

Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Vol. Twenty-One Issue Five

September & October 2012

\$2.50



Mama Moose
and Calf



Bull Moose



Jacobs Ladder



Daisy



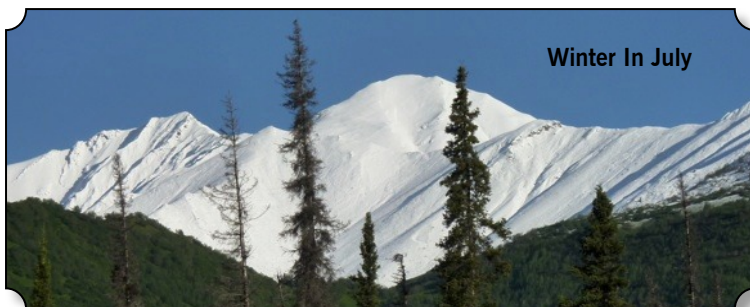
Pink Wintergreen

The Summer so quickly passed!

The cover photos are provided by McCarthy residents Larry and Lindee Satterfield. The Satterfields experience a variety of sights from the deck of their cabin porch or while traveling through the local neighborhood. Thank you, Larry and Lindee, for capturing and sharing your pictorial summer review with WSEN and our readership!



Columbine



Winter In July



Wild Rose



Cinnamon
Black Bear



Hidden Lake flood erodes Bank along Kennicott River



Black Bear

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

Today is September 3rd (Labor Day) and fall is in the air. Leaves are turning yellow, orange and even a few shades of red are appearing. I cannot help but sense the nearness of winter. Many of my neighbors are commenting, "Summer flew by this year." And, "We didn't have much of a summer." I have to agree. Summer made an entrance, but didn't hang around to give us many of those wonderful 80 degree days. A recent rainy day left behind a dusting of that "white" stuff (snow) on a nearby mountain peak, too. Most neighbors were busier than usual this summer. A down side of this time of year is saying goodbye to our seasonal neighbors.

Town chats this year on our weekly mail days usually included comparing notes on local bear sightings and activities. Not everyone found them all that pleasant, especially when a neighbor would wake up to a black bear peaking in his window! That happened more than once to more than one neighbor.

We cannot thank each of our contributors enough for their part in seeing this issue to completion. Rick Jr.'s ongoing story of his recollections of his growing-up days in Alaska is the most talked about column. This issue he writes about our first fall/winter in McCarthy. He was 11 years old that year in 1978. Looking through our photo albums during that time frame brought back so many warm memories. Rick Jr. looked so young. (Rick Sr. and I...so young!) That was 34 years ago. We are still in that same cabin we built that year, although it has

taken on a few more rooms and upgrades. We are now blessed to have running water from our own well, an indoor bathroom and a much improved electrical system. Rick Jr. has missed the upgrades, for the most part. Hopefully, in the near future, he and his family will come for a visit! Thanks for a great job of writing, son!

WSEN thanks Bob and Paula Leitzell for their contribution about Bob's recollection of Bill Berry, an historic figure in McCarthy's earlier days. Thanks for taking the time to write up your memories, Bob, and sharing them with us and our readers. History is a highlight to the majority of our subscribers. Read "Bill Berry in McCarthy and Chitina." on page 10.

Terry Blosser wrote and submitted the celebrated event of local resident, Dave Hollis' 4,000 shuttle van runs—without a flat tire. That may not seem like much of an accomplishment to those of you readers who are blessed enough to live

on a hard-surfaced road. Dave, and the other shuttle drivers, endure daily hardships "bouncing" back and forth between McCarthy and Kennecott while carrying tourists to their desired designations. Thanks, Terry; thanks also to John Rice for hand delivering the article and pictures to us, making sure we got the news when it happened! And, last but not least, thanks, Dave, for a job well done.

Although I left my thanks to George Cebula and Peggy Guntis to the last, they are certainly not less appreciated. Both George with his contributions to the "Look at the weather" column and Peggy's "Cooking with Peggy" column do so much to make this a publication that our readers don't use as fuel starter for their wood stoves! Thanks, George and Peggy, for your faithfulness to this humble publication.

WSEN welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Sarah Duffy, CO; Connie Morrison, MA.

Table of Contents

The Summer so quickly passed!.....	1
A note from the publisher.....	2
Items of Interest.....	3
Alaska DOT plans Lakina River Bridge replacement.....	6
Alaska Grown—Fall/Winter '78.....	7
Dave Hollis celebrates 4,000 shuttle van runs with no flat tires.....	9
Bill Berry in McCarthy and Chitina.....	10
WRST dedicates Kendesnii Campground.....	11
Time Travel in Kennicott.....	12
McCarthy Road upgrades continue.....	13
1921 Labor Day news.....	16
When reindeer paradise turned to purgatory.....	17
WRST hosts work group sessions.....	18
The Museum Thanks You!.....	19
Cooking with Peggy.....	24
A look at the weather.....	25
FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.....	27

Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Larry and Rita Pfenninger-Hoare: Welcome “home,” Larry and Rita! Although this fine couple lives in Homer, Kennicott was “home” to them and their sons during the winter of ‘97/’98. Larry’s history with our area goes back even further—to 1978. He and his friend, Nik Olmstead, paid a visit and decided to stay awhile. Larry eventually purchased the historic warehouse/cable shed in downtown Kennicott. He and Rita spent their first winter in ‘80/’81.

In time they purchased property and built a cabin above Kennicott and sold the warehouse to Dave Syren. The old building is taking on a new look and purpose. A coffee shop is in the making, I hear.

I came across an article and a few items of interest in our January/February 1998 and November/December 1997 WS-EN’s. The old warehouse was a hum of activity with Larry’s Wintercreek Jewelry business. That winter he turned out a variety of earrings, rings, pendants and bracelets. By summer he had quite a stock of his jewelry ready to place in our local gift shops and art galleries throughout the state.

Rita, a retired school teacher from Homer, transferred her teaching skills to sons, Joey (11) and

Garrett (8). In one of my previous “items,” I wrote: “Rita says she finds home schooling ‘fun, easy and like dessert.’ PE for the two boys, consisted of hiking and hauling firewood.

During the summer of 1998 the two boys set up their own shop in front of dad’s warehouse and sold copper ore to the visiting tourists. I wonder if that was their project for Business 101!

Today Garrett, 23, is living and working in Durango, CO. as a Physical Therapist assistant. Joe, 26, is back in Homer and working in the charter fishing industry on the Nautilus 2 as a deck boss.

Larry and Rita still live in Homer but are finding more time to visit their old stomping grounds. Larry is still working his Wintercreek jewelry business, focusing on Alaska stones. Please visit his web site at: jadealaska.com

Rita says she is experiencing her “second retirement.” Last year she ended her work as a teacher coach with Project GRAD and is finally finding time to do what she loves—painting mountain portraits.

Ross Bass: A present-day 5th grader, Ross Bass, is often found visiting his family’s cabin on the west side of the Kennicott River. His parents Mark and Emily make the trip from Anchorage as often as

they can. Ross, 10, is always eager to visit his McCarthy area home. On a recent trip here, he and his friend, Emmett Gregory (also age 10) got their first job—hauling brush for Jason Esler who just recently purchased property down the road from us. Ross said the work wasn’t too difficult and he seemed to be ready to take on another round of labor.

Another friend, Will Dure, 11, spends the summer at his family’s cabin on the banks of the Nizina River, about 13 miles from Ross. The boys planned a sleep over and had a grand time, says Ross. Will is the son of Fred and Ann Dure.

Ross has made a couple of out-of-state trips to visit other family members, such as his grandmother Constance Morrison. In June he and his parents traveled back east to Massachusetts and Connecticut visiting places such as Cape Cod, Jersey Shore, Boston and New York.

His next trip was to Chicago. “This was my first flight by myself,” says Ross. Since Alaska Airlines has a direct flight from Anchorage to Chicago, Ross’ parents made sure he was safely on the plane. His grandparents, Dick and Dee Bass, met him at the airport in Chicago. A special treat for Ross was having his godfather, Tim Riddel (also a McCarthy land owner) accompany

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him on the flight. Tim is a flight attendant for Alaska Airlines. Much to his surprise, as well as Ross', Tim was on board both flights.

Ross is back in Anchorage as I type this item. He says he is enrolled in the IGNITE program at Bay Shore Elementary School. I asked him to explain that to me. "If you're bored in class, you can do extra fun stuff. Like dissecting cow eyeballs and building roller coasters. My favorite is the roller coasters." Although the dissecting project is "not easy," says Ross, he finds it very interesting. (I chose not to comment on this statement!) There are about 10 kids in his class.

Labor Day weekend is just around the corner and Ross and his folks are scheduled to return for another visit to their special place in the Wrangells.

Thank you, Ross, for being an item of great interest to me and to our readers!

Rob Wesson and Gayle Gordon: Yesterday turned out to be my annual visit with Gayle. She and Rob make an average of three trips a year to their cabin on the far side of McCarthy Creek. Gayle comes for propane and, while Rick is doing the filling, we ladies manage to get a "catch-up" chat. We compare notes on cabin living and finding shortcuts for outfitting our homes.

This trip north from Evergreen, CO, includes an outing for Rob and his son. Gayle is having a few days to herself and is enjoying marking off some of those to-do projects.

The other day she tells me a moose came for a visit, but it took her awhile to realize it wasn't one of the men folk in the woods. On closer examination, she counted four legs instead of a two-legged version. The moose decided to steer clear of Gayle and her curiosity.

Rob and Gayle are taking the ferry from Haines to Bellingham on

their return trip home. This is their first time to sample the ferry system. Hope all goes well, Gayle. It is always a pleasure visiting and comparing notes with you!

Jenny Rosenbaum and Paul Hanis: Jenny and Paul are staying close to home this summer and I can see why. Between gardening (their main focus at the moment), planning the foundation of their new cabin, harvesting salmon to fill the freezer for winter, there is Jenny's tax accounting job 4 days a week. It's obvious she and Paul are wearing a number of hats these days.

