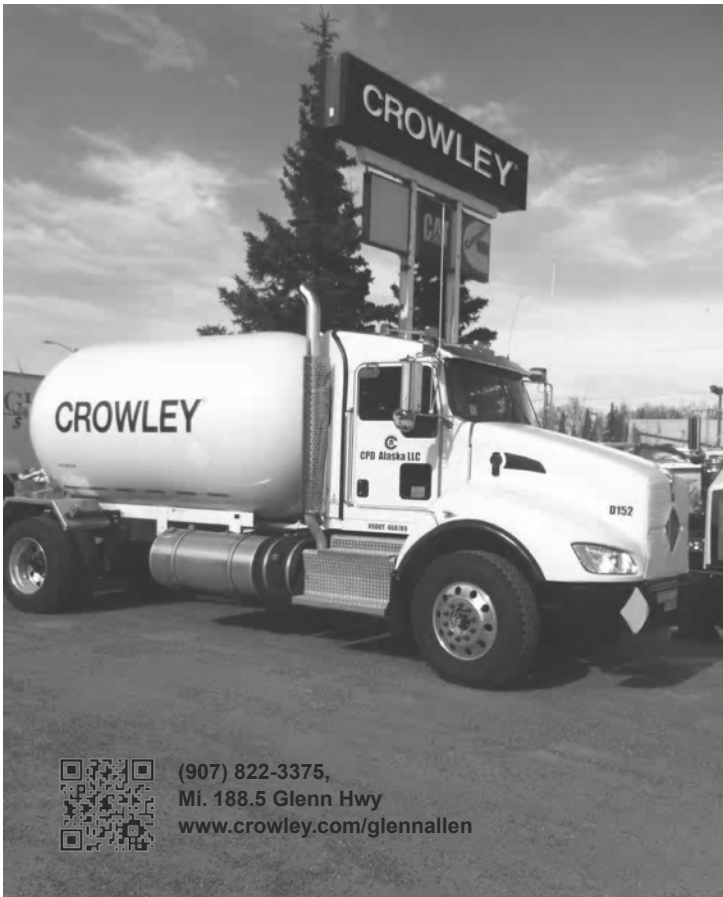
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McCarthy Ventures upgrades— big time!

BY BONNIE KENYON

News travels fast in our small town. The word is that something “big” is happening in the middle of downtown McCarthy. I couldn’t help but expect that Neil Darish, owner of McCarthy Lodge/Ventures, would be “in the know.” The majority of downtown McCarthy’s businesses are a part of the “Ventures” that make up Neil’s conglomerate.

After today’s mail day routine, Rick and I decided to see what was really talking place and who was doing the big time happening. Needless to say, Neil was (and is) in the middle of things. In fact, he was standing in a 4' ditch that crosses Kenicott Avenue and runs nearly the entire length of Barrett Way. And, then, there is the newly-cleared off area between the gift shop and the Kennedy House that also caught my attention “What is going on?” I ask.



Breaking into a smile, he was eager to explain. “Infrastructure” and “more sophistication” were his words to describe what appears to be a major mess at the moment. It’s been 26 years since the Lodge and Ma Johnson’s Hotel had an upgrade to their original leach field. “The entire field needs redoing to

system, too. That explains the trench that ends at the new generator building that Jeremy Keller built in 2012. The interior of the building is expected to be completed this spring, as well as the completed wiring process.

The lodge, the store, the hotels, as well as the out buildings, will all benefit from the major upgrades in McCarthy Ventures’ big time infrastructure. “The hodgepodge of our old electrical system will be replaced with a new system that will benefit guests and workers alike,” commented Neil.

What I might describe as “a mess” isn’t a word that Neil would use, or Rowcon Services doing the dirt work. By the time winter settles in on McCarthy, the streets should be back to normal and, maybe even in a better state of repairs.

handle the growth in the businesses,” he said. The McCarthy Center grocery store is now online and needs much more electrical power to run the produce cooler and the new freezers. This calls for an upgraded electrical

Back to School – in America’s National Parks

ANCHORAGE—

Teachers across Alaska have a new tool to help them engage their students in classroom and place-based learning.

