

# Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" - Thomas Jefferson

VOL. TWO ISSUE FIVE

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 1993

ONE DOLLAR

## Harvest time



WSEN staff photo

Publisher Bonnie Kenyon looks pleased with bounty from the Wrangell St. Elias News garden. Long, warm summer made for record crops. The News is published and printed in this log cabin, 2 miles southwest of McCarthy.

In This Issue

**Spruce  
Bark  
Beetles &  
what to do  
about them!**



**King Floyd**

part four  
What happened at the meeting

**OUR TOWN**  
September & October 1918



# Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

**Terry and Dee Frady:** The Fradys report an excellent season for their Willow Herb Mountain Depot gift shop. They have decided to take a short vacation the latter part of September and visit Terry's parents in North Carolina. I'm not sure we can spare them, however. It seems as long as the road remains open, Terry's expertise on tire changes and repairs are needed! By June 30 he had done 30 repairs and is averaging 1 1/2 tires a day. Whew! Guess he deserves a vacation!

**Jim and Pat Edwards:** July started off with plenty of excitement for the Edwards as well as for Jim's



stepmother, **Elizabeth (Beth) Edwards** of Newberg, Oregon. Jim, wanting to do something special for Beth, flew to Newberg the latter part of June in his RV-4. Knowing Beth would have a difficult time traveling the 1500 miles (one way) in his small homebuilt, Jim leased a larger plane to bring her up and back in comfort. The flight to McCarthy was made in one day with excellent weather. Says Beth, "I surely enjoyed and appreciated the personal tour and flight I had with Jim both ways and the great time I had with him and Pat at their home. Visiting McCarthy on mail day was a special treat after hearing about it so many years."

**Rick and Bonnie Kenyon:** Speaking of special visitors to the area, Rick and Bonnie were delighted to



meet **Inger and Charlie Ricci**. Inger lived in Kennicott until she was 13 years old, went off to high school, then returned to Kennicott to work. She left the year the mine closed down. Inger and Charlie return to this area periodically. This July they drove their truck/camper in and stayed a couple of days. In fact, Rick and Bonnie were on their way to the tram, when they noticed the Ricci vehicle parked just off the McCarthy Road. Wondering if the couple needed some help they stopped to inquire. Sure enough, Charlie said his camper door was stuck and could use some help getting it open. What a surprise to finally meet **Inger and Charlie** of whom they had corresponded with and heard so much about!

**Bill Wright:** Bill came to McCarthy July 1st to manage the McCarthy General Store for owner, Paul Goetzman. He is from Rochester, Minnesota. Bill also oversees the rental of two rustic rooms behind the store. On display in the office/store is a 1200 lb. jail cell—a museum piece from South Dakota. They hope to have it fully set up for inspection next year. (I hope it never gets used!!)

**Claude Adams:** Claude is the oldest brother of John Adams and

Betty Hickling. He is from Eagle River but visited McCarthy and his family out here July 6 through August 19. Claude proudly announced his 12 year old grandson, **Branden**, and 10 year old granddaughter, **Amanda**, were also visiting from Rockford, Illinois. They all had a grand time doing the Ridge Ride and sampling brother John's horse rides.

**Crystal Jacobs:** A new face has been seen around town this summer. Crystal came to McCarthy from California and has been working for Chris Richards of Kennicott-McCarthy Wilderness Guides. Even though she has visited Alaska before, this is her first trip to McCarthy. According to Crystal, her job with Chris has been an advantage in getting to know everyone and she has enjoyed the opportunity.

**Jenny Carroll:** Jenny reports she is recovering just fine from a kidney infection which landed her in an Anchorage hospital. "It slowed me down, but I needed that," says Jenny.

**Nancy Cook, Tracy Ross, and Liz Maloney:** These three young ladies have a couple of things in common. All worked in McCarthy for the summer. Nancy at the Old Hardware Store, Tracy at Tailor Made Pizza, and Liz at Copper Oar. All three will meet again. This time in Crested Butte, Colorado, this winter. Unknowingly each signed up to take a Wilderness EMT course. According to Nancy, "We'll be better equipped to take care of emergencies."

**Ben, Marci, Gaia and Ardea Thurston/Shaine:** The whole family has just returned from an extended vacation to France. We're hoping to get a trip report from them. In the meantime, welcome home!

Visiting family members: I started to keep track of all the various relatives that came visiting their kinfolk in our town, but, to tell you the truth, I finally gave up! Too many names and places! It wasn't just residents receiving visitors but also a lot of employees found time to excitedly showed their parents, etc. around the area. Sounds like everyone had a great time!

**Kirk, Lisa, Svea and Kira Gordon/Olsen:** An example of one family receiving relatives...Lisa's parents, Phil and Chris Gordon from Warwick, New York, have been visiting. Phil didn't have to talk long to convince Lisa that what she needed was a 8 hp. chipper/shredder to clean up her piles of debris around the homestead. He and Chris even went to Anchorage, picked it up for Lisa, then delivered it right to her doorstep. What service! Rick and I asked if we could get a demonstration of this handy piece of machinery. When we arrived, Lisa and her dad were busy at work making sawdust paths for her garden. Lisa handed each of us a pair of goggles, ear protectors (we were told to bring our own gloves), and pointed to the brush pile. In no time we had a full bag of wood chips. Congratulations, Lisa, and when you run out of brush piles at your place, just come on over and work on ours!



**Samone Khouangsathiene:** Samone was an employee of Jim and Jeannie Miller. Before leaving earlier this month, she worked at Tailor Make Pizza, preparing delicious pizzas.



Samone's father, Mouane, came to visit McCarthy and accompany his daughter back to Des Moines, Iowa, where Mouane is the pastor of Union Park Baptist Church. The church is made up mostly of Asian people. Samone and Mouane are themselves Laotian. While here, Mouane (pronounced Moon) sampled some local flightseeing, a glacier walk, and attended a Sunday morning Bible study at the Kenyon residence.

**Jim and Jeannie Miller:** Speaking of Tailor Made Pizza...it's open for business! The pizza is great and so is the ice cream. Just don't expect to get Almond Praline unless you get there as soon as Jim delivers the groceries. Welcome home to Stacie, who has been in Republic, Wash. visiting family and working. Jeannie's mom came along for a visit. We extend our deepest sympathy to the Millers over the recent loss of Jeannie's dad.

**Thom, Cate, and Frances Bursch:** The Bursch family has left fish camp at Pilot Point and set up camp in Anchorage while they await the arrival

of another "baby" Bursch! Cate is due anytime. According to a recent letter from Cate dated August 24, baby had not yet arrived. However, she reports all is well so far, so they expect a healthy birth. Cate promises to clutter the community as soon as he/she decides to make an entrance. We are eagerly awaiting that clatter, Cate! Although we missed seeing Cate's parents, Pat and Marilyn Maloney, they were in Alaska visiting Cate and family as well as Liz, Cate's sister, who is working for Copper Oar. Thom's mom was also up seeing the area once again.

**Meg Hunt/Ed LaChapelle:** Meg and Ed were over to see the Kenyons for their annual propane purchase. In questioning Meg as to any summer projects she and Ed are involved in, she informed us that they are redoing a third cabin on their property into "a guest cabin for their guest cabin." The floor has been painted and a skylight to let in extra light is planned as well. David LaChapelle, Ed's son from Juneau is due to arrive soon. He always gets top priority on guest cabin #1 and soon he'll have room to invite his friends!

**Andy Shidner:** When Andy isn't brewing coffee at Clear Creek Coffee Company, he can be found building a log cabin on his property. Using 3 sided logs that he brought in this last fall, Andy is making good headway. We look forward to getting a picture of the finished product and sharing it with our readers!

**Mike and Julie Truskowski:** Summer visitors to our area, Mike and Julie are moving in with style. A semi-truck loaded with whole, unpeeled logs from Sapa Farms was seen in the local area. We finally discovered who they belonged to--the Truskowskis. Mike and Julie are school teachers in Hooper Bay during the winter months and usually have to leave here around the 3rd week of August.

# CVTC says September service possible

At a town meeting after mail on July 23, 1993, Jim Gifford and Scott L. Smith, General Manager of Copper Valley Telephone Coop brought us up-to-date on the status of telephone service for the McCarthy/Kennicott area.

"We've had a lot of questions, and I think there has been a lot of confusion that has come out of our organization, too, in terms of answers," said Smith. "We want to be sure that everybody understands the processes that we have gone through to date."

Smith said that one of the first things the coop had to do was to file a very comprehensive plan with the Public Service Commission that would extend their certified area to include the McCarthy area. Some of the things they had to include in the plan were the type of equipment to be used, the proposed tariff, how many people have signed up, etc. According to Smith, the commission likes to see that the plan has a reasonable economic base to it, that it is feasible.

Site selection is next on the list, and Gifford and Smith looked at several options before the meeting. One of the requirements is that power must be available to the site. Another consideration is aesthetics, they don't want a huge satellite dish in the middle of town. The sites originally selected were not able to be purchased by the coop. They will talk to the Dunnings about a site behind the steel warehouse, near McCarthy Creek. Several residents mentioned the possibility of flooding in that area, and Smith said they would take that into consideration.

Smith stressed that CVTC is a coop, rather than a company owned by outside interests. He reminded the community that they were responding to requests, rather than trying to enlarge their own business.

Next step would be actual installation of the equipment.

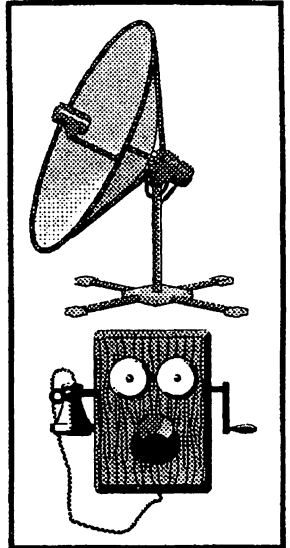
Smith said they will use a mix of "hard wired" equipment and radio connections. He said

that the frequencies available for radio links are limited, and initially they would only have 4 different channels.

Theoretically, 4 channels can serve 60-80 people, so the FCC might be reluctant to issue any more than that number for use in our area. The problem, according to Smith, is that the number of busy signals becomes unacceptable with such a limited number of channels, so they prefer to use copper wire rather than radio signals whenever possible.

Smith said the plan had been filed about July 1. It has a comment period of 45 days, and another phone company could possibly contest the filing. If that happened, a hearing would have to be held to determine who would provide the service. In a sense, the coop is gambling on approval by bringing in equipment before getting approval.

CVTC proposes to charge \$14.00 per access line per month and \$18.00 per access line per month for business service. This will be added to a



Basic Telephone Radio Service charge of \$26.65 per month.

If the plan is approved and the site can be obtained, CVTC will start installation in September. A "temporary" installation could be made even in the winter, and the cables could be buried next summer.

# KCHU to broadcast from Fireweed Mountain

BY ED LACHAPPELLE

Work is proceeding apace with installation of the promised KCHU translator for the McCarthy area. This will provide local, high quality FM reception for a popular radio station heretofore available only on AM with varying success, depending on each listener's ingenuity in rigging a good antenna. KCHU, the public radio station and National Public Radio outlet for Prince William Sound and the Copper River Basin, is located in Valdez. The McCarthy

translator project is part of a larger expansion for KCHU which will also include a much more powerful FM translator located on Tolsona Ridge to serve the entire Basin.

The translator will be located on the shoulder of Fireweed Mountain, just above Swift Creek and the McCarthy Road. Space for installation has been donated by local property owner Juergen Ogrodnik, whose cabin site turned out to be an ideal location determined by transmission tests earlier this summer. In the best bush tradition of "trades," Ogrodnik has granted permission for the

installation in return for access to the excess power generated by the photovoltaic system supporting operation of the translator. Juergen is looking forward to electric lights in his cabin this fall!

