

Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Volume Nineteen Issue Five September & October 2010

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WSEN staff photo

Above: John Rice resorts to using an ATV to pull his travel trailer over the damaged Lakina River Bridge. With a load-limit of 6,000 pounds, DOT officials would not allow the trailer to be pulled with a full-size vehicle.

The damage to the bridge impacted both locals and visitors to the McCarthy-Kennicott area. In addition to the load limit, which precluded motor homes and pickup campers from using the bridge, the bridge was closed between 9pm and 9am. See story on page 16.

Right: Martin Radovan with Sled, date unknown.

Martin Radovan spent most of his life in the Wrangells pursuing his dream—an elusive vein of copper that would make him both rich and famous. National Park Service Historian Katherine Ringsmuth gives us an in-depth look at a man who spent much of his life alone and underground on page 8.



The Martin Radovan Collection, courtesy of the National Park Service, Anchorage, AK.

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

What a summer! Local gardens and greenhouses outdid themselves this year. Plenty of rain provided the vegetables more than enough precipitation, and most of the vegetables thrived in the cooler, damper climate. Last year it was hot and dry with smoky conditions. This is the last article to write for the September/October WSEN. Once I send it to Rick's computer for final layout, I intend to tackle the garden cleanup for the season. A low of 28 degrees the other night is a signal to finish harvesting the last of the crops and put the garden to rest for the winter.

Before I head that direction, however, I want to thank all our contributors to this issue. New to WSEN is Katy Ringsmuth whose assignment with the Park Service is to write a story on the life of Martin Radovan. She condensed her much-longer account to fit our publication. Her story begins on page 8. Thank you, Katy! The other new contributor is Emmet Gregory. He writes about a true bear encounter he had this summer. This young author is 8 years old. He tells it like it was on page 13. Emmet, I hope you will continue to write and share your stories with us and our readers.

Neil O'Donnell is not new to WSEN. He and his family are long-time subscribers and have contributed stories previously. Neil, his wife Margaret, and daughter Catherine own property in the McCarthy area and visit as often as they can find time in their very busy schedules. They were here over the 4th of July festivities and make another one of their exciting excursions to the back country. Neil aptly describes their most recent adventure to the Bremner Mine on page 6. You did a great job, Neil!

As always Rick and I appreciate those who contribute regularly, such as Peggy Guntis and George Cebula. Peggy's antennae are always attuned to recipes from locals and folks she comes in contact with. Even though George is retired from the weather service, he really isn't retired from watching the weather patterns and, like Peggy, is always "attuned" to what is, has been and just around the corner. Thank you, Peggy and George, for being so faithful to us.

Jeremy Pataky and Mark Vail are so quick to share insight and offer their expertise to the local community. I'm glad we are on their list of recipients. Thanks, Jeremy and Mark, for taking time out of your super busy summer schedules to submit your stories!

In the July/August "note," I wrote to be on the lookout for a detailed story in this issue on the Copper Valley Telephone project to upgrade McCarthy area communica-

tion services. CVTC representatives are just coming out with an update and holding a public meeting in McCarthy as we filled this issue. We apologize and plan to provide you with more information in the November-December WSEN.

Last, but not least, I want to thank Erich Veach with the National Park Service and Mike Loso of Kennicott for their superb assistance in providing me the information I needed to write the story on the National Creek project on page 21. I did my best to keep it fair and balanced with the amount of space we had remaining for this issue. I couldn't have done it without Erich and Mike's help. Thanks guys!

Wrangell St. Elias News welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Peter and Dyliss Rahme, KY; Patt Garrett, AK; James Williams, AK; Rich Rogers, AK; Doug and Deena Ford/Hurwitz, VA; Philipp Sturm, AK and Christopher Golden, OR. Kristen Parsons, AR.

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Items of Interest

Mark Vail: Mark's summer is full of a variety of "items." As president of McCarthy Area Council, he is sure to have his MAC hat in place while overseeing monthly meetings and attending occasional events. When I called on him for personal items, he replied with the following: "For myself it's just news of the great garden due to the wet summer. Monday evening I fed 40 folks at the Wrangell Mountains Center—a dinner of stir-fried veggies from my garden. It was the Wildland Studies' students last night in town after their six week stay in the Wrangells. Now I am home putting up two batches of relish, one hot, one sweet; a gallon of Bread and Butter pickles and a triple batch of Rhubarb onion sauce. Then it will be on to berrying and jamming. It's going to be a very productive summer."

Harvest time is always fulfilling and Mark certainly makes the most of it! Keep up the good work, Mark!

Art Phillips and Linda Warren: Writing about Mark reminded me of Art and Linda. The other day Linda sent me a couple of pictures via email. They

revealed a beautiful red flower that she found growing among the weeds in her yard. Linda said she had never seen such a flower growing around her place. She was hoping I could identify it.

Although it didn't look like any "wildflower" known to surface in the McCarthy area, I still looked in my wildflower booklet. Nothing! I decided to forward the pictures on to Mark and he provided us with the following explanation.

"Surprise...it's not a wildflower! How it got there is the question? I believe that it is a garden flower called Maltese Cross. Plant named Lychnis. I have it in my garden, I got my seed from Pat Ward many years ago. It is a short-lived perennial. It will come back for a few years and can easily be propagated from saved seed." Linda is planning on doing just that—saving some seed.

Art and Linda stay plenty busy, whether it's at home upgrading the homestead, gardening, or on their jobs at McCarthy Lodge. Last month (July) Art took one of his days off to accompany Rick to a fish wheel in Chitina. This was Art's first time

to see a fish wheel in operation. He and Rick managed to bring home enough fish for eating and canning. Both guys had a great time.

Ladies' lunch at Kennicott: The last "item" brings to mind a ladies-only outing to Kennicott for lunch. This year (for the first time) Linda Warren joined a few of us as we journeyed up to Kennicott for lunch at the Kennicott Glacier Lodge. Thankfully, Peggy Guntis' vehicle was able to handle the 5 of us. It was a rainy, cool day. Just the thought of taking our 4 wheelers made the excursion appear somewhat uninviting. Staying dry on the drive between McCarthy and Kennicott was a plus, and once inside the dining room of the lodge, we all relaxed and enjoyed each other's company.

This year the attendees were Audrey Edwards, Peggy Guntis, Linda Warren, Barbara Rice and myself. The table was set when we arrived, and we were greeted by JoAnne Woolever who oversees the front desk at the lodge. She turned us over to the waitress and, after our orders were taken, Jeannie Miller, long-time resident of Kennicott and chef,

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for the lodge came out of the kitchen to visit with us ladies.

Although Dee Frady was not able to join us this year, we ladies paid a shopping visit to Dee's gift shop across the road from the lodge. The arts and crafts store is chocked full of great gift items and just plain fun to inspect the craftsmanship of some of our local residents.

John and Barbara Rice: The Rices are enjoying summer 2010 and making the most of their season in the McCarthy area. John is volunteering at the McCarthy museum this year; Barbara is working at the McCarthy Center grocery store. Within a few weeks they will head south for the winter—St. Louis, that is.

When they drove north in the spring this year, they hauled a small travel trailer behind their pickup truck. They appreciated the comfort and availability of having a home on wheels for the trip. Their return trip in September was going as planned until the Lakina River bridge was damaged on July 25th. DOT placed a weight limit on the bridge and even though the trailer is well below the 6,000 lb. limit, it would be well over if John used the pickup truck to pull it back across. Plan B was soon formulated when it appeared the bridge would not be repaired before they needed to begin their return trip. This last Monday Rick and John headed to the Lakina: John pulling the trailer in the normal fashion and Rick driving John's 4 wheeler—an Arctic Cat 450cc. When they arrived at the bridge, they guys unhitched the trailer, maneuvered the wheeler to take the truck's place and John piloted

the little trailer safely across the bridge. All went quite smoothly and, once on the other side, they moved the truck back to its former position. It is now waiting for them at an acquaintance's home further down the McCarthy Road. A job well done, guys!

It was Barbara's birthday and a celebration was in the making so she remained at home. The ladies from the "store" decided to have their 3rd potluck and get-together for the season. This time it was held at Christine Johnson's cabin across McCarthy Creek. The ladies in attendance were: Tamara Harper, Christine, Mary Convey, Barbara and Maria Clemdaniel. Maria has the bike rental business at the store. Barbara said they had a great time and the Orange Chiffon cake that Mary made her was super delicious! Sounds like a great way to spent a birthday, Barbara. Happy belated Birthday to you.

Carol and Harold Michal: On the subject of socializing, Carol made her third trip of the season from her summer home at Mile 51 of the McCarthy Road to the mail shack at the airstrip, about 11 miles away (one way). She used to make this trip on her motorcycle but has upgraded to a 4 wheeler. Four tires are much better than two, she says.

Because I don't see her very often, it was good visiting with her in-between helping sort incoming mail. Carol was pleased to find a box with her name on it. After such a long trip, she was glad she wouldn't go home empty handed.

Once she had her mail strapped safely on her machine, she meandered up to Kennicott to see Terry and Dee Frady at

their gift shop. In the meantime, a few of us ladies headed the opposite direction—to the store for a round of needed groceries and our usual ice cream cone. While Peggy Guntis, Lindee Satterfield and I enjoyed our treat at a picnic table on the deck of the store, Carol zipped up on her wheeler. She was pleased to see us ladies again and decided to partake of one of those cones, too. Catching up with Carol was a fun time for all of us and before long a few others joined in on the neighborly visit.

Harold is enjoying his summer at their Fireweed Subdivision cabin. He is now 99 years old and Carol says he still drives a 4 wheeler around the property. They are harvesting the garden and giving much of it away to neighbors. Gardening is Carol's favorite pastime when they spend the summers out here. The garden did real good even with all the rain.

Harold and Carol are celebrating 18 years of marriage on August 30th. By the way, Carol said to go ahead and tell you that she is 81 years old. She says, "Harold and I are still kicking, but not too high. We can still cut the mustard but need a little help opening the jar!"

It was great seeing you, Carol, and getting an update from your home to mine. Happy anniversary!

Trig Trigiano: Rick and I went calling on Trig recently to see what was new since our last visit. He's making good headway on his projects—insulating his basement and building a small shed to house his generator which sits on his back deck. He says he is getting ready for

spending his first winter in McCarthy. Things are looking up, Trig, and we are eager for you to join the winter population!

George and Ted Cebula:

George returned from Pittsburg, PA, after attending a niece's wedding—daughter of his brother Ray. Jim and Audrey Edwards were dog Sophie's babysitters while George was away. Don't tell George I told you, but Audrey admits to slipping Sophie an occasion treat and it isn't a doggy bone either! No wonder Sophie enjoys her babysitters.

George didn't come home empty-handed, but brought another brother, Ted, who makes McCarthy his annual fall vacation spot. He accompanies George (and Sophie) on many of their neighborhood walks and, when he and George are not on a project, he just relaxes.

Shortly after Ted's arrival he walked over to our place to say hello and present us with yet another hardbound book containing WSEN's from 2009. These books are wonderful assets to our office. They go back to WSEN's beginning—July/August 1992. Thanks, Ted, and welcome back to your home away from home!

Chet Randall/Joan Fortin and Doug Ford/Deena Hurwitz families: The first week of August Rick and I had the pleasure of welcoming these two fine families back to the neighborhood. Chet and Joan with their two children, Michael, 9, and Lainey, 7, are co-owners of a lot next door to us. The other half of the partnership (and great friendship), Doug, Deena and their two children, Chela, 5, and Alejo, 8,

also made the trip north. Both families come a long ways to visit the area. Chet and Joan live in Portland, ME, while Doug and Deena hail from Earlysville, VA. All four are in the legal profession, in some form or fashion.

Prior to their arrival on the 4th, Morrison Construction added a second cabin to the property, giving the two families extra space for their week-long visit. Chet and Doug added shelves and counters to the interior of the new 16' x 24' cabin. Things will be much more enjoyable for their future visits.

While here they celebrated Lainey's 7th birthday and took numerous walks throughout the neighborhood. Rick and I always enjoy sitting around their campfires and "catching up" on the family news.

Chet and Joan were here two years ago with Joan's parents, Jerry and Rita Fortin. Doug and Deena are determined to visit more often than in the past. We are glad they all like it here because we enjoy having them next door.

Thanks for all the goodies you brought us from the northeast. We are really enjoying the delicious fare!

Dave Hollis: Hollis stopped by today and brought me an "item" of interest. Good timing, I told him! We had a great visit and did some catching up. The summer has gone by so quickly and we've only seen him on the road, coming or going! And, that's about all he's been doing. He writes: "My 15th summer camp has been sweet as usual. I've now made over 3,300 trips

(over eight seasons) up to Kennecott as a shuttle driver for Wrangell Mountain Air (Bus) in McCarthy. I plan on staying here on my land until the end of October. Then I'll fly down to Florida to visit my mother, and on to the Big Island for the winter. Happy trails until next spring!"