The National Park Service has launched an online service for teachers that brings America’s national parks, including those spread across Alaska, into neighborhood classrooms. The new “Teachers” of the National

Park Service website at www.nps.gov/teachers provides a one-stop shop for curriculum-based lesson plans, traveling trunks, maps, activities, distance learning, and other resources. All of the materials draw from the spectacular natural landscapes and authentic places preserved in America’s national parks.

“Alaska’s national parks and our visitor centers in Anchorage

and Fairbanks have long welcomed students on site,” said Sue Masica, the NPS regional director for Alaska. “But we know that parks are often a long distance from a student’s home. Now, through the new “Teachers” website, Alaska’s parks and their spectacular resources are a little closer for teachers and students to learn about America’s natural and cultural heritage.”

Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

Dear Cooking and Eating Friends, As I sit here in front of the computer on a cloudy, rainy day at the end of August, I'm trying to project myself to the issue of November/December. We're still in McCarthy but the temperature is about the same as it will be in Arizona when that issue comes out, so it's easy to think of warm food, holidays and all those good things. We've had such a wonderful summer this year. The weather was different than other summers but it's been a very relaxing four months.

I know that in the last issue I mentioned that Jim and I were going to Homer for a few weeks and that I would try to get you some recipes for fish. (On a side note—as soon as we plan our trip to Homer each summer, we begin thinking of all the wonderful garage sales we'll be able to go to. This year was no exception! Guess what I found! — two old cookbooks that were published by the Homer Homemakers Club in 1967 and 1970.) In one of them I found what looks like a wonderful recipe for salmon. I haven't tried it yet because we're out of salmon, but as soon as we get back to Tucson I plan to buy some and try it. Granted it won't be "Homer Salmon" but the recipe surely sounds different and good.

HOMER SALMON ROLL

1 pound salmon, cooked and flaked
 ¼ cup celery, chopped

¼ cup onion, chopped
 ¼ cup black olives, chopped
 ½ teaspoon salt
 ¼ teaspoon black pepper
 ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
 ¼ cup condensed cream of chicken soup
 ¼ cup mayonnaise and the "roll"

Combine salmon, celery, onion, olives, pepper, garlic powder, salt, soup and mayonnaise. Make the "roll" using 2 cups biscuit mix following package directions. Roll the dough to form a rectangle 9 x 12 inches. Spread fish mixture evenly on the roll and roll like a jelly roll, starting with one of the 12-inch sides. Put the roll on a baking sheet with seam down. Brush with a mixture of one egg and one tablespoon cold water. Bake in oven at 400 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes. Serve with a sauce made of remaining chicken soup (what's left in the can), 1 tablespoon lemon juice, and 1/3 cup milk.

One of the things I loved about getting these two books, besides the recipes, of course, was the evidence that the person or persons who had kept them all these years had saved them carefully. One of them still had the loose page in the front with recipe corrections that had been missed before sending them for publication. The other had some handwritten recipes from friends stuck in the back. The pages were yellowed and spotted but still readable so I thought I would share one of those with you, too.

CHERRY WALNUT BARS (makes 48 bars)

2 ¼ cups flour
 ½ cup sugar
 1 cup butter

Mix and pat into 13 x 9 pan. Bake for 20 minutes at 350 degrees.

2 eggs
 1 cup brown sugar
 ½ teaspoon salt
 ½ teaspoon baking powder
 ½ teaspoon vanilla
 2 ounces cherries (I don't know if this was meant to be fresh or dried so will use what I usually have - dried)
 ½ cup nuts, chopped
 ½ cup flaked coconut

Mix these ingredients, spread over the baked crust and bake 25 minutes more. Cool.

Frosting—1 tablespoon butter and 1 cup powdered sugar. Spread on bars and sprinkle with coconut.