As this issue of the News goes to press, an installation crew is at work installing the solar power system and antenna tower. The final package of electronics will be hooked up this fall and the translator will be on the air as soon thereafter as the necessary legalities can be completed with the Federal Communication Commission. This will be state of the art

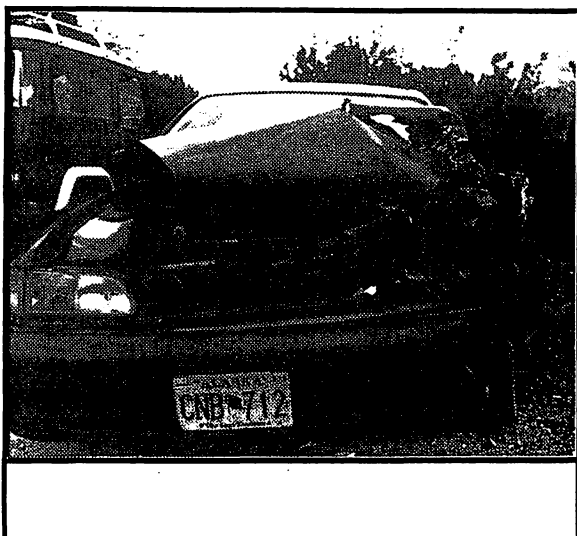
equipment with sophisticated timers and remote monitoring equipment to allow optimum use of solar power throughout much of the year. The system is being designed by electronics engineer Lee Santoro of Fairbanks.

"Tomorrow is Labor Day. I suppose set by act of Congress. How Congress knew anything about labor is beyond me."  
--Will Rogers

## Hunter trapped under ice

Twin brothers on a sheep hunt were caught under tons of ice at the base of Barnard Glacier on Monday, August 16. Mike Phelps managed to work his way out from under the ice, but was unsuccessful in locating his twin brother

Marty. Although he was injured, Mike managed to hike for 12 hours to get help. On Tuesday, Air National Guard pararescuers searched the scene for Marty Phelps, but didn't find any sign of the missing hunter.



## 3 injured in head-on collision

A Jeep Cherokee collided with a late model Toyota near the "mud-slide bridge" at mile 58 of the McCarthy Road about 5 p.m. on July 3. Two Montana men had been in McCarthy for the day and were returning to Chitina when their rented vehicle struck the Cherokee which was headed for McCarthy. Three people suffered apparently minor injuries in the accident. The driver of the Toyota suffered a deep cut on the head, apparently caused by his eyeglasses, which were smashed by the airbag when it deployed upon impact.

Local help was summoned on the CB radio. A local resident who is a nurse, Dee Frady, was one of the first people on the scene. Gina Moldovan, a doctor, also offered her services. According to Dee, the local response was very encouraging. Mike Kang, Matt Hambrick, and Andy Shidner were among those who helped out at the scene.

The Cherokee had 5 people headed to McCarthy from Anchorage. They met the Toyota at the top of a small hill, and their vehicle came to rest with one wheel over the 100 foot embankment.

## Virginian dies in raft accident

A search was begun on June 28 for Virginian Peter Kysar in the Skolai Pass and White River area. Peter had started his hike on June 12 and planned to hike the headwaters of the White River and raft downstream to the Alaska Highway in Canada, a total trip of about 120 miles. After an intensive 4-day search, Peter's body was found along the banks of the White River at the foot of the Russell Glacier only about 15 miles from where he had started his trip. His raft had apparently capsized.

Participating in the search were at least 17 people on the ground, tow search dogs, two NPS airplanes, two light helicopters, and administrative support in Gulkana. Also involved were two aircraft from the Alaska Air National Guard — an HH-60 Pavehawk and an HC-130 refueling and communications airplane. Canadian aircraft from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police also joined the search.

(from NPS squad notes, July 7, 1993)

## Lawsuit prompts land survey

BY ED LACHAPPELLE

In the latest development of the McCarthy airport reconstruction saga, the State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has sued local property owners Laurence Barrett, Tony Zak and the University Lands Office to acquire additional lands adjacent to the present airstrip. These owners donated extensive acreage to the State in the mid-1960's to facilitate construction of the current airstrip. The State asserts that additional acreage is required to meet FAA design criteria, including air navigation easements adjacent to the runway proper. Barrett and Zak have joined in a legal challenge to this action.

In order to establish exact boundaries of the lands involved, a survey was conducted during the week of August 9-15 by Rich Givens, an Alaska Registered Surveyor, and an assistant, with additional help from local resident Ed LaChapelle. The boundaries of the original Barrett homestead were traced and a number of the original survey monuments recovered. New survey reference points were established throughout the area and tied to these monuments as well as to a number of street intersections within the McCarthy townsite. Using a laser distance ranger and a computer, Givens was able to connect the early survey monuments to the airstrip and townsite with the high degree of precision of a modern survey. It is anticipated that this survey work will be a valuable aid to Barrett and Zak in their defense against DOT's condemnation suits.

## Correction

In "A Final Farewell to Ernest Peterkin" in our last issue of Wrangell St. Elias News, we failed to mention Mr. Peterkin was also survived by an 8 year old daughter. Her name is Casandra Rose Pannell-Peterkin of Anchorage.

We extend our apology to the Peterkin family for this oversight. A special thanks to Tim Mischel for calling this to our attention.

# The Feds are here (sort of)

BY RANDY ELLIOTT

On July 19, 1993, McCarthy played host to some of the biggest guns in the National Park Service planning department. The party included Denis Galvin, who is the Chief of Planning for the NPS nationally. From Denver were Cal Cooper, acting Director of the NPS Service Center there, and Mike Spratt and Dave Laux. Spratt and Laux had been the immediate supervisors of our former facilitator Laura Rotegard. From Alaska was Paul Haertel, the Associate Regional Director for the NPS, and Karen Wade, Superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias.

It was a lightning visit since Mr. Galvin, and Mr. Cooper were leaving for Kotzebue in the morning to evaluate another proposed addition to the NPS system.

Rumors have been flying as to when and if the NPS acquisition of Kennecott might become reality, and Wrangell St. Elias News was anxious to obtain a first hand opinion from the Park Service. Buying something as eclectic as Kennecott is anything but straightforward for the NPS and Ms. Wade quickly established that this visit was merely to familiarize Mr. Galvin and Mr. Cooper with the project. The NPS therefore declined to be interviewed, but Mr. Haertel of the Regional office provided some background information to help answer some of the questions in the local area.

The idea to join this unique property to the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park has its origin outside of the NPS. In fact, the current owners of the surface buildings, the Great Kennicott Land Company, and the current owners of the underground rights, the

Kennecott Copper Corporation would like to donate, trade, or sell their interests for something more liquid or useful. There aren't many takers for a property of this size and complexity but almost anyone could see that someone in the tourist related industry would be the logical buyer – or the Park Service. NPS is still trying to understand what they would be getting into if they accept the terms of the

often occurs with a property like Kennicott which is already the focus of a lot of tourist interest, and therefore voter interest. Since they must have a plan of management for the property whether they buy it through internal sources or not, the NPS conducts a study in most cases to determine the suitability of the site and the overall scope of work needed to bring the new land into the park system.

if they wish. He had to come and see it for himself to be honest with them. The others were here to help him with the documentation he will need to complete the presentation. If successful, the money for a real study would be included in the 1984 budget for the Department of the Interior.

So who pays for this junket? The Denver federal office. It's their end of the country, and their responsibility to organize the budget requests, assisted by the Alaska regional office and the local office staff.

For those of you wondering where Laura has gotten to, she received a promotion. She is Assistant Superintendent of the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, New York. Congratulations, Laura. Her successor will be named when and if funding is obtained by Mr. Galvin. That person will pick up where she left off using her reports and notes.

The eventual result of all this scrutiny and committee work will be a coordinated plan to bring tourists safely down the road, and house and guide them while they are seeing the millsite on the hill.

So why is the NPS cleaning up the site and surveying the adits prior to blowing them closed with dynamite etc., if this is all preliminary? They aren't. The two owners are doing all of the improvements in order to make the trade acceptable to the NPS whose criteria won't allow assimilation of a potential Superfund site into the largest park in their system. Superintendent Wade has promised to let us know when the real study will commence should they obtain funding.



## Babbitt stays away from largest park

On Wednesday, August 11, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt arrived in Anchorage for a three-week statewide tour. "I'm here as a student. I want to see every inch of this state," he told reporters when he got off the plane. Although Wrangell-St. Elias National Park is the nation's largest, Secretary Babbitt did not include its 13 million acres in his itinerary. We asked local residents to comment at mail day:

"I don't think he can see every square inch of Alaska – three weeks is not enough time."

"It sounds to me like our dear Secretary would like to see

every square inch, but he doesn't intend to see every square inch."

"He has three weeks? Then there's no excuse. Let's spend the money and fly him here."

"It's typical though. When they formed these parks, Secretary of the Interior Andrus came to Selby Lake up on the Kobuk, and it took helicopters, Widgeons, wheel-planes, float planes; they brought generators, all kinds of stuff. So I'm glad he's not going to see every inch of the state, because we can't afford it!"

"Sounds like a typical government deal to me! That's all I can say. It doesn't surprise me."

proposal. They also want to have an idea what it would cost to operate the site as a tourist destination if it does join the park.

Surprisingly, proposals like this happen all the time to the NPS. Equally surprising is that sometimes the NPS is given some property like Kennicott and it is paid for by some other government agency. This most

A study like that costs money – sometimes a lot of money. Since the lands in question aren't part of the park yet they aren't really covered by current park budget and a source of funding must be found for the work. That's what Mr. Galvin does. He will now present a budget request to Congress and they will ask him questions about Kennicott

# First K'ELT'AENI issue published

BY RICK KENYON

The first issue of K'elt'aeni is off the presses. The four page, newspaper style publication is published by the National Park Service for distribution to visitors of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The editor is Margie Steigerwald, the Interpretive Specialist for NPS in Glennallen.

According to the publication, "The name K'elt'aeni is the Ahtna Athabaskan word for Mount Wrangell, the only active volcano in the Wrangell Mountains. Ahtna speakers say that the name K'elt'aeni (or K'elt'aenn in the Upper dialect) is difficult to translate. It seems to mean 'The One That Controls' i.e. that controls the weather."

The front page feature article is by Wrangell-St. Elias Superintendent Karen Wade, and welcomes visitors to the park. "Whether your visit to

Wrangell-St. Elias consists of looking upon this mountain kingdom from a distant road, valley vestibule or aircraft, you can be one of the very first to experience the largest (13 million acres) of all U.S. parklands as a Park visitor," writes Wade. "As more people come to this remote region, the National Park Service will begin to examine the need for and means of providing improved visitor access and increased recreational opportunities. Ever mindful that these ecosystems are fragile and that true wilderness places are becoming more and more scarce," she continues. "Park managers will need the counsel and advice of those who are experiencing the area as it is today. After all, you are the people who have entrusted us with these stewardship responsibilities."

Another article by Superintendent Wade is called "What next for Kennicott?" In it she describes the steps being

taken by both NPS and the owners of the 3,000 acre property to "eliminate obstacles to possible Congressional action which could result in federal acquisition." She says that NPS has requested funding "to study alternatives for management and operation of the site, options for future stabilization of historic structures, and issues related to the affects of public access through private land and protection of surrounding community values."

There are articles on hunting and fishing, bears, hypothermia, mountaineering, river crossings, and other recreational opportunities in the park.

Four bus service companies are listed, as well as 16 air taxis that are licensed to operate in the park. The section on Lodging says that "There are a few backcountry (fly-in) lodges in the Park. Contact Park headquarters for a listing." Curiously absent, however, is

any mention of the Kennicott Glacier Lodge or the McCarthy Lodge. Also missing is any reference to the Silver Lake Campground located at mile 11 on the McCarthy Road.

The section on camping contains a section that should make McCarthy area landowners happy. In past years, Park Service handouts have told visitors that camping was allowed at the end of the McCarthy Road, near the tram. K'elt'aeni points out that camping in this area, which is privately owned, is in trespass. "A better alternative campsite on Park land is located approximately one mile before the tram. There is a small road leading north toward the Kennicott Glacier. There are a number of primitive campsites at the end of the road."

K'elt'aeni will be welcome reading for area visitors. Congratulations to Editor Steigerwald and the staff for a very nice publication!