Due to improved internet services in our area, Jenny is working from their cabin. Her seasonal job usually takes her to Anchorage for the winter months. If the internet continues to enable her to work at home this winter, she and Paul are hoping to stay the duration. "It sure beats donning business attire each day," says Jenny. The challenge is making room in their present 12' x 16' quarters. Thus, the reason for the foundation work on their new main cabin.

Paul was gone for a couple weeks. He took a job working on the slope. He's back and they both are harvesting garden produce. Although the buckwheat died during a frosty night in July, they put in more lettuce which is doing phenomenal this year, says Jenny.

Good kitchen tools are always a must. According to Jenny she has recently found one that is a keeper. She calls it a Victorio Food Strainer. It is hand operated so no need to turn the generator on while she processes her nagoonberries and raspberries. She did up 3 gallons of raspberries in less than an hour. "I highly recommend this handy tool," says Jenny.

Thanks for the tip, Jenny, and the interesting update from your home to ours!

Tom and Mary Kaye Golden: As I was finishing up with Jenny and Paul's "item," Tom stopped in for propane. It's always a plus in our day to see the Goldenes. Because I was still in the gardening mode from the above item, I couldn't help but ask Tom how their garden was doing. Due to son, Dan Elofsen's green thumb, Mary Kaye and Tom came back to Alaska greeted with many, many garden starts. They are now reaping the bounty from Dan's earlier labors.

"Kolrobi is doing great," says Tom. Raw sticks or oven fries sound like the way to go. They have a great crop of broccoli and cabbage. Tomatoes are ripening and new strawberry plants are even producing. Tom says he is really eager to see what those plants will do next year. Dogs Maggie and Mollie are extremely fond of the peas which they do get to sample once in awhile.

Mary Kaye is recovering quite well from abdominal surgery this summer. I see her at mail or driving through town in her own UTV, looking better every time. She and Tom are full of thanks to Bill McKinney and Wrangell Mountain Air for a safe emergency flight to Mat-Su Regional Hospital in Wasilla.

Tom's handyman business is going well this year. He's been working for Fred Dure who is located about 7 miles further out the Nizina/Dan Creek Road. He's also been coming to our side of the creek/river to give Pat Proden a hand at his place.

Rick and I are hoping to nab Tom for a couple of our projects, but time is running out. The Goldenes will make their exit for their winter headquarters in Florida September 18th. Signs of fall are all around us today which is a reminder it won't be long before we have to say our farewell to these summer neighbors.

Jim and Peggy Guntis: Speaking of neighbors heading south....the Guntis' will be doing just that in a few weeks. Peggy and I have been up to a lot of good during this summer. Most of our twice-a-week mail day excursions include a stop at the local grocery store (McCarthy Center) for those special items of interest. Another neighbor, Lindee Satterfield, often tags along for a "chat on the deck." Most chats include coffee, fruit or an ice cream cone. Lindee and I really missed Peggy when she and Jim made a trip to Homer. Daughter Kim Frost needed a babysitter for a couple of weeks, so Grandma Peggy stepped up to the plate.

Jim did Kim and hubby Richard a great favor by wiring an emergency system for them. Now any future winter electrical outages won't be such a nuisance.

The Guntis' have been entertained this summer by a few black bears that found the hillside berries near their house quite delectable. One curious bear took a peak in their window. I think it was wondering if Jim had left some of Peggy's homemade cookies in the jar. I guess the jar was empty...the bear ambled away looking for other fare!

John and Barbara Rice and Marcheta Long: The Rices and Marcheta are planning their soon departure for the lower 48. They are leaving a bit earlier than usual this year due to other commitments. They've had a full summer season: John volunteering at the museum, Barbara working at the McCarthy Center and cooking for Sunday lunches at the McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church; and Marcheta managing the McCarthy Lodge gift shop and on Sundays, playing the keyboard for church services.

John and Barbara enjoy hosting friends and family members during the summer months. The most recent guests were Barbara's sister,

Sally and husband, Chuck Yates, from St. Louis. The foursome just returned from a side trip to Cordova, taking the ferry from Valdez. Weather was perfect, says Barbara, and they all had a grand time!

Patt Garrett: Here is a direct "item" from Patt regarding her favorite subject these days—her little red cabin in downtown McCarthy. "Although I always saw 'Shulzie's cabin' as red, many other McCarthyites didn't. The more I researched for painting, the more I learned about 'red.' It felt like I looked at 400 shades, hues, tones, and versions of 'red.' I finally picked 'FIREWEED' red because I enjoy the fireweed plant, there is a view of Fireweed mountain, and I could relate to the straight forward name.

"Then I experienced 30 nights of sleeplessness, wondering if fireweed red would really be fuchsia, pink or something in-between, like Pepto-Bismol. My two oldest granddaughters agreed to paint for college money. I asked them to just do the primer and big red places. We all agreed they were not to do the high places. Chelsea Leigh from Portland, OR, and Andria Jade from Las Vegas, NV, arrived in their paint clothes. The weather cleared for that week. It was magnificent weather in McCarthy and now the red cabin is truly red. FIREWEED RED. Mark Vail's kind words were, 'Well, we will get used to it!'"

The Cebula boys: George and his brother Ted are enjoying their annual visit. Ted comes north from Milwaukee each year to enjoy George's remote surroundings and help his brother do those end-of-year projects. This year was time for another visit from Ted's son Mike, also of Milwaukee. Mike's last visit was 4 years ago. Both Ted and Mike arrived August 5th; Mike was here for 2 ½ weeks and Ted has a little over a week left on his vacation time.

George says the boys didn't have any large projects scheduled for their visit, only general maintenance. They did manage to paint the shed to match the house. Mike had lots of free time to hike to the Jumbo mine and take a west side hike with neighbor Jim Guntis. In-between the action is George's weekly volunteer work at the McCarthy Museum which George (and visitors) alike enjoy.

Welcome back, Ted and Mike!

Carol Michal: Last, but not least... is an item from Carol. In our last *WSEN*, Carol and her sister, Emma, were visiting McCarthy. She also ran an ad in the same paper for the sale of her property at Fireweed Subdivision. When I called her today at her home in Keiser, OR, she informed me that the property was now sold. She was thrilled to report that the new owners are Arlene and Danny Rosenkrans. "I am real pleased to sell to such nice people who will make good neighbors for the area."

While Carol and Emma were here last month, these two sisters (83 and 86) decided to take a raft trip with St. Elias Alpine Guides' Gaia Thurston-Shaine. I hadn't heard the outcome. Says Carol, "We enjoyed it so much. They served us such a lovely meal on Tractor Creek, too!"

Since Carol's return to Oregon, her son and his wife announced their "move to the country." Of course, Carol is going along, and not just for the ride. "We'll be living in the country—raising our own chickens, goats and beef. There is a greenhouse already in place. A chicken house, too. I'm going to get chickens right away. This farm girl is getting back to doing what she likes best—farming!"

Carol, we miss you on our mail day excursions, but if you and Emma can return next summer, we'll be waiting for you.

Alaska DOT plans Lakina River Bridge replacement

BY BONNIE KENYON

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is proposing to replace the bridge over the Lakina River at Milepost 44 of the McCarthy Road. Construction could begin as early as 2015.

On August 27th DOT hosted a public meeting in McCarthy to present the initial plans for the replacement project. The open house presented overviews of the project, answered questions from those in attendance and provided a forum for informal discussion.

According to Sarah Schacher, Project Manager, design and environmental permitting is expected to take approximately 2 years. An additional 50' of Right of Way (ROW) acquisition (temporary or permanent) may be required due to some minor road widening that may be needed on the southside of the road (downstream of the bridge) and could delay the project schedule. DOT anticipates that any new ROW would be minor. "We do not know at this time if the property in question is public or private land...We are doing everything we can to keep the project progress moving forward, but funding and other project priorities can affect the proposed schedule."

The new bridge's proposed width is 24', says Schacher, al-

lowing two lanes of traffic to pass. The existing bridge's width is 13', functions as a one-lane bridge, and has a short vertical overhead clearance of 13.2'—not optimal for the needs of the traveling public. The bridge's low vertical clearance has made it vulnerable to vehicular damage resulting in load restrictions. The new bridge will be stronger than the old truss bridge in order to remove the existing load restrictions.

The new bridge will also be longer than the existing bridge. A longer bridge will expand the channel width of the Lakina River, says DOT. The resulting increase in hydraulic capacity at the crossing of the McCarthy Road and roadway embankment protection will make the bridge and road less susceptible to flood damage and reduce overall maintenance costs.

The current estimated cost of the proposed project is between \$8 and \$12 million dollars. This depends on a number of factors including final alignment and bridge option selection. Approximately 90% is from Federal funds with the State picking up the rest. Schacher says DOT believes the bridge will likely be a concrete bulb-tee girder structure, not having an overhead truss, due to its durability, Alaskan fabrication (Anchorage) and relatively low cost. An example of this type of bridge

is the Gakona River Bridge located on the Tok Cutoff

Due to the anticipated size of the new bridge, the duration of construction is expected to last approximately 6 months during the months of April through October. Travelers to and from McCarthy/Kennicott should expect some disruption during construction. "We are currently seeking input from the McCarthy community about the optimal way to balance the needs of the traveling public with construction costs and the Alaskan summer construction window," says Schacher. A low-water bridge upstream of the existing bridge is expected to be constructed as a temporary crossing while the new bridge is being built.

Future community meetings will be scheduled prior to construction. DOT&PF is currently preparing the project's environmental document and preliminary design. "We are interested in your feedback," Schacher says. If you have any questions or comments about the project, please contact Sarah Schacher, P.E., DOT&PF Project Manager, Northern Region DOT&PF, 2301 Peger Rd., Fairbanks, AK. 99709-5316 or phone (907) 451-5361; email at sarah.schacher@alaska.gov. The public is encouraged to keep checking the following web site: <http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/lakina/>

"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."—Albert Einstein

"The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot read."—Mark Twain

Alaska Grown—Fall/Winter '78

BY RICK KENYON JR.