Thanks, Hollis, for taking the time to fill us in. One of these years Rick and I hope to meet up with you when we, too, visit our folks in sunny Florida. Tell your mother we said hello.

Howard and Chris Haley: I just got off the phone with Chris. She was somewhere between the main floor of her cabin and her cellar underneath. This last weekend she did her fish canning project and, when I called, she was transferring her finished product down to her cool storage area. She probably thought I was calling to line up haircuts for Rick and myself, but this time I asked her if she would like some beets from my garden. I know she likes to make pickled beets. Interestingly enough, she was able to check out her leftover stash from a previous year while we talked. She said she could use a few more and would stop by on her way home from work one night this week.

Howard is gearing up for annual hunting camp which is just around the corner, Chris said. She informed me that this summer a bear had taken a liking to Howard's snowmachine seat. (How a bear can even imagine eating a plastic foam seat is beyond me!) Chris was thankful it didn't consider her snowmachine worthy of a meal.

Our Summer Vacation: Backpacking from Iceberg Lake to Bremner Mine

BY NEIL O'DONNELL

Webster's Dictionary: "vacation — a period of time devoted to pleasure, rest or relaxation."

Seven of us are scheduled to fly into Iceberg Lake in the Chugach Mountains the following morning for a week-long backpacking trip from Iceberg Lake to the old Bremner Mine. I drive out from McCarthy to Chitina in our truck to pick up my nephew and his three friends, all recent high school graduates from Philadelphia. We meet at 6:00 pm in Chitina and are back in McCarthy at eight.

A gear check at nine discloses no stoves, no pots, no bowls and no utensils. This is a problem. "Uncle Neil, we must have left the cook gear in the Taurus."

Drew and I drive back to Chitina. Not in the car. "We must have left the cook gear under the seat on the Denali Park bus." We are back at the cabin at midnight. I have now driven the McCarthy road four times in one day — a personal record.

I call Natalie Bay early the next morning. She finds Kelly's old stove and some pots. Wayne Marrs at St. Elias Alpine Guides graciously lends us another stove and the repair parts needed to get Kelly's old stove working. We are back in business.

It's merely overcast in McCarthy, but our pilot Don Welty tells us that we should put our rain gear on before we get in the plane. This is not encouraging.

Catherine, my 13-year old daughter, wisely follows Don's advice. At Iceberg Lake I dig through my pack in the horizontal rain for the rest of my gear.

Wrangell Mountain Air pilot Martin Boniek flies in with my wife, Margaret, and the rest of our group. We strike off for all of about a half mile until we are past the sand and can pitch our tents on the wet tundra. The Philadelphians promptly break a tent pole. After crudely splinting the pole, we dive into our tents. Catherine, a new Shakespeare fan, buries her head in Hamlet. She appropriately reports, "though this be madness, yet there is method in it." A few hours later the rain doesn't sound so heavy. A quick look out shows the rain is now mixed with snow. Excellent July 6.

We wake the following morning to continued rain. Things are improving, however, as the rain is no longer mixed with snow. By uncanny mutual decision we all declare a "rest day" and go back to sleep. By mid-afternoon we get a lucky break. It is merely drizzling. We pack up and head off. We hike a few miles along the valley floor; cross the toe of a glacier; and set up camp late in the evening on a beautiful tundra bench overlooking the valley. Roiling clouds, golden in the long sunset, provide the evening's entertainment.

The next day is amazingly clear, not a cloud in the sky. We hike down the rest of the valley and up and over our first pass.

The Philadelphians redeem themselves by carrying all our food in very heavy packs. The meadows through the pass are strewn with wildflowers: Lupine, Moss Champion, Tundra Rose, River Beauty, Indian Paintbrush, Columbine, and Wild Geranium. We joke about meeting the Von Trapp Family Singers coming up the other side and camp by an iridescent blue alpine lake. Catherine returns to her friend Hamlet, who is deciding "to be or not to be."

Day 4 is again brilliantly clear. We head down a series of tundra meadows infested with mosquitoes (a minor price to pay for the sunny weather); hike down a steep, rock-filled gully; and cross a moraine boulder field. The Philadelphians pioneer a steep route up onto the ice and we are off on a two-mile crossing of the Tana Lobe of the Bremner Glacier. The route is nearly flat and interspersed with small moulins and winding crystal streams. We wear crampons, but could have left them home and saved two pounds apiece.

Greg Fensterman's excellent hiking guide warns about a shortage of campsites on the other side of the glacier. After an hour of searching the steep moraine, we finally find a small sandy ledge overlooking the glacier that will barely fit three tents. How or why a moose clambered through a vast rock pile to leave his tracks in this small oasis of sand is a mystery.

The following day brings gray skies and the dreaded bush-whack up to the second pass. The guide book says to head up the right side of the valley, but that looks bad, so we head up the left side, which (after an easy stream crossing) is probably worse. This is the first time the Philadelphians have had the pleasure of hiking uphill through dense alder with heavy packs in the rain. They politely refrain from commenting on my route selection. The pass takes a mile or so to wind through the mountains. With the wind and gray skies it seems to go on forever. We finally down-climb a series of boulder and snow fields and walk lazily down the beautiful Monahan Valley. The rain stops long enough for us to pitch our tents and cook dinner. When the rain returns Margaret, Catherine and I head off to bed. The Philadelphians all cram into one of their two tents for their nightly card game.

Day 6 starts out gray but soon turns to full-on rain. By lunch time we are on the valley floor beneath our final pass. Worried about steep slopes and snow in the pass, Margaret suggests continuing another four miles down Monahan Valley and doubling back on Golconda Creek. This could be a great route . . . or a nasty wet bush-

whack. Fear of "alder hell" prevails. We head up. At about 4,800 feet the rain turns to snow. At the 5,800 foot pass it is snowing hard and the wind is pushing spindrift across the snowfields. Cold and wet, we are impatient to get down the other side. Luckily, a convenient series



Photo courtesy Neil O'Donnell

Catherine checking out the mileage on an old Ford truck at the Bremner Mine

of snowfields allows us to quickly descend a thousand feet. We camp at "Golden Pond" in mixed rain and snow. Catherine fills us in on the final act in Hamlet: everyone dies.

Day 7 starts out with drizzle but soon starts to clear. We head down the final four miles to the old Bremner Mine. We are soon enjoying clear skies, warm sun, and spectacular views. We reach the airstrip and set up camp. The afternoon's activity is sunbathing. Later I hike alone another mile up the valley to explore the old mine buildings. We retire that evening contemplating our scheduled pick up

the next morning. Margaret fills us in on her lunch plans at the Potato Head.

I awaken at 4:00 am to a familiar plinking sound on the rainfly. The view at 8:00 am is not encouraging: solid rain and fog. I can only see halfway down the airstrip. Having finished my book I start reading Hamlet. As I suspected, something is rotten in the State of Denmark. That afternoon we all make a trip to the Bremner Mine to stretch our legs and contemplate the banks of fog slowing pushing up the valley.

Our third day at the Bremner airstrip begins with the usual fog and rain. My tent mates (but not me!) begin to get cranky. How could your socks possibly smell that

bad? You only packed instant oatmeal for our extra meals? Why didn't we do this trip in June . . . or August . . . or next year?

Late in the afternoon a few holes appear in the clouds and the bands of fog gradually lift. Then we hear the sound of a small plane. All my faults are forgiven. An hour later we are at the fabled Potato Head, eating breakfast burritos. Reflecting on our trip, we agree that, while perhaps a questionable vacation, it was certainly an excellent adventure — and all the more satisfying and memorable for being the latter.

Martin Radovan: A Prospector in the 'Land of Hope'

BY KATHERINE RINGSMUTH
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HISTORIAN
AUGUST 23, 2010

Mountains, on all sides of me. Although I never saw big mountains before, they would always come to me in my dreams. ~Martin Radovan, circa 1973

In an article for *Scribner's Magazine* in 1912, Dora Keen, the first mountaineer to ascend Mount Blackburn, described the Alaskan prospectors she had encountered while visiting the Nizina country the previous year. "His motto is 'Never stuck...'" she wrote, "...His is the land of hope. He is always 'going to make a strike next year, sure,' therefore always ready to endure and to smile, whatever happens."

Had she met Martin Radovan, she would have described the prospector and his unyielding faith in his prospects perfectly. Martin came to Alaska following a dream.

"Arriving in New York, then step by step to Alaska...", recalled an aging Martin, "...I came half way round the world to the mountains of my dreams." Whether crossing oceans and continents, surmounting glaciers and cliffs, or befriending the local wildlife, Martin Radovan never doubted there was copper to be found deep within the mountains of the Nizina country, a place that, after a lifetime of prospecting, became his 'land of hope.'

A 19 year old Martin Radovan departed Žrnovo, Croatia, an Austrian province of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, for the United States in 1900. He arrived at Ellis Island where his surname, 'Radovanovich' was transliterated to 'Radovan.' He gained railroad experience in New

Jersey and in California, but after the 1906 earthquake that leveled much of San Francisco, Martin moved to Seattle. It was in the Pacific Northwest where Martin learned of a railway being constructed into the Interior of Alaska by two giants of American business: J.P. Morgan and the Guggenheim brothers.

Martin arrived at Cordova in 1908. Putting his railroad skills to good use, he quickly found work building the Copper River & Northwestern Railway. After completion of the railway in 1911, Martin took a job with a hydraulic mining com-

pany at Dan Creek, south of present day McCarthy in the heart of the Nizina mining district, and began to prospect nearby creeks and benches for gold on his own. In the 1920s, Martin began searching for copper in a glacial cirque on Glacier Creek, a tributary of the Chitistone River. The cirque later became known as Radovan Gulch.

log Alaska's uncharted areas. Major mineral discoveries in the Far North had sparked the interest of the U.S. Congress, and as a result, lawmakers directed the USGS to serve as the scientific arm to arriving prospectors, mining engineers, and investors. The agency produced reports that contained "useful information" in "untechnical language," which promoted Alaska's mineral resources and served as 'how-to manuals' for miners. By the turn of the century, the agency's relationship with mining investors cultivated the new field of economic geology.



Photo courtesy of James Edwards.

Martin Radovan and Augusta Iverson ran the Blackburn Roadhouse in 1913, date of photo is unknown.

By the late nineteenth century, copper was a coveted metal made increasingly valuable by America's desire for electric power. In 1900, Kennecott's world-famous Bonanza copper deposit was discovered along a depositional contact zone where marine rocks of the Chitistone Limestone overlay the basaltic flows of the Nikolai Greenstone, a formation that dominates much of the visual landscape south of the Wrangell Mountains. As a

result, agency geologists advised prospectors to look for copper where the distinctly colored deposits meet. In "Geology and Mineral Resources of the Nizina District, Alaska," a USGS bulletin from 1911, federal geologists Fred Moffit and Stephens Capps advised:

The most important conclusion bearing on the economic geology here presented is the fact that the copper-ore bodies appear to occur chiefly along a system of cross fractures which are at approximately right angles to the greenstone-limestone contact. These fractures occur along well-defined faults, at least one of which has been traced for a long distance. This may apply

to the entire Chitina district find and is worthy of consideration by the prospector.

Once word got out, Martin Radovan, like nearly all the copper prospectors working the Nizina district, began to scrutinize every accessible linear foot of the contact zone.

Martin gained notoriety as a prospector with his conquest of the Binocular Prospect, a copper outcrop above the greenstone-limestone contact on the face of a cliff overlooking a large, glacier-filled cirque on the south side of the Glacier Creek drainage. USGS had known about the outcrop, and had studied it—through binoculars—since the turn of the century. The vertical face of the cirque wall, and the location of the outcrop over 3,000 feet up, had prevented geologists from gaining detailed inspection and sampling. By the mid-1920s, the Kennecott Copper Corporation had sought to extend its operational life by exploring for other mining opportunities in the Nizina district. In 1929 the company took an option on the nearby Nelson prospect and that same year sent European mountain climbers to try to reach the Binocular prospect. After a summer of attempts, the climbers failed to reach the contact and obtain samples.

Meanwhile, Martin's prospecting of the Nizina country had led him to Glacier Creek, where that same season he managed to reach the outcrop by following a precipitous route along the cliff wall toward the contact zone. He built a stair-step trail, only one-foot wide at places, and made even more treacherous from the constant threat of falling rocks and glacial ice. At a point two hundred feet below the outcrop, he scaled the face of the cliff, using ropes and steel spikes driven into the rock crevices. Martin staked some thirty claims over the next two years. Although Kennecott never optioned or leased his claims,

Martin nevertheless gained local notoriety for besting the Kennecott Copper Corporation and beating their hired expert climbers to the copper-stained outcrops, and perhaps more importantly, for his death-defying, legendary route, that allowed him to access the Binocular Prospect in the first place.