# It just depends on how you look at it

BY RICK KENYON

Recently, the National Park Service has been trying to draw boundaries around 18 communities in the Copper River Basin. These 18 communities were named in 1981 as "resident zone" communities, or communities which have traditionally used the land that had become in 1980 the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Congress said that although they wanted to create Wrangell-St. Elias Park, they also wanted to preserve the rights of people who lived in the park, or in the communities or areas near the park, to hunt, fish, or gather. They called this right "subsistence." They not only acknowledged the right of Alaskan rural residents to subsistence uses, they went

further and said that "the continuation of the opportunity for subsistence uses by rural residents of Alaska ... is essential to ... physical, economic, traditional, and social existence." (ANILCA, Title VIII 801 (1)) Clearly more than a privilege granted by

them live inside the proposed boundaries. The rest live outside the boundaries, and if the proposed regulation is put into effect, these residents will lose their rights to "subsistence" uses of park lands. (Unless they can obtain a special permit from the superintendent. These

of the proposed boundaries, it looks like a loss. No more hunting, fishing, trapping, or berry picking in the park. The right to use the land for "consumptive uses" will be terminated.

But what does the same thing look like to the people who proposed the boundaries? In a letter to Senator Ted Stevens, dated July 1, 1993, NPS Alaska Regional Director John Morehead had this to say: "The boundaries of the communities are being delineated on maps at this time to protect the subsistence privileges of the community or area originally identified as having customary and traditional subsistence use of park lands." (emphasis added)

**Right:** Something that is due to a person by law, tradition, or nature.

**Privilege:** A special advantage, immunity, permission, right, or benefit granted to or enjoyed by an individual, class, or caste.

(American Heritage Dictionary)

government.

The boundaries that NPS proposed for the McCarthy resident zone enclose an area of approximately 150-200 acres. Of the 35 to 50 people who call McCarthy "home", perhaps 4 of

special permits have in the past been accompanied by long lists of very restrictive regulations, in effect making them useless.)

So, from the point of view of the 90% of the McCarthy area residents who live outside

# The spruce bark beetle problem

BY RUTH CLASEN MACDONALD

Fall is the time to do something about your spruce bark beetle problems. If left unattended, the adults will emerge in the spring to infest more of your spruce. This article will help provide information on how the beetles work, things you can do to minimize the damage and spread of the beetle, and where to get more help.

## The spruce bark beetle

It helps to know how the spruce beetle does its damage by knowing its life cycle and habits. Spruce beetles attack only spruce. They begin their damage in May, when the temperature reaches 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The adult beetles leave their host tree, fly to another spruce, and bore under the bark. The females excavate galleries and lay their eggs. The larvae hatch (generally in August) and feed, making feeding galleries that branch out at right angles to the larger egg galleries. Enough of these will girdle and kill the tree. The larvae pupate generally in the second year, and emerge as adults, ready to attack and start the cycle again. A two year cycle is common in South Central Alaska (less for warmer areas). Many generations may inhabit a tree if there is enough food. In downed timber, beetles winter over in their galleries. In standing timber, adults may emerge and crawl down to the litter line to hibernate.

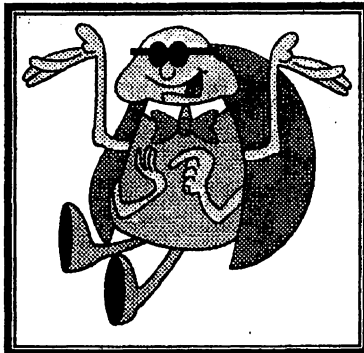
## Is my lot in danger?

You need to check your lot for the conditions that spruce beetles prefer. Each of the following increases the likelihood that you will or are dealing with a spruce beetle problem.

1. Dense spruce stands--basal area of 150 sq. ft./acre or more.
2. Pure spruce stands--65% or more spruce.

3. Ornamental spruce stands--white or sitka, etc.
4. Downed spruce--most spruce beetles exist in downed trees and only move to standing timber when their numbers reach epidemic proportions due to abundant breeding material and favorable weather conditions.
5. Weakened or diseased spruce.
6. Large diameter, slow growth spruce--larger than 16" individual or 12" average for a stand.
7. Spruce stands growing in well drained creek bottoms.

Healthy trees are more resistant to attack. Young trees are generally not threatened due to their lack of food for the beetles and their ability to produce an overabundance of sap where the beetle attacks.



## Am I under attack?

If you have a lot of the above mentioned conditions you may already be under siege. Look for the following signs:

1. Reddish brown boring dust around entrance holes, on the bark, and in crevices, at eye level or below or on the ground.
2. Reddish brown opaque globules of pitch and boring dust in the same areas.
3. A lot of woodpecker activity.

To find out how long you have been under siege look for these signs:

1. This season--needles will still be green
2. Last season--needles may be yellow or bright red. Beetle larvae, pupae, and adults are present under the bark.
3. 2 seasons ago--no needles or twigs. Reddish brown in overall color. No larvae under bark, though some adults may be present.
4. 3 or more seasons ago--Tree will be dead. Will have loose bark with beetle trails on underside. No live spruce beetles present. Other decomposing beetles and larvae may be present.

## What can I do?

If you find you are under attack, the following procedures are recommended by the Forest Service and USDA.

Harvest and remove downed and attacked trees during the fall or early May. Debark or fire-scorch immediately upon felling. The wood is still good to use as firewood or lumber.

Stumps should not extend above ground. If so, debark to 2 inches below the soil line.

Firewood should be harvested in the fall, delimbed, cut into short lengths, and left unshaded, unstacked, and exposed to sunlight to dry out. Or, you can stack it loosely for maximum circulation to dry over winter. Dry wood discourages beetles and dries out larvae. It is recommended that you store only enough firewood for a single winter's use, since the beetles can move from your woodpile to the surrounding trees in the spring.

Already seasoned wood is no threat, since there is no food in the dry wood to attract the beetles.

Dead trees are also not a threat. The creatures you may see under the bark are natural decomposers. You may fell the tree or leave it standing for use by wildlife.

Trap trees are trees with a diameter greater than 18" that are felled green before beetle flight in the



spring. Downed trees absorb 10 times the number of spruce beetles as standing timber. The felled trees should be shaded from sunlight to maximize beetle attraction. Leave the limbs on for shade and to keep the cooler underside off the ground, where the beetles like to colonize. You can increase the number of beetles by spraying attracting pheromones on the tree. Once infested, the tree must be removed and destroyed.

Lethal trap trees are injected with a silvicide while standing, then felled.

Pheromones sprayed on trees can attract or discourage entrance. A female anti-aggregating pheromone is currently being tested in Glennallen, but it may not yet be approved by the EPA. Contact your local Forest Service for more information.

## How can I protect my healthy trees?

Maintaining the health and vigor of your trees will make them more

resistant to attack. If you have a large forested lot you may have to select your most valued trees and concentrate your efforts on them by using some of the following suggestions.

1. Thin your lot to reduce competition for sun, water and soil nutrients.
2. Prune lower branches on full crowned trees in the fall, no more than 1/3 the total height of the tree. Remove and dispose of the branches.
3. Water and fertilize early in the spring. A fertilizer high in phosphorous such as 8-32-16 is suggested. Use one pound of fertilizer per inch of tree diameter. Water and fertilize the root zone well.
4. Spray trees not yet attacked with a registered spruce beetle insecticide in the spring before the adult beetles emerge. This has provided 100% protection for 2 years. Contact the Forest Service for more information.

## 5. Plant or encourage young trees.

This article was compiled from the following publications. I recommend getting the first one for yourself.

SPRUCE BARK BEETLES  
CONTROL OPTIONS FOR THE  
HOME OWNER  
Cooperative Extension Service  
University of Fairbanks and USDA  
cooperating publication number  
100G-0-067

SPRUCE BARK BEETLES IN  
FIREWOOD FACT SHEET  
Alaska Department of Natural  
Resources  
Feb. 1992

LEAFLET 127  
"THE SPRUCE BEETLE"  
US Department of Agriculture and  
Forestry

"BEET THE BEETLES" VIDEO

# The price of doing nothing

As the spruce bark beetle continues its march across Southcentral Alaska, devouring millions of acres of public and private forests, the price of doing nothing to combat the infestation or at least capture the economic value of dying trees is alarming.

With environmentalists, the forest products industry, federal, state and local governments and private landowners locked in disagreement on how to respond to the ravages of the beetle, little has been done to check the assault on Southcentral and Interior forests or to harvest infested trees. Few people recognize the extent of the beetle epidemic and the magnitude of the associated economic losses.

In the last three years alone, over 1.2 million acres of trees have been infested and 5.5 billion board feet of timber destroyed, according to Terry Brady, owner of Alaska Husky Wood. This equates to \$1.6 billion in direct product loss in three years and \$2.4

billion in lost opportunity cost to the Alaska economy, assuming an economic multiplier of 1.5.

"The value of the already dead timber surpasses that of salmon landings for the same period and is many times over the Alaska Permanent Fund dividends paid to state residents," said Brady. The Permanent Fund analogy is important, Brady pointed out, when one realizes that those dividends are paid from "interest" earned by liquidating state nonrenewable resources, while the timber lost is value lost from the "principal" of a renewable resource, a value that can be returned over and over again.

Preliminary estimates are that the beetle will damage more than 1.2 million acres this season, bringing the total to approximately 2.5 million acres of infested forest since 1990. The beetle is consuming timber on federal, state, municipal and private lands that, in the opinion of forest engineers, are

accessible for timber harvesting and other forest management activities.

"Alaskans deserve healthy forests that contribute jobs, recreation opportunities, fish and wildlife habitat and clean water," Brady said. "Most of these forest benefits will be lost for several generations if the present trend continues."

The quarter-inch bark beetle is now killing trees at a rate so spectacular that in less than 10 years more wood is being lost to the beetle than is being harvested in 50 years in the Tongass National Forest to serve the two long-term timber sale contracts for the pulp mills in Sitka and Ketchikan.

"There is an unprecedented and growing emergency within the forests," warned Brady. "This emergency must be recognized, declared and acted on with haste, no less than if the forests were already burning."

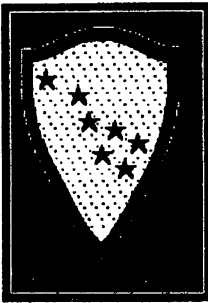
(from Resource Review, August 1993)

# Who owns the Denali Park Road?

Alaska Sen. Frank Murkowski has asked the congressional watchdog agency, the General Accounting Office, to look into the growing dispute about who actually owns the right-of-way to the Denali Park Road.

Murkowski Aug. 1 verbally asked the GAO to start work on a report to determine ownership of the right-of-way of the 90-mile road that leads through Denali National Park to Kantishna. He followed up with a written request for the study.

The formal request comes after the National Park Service has started issuing citations by mail to some of the 30 people in 11 vehicles, who drove the park road without a permit for a Forth of July picnic in Kantishna. The picnic was an organized protest by members of the Alaska Reclamation Crew that believes that the state owns the road, and not the federal government.



"The timing of issuance of the citations is just unbelievable. It does little good to issue citations five weeks after the incident, but worse they appear to be being sent almost on the eve of the visit by the Secretary of the Interior to Alaska," said Murkowski, noting that people started receiving them earlier this week, as Secretary Bruce Babbitt prepared to leave for a tour of the state.

"This is such a sensitive issue right now given that Alaskans do have a valid right to improved access to Denali for tourism and other uses.

Especially with the growing debate about ownership of the park road, until the right-of-way issue is more settled, the citations' issuance is most untimely," said Murkowski.

"It is curious that only two of the 30 people, so far, seem to have received citations," said Murkowski, who added that he

intends to ask the Park Service for an explanation of its enforcement procedures.

The senator said he has asked the GAO to take an independent look at claims that the park road is actually owned by the state and not the federal government, since there is an indication that the government filed a quitclaim deed on the road in 1959 at the time of Alaska's statehood. The National Park Service argues it owns and controls the road and its right-of-way since it lies inside a national park.

Murkowski has been working for several years to encourage the park service to improve access inside the park, improve the park road to handle more traffic and build a new road to improve access to the northern reaches of the park and Kantishna, possibly along the right-of-way of the old Stampede Trail. The Park Service is currently finishing a study of road access issues in



Denali—a study mandated by Murkowski legislation passed last year.

Murkowski also has been pushing the Park Service to follow the terms of the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act that requires access to be granted for valid, existing claims in the park, including the issuance of permits for activities.

There have been disputes for years between the Park Service and miners in the Kantishna area over the issuance of permits for operation of their mining claims.