The summer went by swiftly as we worked daily on the construction of our cabin. It would be approximately 16x24 feet and two-stories high. Having no way to lift heavy logs except by sheer man-power, Dad devised a floor plan of two open rooms that cut the length of the logs to more manageable means. The living room would have a high ceiling and several large windows to allow plenty of light inside. The idea was to cut down on the "cabin fever" that many spoke of during the winter months of short daylight and long hours of darkness.

The wood stove was situated near the center of the cabin. A loft above the kitchen would be Mom and Dad's bedroom. My bedroom was a loft over the front porch. The gambrel-roof gave us enough height to stand up in each bedroom.

As the walls of the cabin rose, the purlins and ridgepole were the major concern since there was no mechanical means of lifting those long, heavy poles. Dad got inspired to use a simple method of rope and tackle. He put "skids" on the ends of the cabin for the logs



WSEN staff photo

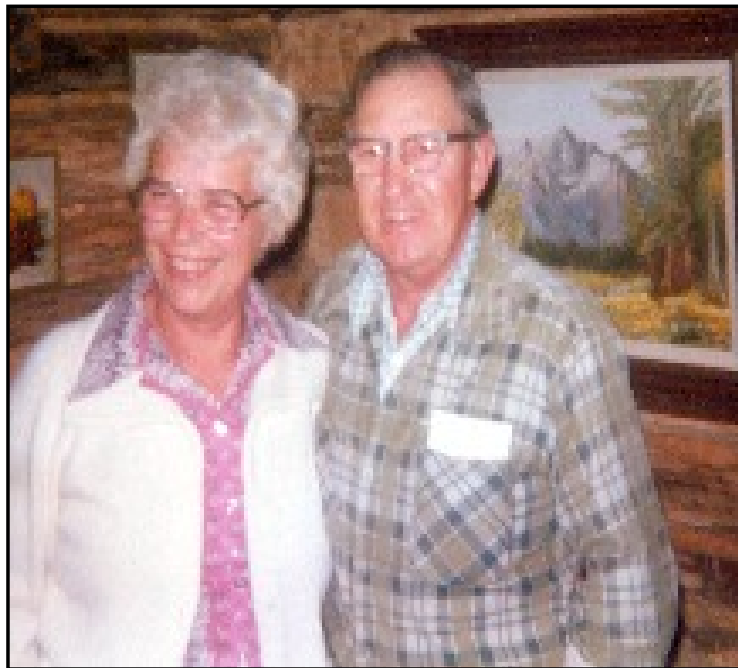
Rick Jr. and Rick Sr. baked this loaf of bread in the "stack oven" while Bonnie was out picking raspberries with neighbor Joan Wasserman. You should have seen the look on her face when she saw this beauty!

to roll up on; tied rope to each end and ran them up each side of the cabin to the top. Grampa and I got on one end; Dad on the other. We pulled each end up slowly until the log was at the top, and then secured it properly. This was repeated several times until all were in place. A great relief was felt by all and there was rejoicing in the camp!

The chilly nights and snow on the mountain peaks gave us a reminder that winter would not be long in coming. Grampa and Grammy decided it was time to head south before snow set in. We bid our tearful farewells as they drove off for their

winter residence in Florida. They would drive to Michigan on their way south and visit relatives and loved-ones there. Our weekly mail plane brought a "cassette tape" letter from them. Mom, dad and I would listen with attention to their daily reports of places and people seen. In return, we all three "taped" our weekly activities and news to them.

Eric Wasserman



WSEN staff photo

"Grandpa and Grammy." Carl and Virginia Kenyon. They were a great help with the building as well as an inspiration.

came over and inspected the building project. I remember him walking on top of

the ridgepole like it was nothing to be worried about! (Heights were never my forte.)

Before long, the plywood and insulation were in place. The sheets of red roofing were last in place. The outside was nearly done, with the doors and windows to be installed last.

This was none too soon, however. It was October and rainy

weather. The wood stove was put in place and the stove pipe installed. Dad fired up the stove for the first time. As the stove radiated heat the cabin began to warm up. The large, beautiful window to the south was closest to the stove and a loud pop was heard. It took a few minutes before we realized

that a long, jagged crack was in the glass! Evidently the window had a defect in it and the heat was more than it could stand.

As the weather continued to get colder, the rain turned into sleet, then into snow. We moved into the newly-built cabin just in the nick of time! The snow did not melt and winter was here to stay. Our creek behind the old cabin froze up and we hunted around for another place to get water.

Towards Jim & Maxine Edward's airstrip was a stand of tall spruce trees and there we discov-

ered a good creek that ran all winter. It was a good hike from the cabin and the exercise was welcomed. Sam and I had a new chore, and went nearly every day. We left a small hatchet to chip the ice with and a dipper to scoop water into five-gallon buckets (pulled on a small plastic sled).

Sam loved those walks in the



WSEN staff photo

The walls are up! Dad made ramps and we were able to pull the ridgepole and the purlins up with little trouble.

woods. Around the "winter creek" (as we called it), there were plenty of squirrels and Sam was always on the look-out for one. If he treed one, I would hear the barking until I came and checked it out! Occasionally we would find a rabbit or weasel. Once in a while there would be a magpie squawking on a branch. I always marveled at the majestic beauty of the outdoors, and the woods became a playground for Sam and me.

Winter also brought a much-dreaded word: school. I had a box of books to study and review.

Home school had its pro's and con's. It was nice to be finished earlier than regular school each day, but without a teacher to ask questions, it was difficult at times. Later, in my high school years, Algebra was one such subject that proved this out. (Even though dad and mom took it in their high school years, it had been 20 years or so and much

was forgotten!) History and Geography became my favorite subjects. My correspondence teacher in middle school was Mrs. Clayton, who worked out of the Glennallen School District office. She would grade my tests and mail them back with corrections. My handwriting never was great and there were usually a few

grammatical corrections and an occasional "remark" that it needed improvement!

Neighborhood communication was made by CB radios as we had no telephones. After the six o'clock news and Caribou Clatters on the KCAM radio station from Glennallen, we would turn the CB on and listen for local activity. Dad set the radio up to run on battery power. We later installed a good antenna and were able to hear all the way up to Tim Mischel's place on the mountain.

(To Be Continued)

Dave Hollis celebrates 4,000 shuttle van runs with no flat tires

BY TERRY C. BLOSSER, JULY 25, 2012

Starting in 1991 with a life-changing epiphany and thanks to his keen senses, quick reactions, and a lot of luck, Dave Hollis of McCarthy on July 25 celebrated 4,000 van trips of reliably shuttling summer visitors between the towns of McCarthy and Kennecott.

The achievement is noteworthy because in 17 years of driving for Wrangell Mountain Air and the Park Service, Hollis has never suffered a dead-in-the-road flat tire that has been the fate of many other drivers on the same five-mile stretch of road.

As Hollis pulled his van into McCarthy on Wednesday evening he was surprised with a street full of summer employees, locals, and visitors out to commemorate the event. Kelly Bay, co-owner of Wrangell Mountain Air, presented Hollis with a unique award fashioned from local artifacts.

Hollis has racked up at least 40,000 bone-rattling miles on the rutted, severely pot-holed, metal shard-laced, narrow dirt roadway hastily built in the 1950's upon the former railroad bed used in the copper mining era. In these modern times, Hollis has faced the railroad's tire-torturing legacy at every turn.

Potential hazards include jagged wooden posts that surface after ground thaws; sharp edges of steel rails that stick out from the edge of the road; railroad spikes that pop up when the road is occasionally graded; old culverts that

suddenly cave in; and sharp rocks that slice through tires.

Hollis recalls seeing another van driver for a local lodge pull over to the single-lane road's edge



to let a vehicle pass, only to shred their right front tire on a lurking sharp rail. "I heard a horrible screech, a big whoosh, and then a hubcap came flying down the road past me."

"I like the rails cast aside along the road," Hollis said, "They're part of the history of this very unique place. The challenge of chickens has been another road hazard. "A family near Kennecott once had a hundred chickens that were all over the road, but I never flattened any of them either," Hollis quipped.

There have been some close calls for Hollis when he's detected tires losing air. But he's managed to hustle the vans to home base before the tires went dead flat. His zero-flat skills have saved significant time and money for his employers, while leaving no passengers stranded at a disabled van.

Hollis was visiting the area for the first time in 1991 and saw a

Wrangell Mountain Air shuttle pull into McCarthy. "I knew right then, that's what I wanted to do with my summers," he said. Up to then, Hollis had been a computer science college graduate doing data processing on main-frame computers in Montana.

During those Montana years, the Michigan native became more intrigued by seasonal work experiences and less enchanted with the typical 9-5 job scene. In 1983 he tested the career-change waters as a Jammer in Glacier National Park, taking visitors on tours in a vintage 18-passenger open-air tour bus.

By spring of 1996, Hollis was on his way back to McCarthy to pursue his epiphany from five years earlier to be a summer shuttle driver for Wrangell Mountain Air. During the last 17 years he figures to have transported over 40,000 visitors and local employees up the mountain road to Kennecott.

"The job is fun, the daily scenery and wildlife is spectacular, and it's awesome to meet all kinds of people, especially the adventurous outdoorsy types," Hollis said, "Many of my favorite riders are the guides who come out to work each summer."

When asked why he chose to celebrate his flat-free 4,000 shuttle trips this month instead of some other potentially higher number later on, Hollis remarked that it seemed like a good round number. "Besides, my luck might run out tomorrow," he laughed.

Bill Berry in McCarthy and Chitina

Editor's note: We got the following letter from Bob Leitzell, who has spent a lot of time in our area before most of us arrived. Bob and Paula make frequent trips to McCarthy and often have something to add to our knowledge of area history.