Supporting Martin in his early mining endeavors was his wife, Augusta Louise Iverson, a person of great significance in Martin's life. Somehow Martin—a brown-eyed, black-haired Croatian, who spent more time in a tunnel than in town—caught the attention of an attractive Norwegian bookkeeper who worked at the Kennecott milltown. Martin and Augusta were married by the Justice of the Peace in McCarthy in 1914. Moving seasonally between the cabin at Dan Creek and the camp at Glacier Creek, she made a life with him in the Nizina country.

Whereas Martin followed a more traditional route from Europe to the United States, making his way across the country to Alaska by way of the Atlantic seaboard, Augusta's family made their way to the Pacific Northwest and eventually Alaska by following a far less customary course. Augusta's father was John Alfred Iverson. He married Thora Fredericka Nordholm sometime around 1880, the same year the couple left Norway. In December 1881 Thora gave birth to a son, Charles John Iverson, born in Hawaii. In the late 19th century, depression plagued Norway. The Iversons were most likely extremely poor and, in order to survive, agreed to join 600 other farm laborers, transported on the bark Beta to the Hawaiian Islands, to work on Maui's sugar plantations. Within months of arrival, the Norwegian laborers, unhappy with their living and work conditions, instigated one of the first labor strikes on the Island, which subsequently, caused an international uproar between Norway and the United States. Because of

the problems they confronted in Hawaii, most of the Norwegian migrants left after three years when their contract expired.

The Iversons disappear from the historic record for awhile after 1884, the year Augusta was born. Perhaps they returned to Scandinavia during this time. But it is far more likely that the family moved to Seattle, Washington, a booming city that was actively encouraging the settlement of Scandinavian immigrants on the Pacific Coast. Although it is uncertain when they arrived, the historic record picks up the Iverson's trail in Seattle fifteen years later. The Polk Directory listed both Augusta L. Iverson and her brother Charles J. Iverson in 1899. Augusta was living at a boarding house on Lenora Street in downtown Seattle and Charles was living on 1st Avenue and attending the Acme Business College, whose motto that year was "Learn to do by doing." Originally called the Seattle Business College, the small school located on the corner of Second and Pike initially taught shorthand and typing, but expanded its curriculum to include bookkeeping, accounting, business law, English and mathematics after it was bought out by the Acme Business College in 1894. In 1900, Augusta was enrolled as a student; her mother Thora Iverson, described as a 'widow,' lived at the same downtown address as Charles.

By the time she reached Seattle, Augusta had broken ties with the country of her parents and had learned the basics of modern American life. She spoke English and, being single, she understood what tools she needed in order to support herself. While attending school, she learned to keep books, type, and balance a budget. Such expertise was advantageous in a city where numerous jobs were opening to Scandinavians, a group rapidly moving up Seattle's social ladder. Augusta's aspirations for a better future reflected both her native country's value in education, while

at the same time, her new country's belief in independence and self-reliance. Ten years later, Augusta, now age 26, was employed as a book-keeper at a local Seattle office.

There is no way of knowing why Augusta went to Alaska, but given where she lived and her occupation, Alaska would nonetheless be on her mind. What we do know is that she went to Kennecott for her own reasons. Although Augusta and Martin both lived for a time in Seattle, as far as we know, their paths never crossed. They were two single Europeans—one with roots in the north, the other the south—who emigrated from their native lands, taking entirely different routes around the globe. One came to America alone, following a pattern familiar to most immigrants, and initially beginning his journey to Alaska from the East Coast. The other was brought to America by her family who had traveled to an exotic Pacific island and, after some time, eventually came to the West Coast. Both found their way to the Pacific Northwest. Leaving from Seattle, the gateway to Alaska, each journeyed north, driven by individual needs and dreams.

Augusta not only helped Martin build the steep trail to the Binocular Prospect, which brought him local recognition, but it was her professional skills and steady income that allowed Martin to spend his time prospecting at Dan and Glacier Creeks. While Martin remained steadfast in working his surrounding claims, Augusta interacted with the larger community of miners and their wives. Augusta fished, baked bread, sluiced for gold, cut wood, called on neighbors and friends, traveled to town usually on foot, scheduled daily life around the mail, and had a naturalist's eye for wildlife. Besides working at Kennecott from time to time, she supplemented their earnings by running the Blackburn roadhouse with Martin during the Chisana gold rush, washing miners' laundry, and assisting as

the local postmistress and notary. While making a small income, she still managed to send money to her mother in Seattle. Martin also took part-time jobs when money ran short. Although their daily work routine presented the couple usually with gender-specific, specialized tasks, Martin and Augusta shared a common vision. She not only made his dream possible, she believed in it, too.

Augusta's life was cut short in 1944 when she was only 60 years old. But Martin, for the next three decades, continued his search for copper in the cirque which bears his name. Besides the Binocular Prospect, he discovered and staked two others: Low-Contact and the Greenstone, and built a substantial camp on the banks of Glacier Creek near the mouth of Radovan Gulch. Alone and unaided, he hauled 400 feet of three-quarter-inch steel cable six miles upriver on a hand sled and then succeeded in stretching it 325 feet across Glacier Creek for a tram he built to pull himself across to his creekside camp. When he was not tunneling into the limestone, Martin passed time by feeding the local wildlife, an activity that brought him much comfort and companionship after "Gussie" died. In 1948, Martin filed twelve claims at the Binocular Prospect, many of which were named after things he cherished most: his pet fox 'Boots,' the grey jays he called 'Ki-Ki' birds, a bear he called 'Pongo Boy,' and his wife and partner of thirty years, "Augusta."

By a twist of fate, Martin was reunited with his long-lost brother Jack Radovich of Delano, California in 1951. Jack, a wealthy vineyard owner, flew to Glacier in hopes of reuniting with his brother Martin, whom he had not seen in fifty years. Jack wanted his Sourdough brother to return with him to Delano, but the family reunion did not deter Martin from his mining aspirations. As Martin recalled, "I had some good claims and was preparing for

the winter." All too aware that he needed a company with the capital and technology to develop his prospects, Martin remained at Glacier Creek, persistently working his claims and marketing the prospects to outside interests.

After a string of disappointing leases and business arrangements between the 1950s and the late 1960s, the Geneva Pacific Corporation purchased Martin's prospects in the early 1970s, giving Martin hope that the Binocular Prospect would finally be mined and his life work validated. In 1974, at age 91, Martin left Alaska to spend time with his brother Jack Radovich in Delano. The following spring Geneva-Pacific reached the Binocular Prospect using a helicopter and professional geologists. Before the company's findings were reported, Martin died.

The sampling team for Geneva-Pacific later reported that they were stunned to discover, at 7,000 feet, a rock hammer and pick-ax used in 1929 by Martin Radovan. Despite 47 years of weathering and mineralization, the hand-made hammer remained in "excellent" condition. Like his hammer and pick-ax, Martin Radovan's life in the Nizina mining district continues to stun audiences of frontier Alaska. The Binocular story has inspired numerous popular articles, chronicling Martin's life at Glacier Creek. In addition, every USGS report of Glacier Creek since 1931 has placed the site and trail, as well as his camp on all official maps. Each geologist sent to survey the area has retold the story of the Binocular Prospect, perpetuating the myth in the collective imagination. Using words that would sound like music to Martin's ears, a Geneva-Pacific news release printed in *Mines and Geology Bulletin* in 1975 optimistically declared, "Modern methods have opened up the hard-to-reach areas of Alaska and given geologists and prospectors a new frontier to explore."

(Continued on page 30)

the Languid Lady

Wildflowers of the Wrangells—Part 3: “Late Bloomers”

BY DEE FRADY

As my friends know, I love flowers of all kinds; both cultivated and wild. Our store front on the McCarthy road showcases hanging baskets, window boxes and containers full of summer blooms. It seems the vegetable garden has become almost non-existent while the flowers have increased! These interests have evolved into gathering, pressing and arranging wildflowers as well as hand painting them on magnets and jewelry.

This summer season has been a particular challenge due to an abundance of snowshoe hares, squirrels and voles. All of them consider planting domestic flowers in their wild environment a culinary treat! The hares get up into the wheelbarrow and other containers full of flowers and nibble away. Squirrels, I've discovered, have an affinity for 'Livingston Daises.' The rock garden, at this point, is just a collection of rocks. By the way, in a peak year a hare can have three litters—this seems to be that year!

Getting back to the subject at hand, the following six wildflowers can bloom from late June to August. They mostly oc-

cur in July and August depending on their locale.

WESTERN COLUMBINE
(*Aquilegia formosa*) Crowfoot Family

This is one of Alaska's most beautiful flowers. The showy five-petaled, lacquer-red and yellow flowers project backward into hollow spurs. They have multiple protruding yellow stamens. These flowers gracefully sway from branching, brownish-red stalks that grow 2 to 3 feet high. The dark green leaves are compound and deeply cleft with a grayish tinge on the undersides. The seeds form in enclosed capsules. They grow in mountain meadows to moist woods and like full sun to some shade. One of the easiest wildflowers to grow from seed without any special handling that also transplants well. From aquilegus, water-drawer, the flowers are edible and their long spurs hold a hidden supply of nectar. Some insects that cannot reach the honey at the spur tips bite holes through the flowers to obtain the fluid. This perennial is a common backyard ornamental often added to flower beds. The roots and seeds are for external use only. DO NOT EAT. Mashing the seeds and rubbing them into

the scalp is a traditional treatment for head lice.

Blue Columbine (*A. brevistylata*) grows in our area as well. This is a shorter plant, 8 to 15 inches tall, with smaller, blue and creamy white blossoms that have short spurs. The seeds are harder to find as birds eat them when they ripen. Something of a mystery as the birds will not eat *A. formosa* seeds.

MONKSHOOD (*Aconitum delphinifolium*) Crowfoot Family

Also known as Friar's Cap, these flowers have a deep blue to purple, distinctive hood-shaped upper petal with a beak. Occasionally white. Several blooms occur on stems of this tall, graceful plant that grows to 3 feet or more. The dark green leaves are finger-shaped, much cleft and pointed. They like shady, moist locations best, but thrive in other places too. Can be transplanted, seeds with more difficulty. Long tongues are necessary to reach the honey, so these plants are largely dependent on bumblebees and hummingbirds for pollination. VERY POISONOUS. Contain an alkaloid that paralyzes the nerves and lowers body temperature as well as blood pressure. History

shows many interesting uses of this plant. Monkshood used as bait in killing wolves had the old name of wolfbane. This plant used as a spear or arrow poison, paralyzed animals without affecting meat edibility. Roots (the most poisonous part of the plant) combined with cheese to kill rats are another use. Medieval word for Monkshood was thung (a name common for any deadly plant) and was useful in warfare. The root placed in water holes and wells poisoned enemy water supplies.

In spite of a bad reputation, these blossoms make beautiful pressed flower arrangements and hold their color well. To dry for other uses, hang the plant upside down. Always wash your hands after handling.

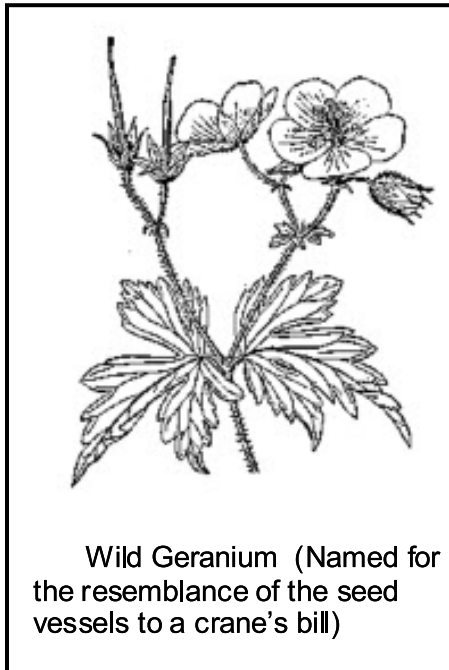
LARKSPUR (*Delphinium glaucum*) Crowfoot Family

Name from Greek 'a dolphin' due to flower resemblance. These plants are smaller than the cultivated Delphinium. A purple-blue, irregular-shaped flower in which the petals join to form a spur. There are many florets on a tall, stout, hollow spike (purplish in color) up to 6 feet tall. The flower spike makes up as much as one-third the height of the plant and blooms from the bottom upward. The leaves are large, fingered, sharply toothed, 5 to 7 lobed segments. Larkspur likes moist woods and meadows. Difficult to grow from seed but transplants well (old roots divide well). POISONOUS. This plant contains a poison similar to

Monkshood but it is less active. Seeds of this plant are medicinal for head lice. Dry Larkspur for use in decorative arrangements.