Murkowski said he intends to hold public hearings late this year, after the tourism-mining season has ended, to take public testimony on the access-permit issue in both Anchorage and Fairbanks.

(from Murkowski Weekly Wrapup, Aug. 13, 1993)

# Who owns the Chisana Airport?

We received the following letter concerning the Chisana Airport:

The Department (of Transportation) has submitted an application to the National Park Service for the right-of-way to operate and maintain the Chisana Airport. This application was filed in accordance with Title XI of the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act, which provides a process to obtain right-of-ways on federal lands.

The Departments action was in response to interest expressed by the residents and property owners at Chisana. The Department applied for the airport as defined in the Alaska Supplement of U.S. Flight Information Publication as an existing 4200 ft. x 75 ft. runway, although only 2200 ft x 75 ft. is usable at this time. The area encompassing the runway is 6400 ft. x 900 ft. to provide for support activities and safety.

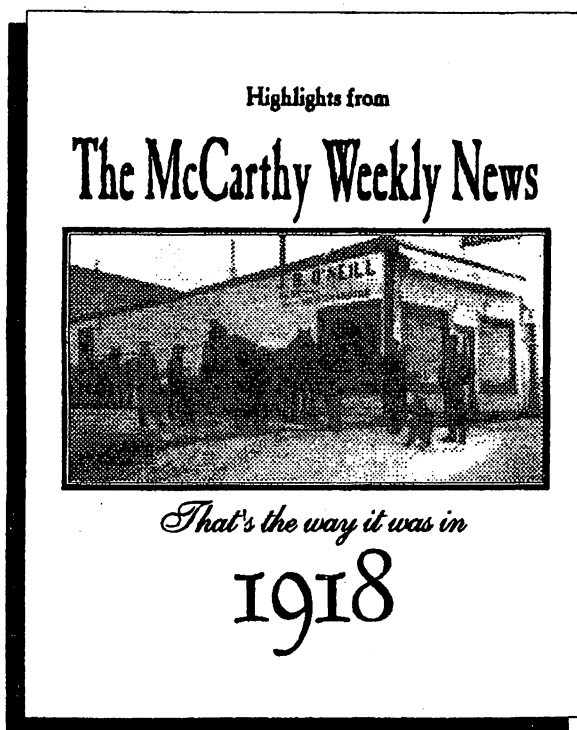
The Departments goal is to assure the Chisana Airport is a part of the State's transportation system and will receive appropriate maintenance and improvements. If the Department acquires responsibility for the airport, it is anticipated a project will be initiated to bring the full 4200 feet into usable condition.

Since our initial application was submitted, the National Park Service has requested

additional information, which we have provided. At this time we are waiting for the National Park Service to complete it's review of our application. Final action may require congressional action.

Sincerely,  
David L. McCaleb, P.E.  
Pre-Construction Engineer  
Northern Region

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# Tall tales

BY KIM NORTHRUP

Communities everywhere, from the largest cities to the smallest families, develop by design or accident traditions which carry on over the years quite by their own accord. This year saw the fifth annual tall tale story telling competition here in McCarthy.

Turnout was higher than ever — over 150 people. This year an unadvertised event, the third Saturday in July has truly become a tradition here in McCarthy.

First prize of \$500 sponsored by McCarthy Lodge,

went to Denise Jantz and Dana Ferrell. A true tall tale, Denise and Dana solved the mystery of the presence of glacier moulans. According to the girls, the entire under glacier river network is built and maintained by hundreds of tiny little glacier people. Second prize, dinner for two at McCarthy Lodge, went to Mark Vail who had the crowd's undivided attention during his medley of bear tales.

Congratulations to Denise, Dana and Mark. Many folks are already working on their tales for next year, so it looks like the tradition will continue.

# Fat Tire Festival time

BY RICK KENYON

Seventeen year old Jeremy Noet led the pack of 40 plus mountain bikes this year, winning the Fat Tire Festival race with a time of 3 hours and 30 minutes. Not far behind was Cheryl Loan, who won the women's class in 3 hours and 47 minutes. Both racers live near Eagle River. The race began at the Chitina River Bridge and the finish line was abreast the Kennicott River trams, a distance of approximately 59 miles.

Race Director Richard Larson, of Anchorage, said that there would be other events during the Fat Tire Festival, such as agility contests and a hill climb to Kennicott. A barbecue was planned for Saturday night.

Last year the winning bike was a tandem, with two riders, but this year all of the entrants were single riders. Participation was down considerably from last year, when 74 people entered the race.

# Young admonishes Park Service to obey law

The U.S. House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee has approved legislation authored by Alaska Representative Don Young which allows for the continuation of commercial and subsistence fishing in Glacier Bay National Park. The bill is now pending before the Natural Resources Committee.

The bill is designed to allow commercial and subsistence fishing to continue in non-wilderness areas of Glacier Bay National Park. According to Young, it is needed because the National Park Service has banned subsistence fishing in the park and is attempting to shut down commercial fishing as well.

In his "1993 Congressional Update," Representative Young explained why he authored this legislation. "People have been fishing in what is now called the Glacier Bay National Park for hundreds of years. When the park was officially created in 1980, the Congress said that fishing should be allowed to continue. Unfortunately, the Park Service has chosen to

ignore the law. This legislation simply tells the Park Service to obey the law."

According to Young, this bill has the support of commercial fishermen, subsistence users, and the State of Alaska.

# Murkowski supports Hickel lawsuit

Alaska Senator Frank Murkowski took to the Senate floor to explain the reasons behind the recent suit by the state, where Alaska charged that the federal government has ignored pledges to the state — pledges made prior to Alaskans voting to accept Statehood in 1958.

"Our founding fathers fought a revolution to get government out of their lives and their pockets. The people of the territory of Alaska voted

to enter into an agreement with the U.S. government to take on the burdens of statehood in return for the benefits of inclusion in the Union," said Murkowski.

Murkowski, in backing Governor Walter Hickel's decision to sue, explained that the state believes it has been deprived of at least \$29 billion in revenues from federal mineral leasing in Alaska — revenues that citizens of the state had been promised at the time of statehood. He said the

government promised state voters in 1959 not only that the state would receive 103 million acres for use to further economic development, but would get to keep 90 percent of the money earned from federal lands from the extraction of minerals — the state needing the money to fund governmental services.

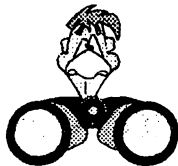
Murkowski argued that passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) in 1980 was a particular blow to Alaska

because it limited which lands Alaska could select as part of its statehood entitlement.

"Alaska experienced the 'you get what's left' theory of state land selections. No other state has had its land development affected in this way," said Murkowski, noting that only 5 million acres of the state — less than 2 percent of it — are controlled by private individuals.

# Wrangell St. Elias News

# NEWS



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## Holidays Remembered

In the months of September and October, we have three different holidays to celebrate. It's always good to be reminded of what we are celebrating and why.

### September 6 - Labor Day

Labor Day is a holiday set aside to celebrate and honor working people.

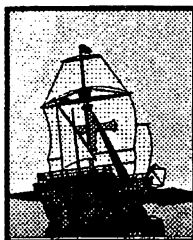
Inaugurated in 1882 by the Knights of Labor, it is now a legal holiday observed on the first Monday in September in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada. In Europe the day on which the history and accomplishments of labor are celebrated is May 1, MAY DAY.

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### October 11 - Columbus Day

Columbus Day is celebrated to honor the day Columbus found America. On October 12, 1493, Christopher Columbus first set foot on the soil of the New World. In 1892 President Benjamin Harrison called upon the people to celebrate Columbus Day as the four-hundredth anniversary of the landing of Columbus.



"Excellence in any department can be attained only by the labor of a lifetime; it is not to be purchased at a lesser price." -Samuel Johnson

### October 18 - Alaska Day

October 18, which commemorates the formal taking-over of Alaska by the United States, is a legal holiday in Alaska.

Competition in trading among Russia, Britain, and America, made Alaska less and less profitable to Russia, which was facing war with England at the time. The Russian representative, Baron de Stoeckl, offered to sell Alaska to the U.S.. There was considerable opposition to this proposal in the U.S., but Secretary of State William H. Seward signed the treaty and persuaded Congress to approve the purchase. The purchase price was \$7,200,000. Salutes were fired and the American flag was formally raised over Sitka on October 18, 1867.



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NALLEY MAYONNAISE	64 oz.	3.40	GREEN BEANS	17 oz.	.66 CAN
SWEETMEADOW FARMS			FRUIT COCKTAIL	16 oz.	.93 CAN
PURE MAPLE SYRUP	64 oz.	10.56	SLICED PEACHES	16 oz.	.95 CAN
BORDEN PANCAKE SYRUP	1 gal.	4.49	LITE PEACH HALVES	16 oz.	.89 CAN
SUGAR	25 lb.	9.59	PINEAPPLE SLICES	20 oz.	1.05
SUGAR	5 lb.	2.56	PINEAPPLE CHUNKS	20 oz.	1.05
SUGAR	10 lb.	4.09	PORK & BEANS	114 oz.	3.32
WHITE RICE	25 lb.	7.59	PORK & BEANS	16 oz.	.65
TORTILLA CHIPS	6 lb.	6.11	MILKMAN	40 qt.	17.64
OATMEAL	9 lb.	6.58	TIDE WITH BLEACH	150 oz.	12.93
TOMATO SAUCE	15 oz.	.59 CAN	CLOROX BLEACH	1.5 gal	3.06
WHOLE PEELED TOMATOES	14.5 oz.	.70 CAN	VELURE PAPER TOWELS	roll	.75
STEWED TOMATOES	14.5 oz.	.70 CAN	VIVA PAPER TOWELS	roll	1.10
ITALIAN STYLE STEWED			VELURE BATHROOM		
TOMATOES	14.5 oz.	.65 CAN	TISSUE	4 pack	1.18
SWEET PEAS	17 oz.	.66 CAN	DON'S DOG FOOD	50 lb.	12.00

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# OUR TOWN

September



1918



October

## AMUSEMENTS

At the Movie Show tomorrow evening a splendid war picture will be shown "The German Curse in Russia." This picture has created a sensation everywhere it has been shown.

## SCHOOL NOTES

The enrollment of pupils at the McCarthy School to date is seventeen, nine boys and eight girls.

Attendance for the week was perfect, a record which we hope to maintain, except in cases where absence is unavoidable.

Watch for the honor roll at the end of the month.

Mrs. Refoir, Schoolmistress  
The school grounds are being graded this week, which will make a vast improvement.  
Sept. 7

## McCARTHY, THE HEALTH SPOT OF THE NORTH

Why live in a city apartment year after year with your only outlook the roofs of your neighbors and the smoke stacks of factories.

In McCarthy, Alaska, you can breathe the pure ozone right from the snow capped peaks of the mountains.

Here, even when the mercury drops to forty below zero, pneumonia is unknown, the bracing air acting as a tonic

to the system. Catarrh, the scourge of many states, is conspicuous by its absence in this section of the country.

Though epidemics have been rife in other towns, McCarthy has been singularly free from all. None having been prevalent in this town since its inception.

For recommendations as to McCarthy's salubrious climate, see the children of the citizens: sturdy, rosy-cheeked, well developed and independent, who can play outdoors in midwinter & the temperature never dismays them.

Sept. 14

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

Capt. Hubrick's hunting party returned this week after a 40 day trip. Col. McGuire, editor of Outdoor Life, who was one of the party regretted the shortness of the trip, as he was unable to secure all the specimens he desired.

They secured many fine heads, however.

John Barrett has been harvesting on his homestead this week, and is four tons of potatoes & three tons of turnips to the good.

Mrs. Boutin is suffering from a painful wound in the hand, caused by running a bone into it.

Sept. 21

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

Otto Lubbe brought in a fine cabbage from his ranch this week - it weighs over 20 pounds and is on exhibition at Fred Cope's restaurant.

Mrs. Roberts, of Blackburn, is displaying a monster turnip from her garden; every one is making a guess at its weight.

Mrs. Aron Erickson has purchased the Faddis piano, and is now applying herself diligently to the task of becoming an accomplished performer.

Olaf Loveseth arrived in town yesterday. He and Charley Jacobson have been working a day on the lower end of 13 Rex and are well pleased with their season's work.