Now I would like to share a recipe given to me by friend, Colleen Reeves from back east. I've given you some of her recipes before and thought I would pass this one along because it's easy, adaptable to your tastes, and good!

STROMBOLI

2 cans Crescent rolls
 ¼ pound pepperoni
 ¼ pound ham
 ¼ pound provolone cheese
 1 jar roasted red peppers, drained and chopped
 3 eggs
 3 tablespoons Parmesan cheese

Make the bottom crust from ONE can of rolls.

Layer the meats and cheese.

Put peppers over meat and cheese.

Beat eggs with Parmesan cheese and put almost all egg mixture over peppers.

Roll out second crescent rolls and drizzle over egg mixture.

Pour or brush remaining egg mixture over top crust.

Pop into 350 degree preheated oven for 35 minutes. Cool for about 10 minutes and enjoy.

NOTE from Colleen: You can pretty well use any "filling" you prefer and even the amounts may vary. I like adding salami and mozzarella cheese, too, and/or saute green pepper and onions. I also like to heat up some Ragù spaghetti sauce to dip or pour over the stromboli just before we eat it. You can use whatever strikes your fancy to the original recipe above.

Now I'd like to give you a recipe that Bonnie, our dear friend and co-editor of WSEN, shared with me. Actually, she shared the actual salad with me and after eating every last bite, decided the least I could do was share her recipe!

SHRIMP AND MACARONI SALAD

Ingredients for 8 portions:

Dressing:

- 1 ¼ cups mayonnaise
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 2 teaspoons ketchup

¼ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

1 lemon, juiced

1 teaspoon salt, or to taste
cayenne to taste

The rest:

12-ounce package pasta shells

1-pound bay shrimp, or other small cooked shrimp, drained well

½ cup small diced red bell pepper

¾ cup diced celery

salt and pepper to taste

Bonnie didn't say but I would guess that you could make this up earlier than you need it for the company (or just yourself!), refrigerate it, and the flavors would blend nicely. I promise you, folks, this is a winner.

Now I have a recipe I use that has shrimp in it too, that is served hot, is easily put together and we happen to love it. I made a copy of it from somewhere, and put it in one of my many 3-ring notebooks but have no idea where the original came from.

SHRIMP PASTA BAKE

12 ounces uncooked vermicelli (I break mine in half before I cook it)

1 medium green pepper, chopped

5 green onions, chopped

6 garlic cloves, minced

6 tablespoons butter, cubed

12 tablespoons all-purpose flour

2 pounds de-veined peeled, cooked medium shrimp (I use the frozen tiny salad shrimp because I like the shrimp to hit me in every bite! They are

more of a pain to de-vein though!)

1 teaspoon celery salt

1/8 teaspoon pepper

1 pound processed cheese (Velveeta) cubed

1- 10 ounce can diced tomatoes and green chilies, drained (I use Rotel original)

1- 4 ounce can mushroom stems and pieces, drained

1 tablespoon grated Parmesan cheese

Cook vermicelli according to package directions. Meanwhile in a large skillet, saute the green pepper, onions and garlic in butter until tender. Gradually stir in the flour until blended. Stir in the shrimp, celery salt and pepper; cook, uncovered, over medium heat for 5-6 minutes or until heated through.

In a microwave-safe bowl, combine the processed cheese, tomatoes and mushrooms. Microwave, uncovered, on high for 3-4 minutes or until cheese is melted, stirring occasionally. Add to shrimp mixture. Drain vermicelli; stir into skillet.

Pour into a greased 13 inch x 9 inch baking dish. Sprinkle with the Parmesan cheese. Bake, uncovered at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes or until heated through. (The original recipe says it yields enough for 8 people butit depends on who you are feeding!)

Have a safe winter everyone. Enjoy cooking, eating, and living every moment to its fullest. Happy New Year and I'll talk to you next spring.

"You can tell a lot about a fellow's character by his way of eating jellybeans."—Ronald Reagan

"You better cut the pizza in four pieces because I'm not hungry enough to eat six."—Yogi Berra

A LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

August 2013 will be remembered for its sunny and warm days.