WILD GERANIUM, NORTHERN CRANESBILL (*Geranium erianthum*) Geranium Family

A very attractive flower with five lavender-blue, red-veined petals on erect, branched stems



Wild Geranium (Named for the resemblance of the seed vessels to a crane's bill)

growing to 2 feet. (The flowers are occasionally albino.) The leaves are finger-shaped with 5 to 7 toothed lobes and are silky on the underside. After the petals fall the stamens are red and persist. Cranesbill, named for the resemblance of the seed vessels to a crane's bill (long and pointed), curl backward releasing the seeds rapidly with considerable force. Wild Geranium grows in moist woods, dry roadsides and above timberline in alpine meadows. Outstanding for the garden and responds well to cultivation. Geranium is easy to

transplant and grown from seed with the following preparation. Scarify and stratify; that is, use sandpaper and cold/moist treatment. As a salad garnish, add edible flowers. Geranium roots have clotting action and astringent properties. Cranesbill has a history of use during the Civil War to stop hemorrhaging.

NORTHERN GRASS-OF-PARNASSUS (*Parnassia palustris*) Saxifrage Family

A late blooming flower also called Bog Star and named after the Greek Mount Parnassus. These white blossoms have five large, pointed petals with green veins. They produce an obvious, center green seed capsule. The solitary, star-shaped blooms are on tall, stiff stems that grow to a foot or more. The small, heart-shaped, light green leaves cluster around the base except for one, tiny, clasping leaf midway up each stem. They grow in damp areas such as margins of ponds, bogs, seeps on hillsides and roadside ditches. They grow from transplants and seeds. Collect tiny seeds when center capsule starts to split. Keep cool and dry and plant in the spring. They germinate in light so do not cover with soil. Grass-Of-Parnassus is circumboreal and a common species in Europe.

YARROW, MILLFOIL (*Achillea millefolium*) Aster Family

YARROW (COMMON NAME OF "THOUSAND LEAVES")

White, tiny, simple daisy shapes in a flat, branched, flower cluster (corymb). These occur on branched, hairy, gray-green leafy stems to 24 inches. The leaves appear finely cut and fern-like, hence the common name of "thousand leaves." The plant has a strong, aromatic sage or tansy odor. Yarrow is common on the roadsides and open areas in lower elevations. This plant seeds easily. Mature stalks are gathered, colored and used in bouquets. Yarrow's virtues, reportedly discovered by the Greek warrior, Achilles, are a potent medicinal. Yarrow tea is used to induce perspiration and reduce fever as well as a skin wash for all types of infections and irritations. Historically called soldier's woundwort as soldiers and carpenters used the plant for its wound healing properties. The only drawback is that



Yarrow (Common name of "thousand leaves")

repeated use causes sensitivity to sunlight; use sparingly.

Interesting and useful emergency trail suggestions are: toothaches, chew a fresh Yarrow

leaf and for nosebleed, roll and place a Yarrow leaf in the nostril. Other uses found are: "poor man's pepper" (made with dried and ground leaves) and rubbing clothes and skin with crushed leaves as an insect repellent. (Fortunately, this season, not needed!)

As the wildflower season comes to a close I start to look for the first signs of fall. Not hard to spot are plenty of yellow willow leaves on the mountainsides and hues of orange and red throughout the woods. The Fireweed spikes are almost bare of blooms now and the seed pods are popping open. Although the traveler can still see several flowers in bloom the fast approaching fall colors will soon dominate the landscape.

The True Story of the Bear

by Emmet Gregory

One sunny day I was playing by the foot bridge. I was with my mom and my sisters. All of a sudden, an enormous black thing came out at me! I was terrified and puzzled! I realized it was a black bear. It came straight to me! I yelled to my mom, "A black bear!" My mom yelled, "Come to me Emmet!" As I went to my mom the black bear followed me. My mom screamed at the bear but the bear didn't care. She pulled back my baby sister this time.

My mom yelled at the van full of tourists for help. Eva ran to the foot bridge. The bear followed me down the hill! Our friend Jared was in the van. He came out of the van and threw rocks at the bear! The bear didn't care. All the tourists came out of the van and the bear ran away.

I realized there were baby bears in the tree. We were all nervous but ok.

Emmet just turned 8 years old in July. He is the son of Sam and Kris Gregory who make their home in Brooklyn, NY. The Gregory family spends a good portion of their summers in the McCarthy/Kennicott area where they own property and have many friends. Thank you, Emmet, for writing such an exciting story for our WSEN readers! You did a great job.

Guns on the homestead

Part three—the handgun

BY RICK KENYON

Now that we have talked about the “ideal” bear guns, it is time to discuss what might be termed the “minimum” that could get the job done. The first rule of a gun fight is to have a gun. The problem is that you never know just when you might need the darn thing, and after a while you get tired of toting your shotgun or rifle to the outhouse or cache. You also may not like the looks you get with a long gun slung over your shoulder as you walk through town to get an ice cream or pizza, after a two mile hike through bear country. These are some of the reasons why many people rely on handguns for self defense when a shotgun or rifle would do a much better job. “Better the (small) gun you have with you than the (big) one sitting at home.”

The main problems with using a handgun for bear defense are twofold: It is the hardest of the three main gun types to shoot accurately while at the same time being less powerful—which requires *greater accuracy* in order to stop a determined target! The benefits of portability must be weighed against these penalties. My solution to this dilemma is also twofold: To use the largest, most powerful caliber that I can control—in a gun light enough to be comfortable packing regularly; and to practice, practice, practice.

As with the other types of guns, there are several options when it comes to handguns. The

basic action types we will consider here are the revolver and the semi-automatic pistol.

I am a great fan of the semi-automatic pistols in general, and the .45 Automatic Colt Pistol (ACP) in particular, but in this situation it is just simply not enough gun. There are, however, several large magnum semi-autos that should make fine bear-defense guns. One is based on the tried and true 1911 design and is called (appropriately enough!) the “Grizzly.” It shoots a cartridge called the .45 Winchester Magnum (rated at 1,000 ft. lb. energy) or the .50 Action Express (.50AE) which is rated at over 1,400 ft. lb. of energy at the muzzle. In .50AE it weighs 64 oz. with 6 rounds loaded. In .45 Win. Mag it weighs in at 53 oz. when loaded. I don’t have a current price but I believe it sells for around \$1,000.

Another semi-auto called the Desert Eagle is chambered for the .50 Action Express, .440 Cor-Bon Magnum, and the .44 or .357 magnum cartridges. The .440 Cor-Bon is the .50AE necked down to take .44 magnum bullets (which are not really .44 but .429 caliber. Go figure). The Desert Eagle is a neat looking gun and should have plenty of power in any but .357 magnum caliber. It sells for around \$1,000, depending on caliber and barrel length (6-inch or 10-inch). If money is no object, you can get the basic gun with all 4 calibers and both barrel lengths for around \$3,500. The main drawback to either of these

semi-autos is their size and weight. You might be better served with a shotgun or rifle than with a handgun that is not comfortable wearing at your side all day. On the other hand, shoulder holsters are available that shift the weight from your belt to your shoulders and are an option.

Turning to revolvers, there are two basic types: The single action and the double action. Both have their supporters and detractors. I happen to like single actions, while my friend Don Welty (who helped immensely with information for these articles) prefers the double action. And what is the difference? Basically, with the single action you must cock the hammer for each shot, while the double action gives the option of simply pulling the trigger to fire the gun.

To many people, a revolver for bear country means a .44 magnum. As Dirty Harry once said, “The most powerful handgun on the face of the earth.” Of course that was several decades ago, and is no longer true. It is still the most widely used of the big bores, but it has recently been eclipsed by the .454 Casull Magnum, the .50AE Express, and several others. There are a variety of both single action and double action guns made by Smith & Wesson, Taurus, Ruger, Colt and others are chambered for the .44 magnum that sell in the range of \$350-\$600. Any of these make fine carry guns for bear country, if you are willing to shoot enough to become profi-

cient with them. For a number of years I carried a Ruger Super Blackhawk with a 7" barrel and never felt under-gunned. Later I had the barrel cut to 4.625" to make it a bit easier to carry. For those who prefer double-action revolvers, the Smith & Wesson "Mountain Guns" in .44 magnum are both accurate and handy to carry. Most authorities consider this caliber the absolute minimum for stopping bears in a defensive type situation.

Taurus Firearms has recently come out with a double action .454 Casull Magnum called the "Raging Bull." They come in several barrel lengths as well as blue or stainless steel. On our last trip to Anchorage they were available at Fred Myers or Wal-Mart at prices starting around \$650. (Unfortunately K-Mart has given in to the liberal anti-gun movement and no longer stocks handguns in their stores.) I was able to fire a Raging Bull this past week when neighbor Paul Barrett came over and happened to have his 6" stainless "Bull" with him. I found it quite pleasant to shoot in the single-action mode. Double-action shooting is not really an option when using full-power loads, at least in my opinion. One nice thing about the .454 is that it also fires .45 Colt loads which are much less expensive and certainly more comfortable to shoot while you develop proficiency with the gun. It has a ported barrel and soft rubber grips that help keep the "kick" to a manageable level. The gun is beefy, and requires a sturdy, preferably shoulder-type holster if comfort is important to the wearer.

Freedom Arms has the reputation of building the finest handguns in the world. They make a variety of single action guns in .454 Casull Magnum and have recently come out with a gun chambered for the .475 Linebaugh. My good friend Doyne Houghton (who has moved to his mansion in heaven since I wrote this story—I miss you, Doyne!) brought his .454 model out this winter and we gave it a test with several brands of ammunition. Even with barrel porting and the guns substantial weight, the barrel rose appreciably with each shot. The grips were comfortable, though, and the gun is completely controllable with practice. These finely crafted revolvers start around \$1,100 and go up from there.

The .41 magnum is generally considered the minimum power level for taking black bear in a *hunting type* situation. It has slightly less recoil than the bigger magnums, and might be considered if recoil is a problem for you. Unfortunately, it never became as popular as the .44 so there are fewer choices. Ruger makes their Blackhawk single action in .41 magnum, and it is a fine gun. I used to have a pair of them—one with the short 4 5/8" barrel and another with a 7" barrel. Like the .45 Blackhawk, it is light and handy to pack all day, but I prefer a bit more power. Remember, we are talking defense, not hunting.

While many "experts" will argue unceasingly about what calibers are best, nearly all will agree that for dangerous 4 footed game the .357 magnum is simply too meager. I classify this caliber alongside of bear spray. It

may give you some sense of security to have it, buy I sincerely pray you never need to test its mettle. Unless you are very good, you will wish you had chosen a more powerful weapon. Like the .45ACP mentioned earlier, it is a very good people-stopper, but lacks the penetration needed for tough critters.

So what is my choice? For the past year or so I have been carrying a Ruger single action Blackhawk chambered for the old .45 Colt cartridge. Why? For one thing, it is much lighter, therefore comfortable to carry, than any of the .44 magnums that I am aware of. Mine has the 4.625" barrel and I have no problem carrying it all day in a high-ride hip holster. I was talking with Ralph Lohse the other day and he told me he carries his Blackhawk in a front jeans pocket. A bit skeptical, I tried it and sure enough it rides comfortably there for those short trips to the back forty! Another factor in choosing the Blackhawk was the relatively low cost. I bought mine new for less than \$300, and spent about \$60 having the trigger pull smoothed and lightened, and another \$20 for rubber, oversized grips. The Ruger is strong enough to use heavy .45 Colt loads that are roughly equivalent to the .44 magnum, so it is a tossup as far as power. I would love to have the increased energy of the .454 Casull magnum, but so far the difference in both price and weight has caused me to stick with the little Ruger for daily field carry.

So there you have one man's opinions. Bear in mind (pun intended) that these articles have been directed towards those with

limited firearms experience, and I am well aware that many of you hold strong opinions that are different from those that have been set forth. Others have indi-

cated that the articles have helped them make decisions. We would love to hear from you either way.

Editors note: Story was originally printed in 1999. Prices have risen since then!

In our next issue: The Packin' Pistol.

Lakina River bridge incurs structural damage Repairs include bridge closure

BY BONNIE KENYON

On Sunday, July 25th at 6 p.m., a piece of heavy equipment traveling west on the McCarthy Road at Mile 44.3 hit overhead bracing and a truss member of the Lakina River bridge—critically damaging its structural integrity. An unnamed employee of Cat Transportation Trucking, a freighting-consolidating company based in Anchorage, was returning a forklift used on a construction project in Kennicott for Hartman Construction, a sub-contractor for Twin Peaks Construction of Anchor Point. At the time, Twin Peaks was on contract to the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park for stabilization work on the banks of National Creek.