Warren Nelson and Fred Cope have returned from a trip to Dan Creek, where they witnessed several clean-ups. Klopfer & Co. have cleaned up over \$3,000 to-date, and Cliff Cayouette is also doing well.  
Sept 28

## STRIKE AT STRELNA

Frank Farnham returned from a prospecting trip this week on which he was fortunate enough to make a big strike. It is located on Dry Creek, 8 miles from Strelna, over a mile from Nugget Creek

Road. The lead he uncovered is 13 ft. wide of bornite ore on the contact between lime & greenstone. Samples brought to town show 50 per cent copper.  
Oct. 5

## WHOM WILL YOU ELECT

The day of the election draws near, and candidates are all campaigning.

Although neither of the would be delegates have been able to visit McCarthy, we have read their speeches given at various places in Alaska, and should be able to draw our own conclusions.

Attorney General Grigsby in his speech here last Friday evening made clear a great many facts which had not been understood by a number of voters-facts which were all to the credit of the Democratic Party and its nominee Mr. Chas. A. Sulzer.

The Wickersham campaign on the coast this week, shows the same old tactics as have always been employed by this candidate, i.e. that of blackguarding the other fellow.

All the contumely hurled from political platforms is part of the game expected and Wickersham never disappoints us in that. Each time he takes a statement from the opposition, puts his hand down its throat, turns it inside out and stretches it till there is none of the original left, he thinks he gains more votes. But that we cannot tell till after the election.



## LAW SUITS

This has been a stirring week in McCarthy – several law suits were fought, some inside and some outside the Court.

McCarthy Mercantile Co. vs. G.C. Gwinn, judgment was given for the plaintiff.

Brown vs. Brenwick was settled out of Court after much excitement. Pete Brenwick arrived too late to be of any use.

Attorney Murray was called to Chitina this week to act for the employees of the Valdez Mining Co.

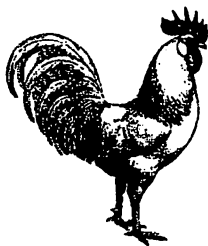
Nineteen liens were issued against the company whose cleanup has been attached by outside parties, the gold dust being in the hands of the federal authorities.

Mr. Murray who returned yesterday says the property is otherwise in good shape to settle all indebtedness.

Oct. 12

### ROAD COMMISSION

Much good work has been done by the Road Commission on Sourdough Hill, so as soon as sleighing commences, a team can make the trip to the Lubbe ranch in 1 hour. The matter of the grading from McCarthy Bridge has been taken under advisement by Road Commissioner Wilson and a favorable reply is expected.



Pete Johnson has just finished building a good barn and chicken house so that his livestock will have comfortable winter quarters.

Oct. 19

## Peace Terms Accepted

Germany has accepted all of President Wilson's peace terms of January 8th and all subsequent notes.

### LIBERTY DAY

Today is proclaimed by our governor to be Liberty Day, to be observed as a legal holiday throughout the territory.

This day we must spend in using every effort to promote the sale of bonds of the Fourth Liberty Loan.

McCarthy will get an honor flag on this loan, as its quota is oversubscribed. And this is indeed something to be proud of as the quota was apportioned on what could be subscribed a year ago.

Harry Brown, a prospector known to every man and woman & child in this section, arrived in town Tuesday to investigate certain complaints that had been made against him this summer by a prominent mining man in the Nizina district.

Owing to the complaining witness not swearing to the complaint of "insanity" in person, the deputy U.S. Marshall was unable to serve a warrant at that time, so the case just died a natural death.

Mr. Brown intends to do considerable work on his property this winter but is ready any time to appear in Court when accused of being "non compos mentis."

G.H. Birch and party arrived Wednesday from Dan Creek after a highly successful mining season. They proceeded to New York for the winter.

An interesting letter from M.V. Lattin, received yesterday, tells us he is located at Bingham, Utah, connected with the railroad there. Mrs. Lattin and Marie are in Salt Lake, and he runs in every few days. He sends his best regards to friends.

Max Rede, Keefer Knill, Joe Borger and Clifford Cayouette are town visitors from Dan Creek this week.

thanking the people of this section for their support and encouragement in the year that has passed.

We have tried to produce as we promised, a newsy sheet every Saturday, and judging by our subscription list we have managed to do so.

We invested our little all, had like all ventures, started without much capital, a year of hard sledding, for conditions in war times are not easy, even for those whose positions are assured.

As long as we can keep moving up a little, however, we are ready for big things when the enemy sees the error of its ways and our boys come marching home.

We have ever the interests of McCarthy at heart, for as we said at first, this is a McCarthy paper edited by McCarthy people, to advance McCarthy's interests, and with the support of the residents we can be of great help to McCarthy.

**WE THANK YOU**

Oct. 26

## PRINCESS SOPHIA LOST

Telegram received from Juneau tonight, tells of the total wreck of the Princess Sophia, with loss of passengers and crew, 340 in all. Passengers were chiefly from the Yukon.

## WE THANK YOU

This is the fifty second issue of the McCarthy Weekly News and on next Saturday we celebrate our first birthday, and we take this opportunity of

## LAURIE BROS

The Home of Good Clothes

McCarthy, Alaska

Sept. 26, 1918

To Our Friends:

We wish to inform our friends and customers that Jack E. Laurie of Laurie Brothers, McCarthy, Alaska, has been called to the military service of Uncle Sam.

The business conducted by Laurie Brothers will remain the same. No changes will be made and we will continue to give you the same service and quality as we have for the past four years.

Personally, I wish to thank each and all for past favors and hope that you will continue to give us a reasonable share of your patronage.

Sincerely yours,  
LAURIE BROS.  
by J.E. Laurie

The Home of Hart Schaffner & Marx  
Clothes

# King Floyd

## THE TALE OF A SMALL TIME DICTATOR

### Part four -- What happened at the meeting

BY RANDY ELLIOTT

The printer raised his hand first to ask a question, but Harry ignored him and pointed to a person in the front row whom Floyd couldn't see. Eruditely enunciated eurythmic euphemisms emanated evenly engendering euphoric euphonic encephalic ennui in everyone. It was Malcon Tented who often chaired the town complaint sessions.

"My esteemed fellow residents, as you know I received a grant to study alternative lifestyles from Lord Fedgov's agency last fall. Since I really couldn't think of any worthwhile alternatives to my lifestyle, I used the money to conduct an autobiographical review of my life as a young surfer in Hawaii. There I met some of Lord Fedgov's minions who explained this new legislation to me in a form which only they could understand, but which left me with no doubt that this is the best solution for the crowding I've been feeling. You see, left to our own devices we would only make a common living from the Essential Lands using the base and exploitive skills passed on by our parents. These repugnant land use techniques, such as mining, logging, farming and construction of Winnebago parks only encourage more settlement which attracts absolutely the wrong type of people, as I'm sure you would agree, and these practices are obviously needing some revision."

"I assure you that under the Baron's direction the lands will be preserved forever through the forceful application of artificial, scientifically derived natural laws. These will control the spread of greedy humans and their ilk. By eliminating these unnecessary squatters there will be a lot more

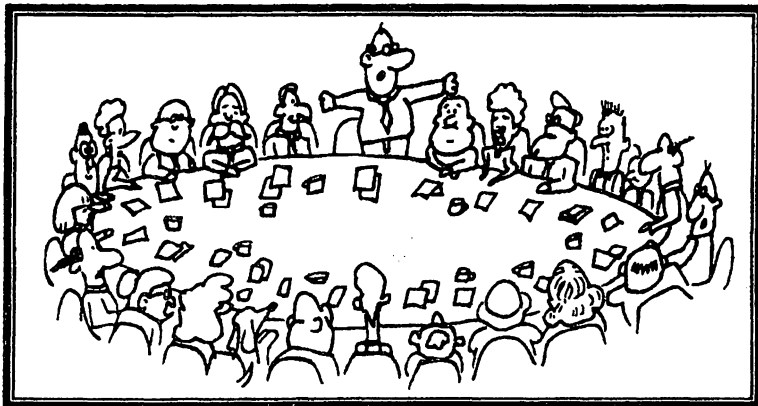
"lebensraum" for us already here in Thoughtful. I think we can all vote for peace and quiet don't you?"

"As you can see, Lord Fedgov has considered all the possible options, and with the aid of a few concerned nonprofit entities (like yours truly) has graciously arrived at his decision to implement option T. We needn't concern ourselves with the mechanics of regulation as that is the special realm of the Baron and his staff."

The printer stood now and waved frantically to get Harry's recognition. Harry eyed him coldly and the "voice" boomed like summer thunder.

"As Malcon pointed out, administrating this historic moment in history is the Baron's specialty. He is busy, though, and his good friend the Duke of Distortion has made the ultimate sacrifice for the essential land." The crowd shivered again at the mention of sacrifice. "This," Harry said solemnly, "is his only daughter." The people sighed and one woman sobbed at the back of the room. "The duchess here will be watching over you whenever the Baron and I are unable to attend to your needs personally."

This created another ripple in the crowd, but Harry merely pointed to



"If you must continue with these demonstrations, I will have to terminate the meeting."

A shiver ran through the crowd. The townspeople turned and frowned at the printer who sat again, nonplused by the negative attention. The printer fumed as Harry spoke again. The beautiful phrasing soothed the murmuring folk, and a corpulent woman in a jumpsuit made of fake leopard skin with a wolverine ruff joined Harry on the podium. The Baron shifted uncomfortably at the sight of this nonstandard uniform.

another person in the front row. In a high girlish voice Malcon's constant companion Carrie Torch rose to give her endorsement of the first statement.

"Thank you Malcon, and thank you Lord Fedgov, and thank you Harry, and thank you Mom and Dad, and thank you everyone for coming. I just would like to express the yummy feeling I get every time I think of how wonderful the world will be with the omnipotent protection of the Baron against more nasty squatters. I would also like to say that the Thoughtful Ladies Domination League is 110%

This story is purely fictional. Any resemblance to actual people, agencies, places, or events is merely coincidence.

behind Malcon's..." The people just behind Malcon saw him suddenly pinch her thigh, and she gave a little porcine squeal. "I mean, Lord Fedgov's new law."

Carrie sat down abruptly and Malcon had a violent whispered conversation with her as the Duchess rose to speak again. Harry stepped back and was lost behind the bulky figure.

"As you know, there are certain individuals who will have to vacate their land in order to carry out option T. After careful consideration, we have decided that these individuals will be given a 500 dollar tax deduction for their trouble, unless they can show that they are visually differently abled veterans of an official police action involving a foreign nation, and have historical evidence of having lived in the essential land since it was discovered."

"Although few, these cases will be treated as folk heroes and given a plantation in Burma as compensation. We believe this is the fairest treatment given the numbers of residents involved in this new legislation. I am sure any loyal citizen will forgo the looting of the treasury and donate their land in the interest of the public will to have a good time, and in a patriotic desire to provide good places for those good times. Are there any other comments before we record your vote?" she asked sweetly.

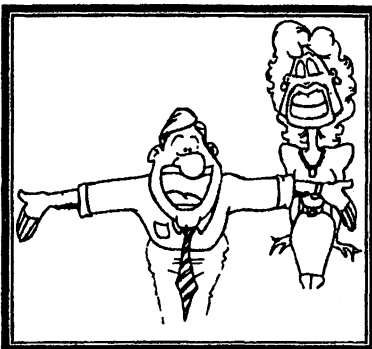
The printer stood again and this time blurted out his question. "Your grace, was there a public meeting held to consider the options?"

The duchess reddened a bit. "There were fact finding meetings held in Washington for three months as well as two overnight junkets by concerned senators to the Essential Lands last month which I am sure you are aware of, and of course we are in meeting right now are we not?" Her tone was imperious. Lord Fedgov

made a note to have this minion sent on a fact finding mission in Haiti since her tone was a little too convincing and the lord hated real competition.

"But isn't the purpose of this meeting," the printer persisted, "to adopt the option T?" The duchess eyed him speculatively.

"Only after a careful discussion of the options, of course," was the smooth reply. "And now that we have



done that we must take a vote as our chartered jet must be returned before dark. So, if you would please sign the register my secretary is carrying and then we will record the vote so you can return to your humble lives."

The snubbed printer sat as the duchess had left the podium. The crowd started a small rhubarb conference as the book was passed from hand to hand.