The high temperature for the month was 86 on the 2nd (78 on Aug. 14, '12, 72 on Aug. 12, '11, 82 on Aug. 3, '10, 83 on Aug. 4, '09, 73 on Aug. 08, '08 and 81 on Aug. 17, '07.) There were 8 days when the high was 80 or higher. The first freeze was on the 25th as the temperature fell to 30; this was enough to kill a few of the garden plants. There were 4 days when the low was 32 or below. The low temperature for the month was 28 on the 30th (26 on Aug. 29, '12, 28 on Aug. 29, '11, 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 56.4, compared to 53.1 in Aug. '12, 51.2 in Aug. '11, 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 2.68 inches, compared with 1.97 in Aug. '12, 2.51 inches in Aug. '11, 1.85 inches in Aug. '10, 3.64 inches in Aug.

'09, 4.17 inches in Aug. '08, 1.86 inches in Aug. '07. There were 20 days with a trace or more of rainfall recorded. The average precipitation for August (1984-2013) is 2.68 inches.

September 2013 will be remembered for the cloudy and wet days.

The high temperature at McCarthy was 65 on the 4th, 5th and 6th (69 on Sept 20th, '12, 67 on Sept. 13, '11, 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 25 on the 29th (22 on Sept. 30, '12, 16 on Sept. 27, '11, 18 on Sept. 25, '10, 14 on Sept. 29, '09, 22 on Sept. 25, '08 and 21 on Sept. 30, '07). There were 5 days with the high 60 or above and 1 day with the low of 25 or lower. The average monthly temperature at McCarthy was 45.2 (46.7 in Sept. '12, 44.1 in Sept. '11, 43.9 in Sept. '10, 44.2 in Sept. '09, 45.1 in Sept. '08, 44.6 in Sept. '07). This was about 11 degrees warmer than the record low of 34.3 in September 1992.

There was only a trace of snow recorded at McCarthy in September (00 in Sept. '12 and '11 , 4.0 in Sept. '10, 00 in Sept.

'09, 1.0 in Sept. '08, T in Sept. '07 and the record 29.5 in Sept. '00). The total precipitation for the month was 4.56 inches. The average for September (1984-2011) is 2.93 inches and compares with 1.64 inches in Sept. '12, 1.05 inches in Sept. '11, 1.82 inches in Sept. '10, 0.40 inches in Sept. '09, 2.18 inches in Sept.. '08, 4.76 inches in Sept. '07, and the record 10.82 inches in Sept. '00. There were 22 days with measurable rainfall, compared with 20 days in Sept. '12, 21 days in Sept. '11, 7 days in Sept. '10, 9 days in Sept. '09, 16 days in Sept. '08, 18 days in Sept. '07.

A few interesting weather facts for the summer of 2013. The highest temperature was 90 on Jun 25th, a new record. The old record was 88 recorded on July 9, '09. The high temperatures May thru August reached 80 or higher on 42 days (8 in '11, 9 in '10, 24 in '09, 2 in '08, 9 in '07, 2 in '06, 9 in '05 and 31 in '04). Total precipitation May thru August was 6.32 inches (9.31 in '12, 9.14 in '11, 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.

"Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It would be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end for they do so with the approval of their own conscience."—C. S. Lewis (1898-1963)

"There are more instances of the abridgment of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations." —James Madison

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

The paradox of the moose

BY RICK KENYON

When people think of wildlife in Alaska, they usually think of remote wilderness areas. Indeed, one of the main reasons usually given for preserving wilderness is to maintain wildlife habitat. People move in, animals move out. Right? I wonder.

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park is the largest national park in the United States. Although at one time some 4,000 people lived and worked in the area, since the 1940's it has been sparsely populated. Old-timers report that there were an abundance of moose at the peak of the mining activity and for 20 or so years after. But in a 1994 survey by National Park Service biologists, only 228 moose were found in a 400 square mile section of Unit 11. A survey of humans in the same area might find 40 or so inhabitants.