State Trooper Sgt. Shane Nicholson of Glennallen was first notified of the accident on the morning of Wednesday, July 28th. Because there is an ongoing investigation, Sgt. Nicholson would not give the name of the driver. He did say that the proper procedure in an accident of this sort, is for the operator of the vehicle to report the incident to the Department of Public Safety as soon as possible. This was not done by the driver or anyone from Cat Transporta-

tion Trucking. Sgt. Nicholson would not say who contacted the State Troopers.

According to Sgt. Nicholson, the forklift was torn off the trailer onto the bridge when the boom on the forklift caught on an overhead beam of the bridge. The equipment was moved and left sitting on the east side of the bridge.

Long Lake resident, Jim Kreblin, first discovered the damage the following evening while checking on his vehicle parked near the bridge. According to Jim, he called John Hoffman, Tazlina District Manager for the Department of Transportation (DOT), on Tuesday morning to report the damage. DOT had not yet been informed of the incident.

At 2:08 pm on July 28th a Press Release informed the public the Lakina bridge was closed to traffic: "The Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is closing the Lakina Bridge, milepost 44.3 of the McCarthy Road, to all through vehicle traffic. The bridge is open to pedestrian traffic. The Lakina Bridge is approximately 15 miles from McCarthy."

Travelers with reservations in the McCarthy and Kennicott ar-

ea were informed they needed to contact businesses and facilitate travel from the other side of the bridge. With the height of tourist season upon the community, visitors and local residents alike were stranded on one side or the other of the Lakina River. Folks scrambled to face the numerous challenges that came with the sudden announcement from DOT.

Flaggers were placed at both ends of the bridge to enforce the closure. Barricades were placed at Mile 42 of the McCarthy Road. Passengers that needed to be dropped off at the bridge were allowed to pass through the barricades, however. Limited parking space on either side of the bridge created additional hardships for vans depositing or picking up guests traveling to and from the McCarthy area.

DOT worked through the night to complete temporary repairs to the bridge. The repairs improved the structural integrity of the bridge, but it was still considered unable to accommodate heavy loads.

On July 29th the following information was posted: Load limit on the Lakina River Bridge is a maximum of 6,000 pounds. Most passenger cars and light duty pick-up trucks are less than

6,000 pounds. The weight of a vehicle is listed on the vehicle registration and inside the driver side door. Hours of operation today, Thursday, July 29, are 1:00pm-7:00pm. Hours of operation starting Friday, July 30, are 7:00am-7:00pm.

DOT&PF employees were stationed at the bridge during hours of operation to monitor the size of loads crossing the bridge. The bridge was opened to pedestrian traffic.

On August 9th the hours of operation were adjusted from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. but the weight limit remained the same.

Clark Milne from the Northern Region's Maintenance division, who is also a licensed civil engineer, became the "center of the web between partners" during the process of obtaining 4 specific permits from the same amount of agencies: Alaska Fish & Game, Corp of Engineers, Department of Natural Resources and the Coast Guard. The permits are necessary before DOT can get "out in the river" to begin Phase 1 of the repair plan. The plan includes a support system underneath the bridge with berming, cribbing and a temporary re-channelization of the river.

"Regarding the channelizing in the river, it is essentially tem-

porary," explained Milne. "We are diverting the main flow of the river to the western side (Chitina side) for a couple of weeks, in order to minimize the flows on the eastern side where the earthen mound is needed — partly with trenching and partly with a diversion dike pushed up in the river."

In a Press Release dated August 23rd, DOT stated: "DOT & PF will build a construction pad in the river directly under the bridge to provide a stable support for the bridge and to create a surface for the bridge crew and equipment to work from." The re-channelling will divert the river away from the pad.

The time estimation on this first phase is 5-7 days. During this time, continued use of the bridge will be allowed from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with load limits remaining at a maximum of 6,000 lbs. "We cannot lift the 6,000 lbs. limit until repair is done on the bridge. The bridge is seriously damaged—critical! We're lucky the bridge is in the air," stressed Milne. "It shouldn't be."

The next phase is the actual bridge repair. It is scheduled to begin 9 p.m., September 26th. The closure will last 5 to 7 days. "During this time, the bridge will be completely closed to vehi-

cle traffic. After the first few days of the closure, pedestrian access may be allowed, if feasible," states DOT.

Once bridge repairs are completed, the Lakina bridge will be re-evaluated and appropriate load limits will be announced. Hours of operation on the bridge will be unrestricted after repairs are finished.

Even with repairs Milne cautioned the bridge is not expected to measure up to the former 100% load allowance. However, the increase should rise to at least 30,000 to 40,000 lb. A truck, loaded with 4,000 gallons of fuel, weighs approximately 40,000 lb., he explained.

What is the future of the Lakina bridge, beyond the repair phase? More than likely it will be replaced. DOT applies to the Federal Highway Administration for a bridge replacement—a process that could take up to 5 years.

For more information you may contact Meadow Bailey, Northern Region Public Information Officer at 907-378-2340 or meadow.bailey@alaska.gov. Another source of any future updates may be found at: www.DOT.state.ak.us. Clicking on the 511 on DOT's site will take you to a map showing the area and any updates. Clark Milne can be reached at 907-451-5285.

"No one understood better than Stalin that the true object of propaganda is neither to convince nor even to persuade, but to produce a uniform pattern of public utterance in which the first trace of unorthodox thought immediately reveals itself as a jarring dissonance." —British historian Alan Bullock (1914-2004)

"It is discouraging to think how many people are shocked by honesty and how few by deceit." —British playwright Noel Coward (1899-1973)

THE McCARTHY WEEKLY NEWS

1919 September & October editions

PERSONAL

The Woodins returned home on Monday last, after having put up about four tons of hay.

The friends of Angus Halliday, who left Kennecott two years ago to enlist with the 21st Engineers, will be pleased to learn he has returned safely and is now visiting friends in Cordova, arriving here in a few days. Angus has seen considerable active service overseas. Since his discharge, he visited his mother in New Brunswick.

Sid Whitford, another Kennecott boy with the 21st Engineers writes that he has received his discharge and will return here after visiting his folks in Alberta.

OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Tom Lynch arrived on Tuesday's train and left the follow morning for Mt. Regal, where he is putting on a force of men for this years assessment work on the Gray property. Mr. Lynch has just returned from the States where he had a vacation of several months.

Joe Hutchens returned to McCarthy last Saturday, after an absence of several months.

He left Wednesday and will spend a month at Mt. Regal.

Messrs Stannard and Foster of Kennecott, Hi Malcom and Gus Johnson have lately returned from a hunting trip in the Chitina River district, they started from Strelina and secured some specimens off a bear.

It is the experience of some poultry experts in McCarthy that raising chickens to have them killed and eaten by others is a very unprofitable and exasperating business. It is said that several fine chicken dinners were eaten last Sunday.

Luis Wolff, D.D.S. of Portland, son of Theo Wolff, is expected to arrive on the next boat train and will practice dentistry. Offices have been prepared for him at Kennecott. The arrival of a dentist in this section will supply a long felt need. This particular dentist comes very highly recommended.

Mr. Theo Wolff returned to town this week and has leased the Aron Erickson building; he will be prepared to do all kinds of watch repairing, etc. He has been at Kennecott.

Arthur Powell, who spent a few days in town last week after his seasons work on Rex Ck. has accepted a position at Kennecott.

An impromptu picnic was held near the Pot Hole on Wednesday. Beans, bacon and coffee were cooked on the campfire & a very pleasant time enjoyed. Those present were; Mrs. Graber, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Barrett, Mrs. Hubrick.

Never in its highest water has the Nizina river had such a terrific rush as boiled out of the Pot Hole last Wednesday. The only damage this volume of water did to the railroad trestle was to take out a few bents. This all goes to show that a bridge across the Nizina could be built to stay if similar engineering were employed.

Sept. 13

PERSONAL

Gus Johnson left on Tuesday's train for Kennecott, he has accepted a position with the Mother Lode Coalition Mines Co.

On Tuesday evening Mrs. Pete Johnson entertained at dinner, Mr. and Mrs. Fry, Laura May and Billy, Mrs. Eckstrom and Tim Jr. were guests.

The Fry family is occupying the Amber residence next to the Commissioner's office.

Billy Woodlin is helping Al Doze finish up the harvesting.

Mrs. Eckstrom and Timmie are spending a few days in town and will spend next week with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Iverson at the ranch.

OF PUBLIC INTEREST

F.A. Iverson is nearly thru with his harvesting and will have a considerably more crop than he anticipated. He has also finished building a large storehouse and barn.

Sept. 20

PERSONAL

A wedding took place at Kennecott yesterday, the ceremony was performed by the Rev. Shriver, the contracting parties were Miss Blomquist, who has been Mr. Stannard's stenographer for over a year, and Mr. Ketchum, depot agent at Chitina. The newly married couple start on their journey with a full carload of good wishes from their friends.

C.W. Scarborough, photographer, arrived here yesterday to spend a little time in this section. A specialist in portraits and views, his work is of the highest order, samples shown us at this office merit recommendation. His panoramic views of the Copper River Glaciers are famous. He is now engaged on some special work for Mr. Stannard at Kennecott and will be here at the end of the week to arrange for sittings. This will be an excellent opportunity for residents to secure good pictures.

OF PUBLIC INTEREST

The Sunday school scholars and their teachers enjoyed a picnic to the lake on Sourdough Hill today.

Games were played and hot chocolate and good eats partaken of round the bonfire. An out of doors picnic in September speaks volumes for our climate.

The Birch party came in from Dan Creek on Thursday on the way to spend the winter in New York after a very satisfactory season.

With a full bag of game the hunting party collecting specimens for the Los Angeles museum, returned last Sunday. Full groups of moose, caribou, goat and sheep as well as many minor specimens were secured. Dr. Jones is greatly pleased with the result of their trip.

Governor Comer and party returned from their hunting trip on Thursday, having secured nine fine specimens of sheep.

Sept. 27

NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Fundeen and Ed Junior arrived in town on Tuesday from the Tjosevig property where they spent the summer. They are all looking fine and young Ed is a moose. They have rented the Lewis bungalow on Third Street for the winter.

Pete Erickson took a trip to his cabin at Blackburn today and discovered that it has been broken into while he was at Kennecott, and two guns and a new flashlight stolen.

Oct. 4

NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE

Mr. Bert Carvey made one of his flying trips through our city this week. Arriving from Nizina at 1:30 p.m. he had left town by 4 on his way to Cordova to catch the Northwestern for Seattle. Bert has rapid transit down to a science.

Mr. Fred Hotchkiss spent a few days in town this week on the way to New York. He and George Madden and Stephen Palmer took Thursday's train.

Mrs. N.P. Nelson, of Chisana, who arrived in town Sunday had a few days visiting her McCarthy friends, then left on Thursday's train to visit

her brother in Seattle and her mother in Davenport, Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Johnson who have been conducting the roadhouse and post office at Nizina for the season returned to town on Thursday. They will spend the winter in McCarthy and have rented one of the Amber residences. Young Frankie Johnson is now an experienced mining man; he starts in at school next Monday.

The Mitten Bros. of Boston have reached Juneau, greatly pleased with their hunting trip, they secured specimens of goat, caribou, sheep, and the largest number of bear captured this season, Cap Hubrick, their guide, will return to McCarthy next week. Con Miller, who was also with the party, returned Sunday and will spend the winter at Kennecott.

Oct. 18

NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE

The proprietors of the McCarthy garage, Anderson and Snyder, are live wires in the automobile service, and starting today will run a daily service to Kennecott. They have purchased the Mother Lode car, so will have three cars. They have the support of the business people and should receive liberal patronage at both places.

Ed Bassett is in town for a few days from Nizina, visiting his friends. Mrs. Amber left Thursday, to join Mr. Amber at Kent near Seattle. Fred Lubbe has taken a position at Kennecott and left for the Jumbo on Wednesday. Ben Jackson, who has been 15 months at the Jumbo, is enjoying a vacation in town.

W.H. Slimpert, who spent the summer in the interior, prospecting and hunting, returned to town last week. He will spend the winter at Kennecott, for which place he left on Tuesday. Dr. Luis Wolff arrived in Kennecott on Tuesday and will practice dentistry there. He is equipped with every modern appliance and electric fittings, which are now being installed.

A FREAK CALF

On the morning of the 20th a calf was born at Kennecott. It was noticed to have considerable difficulty in obtaining its first lunch. The barn boss, upon investigating, found that its lower jaw was fully an inch shorter than the upper. It has since mastered the details of feeding, but may find it hard to eat hay later on.

MANY WOMEN PLAN VISIT TO ALASKA

The Alaska "sourdough:" the old timer of the North understands a stampede. He can tell you everything about it from "discovery creek" to the retreating army of disappointed hopes.