"We can't vote for an option we can't remember," said the printer indignantly.

"Well, if we don't vote what will that accomplish?" said the blacksmith who believed in political activism.

"Could we vote for option A?" asked Floyd helpfully.

"Its not on the ballot," said the blacksmith firmly. It was clear he wasn't a fan of despoiling nice forms with handwritten votes. In the end everyone voted yes or no for option T, since that was the only option printed on the small ballots.

"The results will be posted as soon as the other meetings are held and tabulated," said the secretary as he gathered the last of the forms. The duchess had long since left for the comfort of the jet. Without further ado the entire Fedgov entourage swept from the room. The hometown crowd broke up as well and the line of snowmachines was all but gone as Floyd and Maureen left the barn. Spying the printer trying to start a reluctant snowmachine, Floyd hurried over.

"I need to run an advertisement," Floyd said without preamble.

"What! You're moving already?"

"Er, yes, in a way," replied Floyd as Maureen looked aghast.

"What can I do for you, advertise your garage sale?"

"I don't have a garage, but it is an ad I need."

"No problem I'm having a going out of business sale this week."

"You're going out of business?" It was Floyds turn to be aghast.

"Yes. Only locally-produced birch bark paper may be used for printing in the Essential Lands and I don't know how to make it." Floyd briefly permitted selling his birch tree permit, but his thoughts returned to business.

"Lets go write the ad," he said, and they headed for the printer's office.



Randy Elliott

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood." --Theodore Roosevelt

# A Step Forward...

BY BONNIE KENYON

"I always wanted to fly but I didn't think girls flew," said Natalie. The smile on her face made me want to pull more information out of my reserved Australian-born friend. What gave her the courage to stretch her wings and venture out where most young teenage girls wouldn't dare go, I wondered.

Not quick to talk about herself or her accomplishments, I knew Natalie would be hard to interview, so I decided to spend a day at her and her husband's office in McCarthy. Maybe I could get in on some of the action as well as ask a few questions.

The day proved to be a busy one for Wrangell Mountain Air and the Bays' latest venture--Wrangell Mountain Bus. Both businesses share the 12'X16' office, and I couldn't help wonder how Natalie kept from placing a "flightseeing" customer on the bus instead of on one of their planes!

They pleasantly endured my presence and the space I took up at their counter while they answered questions from the interested tourists. I was tempted to disguise myself as a first-time visitor and stand in line with the rest. When it came my turn, I would ask Kelly and Natalie the questions written in my steno pad! I figured Kelly with his easy-going

manner would patiently answer my questions, but Natalie would soon see through the ruse and probably put me to work! Fortunately for me, Erin Adkins was on duty that day, helping visitors understand bus schedules and flightseeing opportunities.



Erin came to McCarthy from Delta Junction and went to work for the Bays this summer. She takes charge of the office when Natalie is out and even drives one of the vans on their scheduled shuttle service between McCarthy and Kennicott.



The office cleared out after Kelly took 4 good-sized fellas off on a 30 minute flightseeing tour they call their Glacier Tour--one that takes in the surrounding Kennicott and McCarthy area, Mt. Blackburn, glaciers and towering icefalls. Erin loaded one of the vans with a group of excited visitors desiring to see the abandoned Kennicott mines four miles away. Thinking this would be a great time to ask Natalie a few questions, I got out my pen and pad.

Natalie Faine was born February 25, 1954, in Brisbane. Her parents died a few years ago but she has 3 sisters living in Australia. Natalie's father was an engineer and that may explain why Math and Art were her favorite

subjects in school.

She started working in a drafting office at the age of 16. For ten years she used the income from her drawing skills to travel all over Australia and beyond. "I paid for a lot of trips overseas, a commercial pilot's license and many parachute jumps," laughed Natalie. New Guinea was one stop in her travels. It was there that she first came in contact with flying and began pursuing her commercial pilot's license. Her newly acquired flying skills landed her jobs flying for mining companies and air taxis back home in Australia. She now has well over 3,000 hours tucked away in her log book and an instructor's rating as well.

A parachute jumping competition drew her to the United States in 1975. She entered the contest and, though she didn't win, she did very well. In 1983 Natalie returned to this country to visit a girlfriend she met on her earlier trip. While in Seattle she met a young man who brought her to the United States to stay! His name...Kelly Bay.

Kelly was born in Seattle on December 15, 1949. He spent most of his growing up years in Seattle but by the time he met Natalie he had settled down in the McCarthy area. He remembers the first time he and a friend, Scott Reymiller, considered visiting this area. Kelly had a place at Isabel Pass. The mountains over this way intrigued him and Scott. They decided to drive out and get a closer view.

The two fellas came to McCarthy in 1975. They loved the area and the mountains, of course. That next summer Kelly purchased land near McCarthy Creek and built a cabin. In 1983 he bought part of an old homestead on the Nizina River. One of the attractions to the new property was a small airstrip. By now, he had switched from mushing dogs to flying a ski-equipped Super Cub.

Another major change took place around this time. Kelly, seen by some as a confirmed bachelor, made an abrupt turnaround after he met the petite young lady from Australia! He began talking about getting married...and that is exactly what they did in 1985.

He and Natalie have been building air time together ever since. Flying and guiding on the Alaska Peninsula, working for air taxis such as Gulf Air out of Yakutat, Peninsula Airways in King Salmon and McCarthy Air in McCarthy.

In 1992 the Bays set up base



operations in McCarthy for their own air taxi called Wrangell Mountain Air. This summer 32 year old Hon Kinzie came to work for them. Originally from Texas, Hon spent 1991 and 92 in Hawaii getting his power plant rating and rotary wing rating at Inter Island Helicopter. From there he went to Anchorage where he worked for the Aero Club and the Civil Air Patrol.

My day spent with Kelly and Natalie had its special moments. Like getting to know the latest and smallest crew member--Hamilton Bay. Miss Bay is not exactly old enough to fly or crawl but the way she maneuvers her arms and legs, I don't think it will be long! She was born May 1 of this year in Anchorage and is Kelly and Natalie's daughter--their first.

Summers in McCarthy are short and extremely busy for all our local businesses. More and more visitors are coming to the area. They bring with them a desire to see the vast Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, the nearby glaciers, the well-known Kennicott mines and other points of interest.

For residents like Kelly and Natalie Bay who have chosen to help meet the needs of those people, hard work is essential. There may not be much time to relax over a cup of tea with a neighbor during the summer months, but we all know winter is just around the corner. The long, cold nights provide opportunities to talk about the ups and downs of the summer and how we can improve on what we do. It is certainly a challenging lifestyle and not for everyone. Kelly and Natalie Bay are two more examples of the kind of people who see a need and courageously step forward and fill it.

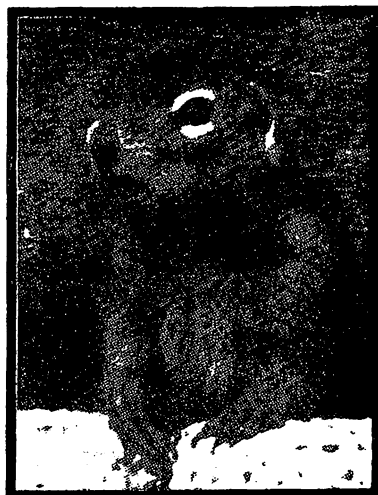
## Parry's Marmot-Squirrel

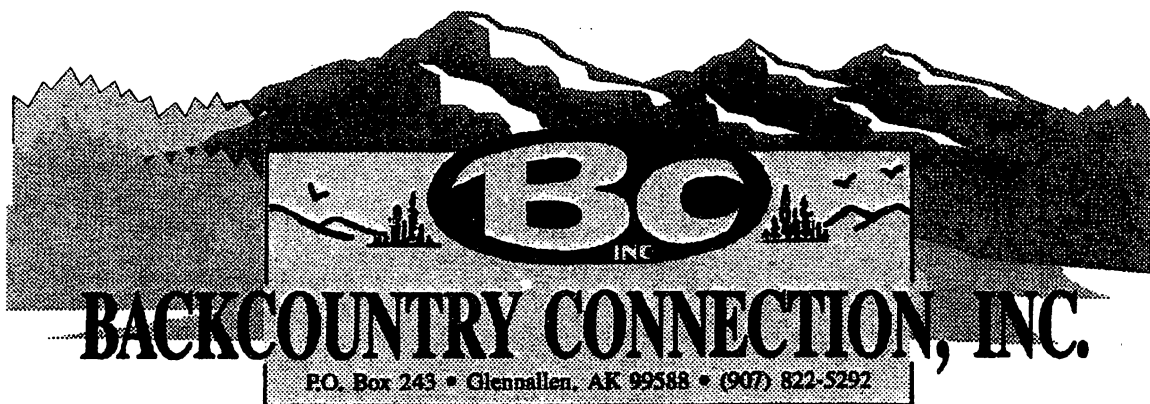
BY RICK KENYON

We were quite surprised on August 1 to see this little creature come scurrying out from underneath our porch! Although fairly common at places like Thompson's Pass, and other higher elevations, we had never seen

one of the little fellows near McCarthy in the 16 years we have lived here.

Also known as the Arctic Ground Squirrel, they are supposedly easily tamed. This one was friendly, and we were able to approach to within a few feet before he would disappear under the porch. He only stayed around one day.





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\*Kids: ages 3 to 12 are ½ price.

**Chris Richards Box #1 Kennicott, AK 99588**

# It's zucchini time again!

BY CARLY KRITCHEN

Can you ever have too much of a good thing? If you're talking about zucchini squash in McCarthy this summer, the answer is definitely YES!

I've sautéed, fried, pickled, boiled, frozen, and given away a lot of my squash, and they still keep producing! Fortunately, we've had quite a few guests this summer, and after I've fixed them some of my favorite recipes, I make them take a couple of zukes home with them, too! Sure hope my sister can get hers across the border.

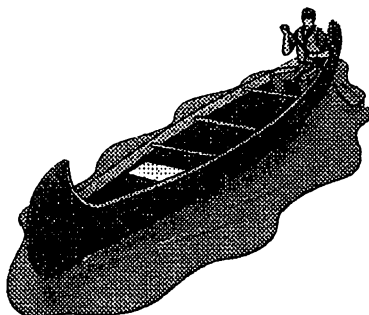
I'm sure that most of you already have a good bread and cake recipe for zucchini, so here are a few main dish recipes. You can vary the amount of squash in these recipes, but I usually figure that "large" means "huge," and that too much zucchini is better than too little!

## Zucchini Fritters

This is a fast, easy-to-fix recipe, and makes a good lunch on a cold day. (about 15 fritters)

- 1 large zucchini, grated
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup flour
- 1t baking powder
- 2T grated cheddar cheese
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- salt & pepper to taste

Grate zucchini into a sieve & let drain. Mix all the other ingredients into a bowl. Add zucchini and mix. Heat about ¼ cup vegetable oil in a large frying pan, then drop large tablespoonfuls of fritter mix into hot oil. Remove when brown on both sides and drain on paper towels. Serve with sour cream or yogurt. ☺



## Carly's Zuke Boats

A friend and I adapted this recipe from one in the "Moosewood" cookbook. It takes a while to prepare, but is really delicious, especially if you include the sausage. (Good as a vegetarian dish, also.) (serves 6)

- 1 cup cooked brown rice
- 3 med. or 1 large zucchini
- ½ lb. chopped mushrooms
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 T chopped almonds
- 2 fresh basil leaves, chopped
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 2 cups cottage cheese
- ¼ cup wheat germ
- 3 T soy sauce
- dash Worcestershire
- 2 cups cheddar cheese, grated (optional-1½ lb. spicy breakfast sausage, cooked)

Slice zucchini in half lengthwise. Scoop out insides, leaving ¼" rim so canoe stays intact. Chop up pulp, then sauté zucchini pulp, mushrooms, onion, garlic, almonds and basil in butter until barely soft. Let cool. Mix eggs, cottage cheese, wheat germ, soy sauce, Worcestershire sauce, 1 cup of cheddar and rice. Add the sautéed vegetables and optional sausage. Stuff the canoes and mound up the tops.