Although hunting is allowed in the park/preserve, last year hunters in Game Management Unit 11 (which includes much of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park) took only 35 moose, and few if any were killed by vehicles. Figures for this season are not in yet, but if the McCarthy area is any indication, the harvest will be even smaller.

By contrast, the Anchorage area is home to some half million people and an estimated population of 400 to 1,000 moose. Hunting has been banned in that area since 1976,

but not because of a limited number of animals. No one wants rifle bullets zinging past their homes in a metropolitan area, and the last archery hunt drew such negative media coverage that even it was stopped. Instead of moving out as the people moved in, the moose pop-

While Anchorage residents as well as visitors love to see moose, the cost in recent years has been high — both to the moose and to humans. Last year more than a dozen people were injured after being attacked by a moose or when their vehicle collided with one of the large ani-



WSEN staff photo

ulation has grown right alongside all of the development that comes with building a city. There were few reported moose in the area before the 1940's. As the "people population" grew during World War II, development and fires eliminated large tracts of mature forest. Moose began to increase as young willows and birch replaced the mature birch-spruce forest and have been increasing ever since.

One elderly man died as a result of a moose attack. According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the state Department of Transportation, an estimated \$3.5 million was lost to property damage, medical costs and missed work because of collisions between vehicles and moose.

On the moose side of the ledger, over 240 of the big animals were killed in collisions with vehicles and trains, 10 were exe-

cutted by Fish and Wildlife Protection troopers because the animals had killed or maimed people, or were considered to be a threat, and an untold number starved to death in the unusually deep snow in the Chugach State Park or on Anchorage Hillside. In spite of these grim statistics, one Anchorage resident who grew tired of moose grazing on his fenced garden and suggested reopening a hunting season received numerous death threats for his non politically correct proposal.

Moose are not the only big game animals that seem to thrive and multiply when in close proximity to people. A similar situation exists with caribou. The herd that frequents the North Slope area near the oil

rigs has prospered, tripling in number since the pipeline building days, while the Mentasta herd, in the Wrangell-St. Elias Park, has been in serious trouble in recent years. This herd has declined from a high of approximately 3,100 animals in 1985 to less than 900 in 1994. The state hunting season has been closed since 1989 and the federal subsistence season was closed in 1992. A recent study found that over 90% of the caribou calves were lost to wolves, but none of the federal or state managers has had the courage to suggest wolf control.

People had a good laugh when then Governor Walter Hickel said "you cannot let nature run wild," but he had a good point. Perhaps, at least un-

til we can find the political fortitude to return to sound game management policies, including predator control, the best thing for our game animals is a good dose of development. Maybe in a few years, as cabins spring up around McCarthy and new businesses proliferate, and as AHTNA continues to clear cut the beetle-killed spruce forests, we will again see moose in our yards rather than have to make a trip to Anchorage to view the critters.

Editor's note: reprinted from the November & December 1995 issue of WSEN. With all the recent local development, things may be improving. The photo in this story was taken in our yard just after moose season closed this year!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

In August, Federal Communications Commissioner Ajit Pai visited Alaska to gain a better understanding of rural telecommunications. Copper Valley Telecom representatives, including myself, staff and board members, met with the Commissioner and showed him our state-of-the-art communications network.

The FCC has recently adopted a series of sweeping regulatory changes that reduce funding for the construction and maintenance of fiber optic, microwave, and wireless systems in Alaska. These are the components that allow you and your neighbors to have fast Internet, reliable wireless service, and landline telephones. The FCC's reasoning for these changes is based on flawed data which irrationally concludes

that construction in Alaska is 46% less expensive than in the Lower 48!