But there is a new form of stampede that has him guessing, bewildered and helpless. It is not a quest for gold by grimy, upstanding men; it is a stampede of women northward.

Girls from every state in the union recently have flooded the Alaska bureau of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce and Commercial Club with inquires about Alaska. They write that they intend to go north to try their luck. They want to know all about the opportunities for employment and general conditions. They will arrive next spring in the volume of a stampede.

Are the tremendous resources of the empire to the north responsible for this awakened interest? Or can it be that a recent article in a leading magazine, explaining the shortage of wives in Alaska, had something to do with it? (Seattle P.I.)

McCarthy has also received inquiries as to conditions for women here. Two young ladies of Washington, D.C. have written to the postmaster this mail asking for information concerning this district, and what chances are there here for women who have to make their own way.

The Rev. Mr. Shriver announces that he will be in McCarthy next Wednesday evening Oct. 29 and will conduct service in the schoolhouse at 8 p.m.

Burned Alaska may cause more burned Alaska

BY NED ROZELL

The blackened scars that Alaska fires leave on the landscape may result in more lightning, more rain in some areas just downwind of the scars, and less rain farther away, according to two scientists.

Nicole Mölders and Gerhard Kramm, both of the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, study how changes in landscapes affect the weather. After Alaska's fire season in 2004, when smoke befouled much of the air Alaskans breathed and a collective area the size of Vermont burned, the scientists wondered how all that charred country would affect local weather patterns.

The researchers used MM5, a computer model based at Penn State University and the National Center for Atmospheric Research, to simulate conditions on the ground and in the air above it. They compared the surface of Alaska before and after Alaska's record fire season, in which 6.72 million acres burned. The model told them that fire scars larger than 250,000 acres—about the space taken up by the five boroughs of New York City—have an impact on weather close to the fire scar.

“There's more rain locally, in the lee side of the scar and then

less precipitation farther out,” Mölders said. “It's a far-reaching impact.” She and Kramm also said fire scars might be responsible for flash floods in areas close to them, and fire scars might also help generate lightning strikes.

“Formation of thunderstorms is more likely (around large fire scars) than in the unburned forest,” Kramm said.

Burned areas may be weather-makers because hot fires destroy trees, shrubs, moss, and other plants that cool the soil and the surrounding air. Satellite sensors have shown higher summer temperatures in a fire scar in Canada up to 15 years after the burn, Mölders said.

Mölders said fire scars might create the following weather-altering scenario: The warm soil in a burned area heats up the air above it, and that hot, dry air rises. Moist air from unburned areas rushes in to fill the void, and that moist air also rises. That air cools as it rises, reaches a saturation point and condenses into a cloud that lifts higher than surrounding clouds.

That cloud, now loaded with moisture, reaches a level where graupel, ice pellets that resemble tiny hailstones, forms. As graupel particles rise, electrical charges occur within the cloud

and increase the possibility of lightning strikes.

The cloud moves downwind and releases its moisture as rain adjacent to the fire scar. After the cloud dumps its load, areas farther away don't receive any rain where they possibly would have if a fire scar were not located upwind.

Though the model tells the researchers that large fire scars affect summer weather, fire scars seem to cool the landscape after the snow falls. A group of scientists, including UAF's Terry Chapin, studied areas around Delta Junction that burned three, 15, and about 80 years ago. Looking at the sun's radiation absorbed all year, rather than just summer, they found that the burn-scar sites absorbed less heat year-round, mostly because snow covered more of the ground surface of recently burned sites during winter.

Mölders and Kramm want to use a new weather research and forecasting computer model to combine the effects of burn scars in summer with local weather. They hope to develop forecasts that might help firefighters and pilots of small aircraft that operate around fire scars.

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

CLASSIFIED

LAND FOR SALE IN THE McCARTHY AREA

2 ½ acres on the west side of the Kennicott River. contact: Dorothy Adler at lifeinthewrangells@yahoo.com

Locals express concern over National Creek project

BY BONNIE KENYON

Park Service's plans to use treated lumber for constructing a flood stabilization structure in National Creek caused "urgent concern" among many in the Kennecott-McCarthy community.

Blueprints of the National Creek river control project were made available for public viewing earlier this summer. One of those plans included the use of lumber treated with ACQ-B (Ammoniacal copper quaternary)—a water-based treatment which contains no arsenic or chromium—but is known to kill copper-tolerant fungi and is a disinfecting detergent containing nitrogen.

In an open letter to Meg Jensen, Superintendent of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Mike Loso, a Kennecott property owner, stated: "According to the posted plans, your contractor will soon begin installing "green" treated wood cribbing along National Creek between the canyon and the new trestle. The lumber will line either side of the channel and will be buried at a depth sufficient to ensure that some of it will be in contact with the shallow water table of National Creek during all season, and therefore has the potential to leach harmful chemicals into an important, historically documented, and currently used source of drinking water. Many Kennecott residents use National Creek during the non-summer months when waterlines are frozen. Importantly, the only seasonally consistent place where one can access the creek is a ford just downstream of the planned cribbing. National Creek is also used by many tourists and animals (pet

dogs, especially) that enjoy the ability to drink, cold, fresh water directly from a natural stream. Whether or not National Creek water is safe for drinking in its current untreated condition is not of issue here—the simple fact is that people DO drink it, and we therefore expect the National Park Service to refrain from contaminating or otherwise impairing it... We ask the National Park Service to halt its current plans and refrain from placing treated lumber below the waterline of National Creek until it can either: a) Demonstrate, in a rigorous and well documented scientific manner, that the specific lumber treatment at issue, ACQ, poses no hazard to human health and will not impair water quality in any way, or b) Change the plans to prevent treated wood from contacting the water supply." The letter, along with 73 signatures, was presented to Jensen at a public meeting in McCarthy on July 14th. At least 50 people were in attendance.

On July 30th, Jensen responded with a letter to the members of the Kennecott community. "Over the past few weeks I have been involved in many discussions about the Park Service's plans for constructing a flood stabilization structure in National Creek above the trestle, using lumber treated with ACQ-B. Members of the public have expressed concern that use of treated lumber would cause harm to the water quality of National Creek, which is used as a raw water source by many residents of Kennecott. After hearing a number of voices of the Kennecott-McCarthy community and carefully considering a number of alternatives, I have made a decision on the future direction of the

National Creek project. First of all, it is my belief that use of ACQ-B treated timber in National Creek for this project, as proposed, would not impair the water quality of National Creek. Park staff have consulted with several nationally-recognized experts to determine if using treated lumber would adversely affect water quality. Expert analysis, combined with our own research, has lead us to conclude that, in fact, copper released from ACQ-B treated timbers would not cause harm to aquatic life or humans. The park will make this information available to anyone who would like to review it. However, given the extraordinary level of community concern, the park has elected not to go forward with using treated lumber at this time. Shortly, you will see trucks hauling riprap to the project site and placing riprap downstream from the canyon opening, instead of the timber cribbing proposed for the area. This rock was originally planned for use in the creek immediately upstream of the low water crossing... Our plans for project completion are being re-evaluated and it is likely that at least a portion of this project will remain incomplete until we can find additional funding, maybe in future years... I remain committed to working with the people of Kennecott to best protect the National Historic Landmark while minimizing the park's impacts on our neighbors, the people who live and work in the community around us."

Loso says he is pleased with the outcome. "I think they made a difficult and expensive decision in responding favorably to the community's demands on this, and I appreciate it."

A fitting memorial and a bright future

BY JEREMY PATAKY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WRANGELL MOUNTAINS CENTER

Many people within the McCarthy-Kennicott community fondly remember the late Ed LaChapelle and his long-time partner, Meg Hunt. Throughout his 35 year residency in the Wrangells, Ed, a renowned authority on avalanches, glaciers, and solar power, was not only an avid supporter of scientific research and off-the-grid sustainability; he also worked with Meg, master gardener, performer and professor of Orissi dance, to found and sponsor Porphyry Productions, a nonprofit devoted to presenting free public performances in the Wrangells from 1999-2007. They were also long-time supporters of the Wrangell Mountains Center, and, in fact, our first college program was based from their cabin nearly 30 years ago.

Some things have stayed the same at the Center since our beginning thirty years back, and others have changed considerably. As we have grown and diversified, our steady commitment to our mission has not wavered; we work to foster understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of wildlands and mountain culture in Alaska through scientific and artistic inquiry in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve. Throughout summer, that mission comes to life in our seven week Alaska Wildlands Studies program, for example, and in our week-long Wrangell Mountains Writing Workshop, and in afternoon arts workshops for kids, and as glaciologists studying the Yahtse Glacier down at Icy Bay, and in many other ways.

Our growing success at meeting our mission, however, has brought us to the limits of our existing facility. For thirty years, the WMC has been headquartered in a mining-era building called the Old Hardware Store. However, our activities have increased significantly in the last few years, as have our demands for space. Now, we face increased programming space needs for community events, lectures, and classes; increased accommodation demands from



Drawing by Kristin Link

visiting faculty, guest instructors, and research scientists; a heightened demand for visiting artist and writer residency and studio space; a real need for more garden space and a greenhouse; and a need for a facility better suited to shoulder and off-season programming.

The WMC board of directors and staff are actively raising funds to buy Ed LaChapelle and Meg Hunt's properties adjacent to the Old Hardware Store. Expanding from our singular building onto that property will effectively establish a full-fledged McCarthy campus for the Center. Acquisition of this new site, which we call Porphyry Place, will enable us to offer a much more robust menu of mission-related programming, including the ability to offer two large programs simultaneously, as well as off-season activity. The positive effects of our role in the greater com-

munity are far-reaching, bringing more business to the valley while also bringing arts and science to the lives of those who live here. If we succeed in this drive to purchase the property, we will be able to continue doing what we do and to grow and offer even more to the community.

We have raised many thousands of dollars internally from our board of directors, advisors, and members. Many community members and friends turned out for our capital campaign kick-off on August 13 at the Center and had the chance to tour the new properties with Meg Hunt, where we also announced our new Wrangell Mountains Center Lifetime Membership, available to households for \$1,500. We seek support from neighbors and friends in our efforts to raise the \$250,000 needed to see

this vision through to fruition by spring. Donations can be delivered by mail to 2104 Lincoln Avenue, Anchorage AK, 99517 or made online through our secure website, where you can also learn more about this exciting opportunity to invest in the future of McCarthy.

Meg's offer to sell her beloved homesite to the WMC below market value is the latest example of Ed and Meg's enduring legacy of goodwill and passion for this unique place; we thank all of you who have already risen to this occasion to help, and I look forward to hearing from those of you who have yet to do so or who would like to learn more. This is both an opportunity to honor and memorialize some of McCarthy's finest residents and to invest in the future of community and quality of life in this place we all share in common.

Wrangell Mountains Center Workshops

BY MARK VAIL

McCarthy:—I was able to participate this summer in two of the programs that took place at the Wrangell Mountains Center (WMC). Mid July, Nancy Cook presented the 14th annual writers' workshop, "Writing in the Wrangells"—a week-long seminar with a new twist, cross pollination. There were visiting instructors in Writing, Book making, Theater and Quilting. We blended exercises in the four disciplines to produce a handmade book under the tutelage of Margo Klass, Quilt blocks to be quilted by Maria Shell, and Jonny Gray taught us to use all our senses in learning and presenting to our fellow partici-

pants an essay that was the culmination of our week's instruction by visiting writer Frank Soos. It was a busy and productive time; I was glad for the rain that fell on our indoor days to keep my garden watered at home.

In late July two visiting professors from Duke University presented a three-day workshop on bryophytes, that is, non-flowering plants, the mosses and liverworts. I came away with a much broader understanding of these plants and was amazed at the diversity present here in our own area. Much of the workshop was in the field where we visited a number of sites and used hand lenses to look at the wide variety of species. We found ourselves on the Root Gla-

acier trail when the phenomenal thunder and lightning storm surged into the valley on the 27th. The time indoors was spent identifying collected species and watching a couple of slide presentations learning the finer details of identification with the help of a dissecting microscope. I really enjoyed the workshop and walk in the woods now with renewed insight into the wonderful world around me. I hope next year they will bring a Lichenologist to town for a seminar so I can know more about that part of the outdoor scene. I would highly recommend following the availability of classes that the Wrangell Mountains Center makes available each summer.

Kenny Lake resident chosen for federal hunting advisory panel

BY RICK KENYON

Robert Fithian of Kenny Lake is one of 18 people appointed to the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council, an advisory group created earlier this year to advise the two federal Departments (Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture) on recreational hunting and shooting sports activities and associated wildlife and habitat conservation.