Dear Rick & Bonnie,

I couldn't help but think about Bill Berry in Chitina back in 1950 after seeing the reference to Bill climbing the 75-foot flagpole in the latest issue of the *WSEN* (*The McCarthy Weekly News*, 1921 July & August editions). I always watch for any reference to either Bill Berry or O.A. Nelson (Otto Adrian) in the old Chitina or McCarthy newspapers, since I knew both of these men when I was an Engineer with the Alaska Road Commission working on the Copper Riv-

his stories. Bill told us that he strapped empty oil drums to his feet and then walked across the river. I don't remember if he told us which river he crossed, but by implication I believe that it

was the Copper. Now I can't say that I believed a word of his story at the time but if anyone has ever heard of someone actually doing this, then I would believe it of Bill Berry. In some ways Bill was a bit like O.A. Nelson, a jack of all trades and maybe even a master of several. In those



“barge” at the edge of the Copper. The barge was to be used to haul salvaged rails from the McCarthy side of the river to the Chitina side. I don't know whether the barge was ever used but somehow all of the rails were removed between Chitina and Kennecott.

There was no bridge across the Copper River at that time, only a passenger tram from the end of the wooden trestle on the McCarthy side of the river to a platform on the Chitina side. The tram was powered by a Model “T”(?) engine on the Chitina side of the river. I assume that the tram was constructed about the time that the river section of the railroad trestle washed out for the final time in 1939; although, it could have been there at some earlier date in order to facilitate the construction of the railroad trestle whenever it washed out in the spring. My guess is that the tram continued to operate until the new permanent bridge across the Copper River was completed. Perhaps one of McCarthy's or Chitina's long time residents would cor-



er Survey team between Chitina and the Million Dollar Bridge. After reading about Bill climbing the flagpole in McCarthy in 1921, I was reminded of one of

days you would not have survived very long in Alaska without a lot of varied skills. Bill was in Chitina at the time I was there, 1950, he was constructing a

rect me if I am in error about the history of the tram.

The operation of the tram was interesting. If you happened to be on the McCarthy side of the river, you needed to phone into Chitina and have someone come out to the tram, climb the stairs up to the platform on top of the bluff, start the engine, make sure that everyone was in the "bucket" on the McCarthy side of the river, shift the engine into gear to engage the cable and get folks back safely across to the Chitina side. There were two tram buckets, one on each side of the river; they switched sides when the tram was in operation. I noticed that the tram

was gone when we drove to McCarthy in 1992. If you look at the photo of the carrier approaching the Chitina end of the tram, you can see the construction of the bucket and its load of rail salvage workers. If there was a limit to the number of people that should be allowed in the bucket at one time, I think that this many people shown in the photo would constitute a full load. I doubt that anything related to the tram would have met OSHA standards.

I don't know if anyone has documented the history of Chitina but if they did, the tram across the river certainly would be a part of the Chitina story.

Rick and Bonnie have earned my thanks for republishing the old newspapers from that part of Alaska. I always look forward to the next issue of the WSEN and the history of Chitina, McCarthy and Kennecott found in these old publications. Thanks is due to Rick and Bonnie for renting us the large cabin last summer so we had a comfortable place to stay when we were there for the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the railroad.

Our best regards to everyone in McCarthy who welcome us to McCarthy/Kennecott each time we visit.

Bob and Paula Leitzell
Mokelumne Hill, CA

WRST dedicates Kendesnii Campground

COPPER CENTER, ALASKA —

Under sunny skies, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve dedicated the newly built Kendesnii Campground on July 27 with a naming ceremony and picnic at the Nabesna Road site. Park Superintendent Rick Obernesser opened the event, saying, "I am excited that so many of us are here today as we dedicate the park's first official campground."

Kendsnii is the Ahtna name of Daisy Nicolai. She and her children had a spring camp in the campground area for many years. In addition to acknowledging the family's connection to this site, using an Ahtna name for the campground recognizes the important association between Alaska Natives and

Wrangell-St. Elias. Park staff worked with local tribes in identifying the campground name, and the Cheesh'na Tribal Council, on behalf of Daisy's family, partnered with the park in organizing the dedication.

Many of the more than 100 guests at the event were members of Daisy's family. Also among the guests were Nabesna Road residents and park visitors camping at the site. Daisy's closest surviving relatives — a sister and three daughters — shared memories of Daisy, as did several grandchildren. Speaking on behalf of the Cheesh'na Tribal Council, Tribal Administrator Wilson Justin, who is also one of Daisy's grandchildren, said "The honor of keeping a promise made a generation ago is privilege not always understood but

vital to those who stand in shadows of our Traditions. Thank You to the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park for the support in keeping that promise. Cheesh'na extends a welcome to all visitors to the Kendesnii Campground."

The campground is located at Mile 28.2 on the Nabesna Road at Twin Lakes. It has vault toilets, picnic tables, and 10 sites that will accommodate tents and up to medium-sized recreational vehicles. Currently there is no charge for use of the site. A canoe launch and water well are also planned. Funding for campground construction came from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the Recreational Fee Program.

"Public affairs go on pretty much as usual: perpetual chicanery and rather more personal abuse than there used to be." —John Adams

Time Travel in Kennicott

Editor's note: This story first appeared in the January/February 1998 WSEN, the year Joe and his family lived in Kennicott. Be sure to read an up-to-date item on page 3 of this issue. After this story was first published, a pen-pal relationship began between Sissy Lommel Klueh (Walter's daughter) and Joe. It continued for several years.)

BY JOE HOARE — GRADE 5, AGE 11

One day when I was walking through Kennicott admiring the jagged mountains and the rugged glaciers I thought, "This place seems really powerful and mysterious, almost magical." The old copper-mine buildings were ragged with broken glass and missing windows. The fading red paint was flaking and cracked. I put my hand in my pocket, and suddenly I noticed that all the red paint on the old, boarded-up buildings had changed to prime condition.

I asked my friend, Luke if he saw anything different about the buildings. He said, "They look just the same to me."

"Maybe they look different to me because I've been camping up the mountain at the mine since last Wednesday," I answered. I didn't tell him that while I was gone I had found this glowing crystal on the doorstep of the mine building. It was in my pocket now. That's when I knew things might get really strange. Perhaps the crystal was magic!

Later that day I saw that all the windows were back in place. "That's weird," I said to myself. At dinner that night I told my family about the buildings. They said they looked just the same to

them. In the morning I ate breakfast and decided to go for a walk. There seemed to be a lot more buildings, and the trees and bushes seemed a whole lot shorter. I'm probably still half asleep," I assured myself.

At noon I visited Luke and his brother, Nick. On the way the old railroad seemed as good as new, and all the collapsed parts of buildings seemed to have sprung back up. When I got to my friends' house we decided to go copper ore hunting by the mill building, so we could increase our supply to sell to the summer tourists. We just never seemed to have enough. I, for some reason, found lots more copper than Nick or Luke. It looked to me like the copper ore had fallen there just a few days ago. Luke said, "I could have sworn I didn't see that piece there a minute ago," as I picked up a great chunk of covellite, the best I ever found!

On the way home I could have bet my life I thought I heard those old generators trying to start again. The next morning I woke to a rumbling, beeping, hissing noise. I thought, "Oh, Dad must be grinding coffee beans." I got up and went into the kitchen. "What's that noise?" I asked.

"What noise?" my mom said.

"You know, that awful racket."

"Well, your little brother, Garrett, went to play outside before breakfast."

"That must be it," I said drowsily. At 11:00 I went copper hunting again because of my good luck yesterday. On the way

to the mill building I kept on hearing that rumbling, beeping, hissing noise. I looked at the powerhouse with the humongous generators in it. Smoke was coming out of the towering, six foot-wide stacks! I ran all the way back to our house and yelled, "Someone started the powerhouse up!"

"What?" exclaimed my mom. "You must be kidding, because I sure don't hear anything."

"No, really come and look," I said. So Mom and I ran down to the powerhouse.

"OK, Joe," said my mom, "you've had your fun, but I'm baking bread, so don't play any more tricks on me, OK?"

"OoKaayy, but I still think I hear it," I whispered as my mom walked away. As I continued to walk toward the mill I saw doors opening and closing and heard people talking. It was a fairly windy day, so I guessed that the doors were being blown back and forth, but I wasn't too sure about those voices. I thought Nick and Luke might be playing a joke on me. I looked around, but no one was in sight. Then I dug up a nice hunk of bornite, even better than the piece I found with Nick and Luke. I looked around again, and boy, there were an awful lot of people! Everything was like it was in the mining days. "Hello," said a curious voice.

"Huh?" I said

"My name is Walter Lommel," said a bright-eyed man.

"My name's Joe," I explained.

"Joe, I don't remember any kid on the list named Joe." Sud-

denly my hot orange, gortex jacket seemed out of place.

"Oh, I think I traveled back in time. What year is it?"

"1927," said Mr. Lommel. "What year are you from?" he asked me.

"Uh, 1997," I replied.

"What's it like in the year 1997?"

"It's pretty technological. We have a computer and an electric piano."

"What's a computer?"

"It's sort of like a T.V., but you can do activities on it."

"What's a T.V.?"

"It's like when a camera takes a picture, but when you look at it everything is moving."

"Oh, that's amazing!"

"That house isn't there any more. It burned down."

"That's my house!" he yelled.

"Don't worry. Your family was out of town. You see that one over there?"

"That's gonna be my mom and dad's in 1978."

"Gosh, are they born yet?"

"No, but my grandparents are babies now. What do you do here in Kennicott?"

"I'm a chemist at the assay office. I test the ore for copper content. But right now I'm looking for a very rare crystal."

"I have it! Here you go."

"Thank you! Thank you!" he exclaimed. "Anyway, what do you do in Kennicott?"

"I mostly look for copper ore to sell to the tourists who come to look at the ghost town of Kennicott."

"Hey, you helped me, now I can tell you where some copper ore spilled off an ore cart. I

know that it is very rich in copper. It's the best kind so far. The reason no one has gone to get it is because so much is coming out of the mountain. It's under that cable over there."

"Thanks a bunch!"

"You're welcome. Well, I have to go to Cordova with this load of ore. Good-bye and good luck!"