Bake 40 min. at 350°. Serve topped with the rest of the grated cheddar cheese. ☺

## Zucchini, Tomato, and Swiss Cheese Pie

This is a great dish for company, but you might have to make two pies if they're big eaters! (serves 4-6)

- ½ cup fine bread crumbs
- 1½ T olive oil
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 medium tomatoes, diced
- 3 med. or 1 large zucchini, quartered and thinly sliced
- 1T fresh basil, minced
- ¼ t salt
- pinch of pepper
- 3 large eggs
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1½ or 2 cup grated Swiss Cheese
- 3T grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 375°. Grease a 10 in. pie pan well, and sprinkle the bread crumbs over the bottom and sides. Heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Sauté the onion and garlic 10 minutes. Add the diced tomatoes and sauté 5 minutes. Raise the heat to high. Mix in the zucchini, basil, salt and pepper. Cook about 5 minutes, or until the zucchini is barely tender. Remove pan from heat and let sit until room temperature. Beat the eggs in a large bowl. Stir in milk, then add the zucchini mixture. Pour half in the prepared pie plate, top with the grated Swiss cheese, then pour in the remaining zucchini mix. Sprinkle the Parmesan cheese on the top. Bake 30 minutes, or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean, and the top is golden brown. Let sit 10 minutes before serving. ☺

# Local group studies plants, bugs, politics — hopes to help plan local development

BY BEN SHAINÉ  
edited by Ed LaChapelle

One of the historic features of downtown McCarthy is the Old Hardware Store, owned and operated by the Wrangell Mountains Center. The Center is a local, nonprofit institute dedicated to education, science and the arts. The Center's board of directors consists of Sally Gibert and local residents Marcie Thurston, Ben Shaine, Howard Mozen, and Jenny Carroll.

A feature of the McCarthy scene each summer since 1972 has been the "student group," a natural history program for college students administered by San Francisco State University as part of the Wildlands Studies program. Local field leaders for the program are Mozen and Carroll, assisted by numerous visiting faculty and

local experts. Visiting faculty for this summer's six-week program include geologist Jim Berkey, biologist Paul Groff and poet Nancy Cook. With the store as a base and classroom, extended backpack trips are a regular part of the program, affording students a chance to visit wilderness areas of the park. Returning "alumni" of the program are familiar visitors to this area and some have taken up full or part-time residence.

The Old Hardware Store also serves as a center for artists and scientists working in the McCarthy area, both on individual research projects and as part of other study programs. During three weeks in August a number of students participated in an environmental perception workshop under the guidance of illustrator Chuck Stacek and writer Joe Meeker. Several individual projects on the ecology

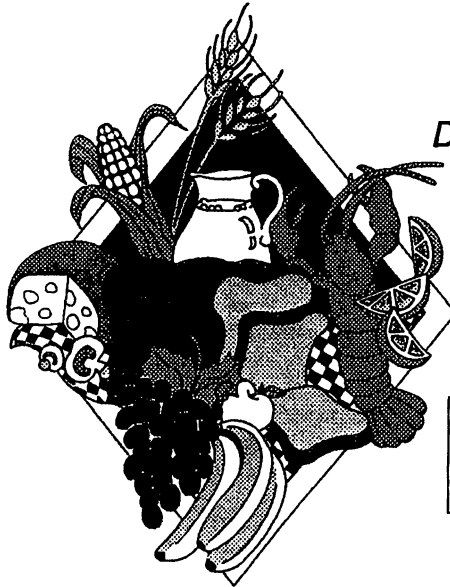
of plants and animals are underway this summer by affiliates of the Wrangell Mountains Center. Dan Doak from the Environmental Studies Department at UC Santa Cruz is working on the ecology of alpine plant species and Bill Morris from the Zoology Department at Duke University is starting several projects related to local plant and insects. Pat Doak, Dan's sister, is studying caterpillar behavior on the periglacial dryas flats. Caroline Christian is looking at the three-way interaction among alpine bell flowers, fungus and pollinating insects. Yaakov Garb from MIT and physical geographer Barry Hecht are back once again this summer working on their guide to the geology of the McCarthy/Kennicott area, scheduled to be published by the Old Hardware Store Press.

Looking beyond the biological sciences, the Center is presently exploring possible research projects in the economic and social aspects of current growth in residential and visitor use of the Chitina River Valley. Dan Doak, Thurston and Shaine envision a study of various development scenarios, comparing them to areas with similar experiences elsewhere in the world. Such a study group may eventually include an economist, a biologist and an expert in planning and design who could cooperate closely with other public and private efforts interested in insuring quality tourist development in the national park. Persons interested in the Center's exploration should contact Ben Shaine for further information.

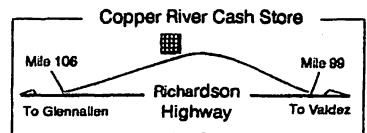
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# Rick and Ed's Radio Rap

*Radio Rap is an occasional column offering advice to our readers who are coping with various problems of radio reception, and communication with ham and CB radios, peculiar to residents of remote areas. Rick Kenyon is an experienced amateur radio operator. Ed LaChapelle is a retired geophysicist with an electronics background.*

*Please write us with your radio related questions and we'll help you as much as we can. Be sure to include as much information as possible about your radio, such as make, model and approximate age, and describe your location.*

**Rick:** We've had no letters seeking our advice this month, though several requests have been made in person.

**Ed:** Maybe this is a good time to talk about antennas and grounds for broadcast reception. In an earlier Rap we described coupling coils and the like, but just said "connect them to a good antenna and ground."

**Rick:** The simplest antenna is called a "longwire." Maybe 50 to 100 feet of wire stretched between two insulators as high up as possible. One end is connected to an insulated lead-in wire running down to your radio.

**Ed:** A longwire is somewhat directional, with best reception at right angle to the line of the antenna. This is all you need for good short-wave reception, but for medium wave (broadcast) reception, you should also have a good ground.

**Rick:** And that's where the trouble starts, as our friend Eric Nichols explained in last month's Rap. The Alaska landscape offers truly lousy grounds! A good one starts with an eight-foot ground rod driven all the way into the earth (try that around McCarthy!) It works best in a wet spot, like under the drip line of cabin eaves. If you live around buried water pipes, they also make a good ground.

**Ed:** If this doesn't work, take desperate measures. Dump a bag of rock salt around the ground rod to improve conductivity. Run heavy, bare copper wire out to additional ground stakes in the vicinity. Bury a lot of big metal (here's a chance to get rid of that old pickup) and hook up to it.

**Rick:** Reception still not very good? Go for a long antenna. Really long, like up to a thousand feet. Such an antenna doesn't have to be very high. At the far end connect it to ground (here's that problem again) through a 100-ohm resistor. Now we have a "Beverage" antenna and the best reception is along the line of the antenna.

**Ed:** This brings us to the silver lining of Alaska's bad ground problems. If it is a bad ground, it's a good insulator. You don't have to string your antenna up in trees, just run the wire along the surface of the earth.

**Rick:** And this lets us go back to basic antenna theory and get rid of the ground problem entirely by using what is called a "counterpoise."

**Ed:** We found this works great while testing sites for the KCHU translator going into the McCarthy

area this summer. Just string out a lo-o-o-ong wire on the ground, about two hundred feet or more (we used two thousand feet), aimed at the station you want to receive best. Cut the wire in the middle and attach two cut ends to the antenna and ground terminals, or coupling coil, of your radio. One half of the wire acts as an antenna, the other half as the counterpoise. We really got a strong signal out of that two thousand feet.

**Rick:** That thing is directional in the same way as a Beverage antenna, with best reception along a line parallel to the wire. There is quite a strong minimum at right angle to the antenna-counterpoise system.

**Ed:** Notice that this is just the opposite of the dipole antenna we described a while back while discussing CB antennas. With the CB dipole, the maximum signal is found at right angle to the antenna line and the minimum parallel to it.

**Rick:** And then there is the table-top, commercially available Select-a-tenna mentioned earlier by us and last month by Eric. This works on quite a different principle. It is a resonant (tuned) loop.

**Ed:** The bigger, the better. I built one of those things eight feet in diameter. It works great, with powerful signals on broadcast band stations. It doesn't fit on our kitchen table very well, though!

**Rick:** The details will make a good topic for a later Rap. See you radio fans next issue of the News!

# A look at the weather



BY GEORGE CEBULA

It has really been a great summer in the McCarthy Area and all of Alaska. June and July were a continuation of a warming trend that started in March and is still with us as we go to press. The high for June was 79 on the 4th (82 on June 28-29, 92). The low was 27 on 8th and 12th (26 on June 6 and 9, 92). The June average temperature was 52.7, the very same as June 92. The precipitation was only 2.06 inches compared to 3.92 in June 92. As a comparison Silver Lake (new addition as of June 1, 1993) had a high of 78 on the 2nd and 5th, low of 30 on the 8th and an average temperature of

53.8. Precipitation at Silver Lake in June was 1.47 inches.

July was a warm one with a high of 87 on July 15 (84 on July 2-3, 92). This ties the all-time high set on June 21, 1991. The low temperature for July was 35 on the 2nd, 9th, 17-18th and 28th (37 on July 23, 92). The average temperature was 57.1, a degree warmer than the 56.1 in July 92. Total precipitation for July was 1.27 inches compared to 4.03 inches in July 92. Silver Lake recorded a high of 88 on the 15-16 and a low of 39 on the 29. Average temperature at Silver Lake was 60.4 and precipitation was only 0.60 inches.

The warmest temperature recorded in the area so far this summer

was 90 degrees at Glennallen's KCAM on July 16.

Mid August should start to show signs of cool night temperatures and early morning frosts. Freezing temperatures will begin to appear in early September and the first snow by the end of September. It looks like summer is about over.

I would like to welcome Gene and Edith Coppedge at Silver Lake to our Alaskan Coop Network as their station became official on June 1.

George is the Regional Cooperative Program Manager for NOAA and a frequent visitor to the McCarthy area.

The world's most widely distributed book is the Bible, which has been translated into 318 languages, and portions of it into a further 1,628 languages. The oldest publisher of bibles is the Cambridge University Press, which began with the Geneva version in 1591. Source: Guinness Book of Records

## NOAA Regional Deputy Director visits McCarthy



BY RICK KENYON

Bert Goldenberg, NOAA Deputy Director for Alaska, visited the McCarthy weather reporting station on August 12, 1993. He was accompanied by George Cebula, Regional Coop Program Manager, Mike Vise, Quality Control Specialist, and Steve Elwell, Chief Pilot for Airlift Alaska.

George Cebula has been coming to the McCarthy area since 1979 in the position of Quality Control Specialist. George writes the regular weather column for Wrangell St. Elias News. He was recently promoted to Regional Coop Program Manager, and

Mike Vise takes his place as Quality Control Specialist. This year Mike calibrated the station barometers, which are used to report altimeter settings for pilots. The two instruments must agree with each other within a very small percentage, and are checked against a master unit each year.

Other instruments getting the "once over" include the wind direction and speed sensors, which are located atop a 40 foot tower, the automatic recording rain gauge, and several thermometers, including dry and wet bulb, maximum and minimum, and a 7 day recording thermometer.



Mike Vise takes a look at the thermometers. WSEN staff photo

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## Book Review -- Land Protection Plan -- Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve



*"More specifically, the plan was prepared to ... inform landowners about the intentions of the National Park Service to protect lands and resources within the area, either through purchase, exchange, donation, cooperative agreement, or other means."*

### PART TWO

BY RICK KENYON

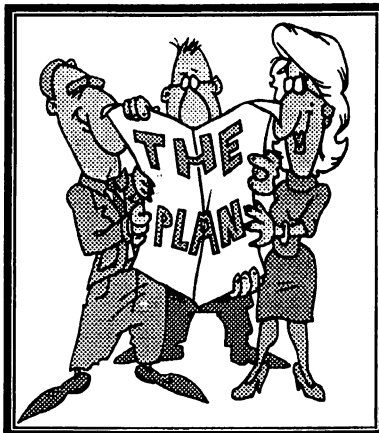
In the last issue we looked at the first part of the LAND PROTECTION PLAN for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. You might remember we used the neighbor analogy for the relationship between private landowners and the National Park Service. In this issue we will explore the section called **PROTECTION ALTERNATIVES**. This section starts on page 79 and describes the methods by which NPS hopes to gain control over their neighbors' lands. It includes EPA STANDARDS, ZONING, EASEMENTS, and FEE ACQUISITION. It starts with this statement:

"The following alternatives offer varying degrees of protection to the natural and cultural environment of the park/preserve's nonfederal lands." (This statement ignores the fact that the park/preserve has NO nonfederal lands. Nonfederal lands are by definition not part of the park/preserve. This is one of the basic protections for the landowner under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, or ANILCA.)