"Dating back to President Theodore Roosevelt, our nation's hunters have taken the lead in the conservation of wildlife and its habitat," said Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Department of Interior on July 23, 2010. "They have contributed billions of dollars through licenses, permits, and excise taxes to conservation programs. They have been among the most ardent volunteers through a wide variety of sportsmen's organizations."

Fithian is the Executive Director of the Alaska Professional Hunters Association and has guided hunters in Wrangell-St. Elias in recent years.

"Maintaining and conserving wildlife habitat and water resources that are so important to America's hunting and angling heritage in the face of today's conservation challenges requires a coordinated effort between federal, state, and local officials and partners in the private sector," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "The members of Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council will play a crucial role in our ongoing efforts to improve the health and management of America's public and private lands."

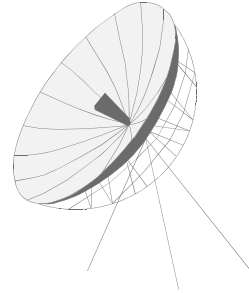
The council is an official advisory group under the Federal Advisory Committee Act that will help to promote and preserve America's hunting heritage for future generations. It will also provide a forum for sportsmen and women to advise the

federal government on policies related to wildlife and habitat conservation endeavors that (a) benefit recreational hunting; (b) benefit wildlife resources; and (c) encourage partnership among the public, the sporting conservation community, the shooting and hunting sports industry, wildlife conservation organizations, the states, Native American tribes, and the federal government.

The new council replaces and improves upon the previously existing Sporting Conservation Council by expanding membership to include the archery, hunting and shooting sports industries, as well as including broader representation from the nation's major hunting organizations. The council's charter also more clearly defines its responsibilities in supporting the public, the sporting conservation community, the shooting and hunting sports industry, wildlife conservation organizations, and the State and Federal governments.

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WRST removes hazardous fuels

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The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve's headquarters hazardous fuels project begins today, August 30th, 2010. The project aims to thin vegetation and create defensible space around structures where fire poses an unacceptable threat to property and resources. By thinning vegetation, fire managers plan to reduce the risk of eventual wildland and provide for firefighter and public safety. Cutting begins Tuesday, August 31st. The first phase of the project will be completed by September 30th, 2010.

National Park Service Fire Management and *Southeast Alaska Guidance Association* (SAGA) crew members will implement the project. The project is not a "clear cut," rather a thinning of vegetation in the 18 acres surrounding the headquarters roads, buildings, and parking area. *Serve Alaska Corp*, SAGA crewmembers, aim to use the hazardous fuels project as an avenue to explore career paths, seek leadership experience, and serve Alaskan communities.

Biomass accumulated during the project will be donated as firewood to Ahtna elders in the Copper River community through the *Copper River Native Association* or piled for burning by fire staff later in the winter.

Wrangell-St. Elias staff invites the local community, visitors, and media to come observe the hazardous fuels project and learn how to live compatibly with wildfire. National Park Service staff will be available to explain the project and Firewise techniques to reduce fire risk to your home, property, and community. Visitors are strongly encouraged to inquire with park staff to find out about safe and restricted viewing areas.

For additional information regarding the Headquarters Hazard Fuels project, please visit the <http://www.nps.gov/wrst/parkmgmt/firemanagement.htm> website, or contact: Mark Keogh, Public Information Officer, 907-822-7223 or Katie Budzinski, Public Information Officer, 907-699-2268.

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Heavy rainfall restricts off-road vehicle use in Nabesna area

BY RICK KENYON

Due to heavy rainfall in June and July, off-road vehicle (ORV) use off the Nabesna Road in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve was restricted from July 27 until the restriction was lifted August 12.

Off-road vehicles, including ATVs and track vehicles, were permitted only on gravel and rocky trails such as Trail Creek and Lost Creek during the closure. The temporary closure included the following trails: Suslota, Caribou Creek, Soda Lake, Reeve Field, Jacksina Creek, Tanada Lake, Copper Lake, Boomerang, and Batzulnetas.

The trails to Copper Lake, Tanada Lake and Suslota Lake remain closed to recreational use of ATVs but are open for subsistence use or access to inholdings. These closures predated the temporary restrictions.

Recreational and subsistence access to the Park and Preserve, including access by ORVs is permitted on some established trails, under normal circumstances. Most of the ORV use on these established routes is during the hunting season, which opened August 10. "The decision to restrict the off-road vehicle access was based on the potential for soil damage to those trails that are muddy and rain-soaked already," said WRST Superintendent Meg Jensen. "The

restriction only affect[ed] those access routes that cross the rain-soaked tundra environments. Once a mudhole is created, other ORV users tend to go around it, making the trails wider and braided." The temporary restriction was also based on safety considerations. Many creeks in the area are in flood stage and depths fluctuate widely. A creek that is fordable by an ATV in the afternoon may be completely impassable by the next morning.

For regular updates and information on open trails along the Nabesna Road, please call the Slana Ranger Station at 822-7401 or Bruce Rogers at 822-7276.

Wrangell-St. Elias Releases Draft EIS on ORVs

NPS COPPER CENTER—

The National Park Service published the Draft Nabesna Off-Road Vehicle Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) and made it available for public review and comment on August 13. The comment period will last for 90 days — through November 10, 2010. The Draft EIS was written to meet one of the conditions of a settlement agreement resulting from a 2006 lawsuit filed against the National Park Service. The lawsuit challenged National Park Service issuance of permits for recreational Off Road Vehicle (ORV) use on nine trails in the Nabesna District of

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

The Draft EIS is available electronically on the National Park Service Planning, Environmental and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/wrst>. Electronic comments may also be submitted online in the PEPC website. A limited number of hard copies of the Draft EIS will be available for distribution at Park Headquarters in Copper Center, or a copy may be requested, as long as supplies last, from Bruce Rogers at 822-7276.

Comments on the Draft EIS may be submitted to the park in

writing at: Bruce Rogers, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, P.O. Box 439, Copper Center, Alaska, 99573. Written comments will also be accepted during the open house style meetings which will be scheduled at Glennallen, Tok, Slana, Fairbanks, and Anchorage during the public comment period. The public meetings have not been scheduled yet, but are anticipated for late September. Meeting locations and times will be announced via local media and on the Park website when finalized.

If you have any questions, please contact Bruce Rogers at 907-822-7276

"Socialism is the philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance and the gospel of envy."—
British Prime Minister Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

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I am prepared to meet my Maker. Whether my Maker is prepared for the great ordeal of meeting me is another matter.”

~Sir Winston Churchill

Read at memorial service for Senator Ted Stevens, August 18, 2010, Anchorage

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(Right) A small group of National Park Service employees and local residents attended the dedication of the Kennecott power generation system at 8:30am on August 12th.

Larry Osgood came from Monument, CO to represent the Propane Education and Research Center (PERC), who donated one-half of the funds for the project.

The system consists of two 40KW propane fueled generators and six, ten KW invertors running from a battery bank.

According to Jim Kreblin, an NPS technician who services the system, their goal is to run the generators as little as possible and to lower the noise as much as possible.



Photo courtesy Sarah Davies—NPS

(Martin Radovan: continued from page 10)

In many ways, Martin's life at Radovan Gulch fits a nostalgic, frontier image of a 'rugged individual,' but Martin never acted independently from the architects of Americanization—big business and the federal government. Though Martin lived seemingly isolated in his wilderness home, he consumed processed canned foods, prepared by an industrial network that connected Radovan Gulch to distant markets. He used Gillette shaving cream, wallpapered his cabin, and seasoned his food with spices from around the world. He remained a creature of an industrialized economy, taking trains or planes to towns like Cordova, Chitina, Kennecott, Blackburn and McCarthy, towns that replicated the material, institutional, and ideological culture of rural America. Most significantly, Martin was completely dependent upon scientists to validate his claims, technocrats to mine them, and ultimately, absentee investors for the capital and ties to international markets to develop and sell the ore. Rather than evading civilization, Martin fully participated in an industrial process that transported twentieth century American life into the heart of the Interior Alaska.

Still, unlike many of the 'rugged individuals' who left Alaska with dashed dreams, Martin stayed. Even after Kennecott abandoned its

mines and railway in 1938, after McCarthy deteriorated into a ghost town, and after Augusta's untimely death in 1944, Martin remained at Glacier Creek. Immersed in a perilous landscape day after day, Martin picked through tons of rock and, over time, came to know the natural environment between his creekside camp and his tunnels channeled deep into the mountainside. By employing only rudimentary tools and near-obsolete technology, Martin perfected climbing, construction and prospecting skills at Radovan Gulch that inspired awe and respect from people who knew him.

Time, however, was not on Martin's side. The rationalization and scientific professionalization of mining after World War II rendered prospectors with his "practical" knowledge outdated. While the modern industry was still willing to examine the old-timers' claims and prospects, it now sought the expertise of university-trained engineers and geologists to determine where and how to build mines in order to efficiently and profitably extract copper. Thus, Martin's mining experience, albeit frustrating and disappointing at times, is important because it reveals a transformation of work in the Nizina district, a process of incorporation that began to marginalize the so-called, "little-

guy" in the mining industry throughout Alaska.

In the end, Martin came to Radovan Gulch because of a dream—a dream he shared with none other than Horatio Alger, who mythologized America's 'rags to riches' narrative. Yet, in the 74 years he spent in this country, Martin never achieved his dream—he never got rich. Perhaps a more compelling question is, why did Martin stay? One clue comes from McCarthy resident Gary Green, who knew Martin during his last years at Glacier Creek. "Martin was a prospector," notes Green, "and a prospector always has to believe there is something to find." Likewise, Martin's longtime friend Jim Edwards agrees, "He was a prospector; he had a prospector's head...he never gave up."

Perhaps the best explanation comes from Martin, who, in the twilight of his life, recalled the following story:

I started back to the camp, got tired, opened a can of beans, cooked some coffee, spread my blankets under a big spruce tree...Before I knew I was asleep, a vision came to me clear as a blueprint...I saw a great bed of ore in that mountain a thousand feet in—true solid rock—on both sides of the canyon....This is the vision of my dreams.

Martin believed that his vision of copper would translate into “the greatest bonanza of all times.” Still, the vision that drove Martin for four decades at Radovan Gulch seemed to move beyond the want for riches and into religious realms. His brother Jack was rich—Martin could have easily lived a life of comfort in California. Instead he remained at Radovan Gulch, as the infrastructure of industry collapsed around him. His friend Jim Edwards implied that over the years Radovan Gulch became Martin’s wilderness cathedral, confiding that in hard times the beauty and peace of Glacier Creek brought him comfort—a place Jim saw as his outdoor “church.” As he and Augusta carved the trail to Binocular, Martin later revealed that the work was “hard going and slow,” but that an “invisible hand, reaching out from the past, pushed us out to meet our environment, and guiding us in the start of our journey whispering into our ears, ‘Fear

not! The Kingdom of God is within you, go on!’”

Even when the institutions of government and business gave up, Martin maintained an unwavering belief that a massive “copper mountain” lay deep in the limestone. Like a Biblical knight, Martin’s hoped for bonanza became his Holy Grail. Perhaps he was reaching out to the Catholic up-bringing of his Croatian youth, or maybe he was filling a void left after Augusta died, but Martin’s vision over the years became more than a mere quest for copper. It became a search for meaning—meaning in a world that, in spite of life’s failings, still gave him hope, a reason to live. Ultimately a reason to remain at Glacier Creek looking for something that probably never existed.

It is true that Martin’s mining experience could be wearisome, but his time spent pursuing his dream was never wasted. Resident Loy Green pointed out that “Martin,

even though disappointed that they had not found his discovery (and still insisting that it was there if they would just keep looking) was still a happy man, and blessed us with his stories and dreams.” Admittedly, Martin’s triumphs never produced great wealth, but for his Binocular feat Martin gained lasting fame; for his endurance and ingenuity he obtained local respect; and through his personal relationships—whether it was with his family, friends, wife or wildlife—Martin attained constant companionship. Rousing his sustained belief that copper lay buried deep within the mountains was a spirituality that, like any faith, inspired Martin to keep going each day. In the end, Martin Radovan, the undaunted prospector, lived a life of contentment—always ready to endure and to smile—in a place that had become his ‘land of hope.’

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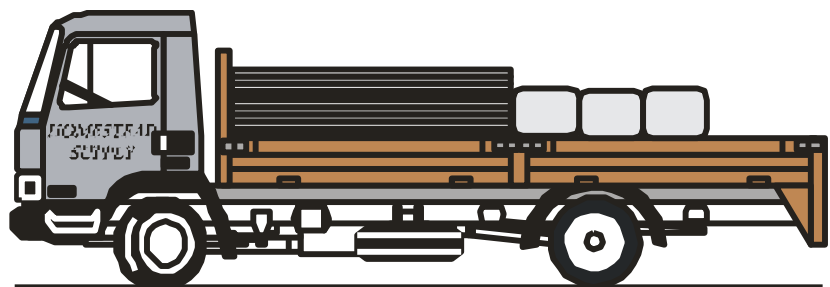
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RAILROAD AND HISTORY BUFFS — PLAN AHEAD

You will not want to miss the Centennial Celebration commemorating completion of the 196-mile Copper River and Northwestern Railway. Dubbed "*Can't Run and Never Will,*" it did run 196 miles from Cordova or McCarthy and Kennecott, Alaska, from 1911 to 1938.