As he took off on the train, I wondered how I was going to get back to my own time. I turned around and day became night about 26,000 times really fast! The trees grew taller, and some of the buildings collapsed. People zoomed everywhere at almost the speed of light. Then I walked home with a zillion stories going through my head. Maybe that crystal was magic after all.

McCarthy Road upgrades continue

BY BONNIE KENYON

McCarthy Road upgrades are moving right along into the fall season. According to the Department of Transportation (DOT), road construction is scheduled to continue through October 15th. Some delays can still be expected up to 20 minutes.

Present activity is concentrated between Mileposts 35-44 and 46-50. Upon completion, McCarthy Road from Milepost 3-55 will be widened and have gravel resurfacing with widened and cleaned ditches.

For further updates people are encouraged to visit the following web site:

www.alaskanavigator.org. Dave Hunt with Harris, Sand & Gravel of Valdez, contractor for the McCarthy Road Upgrade, can be contacted at 907 831-0306. DOT's Tyler Straub, Project Manager on site, can be reached at 907 590-8804.

According to the Project Manager in Fairbanks, Caroline Maniaci, Dave and Tyler are "trying to get the most work out of the designated funds for the construction project."

The work started at the end of May 2012. Two culverts were replaced at Mile 27. Ditch repair and stabilization was done at Mile 5. Strelna Creek at Mile 14.5 received a single pipe arch. Embankment repairs occurred at Mile 16.5. and Mile 57.6.

The cost of the entire McCarthy Road Upgrade project is \$3.4 million.

Recent drivers of the McCarthy Road are reporting a few flat tires but, for the most part, the accounts are full of positive feedback on the safer and more enjoyable travel conditions.

"We can and must write in a language which sows among the masses hate, revulsion and scorn toward those who disagree with us." —Soviet dictator Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (1870-1924)

The McCarthy Weekly News

1921 September & October editions

LABOR DAY

Excursion to Cordova

Labor Day in Cordova, promises to be a day of days. All preparations have been made by the Cordova people to have everything A 1 and a program of all day amusements is scheduled.

Ball games between Cordova and McCarthy in the morning. A rifle shooting contest will be held for cash prizes. Athletic events will be the attraction during the afternoon, in which prizes are offered for all kinds of stunts for both sexes and all ages.

Of course there will be two movie shows each evening and we may rest assured that Cap. Lathrop will have something extra good to offer on the screen. The orchestra at the theater is another treat in store for all who will hear it.

For lovers of the noble art of self defense there will be a boxing contest later in the evening.

During the day there will be music by the Cordova band, a company of twenty musicians who are experts.

The special excursion train will leave Kennecott at seven a.m. sharp and McCarthy at 7:15 tomorrow, stopping at way points to pick up excursionists. It is expected that the train will reach the coast metropolis at about 2 p.m. From then on—whoopee!

Two big dances will be held at Cordova on the evening of Labor Day. One at the Empress Cabaret and one at the Eagle Hall.

No Baggage will be handled under the Excursion Tariff to Cordova by the Copper River & N.W. Ry. Co. Freight rates on same are \$4.50 per hundred pounds.

Sept. 3

PERSONAL

Many former residents of McCarthy are now located on the coast and among those with whom we had the pleasure of shaking hands were: John Johnson, formerly a builder here. Charley Hurdning, once of Chisana, now associated with the Cordova Lumber Co., Jerry O'Leary, for several years, at Nizina, is the same genial Irishman.

Jim Hyland another one of the boys, is now engaged in the fishing industry. M. L. McAllister, of Chisana & Nizina, who is mining and prospecting.

The Laurie Bros. who started in business in our town, now conduct an up to date men's furnishings store. Their families reside on the floor above. Sam's two sons are now of school age, and his little daughter is four and a half. The Jack Lauries have a fine big boy, now eighteen months old.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Foster, who now reside in the beautiful home originally built by the late Ralph Stewart. Frank is now a shining light in the legal profession and also has oil interests, his eldest daughter Margaret left this week to spend a year at a girl's school at Walla Walla, Wa.

Little Frank, who was born in McCarthy, started in a public school this week.

Sept. 10

Dan Greenig, who was here in 1917 is a partner in the Cordova House. Billy Kavanaugh, who was with the Mother Lode Co. in 1917 is now with the Alaska Transfer Co. Link Waln, who was here many years ago, is now host of the Windsor Hotel, and he and his wife and brother devote their time to making things pleasant for the traveling public. Kelly Robinson, who lived here in 1915 is now town clerk and U.S. Commissioner at

Cordova. Mrs. Robinson was our first school teacher.

Sept. 10

Mrs. M. F. Radovan was in town from Dan Creek this week.

FUNERAL OF JUDGE SMITH

The funeral of the late C. P. Smith took place last Tuesday. A short service with music was held in the A. B. Hall. A large number of old-timers were present to follow the remains of their friend to his last resting place. The funeral service was conducted by J. P. Hubrick. The pall bearers were E. D. Gerekin, O. W. Brehmer, H. H. Mitchell, John Nelson, Dad Wakefield, J. D. F. Stevenson and Chas. Veach.

Sept. 17

The defunct cabin of John Funk at Blackburn is not as dead as it looks, for we hear that a law suit will come up over it yet. John Funk himself, left for the Fairbanks country several years ago, leaving a building at Blackburn, not totally finished. Incidentally, he also left a debt of several hundred dollars to a local boarding housekeeper. Now, it seems, that another resident is said to have purchased the building, and last week was supposed to have rented it to a McCarthy resident, who proceeded to have it papered and made habitable, here, there must be a lost connection in the grape vine telegraph, for it appears that one evening this week, the supposed tenant and paperhangers were all arrested for burglary. However the case will come up for hearing next Wednesday when we'll know more. The boarding housekeeper is just as much interested as the parties involved, as she is wondering if she will ever collect her bill.

Sept. 24

COURT NEWS

In the Commissioner's Court last Wednesday, on the complaint of Mrs.

F. M. Roberts, of Blackburn, Miss Grace Fenton, Lee Yancy, Scotty Henegan and Joe Hutchins were charged with breaking and entering the John Funk cabin at Blackburn. Mr. T. H. Donohoe appeared for the defendants. The prosecution placed a broken lock in evidence and pictures showing articles outside the cabin, which were supposed to have been removed.

Deputy Marshal Kavanaugh, assisted by Louis Henderson, had arrested the defendants in the cabin where they were found cleaning out same and papering the walls.

The defense was that the cabin in question had been rented by Miss Fenton from Mrs. Roberts for \$15.00 per month and though no written agreement had been made the defendant, Miss Fenton, thought it was sufficient being on good terms with the Plaintiff to go ahead on the improvements purchasing wall paper and employing the other defendants to put cabin in order for occupancy, furthermore the defense plead that the defendants did not enter the cabin to commit a crime.

Under cross examination, C. Kello admitted that he had not been near the cabin since July 4th, and Mrs. Roberts testified she had not been there since June of this year, points which Mr. Donohoe drew to the attention of the Court, saying, "hundreds of men could have broken the lock between July and up to the time of the arrest," and the fact that three disinterested witnesses gave evidence that the door was open twenty inches, prior to the time the defendants entered the cabin and that the prosecution had not proved who had broken the lock.

On these grounds Mr. Donohoe asked for a dismissal of the cases. In reply, the Commissioner stated that he knew the Plaintiff's cause was just & that the Plaintiff had told the truth, therefore, he could not do otherwise than bind the defendant, Miss Fenton, over to the Grand Jury. The other parties were all dismissed.

Mrs. Duffy, of Kennecott, acted as Court Stenographer during the proceedings, which lasted from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. with one hour's interval.

Oct. 1

NEWS FROM THE CREEKS

Clifford Cayouette visited McCarthy this week, and returned to Dan Creek, where he will be working his ground this winter.

The Radovans intend to remain at Dan Creek, working on their property through the winter.

Oct. 15

THE GREEN GROUP A WINNER

After a successful season prospecting and developing the Green Group property, Messrs J. P. Gaskill and John E. Barrett closed down for this year on the 17th. Mr. Gaskill leaving on the last train and Mr. Barrett next week, both en route to the States to spend the winter.

During the operations this summer a good sized vein of chalcocite, better known as copper glance, was encountered in No. 2 tunnel and a considerable amount of this high grade ore was taken out and sacked and will be shipped next year. After going through this vein (which will be followed up later) the tunnel was continued on in making a depth of 176 feet in all, to a second vein of high grade ore higher up the hill, and it will be no surprise if the Green Group is eventually one of the big shippers from this section. Besides the work on No. 2, shafts, open cuts and other tunnels were driven on this property this year but the main work next year will be in No. 2 tunnel where the rich vein was uncovered.

Mr. Barrett is the original locator of this property and has been developing it steadily since 1914 with the supreme confidence that some day the property would turn out a winner & he richly deserves all the good luck which is now in sight for him and his associates.

This property is located 11 miles from McCarthy on the east side of McCarthy creek on a good wagon road. From the road to the mine, a

distance of 2500 feet, a strong aerial tramway was erected this summer. The mine altitude is 4100 feet above sea level, free from snowslides and having ample water for milling purposes, making it one of the easiest mines in the vicinity to work.

Mrs. M. F. Roberts of Blackburn and Charlie Kello left on last Sunday's train en route to Valdez to attend Court as witnesses.

FARMERS HAVE GOOD CROP

For the first time in the history of the Copper River Valley a whole carload of barley and oat hay was shipped to the Kennecott Co. by a farmer of this section. This was raised, baled and shipped by Oscar Anderson of Long Lake, and is superior to the hay shipped in from the States. Anderson also shipped several tons of potatoes and Ed Mullen shipped a large quantity of turnips.

During the season Frank Iverson has sold several tons of garden truck and dairy produce from his ranch and has an ample supply of hay and vegetables for winter market.

John Barrett has sold several tons of potatoes grown from native seed to a local restaurant.