It is difficult for decision makers who live in Washington DC to understand the complexities and expense of maintaining a network in these remote areas. Therefore, it was extremely beneficial for Commissioner Pai to come to Alaska to see, in person, the extreme distances, terrain, and weather that drive our costs. During his stay, Commissioner Pai toured Copper Valley Telecom's Valdez network hub and saw remote cell and microwave sites at Shoup Bay and Tatitlek. It is my hope that the Commissioner's experiences in Alaska will inform his future decisions.

I encourage you all, as residents of rural Alaska, to take the following steps to help retain funding for communications ser-

VICES that you use and depend upon.

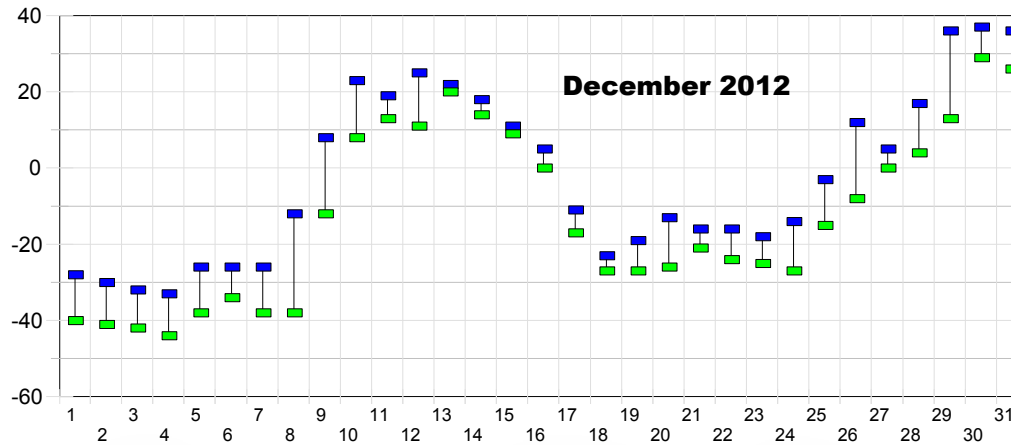
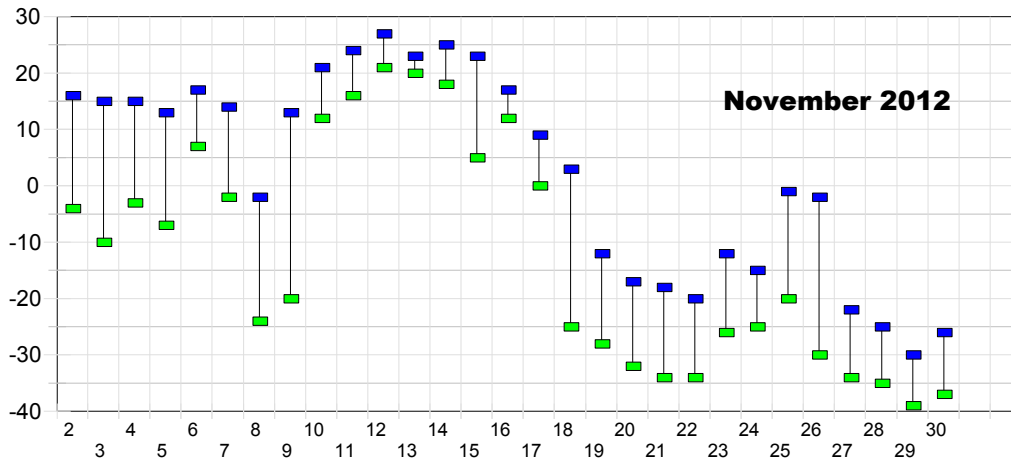
Contact our Congressional delegation and thank them for their tireless bipartisan work to keep federal funding for rural Alaska telecommunications. Representative Don Young, Senator Lisa Murkowski, and Senator Mark Begich have worked together on behalf of our state.

Stay informed about FCC actions and decisions impacting funding of rural telecommunications by reading our newsletter that comes in your statement each month and logging onto www.fcc.gov.

Sincerely,

Dave Dengel

Chief Executive Officer, Copper Valley Telecom/Copper Valley Wireless



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