Representatives of the McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum and the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park are meeting together to plan a gala weekend full of events on **JULY 8-9, 2011**

Watch future *WSEN* issues for updates on events planned. For more information and/or to offer your own ideas/help with the planning, **CONTACT:**



McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum

ATTN: Patt Garrett

PO Box 671643

Chugiak, AK. 99567

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve

ATTN: Erica Edmonds

PO Box 439

Copper Center, AK. 99573-0439

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Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

Hi everyone! I'm a day past the deadline date so if you get your paper late you can just blame it on me! It's August 16, late summer and the gardens are blooming with wonderful things. No, I don't have one but Bonnie and Rick do and they are VERY generous with all their vegetables. She gave me half of one of her zucchinis the other day and I'll be able to make zucchini bread for coffee in the morning and get two meals of zucchini pancakes. We had guests from Tucson in the other evening and I was able to put a salad of pure beauty in front of them. One of the things which I haven't gotten around to using yet is the rhubarb. Believe me, when I do I'm going to use this next recipe from Tamara Harper. All the recipes this time are from the people who work at our new store called McCarthy Center which, of course, still carries Ice Cream for those of us who just can't seem to get through a mail day without gathering on the porch for a cone and chatter. Anyway.....Tamara and her husband, Stephen, have been residents of McCarthy for eight years. She said this recipe is from her Mom and one that has made her LOVE rhubarb. She says the sugary crumble on top makes it extra good and for you ice cream lovers, she suggests adding a scoop of vanilla ice cream with it and it makes a great dessert. Go get your rhubarb folks, here it is:

RHUBARB BREAD (almost cake!)

Makes 2 loaves

Bake 45-55 minutes @ 350

Mix:

1 ½ cups brown sugar

2/3 cup oil

1 egg

1 cup sour milk or buttermilk

(Peggy's note—remember the substitute for sour milk is one cup of sweet milk into which 1 tablespoon of vinegar or lemon juice has been stirred and let stand for 5 minutes)

Sift together:

2 ¾-3 cups flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

½ teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon vanilla

2 cups rhubarb, chopped

½ cup nuts, chopped

Add to wet stuff, blend, divide in half and put in two greased/floured loaf pans.

Cut 3 tablespoons of cold butter into ¾ cup sugar and as much cinnamon as you like. Mix until all is blended into "crumble." Sprinkle ½ on each loaf.

Bake 45-55 minutes or until the tester comes out clean.

The next recipe was given to me by Mary Convey, the new manager of the McCarthy Center. She came to us this year from New York City. Mary is the Pastry Chef for Whole Foods in Buffalo. After hearing Whole Foods described, I think we should get one or two in Tucson and I would certainly want Mary there as the Pastry Chef. Getting food out here to McCarthy is always a

hard thing to do and with our problem of the freighting over the injured Lakina Bridge, Mary has had more than her share of obstacles to making the first summer of the McCarthy Center a successful one and she has done a fantastic job! She took a leave of absence from Buffalo to spend the summer here. Hope she can take another next year! Mary's recipe looks so...good. Can't you just picture, sitting on the porch with a cup of coffee, a little vanilla ice cream and some of Mary's

WHITE CHOCOLATE CRANBERRY COOKIES

3 cups all purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon salt

1 cup butter, unsalted

1 cup granulated sugar

1 cup brown sugar

2 eggs

1 ½ tablespoons vanilla extract

1 ½ cups (or 6 oz.) of dried cranberries

12 oz. of white chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350. Combine the first three ingredients together in a bowl. Beat the butter (either with a mixer or by hand) until light and fluffy. Add both sugars, beat until combined. Beat eggs in one at a time. Add the vanilla, mix, then gradually add the flour mixture. Fold in the cranberries and chocolate chips. With a tablespoon, scoop and drop the cookie dough onto a parchment lined cookie tray. Bake for about 10 minutes, either just until set or until they are light golden brown. Cool on a baking rack before storing. They will last in

an airtight container for 5-7 days.

Thanks, Mary, I think these will be part of my holiday deserts.

The next two recipes are from Barbara Rice. Barbara and her husband, John, have been coming to McCarthy for years. Barbara ran the McCarthy gift store until it merged into the McCarthy Center this year so she, and sometimes John, are working at the Center. This year they came out in April and pulled a small trailer. Now because of the problems with the Lakina and the weight allowed to cross, the town is busy giving John suggestions as to how to get the trailer back across to go out. Can you believe the suggestion has even been given to put the extra wheel on it and have a group of us women push it across! Barbara makes all the food for us to have lunch after the church service every week and these next two recipes we were lucky enough to be served one Sunday.

GERMAN NOODLES

6 oz. to 8 oz. of noodles

- ½ to ¾ head of cabbage
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 medium onion
- 1 teaspoon or more paprika
- garlic powder
- salt and pepper

Brown cooked noodles in butter. Cook onion and sliced cabbage. Mix with noodles and sour cream. (Peggy's note — I asked Barb if the cooked proportion of cabbage should be greater than that of the noodles and she said yes.)

FRENCH ONION BURGERS

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 can (2.8 oz.) French fried onions
- 1 tablespoon worcestershire sauce
- ½ cup ketchup
- 2 eggs
- 1 can (4 oz.) chopped mushrooms

Mix together and make patties.

Eat on buns with lettuce and tomato and onion.

Sometimes Barb also makes a gravy out of the drippings, one can of diced or stewed tomatoes,

garlic, and 1 package of gravy mix.

And now we come to John Rosenbaum. If John is working at the store when you go in you can always count on a great smile. We asked John for a recipe at the last minute, at a busy time in the store, and when he was on a register. Even with all those things he smiled and was able to jot down a recipe that is one of his favorites that his mother Holly Rosenbaum makes. There are no amounts and no instructions so all you experienced cooks are on your own to get it as good as John says Holly does.

MASHED POTATOES

- garlic
- sour cream
- milk
- pepper
- salt
- cheddar cheese
- chives

See you next time everybody. I'll be writing from Tucson but will be already looking forward to next summer's trip to McCarthy.

▲ LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

The summer of 2010 has been cool and wet. June temperatures were about average and the precipitation was a little above average. The high temperature for June was 77 on the 2nd (83 on June 10, '09 and 78 on June 21, '08). The low was 31 on June 11th (28 on June 27, '09 and 29 on June 11, '08). The average temperature for June was 53.8.

This compares to 54.2 in June '09, 52.6 in June '08, 60.0 in June '07, 53.2 in June '06, 55.2 in June '05 and 57.7 in June '04. There were only 5 days with a high of 70 or above and 1 day with a low of 32 or lower. The total precipitation was 2.25 inches (0.96 in June '09, 1.49 inches in June '08, 0.28 inches in June '07, 2.14 inches in June '06 and 1.49 inches in June '05). At Kenicott the high was 80 on June 2nd, the low was 37 on June 19th

and the average was 54.4. Total precipitation was 3.50 inches.

July was about average in temperature and above average in precipitation. The high for July was 82 on the 9th (88 on July 8, '09 and 81 on July 4, '08). The 88 on July 8, '09 was the all time high recorded at McCarthy. The low was 36 on July 9th (34 on July 25, '09 and 29 on July 29, '08). The July average temperature was 56.6,

compared to 60.1 in '09, 53.0 in '08, 58.1 in '07, 57.1 in '06 and 56.1 in '05. There was 1 day with a high of 80 or above and 3 days with a low of 39 or lower. The total July precipitation was 3.88 inches (0.22 inches in '09, 4.48 inches in '08, 1.39 inches in July '07, 1.21 inches in July '06, 5.34 inches in '05 and 1.65 inches in '04). Kennicott recorded a high of 78 on July 9th and 10th, a low 41 on the 9th and 26th and an average temperature of 55.6. Total precipitation was 4.90 inches.

Hidden Creek Lake began releasing its water on July 31th

(July 11, '09, Aug 9, '08, July 22, '07, July 4, '06, June 19, '05, July 10, '04, July 3, '03, Aug 2, '02, July 2, '01 and July 26, '00). The water in the Kennicott River began to rise during the morning of July 31th and crested at 1:00 am on August 2nd. The crest was 25.80 ft compared to 25.65 ft in '09, 22.75 ft. in '08, 23.00 ft in '07 and 31.50 ft. in '06. The increase was 5.65 feet in 43 hours. There was no flooding and no water on the road across the East channel, but part of the parking lot on the west side was washed away. The river was back

to its normal level by the morning of August 3rd.

The first 15 days of August were a continuation of July, cool and wet. The high was 82 on the 4th and 16th, with 3 days of 80 or higher. The low was 34 on the 12th. It's about time to think about covering the plants in the garden. The first frost usually occurs in mid August and lows below 30 are not far behind.

Freezing temperatures will begin to appear by early September and the first snow should arrive by the end of September. Summer is just about over and winter around the next corner.

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

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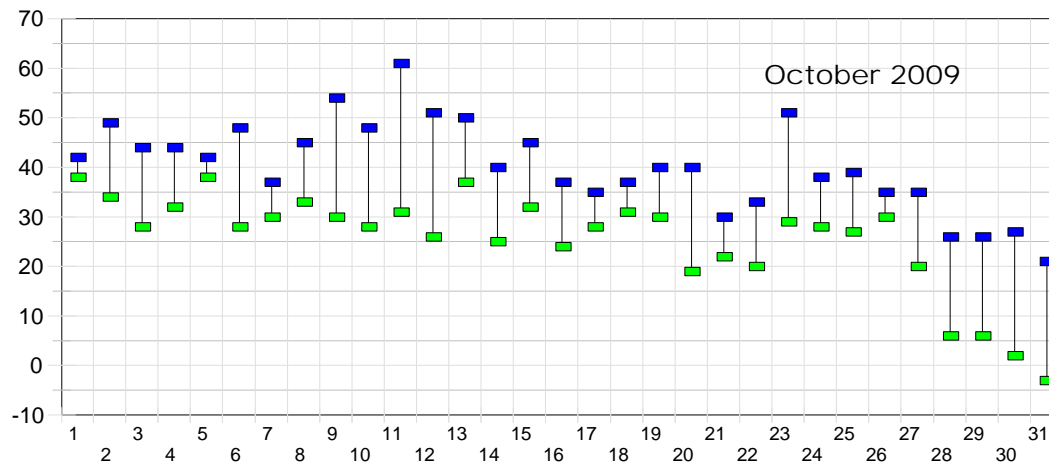
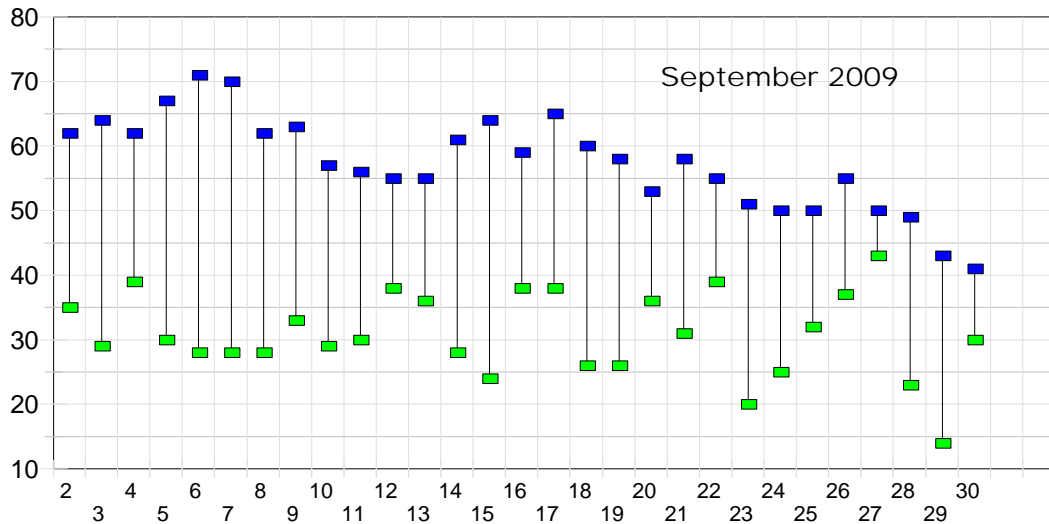
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