This all goes to show that when McCarthy becomes the busy center of the mining industry, farm produce for the multitude can be supplied by local growers.

Oct. 22

PERSONAL

Chris Pederson and Walter Quon Eng have rented the cabin owned by Al Doze opposite the school.

That Alaska children can hold their own with the children outside, has been shown by Laura May Fry, a former pupil at McCarthy school, who in a contest securing subscriptions for the San Francisco Examiner received a prize, a Ranger bicycle, worth sixty dollars. The Fry family is now located at Scotia, Humboldt, Calif.

Oct. 29

1921 Labor Day news

Editor's note: The following was reprinted from the September 10, 1921 edition of *The McCarthy Weekly News*.

EXCURSION TO CORDOVA BIG SUCCESS

Ideal weather conditions, a fast train and a bunch of good fellows made the down trip of the Excursion to Cordova last Sunday a grand success. Leaving McCarthy about 7:30 we reached Strelina about 9 o'clock, staying there only long enough to pick up a few passengers and were on the way again to that famous little town, Chitina.

Here everybody had a chance to visit and pay their respects to the mayor, who was kept busy opening Optimos and Camels until the cry of "All Aboard" made some of us do a hundred yard dash in record time. At that point a wire was sent to the Committee at Cordova that the guarantee at both ends was in the clear, to be exact 77 and one half tickets had been sold up to that time, two and one half tickets to the good.

Leaving Chitina our engineer opened up the throttle, making good time until we came to Mile 49 and then we rambled, making the fastest time that had been made for some time enabling us to reach Cordova by 2 o'clock.

A very pleasant surprise was sprung on the excursionists at Mile 7 where we stopped a few minutes to pick up the boys from the Radio station, Tom Scott,

Harry O'Neill and Master Lydick boarding the train and welcoming the guests also distributing free tickets to a special show held that evening at the Empress Theater, needless to say all the tickets were represented and a splendid play by Rex Beach was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. A vaudeville stunt of merit was a particular treat to the lads from the hills.

DOINGS AT THE COAST

The train arrived at the coast city much earlier than it was expected and only a few were at the depot when it drew in. The afternoon was spent in visiting and renewing acquaintances, and the Cordova people were certainly on hand with kindness and hospitality.

The following day the big game of baseball was played which resulted in a win for Cordova by one point. The Cordova band played selections all day, and that music was greatly enjoyed. During the afternoon a shooting contest was held & Athletic events run on First Street, all the little folks winning a prize. In the evening another ball game was played between Cordova and McCarthy, as the boys from the hills thought they could beat them, but alas, they proved to be entirely outclassed, and we hate to admit the score was 13 to 1.

Chas. Ray was the hero of the screen that evening, and an additional treat was given to the visitors by the special appearance of

Mr. Malotte, one of Seattle's best organists, who performed upon the pipe organ. After the show a boxing contest was held, the contestants being a Cordovan and a pugilist from the Radio station. Cordova scored another point.

The further attractions of the evening were two dances, one at the Cabaret and the other at Eagle Hall under the auspices of the Cordova Athletic Club, which is a new organization. Both places were well patronized and dancing continued till 4 a.m.

Through the courtesy of the Copper River & N. W. Ry. Co. the Excursion train was not scheduled to leave Cordova till 11 o'clock on Tuesday morning which gave the visitors a chance to attend to business and other matters and it seemed as if the whole town was down to the depot to see us all off. It was only by promising that we would all repeat our visit next year that we were allowed to leave the most hospitable town in Alaska.

The members of the train crew which gave us such excellent treatment on the trip were: Tommy Burchette, engineer; Pat McCafferty, fireman; Walter Downing, conductor; Tim Eckstrom and Lee Meecham, as brakemen. Agents Sommer of McCarthy and Wilson, of Kennebecott, made the trip, accompanied by their families. The running time on the down trip was five hours and twenty five minutes.

"Self defence is a part of the law of nature; nor can it be denied the community, even against the king himself."—English philosopher John Locke (1632-1704)

When reindeer paradise turned to purgatory

BY NED ROZELL

During World War II, while trying to stock a remote island in the Bering Sea with an emergency food source, the U.S. Coast Guard set in motion a classic experiment in the boom and bust of a wildlife population.

The island was St. Matthew, an unoccupied 32-mile long, four-mile wide sliver of tundra and cliffs in the Bering Sea, more than 200 miles from the nearest Alaska village.

In 1944, the Coast Guard installed a loran (long range aids to navigation) station on St. Matthew to help captains of U.S. ships and aircraft pilots pinpoint their locations. The Coast Guard stationed 19 men on St. Matthew Island to operate the station. Those men—electrical technicians, cooks, medics, and others—made up the entire human population of the island.

In August 1944, the Coast Guard released 29 reindeer on the island as a backup food source for the men. Barged over from Nunivak Island, the animals landed in an ungulate paradise: lichen mats four inches thick carpeted areas of the island, and the men of the Coast Guard station were the reindeer's only potential predators.

The men left before they had the chance to shoot a reindeer. With the end of World War II approaching, the Coast Guard pulled the men from the island. St. Matthew's remaining residents were the seabirds that nest on its cliffs, McKay's snow buntings and other ground-nesting birds, arctic foxes, a single species of vole, and 29 reindeer.

St. Matthew then had the classic ingredients for a population explosion—a group of healthy large herbivores with a limited food supply and no creature above them in the food chain. That's what Dave Klein saw when he visited the island in 1957.

Klein was then a biologist working for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He is now a professor emeritus with the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Institute of Arctic Biology. The first time he hiked the length of St. Matthew Island in 1957, he and field assistant Jim Whisenant counted 1,350 reindeer, most of which were fat and in excellent shape. Klein noticed that reindeer had trampled and overgrazed some lichen mats, foreshadowing a disaster to come.

Klein did not get a chance to return to the island until summer of 1963, when a Coast Guard cutter dropped him and three other scientists off on the island. As their boots hit the shore, they saw reindeer tracks, reindeer droppings, bent-over willows, and reindeer after reindeer.

"We counted 6,000 of them," Klein said. "They were really hammering the lichens."

The herd was then at a staggering density of 47 reindeer per square mile. Klein noted the animals' body size decreased since his last visit, as had the ratio of yearling reindeer to adults. All signs pointed to a crash ahead.

Other work commitments and the difficulty of finding a ride to St. Matthew kept Klein from returning until the summer of 1966, but he heard a startling

report from men on a Coast Guard cutter who had gone ashore to hunt reindeer in August 1965—the men had seen dozens of bleached reindeer skeletons scattered over the tundra.

When Klein returned in summer of 1966, he, another biologist and a botanist found the island covered with skeletons; they counted only 42 live reindeer, no fawns, 41 females and one male with abnormal antlers that probably wasn't able to reproduce. During a few months, the reindeer population of St. Matthew had dropped by 99 percent.

By piecing together clues found amid the bones, Klein figured that thousands of reindeer starved during the winter following his last visit, when he counted 6,000 animals on the island. Weather records from St. Paul and Nunivak islands for the winter of 1963-1964 showed an extreme winter in both cold and amount of snowfall.

With no breeding population, the reindeer of St. Matthew Island died off by the 1980s. The unintended experiment in population dynamics and range ecology ended as it began—with winds howling over the green hills of a remote island in the Bering Sea, a place where arctic foxes are the largest mammals roaming the tundra.

The Alaska Science Forum has been provided as a public service by the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks, in cooperation with the UAF research community since the late 1970s. Ned Rozell is a science writer at the institute. This column first appeared in 2003.

WRST hosts work group sessions

BY BONNIE KENYON

Editor's note: The following material was adapted from notes taken by Elizabeth Schafer.

Kennecott:—On July 30, 31st, August 1st and 2nd, the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park (WRST) hosted a series of work group sessions for public discussion. The following is a basic summary of the visions and planning that happened during the National Park Services' (NPS) four work-group sessions. This summary is the end result of hours of discussion, with many NPS personnel and community members taking part.

The July 30th meeting covered the subject of the **NPS Shuttle Turnaround** in Kennecott. The vision for the turnaround is to provide visitor orientation and facilitates efficient shuttle operations. The area includes the Blackburn School as a manned visitor contact station.

After much discussion the following actions were taken: Shuttle vans will continue to turn around in the current spot which is near the St. Elias Alpine Guides' (SEAG) office in Kennecott with occasional use of the shuttle turnaround. The park service will create a link between the SEAG office and the shuttle pull-in area and the NPS shuttle turnaround area by including a boardwalk behind the Blackburn School with a covered portion for protection from adverse weather. Plans include the enlargement of the current van pull-in as much as possible. An

Orientation map of local businesses is to be displayed at the pull-in spot.

The old school will become an obvious NPS facility with an arrowhead, welcome sign and open door. The NPS shuttle turnaround area is expected to get an outhouse, additional interpretive panels, a telephone and a bike rack. Also envisioned is a staircase/trail to a designated limited parking area at the Dairy Barn on the Wagon Road.

The July 31st and August 1st sessions covered a vision for **access to the Kennecott Millsite**: Access to the Millsite subdivision is predominantly through shuttle services and non-motorized means. Vehicle access and parking will be managed to minimize impacts to visitors and residents, and minimize congestion and maximize safety.

Parking—Provide limited (minimal) designated parking in the Dairy Barn area. Primary (priority) users include: Handicapped; local use for non-shuttle times; special events; lot owners with no property access; lot owners who are north or up the mountain from Kennecott.

Plans include educating visitors and locals that parking is minimal. No parking at the shuttle turnaround, after there is a designated spot at the Dairy Barn. No parking on NPS owned portions of the main road from the Kennecott gate up. Utilize restored features such as boardwalks, railroad rails to discourage parking. Transition over time will include enforcement of 'no parking' on the park ease-

ments in the Millsite. A speed limit could be posted in the Millsite subdivision, posted at the Kennecott gate and at strategic locations within the Millsite that are not in prime view spots.