The first of the **PROTECTION ALTERNATIVES** is called **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STANDARDS**. It starts out with a brief statement: "While NPS regulations stemming from ANILCA and other authorities do not generally apply to private land in the park/preserve, there are numerous other federal, state, and local laws that do apply." Again, this reaffirms that privately owned land is not part of the park, and is not subject to the rules of the park. Basically, it talks about

reporting you to the EPA, DEC, or someone else, if you do something bad with your property.

The next protection alternative is called **AGREEMENTS AND ALASKA LAND BANK**. Here we find that if a landowner "is in agreement with park/preserve management, cooperative agreements can be a cost-effective, mutually beneficial means of ensuring compatible uses on private land in the park/preserve."



There is a brief mention here of **ZONING BY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**, stating the fact that there are no local governments within park/preserve boundaries.

Another alternative means of protection is **CLASSIFICATION OF STATE LANDS**. Talk the State into classifying land as "Habitat" or some other compatible use.

**EASEMENTS** convey some of the property owner's rights to the Park Service. For a price, you promise NPS that you will do certain things, such as not subdivide your land.

Finally, the ultimate means of protection, **FEE ACQUISITION**. Simply put, NPS buys the land, or you

give it to them, or trade with them. The PLAN says on page 85 that "Fee acquisition is most often appropriate where the land ... is owned by individuals who do not wish to sell less-than-fee interest." Put another way, those people who are not in agreement with park/preserve management of their private land.

The remaining 15 pages of the Land Protection Plan explain specifically how NPS plans to deal with each neighbor. It places different areas in one of three Priority Groups, depending on the level of the perceived threat. Priority Group 1 is the most urgent. Included in this one is the area where the McCarthy townsite is located. Why is this area threatening? "Additional subdivisions concentrated in the upper Chitina Valley would result in an influx of both year-round and seasonal residents. This in turn would create additional pressure on park resources (effects on wildlife, illegal cutting of timber, water quality, etc.)." Illegal cutting of timber? The owner might subdivide it and sell it to criminals!!

You should read the rest of the section for yourself, and read it carefully. Since one of the purposes of the PLAN is to "inform landowners about the intentions of the National Park Service," probably all of you landowners got a copy. (Otherwise, how would you be informed?) Just in case you were inadvertently missed when they were distributed, I suggest you write to the Park Service and request your copy. Write to:

National Park Service  
P.O. Box 29  
Glennallen, AK 99588



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# FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

When Rick asked me to write the editorial for this issue, I didn't have to search far for a subject. Only as far away as my heart!

Rick and I, with our son Rick Jr., moved to the McCarthy area in 1977. Small-community living was certainly a new way of life for me. Even though my closest neighbors are 3/4 of a mile away, I believe I know them better than I knew the neighbors next door to me when I lived in Sarasota, Florida.

B.C. Forbes in the June 21, 1993, issue of Forbes magazine writes: "Almost every time I leave New York and visit one of our smaller cities, one of my strongest impressions is that those who live in such communities enjoy a more tranquil life and form closer and deeper friendships than those of us buried among the millions of strangers who crowd our metropolitan cities. Visits to such places nearly always have a reassuring, inspiring effect. They cause one to feel that this nation is solidly built, that friendliness and neighborliness still abound, that the hearthstone still means much, that the life lived by the great body of the American people is sane, sensible, rational."

As residents of McCarthy and Kennicott, what kind of atmosphere do we want presented to the tourists and friends visiting us? I believe we want them to experience a friendly atmosphere--friendliness towards them, warmth and peace between us, the local residents.

The summer season arrived early this year, but so did an enemy that threatened the foundation of every home and business in "Our Town." An unwelcome enemy. Its name? Rumors. The American Heritage Dictionary defines a rumor as: "Unverified information of uncertain origin usually spread by word of mouth." Someone might say, "Well, every little community has its usual

rumors. Nothing wrong with that; in fact, it's entertaining."

If the rumors that circulated through our small community this summer are supposed to be entertaining, then why aren't my neighbors laughing? Why do I see the hurt in their eyes and sense the wounds that ugly words have produced in their hearts? No, rumors are malicious and evil! Gossip is wrong and intolerable in a small community or large community. They not only affect us who live here but, I submit to you, they can harm even those who visit us.

Consider this. Have you ever walked into a room where the leftovers of an argument still lingered in the atmosphere? Somehow the harsh words that had been spoken--though not in your presence--were, nevertheless, felt. Your eyes scanned the room searching for the source of the uneasiness you sensed, but none of the occupants gave forth a clue. Smiling faces greeted you; polite words grabbed your attention and yet...inside you knew something was wrong.

Long ago an inspired author wrote: "Telling lies about someone is as harmful as hitting him with an axe, or wounding him with a sword, or shooting him with a sharp arrow." Proverbs 25:18 (TLB). When someone takes a gun and randomly or purposefully kills innocent people, we are quick to speak out and say that is wrong and do what is necessary to see it doesn't happen again.

Am I pointing fingers at any one person or persons? No. To be honest, I believe we are all guilty. Either we have been carriers of the rumors or receivers. Isn't it time each one of us examines ourselves--not our neighbor--and ask ourselves the following questions? Have we accepted gossip as truth and not even gone to the person it is about? Have we drawn lines that included one

neighbor and excluded another? Have we repeated the so-called "fact" to another neighbor without even considering the damage those words are causing--to ourselves, to the one listening, not to mention to the one the story is about?

I come back to the wise author of Proverbs 11:13 where he gives us a choice between a gossip and a trustworthy person. "A gossip goes around spreading rumors, while a trustworthy man tries to quiet them."

Frankly, I believe we all want to be the latter. The pressures on our small community to meet the needs of a growing number of visitors are great. But, I am proud of those of you who have stepped forward to do what you can to meet those needs, whether it's lodging, food, transportation, recreational activities or information. We're all working towards the same goal. We need each other. Most of us providing services do not have college degrees for what we are doing. We do what we enjoy doing. When we make mistakes, as we all do, we learn from them and go on.

When an enemy such as rumors, lies, gossip or strife enters, you and I must band together to protect one another. If we have a problem, let's agree to go directly to the one involved and talk. Most of the time it is just a misunderstanding.

I desire all my neighbors' success in their business ventures. Rather than trying to be the biggest, let's strive to offer a quality product. If we do, the growth will come naturally.

Let's begin to see our town as what we want it to be. A place where things like dishonesty and greed are of the past and where truth and a servant's attitude prevail. As our town grows and as our businesses grow, let's provide an atmosphere where people want to be, to work and to live.

*Bonnie Kenyon*

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Manitou Springs, Colorado  
July 16, 1993

Dear Rick and Bonnie,

Because of a mountain of accumulated chores after our return here, it has taken us awhile to carefully read the May-June issue of Wrangell St. Elias News that you were good enough to give us during our pleasant visit with you - accompanied or escorted by Kim - on or about May 13 or 14 last.

I want you to know that Marian and I were very, very pleased with everything about the News, from both the standpoint of content and of format and appearance. We were quite astonished that one can turn out such a creditable looking journal, much less on computer-printer (is that what you call it?) or word processor in your location. It looks every bit as good as, or better than, any equivalent publication around here.

Some articles were especially intriguing to us. These include Mike McCarthy's "Notes from Saigon", and I suspect you probably include other local residents' travel notes in other issues. Pages 14-15, with news from 1918 were very interesting, and I couldn't but reflect that conditions then were not terribly different from those in 1937-38, when I served as the last Kennecott teacher. I liked the fact that Mrs. Rose Johnson was given a mail contract to take her cargo in side baskets on a motorcycle, even if it didn't work out. This is of a piece with the p. 20 item about spacemen and mountain women, and both illustrate that women in Alaska have been treated with more respect and longer than may places elsewhere.

The over-all weather report, always an important subject in the north, had

a special appeal to me, and reminded me of my winter in Kennecott and elsewhere in Alaska where I resided for 20 years (1927-1946).

From my Geogist-physiocentric point of view (see your encyclopedia), your last article, "For Your Consideration", seemed especially empathetic. I refer to the general over-organization of the world, where the organization becomes more important than the human beings therein.

Finally, as an agnostic who does not claim to be sure about anything except the physical evidence around me, I appreciate the fact that the News is not colored by your own religious persuasions, which I very much respect. It is an unbiased, objective publication that would be appreciated and respected wherever published.

We enjoyed being with you, and have a deep understanding for the style of life and location you have chosen. We tell ourselves that if we were not so well settled in here, we would probably be up there somewhere. With this go very best wishes.

Very Sincerely,  
Jim and Marian Busey

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Knoxville, Tennessee  
August 17, 1993

I would like to subscribe to your wonderful newspaper for the coming year. I am also subscribing for my brother. I think this would be a wonderful gift to him, because he was born in McCarthy in 1936.

I just recently returned from "the trip of my lifetime" -- as I was taken back to Kennicott by my daughter and

her husband and my little 9 year old grandson. I was born in Kennicott in 1930 and lived there for 7 years, completing the first grade there. I am trying to remember if Jim Busey was my schoolteacher. I so enjoyed reading your article in the July & August edition about him and his wife.

I have been under the impression all these years that Kennicott and McCarthy were not accessible. That they were all closed up and were ghost towns.

When my daughter learned that there was a Kennicott Glacier Lodge (from one of her Delta Airlines customers) we jumped at the chance to "let Mama return to her roots". What a trip it was!!! What an immediate trip back in time it was also!!! I cannot describe for you the feelings I had when I first laid my eyes on Kennicott after all these years. My family and I (except for my dad, James A. Moore) left Kennicott in July of 1937 -- my dad stayed on one more year -- and we headed for Tennessee, which was my Dad's place of birth. My Mother was born in Chile, South America, where Kennecott Copper also had a mine, and I'm sure if some of "us folks" could ever write to each other, or ever get together, we would remember so many wonderful times.

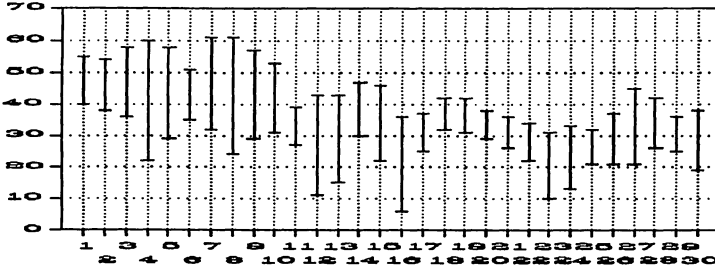
I have seen many beautiful places and dreamed many beautiful dreams, but to me the most BEAUTIFUL PLACE ON EARTH IS ALASKA!! I will return next year and keep doing so for as long as my life permits. There is something very special about Alaska.

Thank you for your very nice, newsy newspaper.

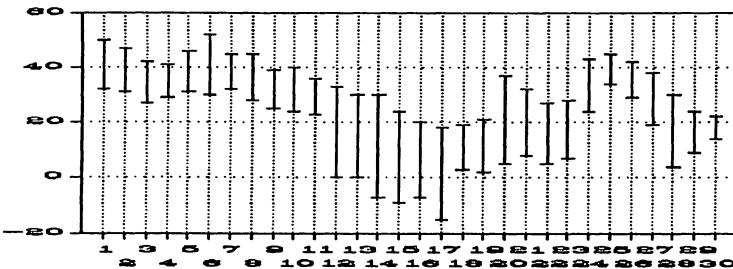
Very Sincerely,  
Jeanne Moore Elliott

# Weather - What can we expect?

September 1992



October 1992



Wrangell St. Elias News  
 McCarthy  
 P.O. Box MXY  
 Glennallen, AK 99588-8998

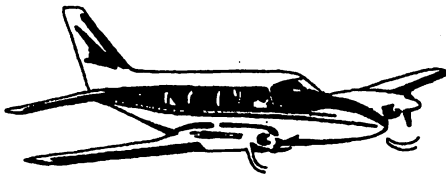
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