Education—All educational materials should be developed in consultation or partnership with community members. **Signage** should be minimized and aimed at effective conveyance of information. Land status maps that clearly show intermixed land patterns should be used. Signs can include 'bullet statement' messages, such as 'be respectful of shared roads.'

Possible locations for signs include the footbridge and the McCarthy Road Information Station, museum, airport, the Chitina Ranger Station and the waysides on the McCarthy Road.

Brochures should be developed in partnership with community members and should include information on the following topics: Why this place is different. This is a community, respect that there are people walking on the roads and that it is a shared trail. Describe physical characteristics that lead to safety concerns. Encourage the use of shuttle services and alternatives.

Brochures are to be distributed by NPS at Sportsman shows to motorized groups, and around the Westside/McCarthy, Kennecott and by willing businesses.

Websites could display information similar to the brochures to assist visitors on their trip planning.

Full notes are available from Elizabeth Schafer. You can contact her by email at: Elizabeth.Schafer@nps.gov or by phone 907-960-1014.

The Museum Thanks You!

The McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum has had a wonderful summer season thanks to the help and support of many! The 4th of July Pancake Breakfast was a big hit once again. Believe it or not, we raised \$1000. Thank you to Barbara Rice and her enthusiastic kitchen crew who helped make it a great morning, and to all those who joined us for pancakes.

The 4th of July Silent Auction was also a spectacular success! We truly appreciate all the gracious donations made by indi-

viduals and businesses throughout the community. The Museum raised over \$2200. Wow! A big thanks to: John Adams, Aspen Meadows B&B, Boreal Canopy Adventures, Clendaniel Studios, Copper Oar, CVTC, Currant Ridge Cabins, Denise Lopez Yoga, Fireweed Mountain Arts & Crafts, Glacier View Campground, Golden Saloon, Kennicott Glacier Lodge, Kennicott Wilderness Guides, Marcheta Long, Ma Johnson's Hotel, McCarthy Lodge, McCarthy Center, Mountain Arts Gift Store, Patt Garrett, The Potato,

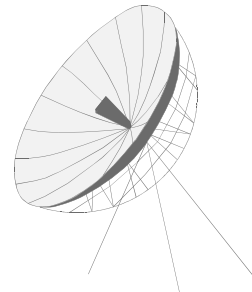
St. Elias Alpine Guides, Sunny Cook, Tailor Made Pizza, Wild Alpine, Wrangell Mountain Air, WSEN and WSE NPS Visitor Center.

And last but not least, we thank Rob Retherford, local resident in the McCarthy Creek Subdivision. Rob is President of Alaska Earth Sciences in Anchorage, which has graciously agreed to be the Museum's first corporate sponsor!

What a generous community we live in! Thank you to all!

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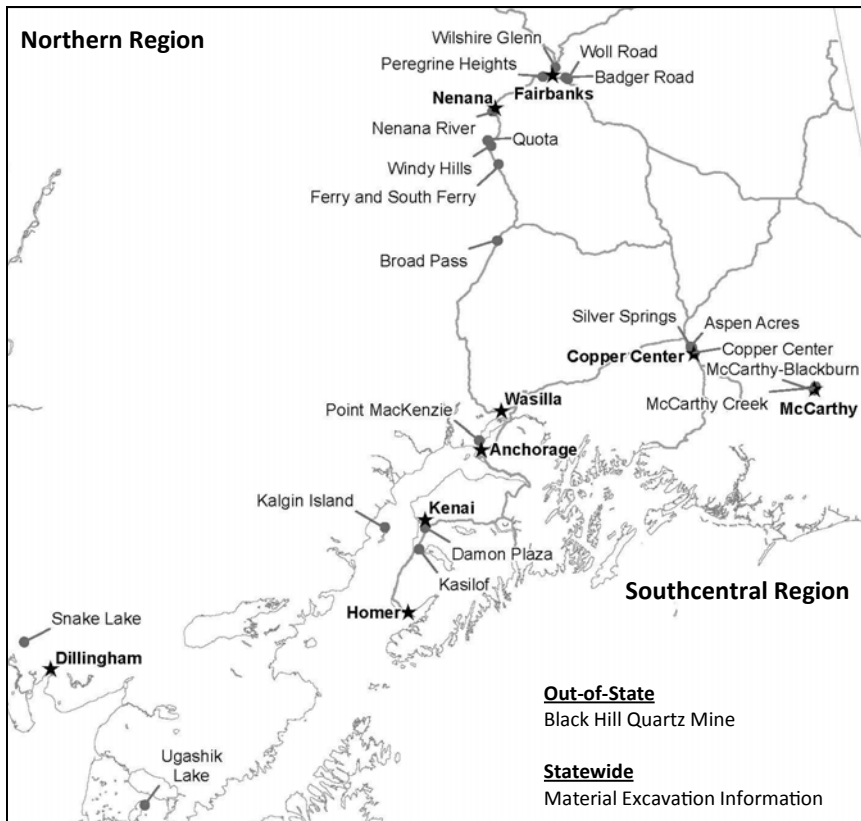


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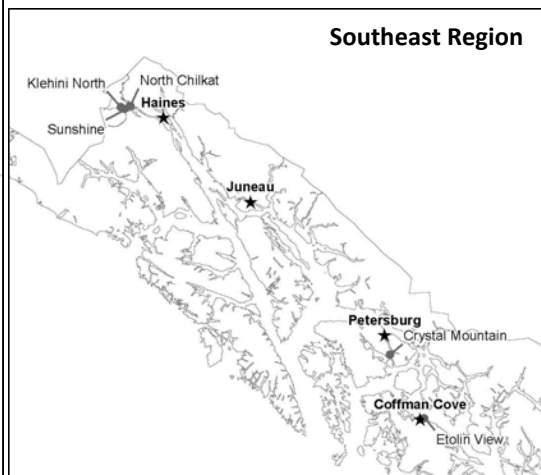
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The Facilities and Land Management office invites you to stay informed on department news and announcements by visiting our page on Facebook and Twitter. You can also visit our website at www.ualand.com and subscribe to our "Join Email List" to receive interactive emails on department news and announcements throughout the year.



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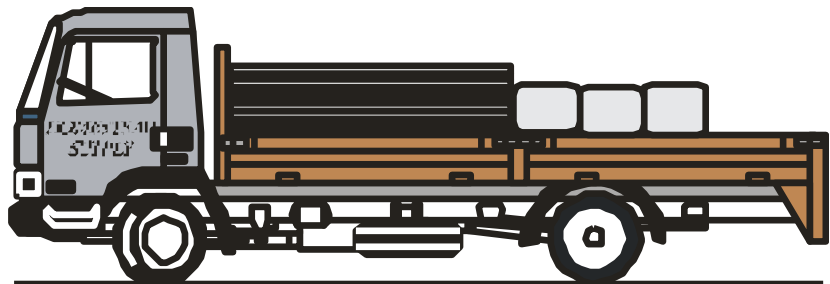
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Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

Greetings from McCarthy to Food Lovers! I have several recipes for you this time that are from local residents. I do hope you enjoy trying them because I certainly have enjoyed eating them!

Soon after Jim and I got here this summer Audrey and Jim Edwards came up to the house to welcome us back and in their hands were some zucchini plants (they heard Jim wanted me to start a garden) and a fresh loaf of Friendship bread. Audrey had given me a recipe for the Friendship Bread Starter last fall but because it took quite a bit of space I held off giving it to you. I'm not going to hold off any longer because it is THE BEST!

AMISH FRIENDSHIP BREAD STARTER

DO NOT USE METAL UTENSILS!

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (.25)ounce package active dry yeast
- ¼ cup warm water (110 degrees F.)
- 3 cups all-purpose flour, divided
- 3 cups white sugar, divided
- 3 cups milk

1. In a small bowl, dissolve yeast in water. Let stand 10 minutes.

In a 2-quart glass, plastic or ceramic container, combine 1 cup flour and 1 cup sugar. Mix thoroughly or flour will lump when milk is added. Slowly stir in 1 cup milk and dissolved yeast mixture. Cover loosely and let stand until bubbly. Consider this day 1 of the 10 day cycle.

Leave loosely covered at room temperature.

2. On days 2 thru 4; stir starter with a spoon, plastic or wooden.

Day 5; stir in 1 cup flour, 1 cup sugar and 1 cup milk. Days 6 thru 9, stir only.

3. Day 10; stir in 1 cup flour, 1 cup sugar and 1 cup milk. Remove 1 cup to make your first bread; give 2 cups to friends along with this recipe, and your favorite Amish bread recipe. Store the remaining 1 cup starter in a container in the refrigerator, or begin the 10-day process over again (beginning with step 2).

FOOTNOTES:

Once you have made the starter, you will consider it Day One, and thus ignore step 1 in this recipe and proceed with step 2. You can also freeze this starter in 1 cup measures for later use. Frozen starter will take at least 3 hours at room temperature to thaw before using.

AMISH BREAD

DO NOT USE ANY TYPE OF METAL SPOON OR BOWL FOR MIXING.

Do not refrigerate.

Stir everyday about the same time.

Day 1 - Do nothing

Day 2 - Stir

Day 3 - Stir

Day 4 - Stir

Day 5 - Stir

Day 6 - Add to bowl 1 cup flour, 1 cup sugar, 1 cup milk. Stir well.

Day 7 - Stir

Day 8 - Stir

Day 9 - Stir

Day 10 - Add 1 ½ cups flour, 1 ½ cups sugar, 1 ½ cups milk and mix well. Pour 1 cup each into four separate containers. May be frozen up to three months or give to friends along with a copy of instructions.

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

To remaining batter in bowl add:

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup oil
- ½ cup milk
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- 1 ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 cups flour
- 1 large box instant pudding in any flavor you like (Audrey uses vanilla)

Grease 2 large loaf pans. Mix an additional ½ cup sugar and 1 ½ teaspoon cinnamon and dust pans with ½ of the mixture. Divide batter evenly into the pans. Sprinkle the remaining sugar mixture over the top. Bake 1 hour. Cool 20 minutes and then remove from pans to a wire rack to cool. Do not bake more than 2 loaves at a time.

I cannot tell you how much any friend you share this with will enjoy it. The flavor is wonderful, it's moist—and every other compliment you can give to good homemade bread.

Marcheta Long is back! I shared a couple of Marcheta's recipes in January and would

love to share another. We are always so glad to see her arrive for another summer. This year she helped to plan the painting and redecorating of the McCarthy Lodge Restaurant area and that of the Gift Shop. She then opened and ran the gift shop for Neil all summer. Believe me folks, No One could have done it better! One of the recipes she gave me last fall was for Cornbread Salad. I thought it would be great served this fall or at Thanksgiving so wanted to share it with you.

CORNBREAD SALAD

- 1 (16 oz.) package corn bread mix
- 10 slices bacon
- 1 (1oz.) package Ranch dressing mix
- 1 ½ cup sour cream
- 1 ½ cup mayonnaise
- 2 (15oz.) cans kidney beans, drained
- 3 tomatoes, chopped
- 1 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 1 cup chopped green onion
- 2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 2 (11 oz.) cans whole kernel corn, drained

1. Prepare corn bread according to package directions. Cool, crumble, and set aside.

2. Place bacon in a large, deep skillet. Cook over medium-high heat until evenly brown. Drain, crumble, and set aside.

3. Whisk together the dressing mix, sour cream, and mayonnaise.

4. Crumble half the corn bread in the bottom of a large serving dish.

Top with half the beans. Layer the beans with half of the tomatoes, green bell pepper, and green onions. Sprinkle with half the cheese, corn, bacon, and the salad dressing mixture. Repeat the layers.

Cover, and chill at least 2 hours before serving.

It's delicious BUT don't take my word for it; try it, you'll like it!

Now, I want to share a recipe that Bonnie gave me. She and Rick always share so many of their vegetables that they plant, weed, water, and save from the animals. We are all so grateful to them for all the work they do and that they then share the results of that hard work.

They make our summer eating such a wonderful experience. This year as Bonnie was cutting me some rhubarb, she shared a recipe that I went home and instantly made and had to freeze so I wouldn't eat it all in one sitting! I want to share it with you.

RHUBARB TEA BREAD

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup oil
- 2 cups packed brown sugar

- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 ½ cups diced rhubarb
- 1/3 cup chopped walnuts
- 3 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon each—baking powder, nutmeg, allspice
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon

In a large bowl, beat together eggs, oil, sugar and vanilla until thick and foamy. Stir in the rhubarb and nuts. In a separate bowl combine flour, soda, salt, baking powder, nutmeg, allspice and cinnamon. Stir until thoroughly blended. Add dry ingredients to rhubarb mixture.

Spoon gently into two greased 9" x 5" loaf pans.

Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

Guess I'm out of space but, believe it or not, I'm not out of recipes! Watch for us next month and get Paul Barrett's recipe for seasoning that he uses on everything but desserts! And my daughter's recipes for a fantastic dessert that takes only a couple of minutes to make, is only about 100 calories and looks and tastes like sponge cake and another for a donut muffin that is only 30-35 calories and tastes wonderful with that afternoon coffee. Eat well and I'll talk to you next time.

A look at the weather

BY GEORGE CEBULA

The summer of 2012 has been about average in temperatures and precipitation. June temperatures were about average and the precipitation was a little above aver-

age. The high temperature for June was 83 on 23rd and 24th (80 on June 24, '11, 77 on June 2, '10 and 83 on June 10, '09). The low was 32 on June 1st and 2nd (30 on June 7, '11, 31 on June 11, '10 and 28 on June 27, '09).

The average temperature for June was 53.7. This compares to 54.9 in June '11, 53.8 in June '10, 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 11

days with a high of 70 or above and 2 days with a low of 32 or lower. The total precipitation was 2.74 inches (0.79 inches in June '11, 2.25 inches in June '10, 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).

July was about average in temperature and in precipitation. The high for July was 80 on the 19th, 20th and 27th (81 on July 21, '11, 82 on July 9, '10 and 88 on July 8, '09). The 88 on July 8, '09 was the all time high recorded at McCarthy. The low was 29 on July 8th and 9th (35 on July 20, '11, 36 on July 9, '10 and 34 on July 25, '09). The July average temperature 55.1, compared to 56.8 in July '11, 56.6 in '10, 60.1 in '09, 53.0 in '08, 58.1 in '07, 57.1 in '06 and 56.1 in '05. There were 2 days

with a high of 80 or above and 2 days with a low of 30 or lower. The total July precipitation was 2.41 inches (3.65 in July, '11, 3.88 in '10, 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).

Hidden Creek Lake began releasing its water on July 20th (July 20, '11, July 31, '10, 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 early hours of July 20th and crested at 0500 am on July 21st . The crest was 25.31 ft compared to 23.50 ft in '11, 25.80 ft in '10, 25.65 ft in '09, 22.75 ft. in '08, 23.00 ft in '07 and 31.50 ft .in '06. The

increase was 5.33 feet in 47 hours. There was no flooding, but some of the West bank of the parking lot was washed away. The river was back to its normal level by the morning of July 27th.

The first 14 days of August were a continuation of July, cool and wet. The high was 73 on the 14th. with 4 days of 70 or higher. The low was 36 on the 11th. Precipitation was about a half inch. 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.

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FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin addresses an issue of personal responsibility that is fundamental not only to our civil society but to our humanity: the ethics of speech. He reminds us that the Golden Rule should apply not just to how we act toward others but how we speak about them. His presentation was delivered during the September 1995 Center for Constructive Alternatives seminar "Fiction and Faith."

Over the past decade, whenever I have lectured throughout the country on the powerful, and often negative, impact of words, I have asked audiences if they can go for twenty-four hours without saying any unkind words about, or to, anybody. Invariably, a minority of listeners raise their hands signifying "yes," some laugh, and quite a large number call out, "no!"

I respond by saying, "Those who can't answer 'yes' must recognize that you have a serious problem. If you cannot go for twenty four hours without saying unkind words about others, then you have lost control over your tongue."

Just think about your own life for a minute. Unless you, or someone dear to you, has been the victim of terrible physical violence, chances are the worst pains you have suffered in life have come from words used cruelly—from ego destroying criticism, excessive anger, sarcasm, public and private humiliation, hurtful nicknames, betrayal of secrets, rumors, and malicious gossip.

Testing Your Speech

There is no area of life in which so many of us systematically violate the Golden Rule. Thus if you were about to enter a room and heard the people inside talking about you, chances are what you would least like to hear them talking about are your character flaws and the inti-

mate details of your social life. Yet, when you are with friends and the conversation turns to people not present, what aspects of their lives are you and your companions most likely to explore? Is it not their character flaws and the intimate details of their social lives?

All too often, many of us criticize others with harsh, offensive words, turn disputes into quarrels, belittle or humiliate others, and inflict wounds that last a lifetime.

The Power of Words

One reason that many otherwise "good" people use words irresponsibly and cruelly is that they regard the injuries inflicted by words as intangible and therefore minimize the damage they can inflict. For generations, children taunted by playmates have been taught to respond, "Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words (or names) can never hurt me." But does anyone really think that a child exposed to such abuse believes it?

An old Jewish teaching compares the tongue to an arrow: "Why not another weapon—a sword, for example?" one rabbi asks. "Because," he is told, "if a man unsheathes his sword to kill his friend, and his friend pleads with him and begs for mercy, the man may be mollified and return the sword to its scabbard. But an arrow once it is shot, cannot be returned."

The rabbi's comparison is more than just a useful metaphor. Because words can be used to inflict devastating and irrevocable suffering, Jewish teachings go so far as to compare cruel words to murder. A penitent thief can return the money he has stolen; a murderer, no matter how sincerely he repents, cannot restore his victim to life. Similarly one who damages another's reputation through malicious gossip or

who humiliates another publicly, can never fully undo the damage.

Words, quite simply, are very powerful. Indeed, the Bible teaches that God created the world through words. At the beginning of Genesis we learn, "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light." I would submit that human beings, like God, also create with words. Consider the fact that most, if not all, of us have had the experience of reading a novel and being so moved by the fate of a character that we have cried, even though the character who has so moved us doesn't exist. All that happened was that writer took a blank piece of paper, put words on it, and through words alone created a human being so totally real that he or she is capable of evoking our deepest emotions.

Words are powerful enough to lead to love, but they can also lead to hatred and terrible pain. We must be extremely careful how we use them.

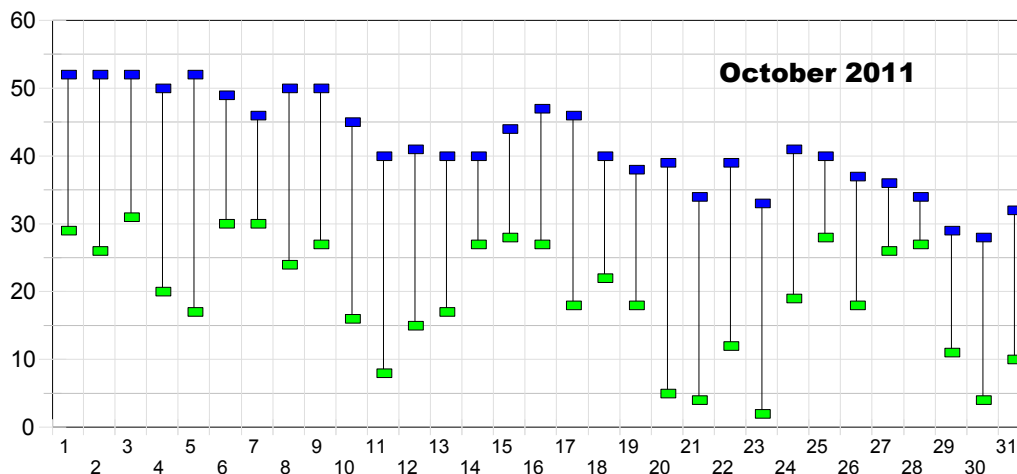
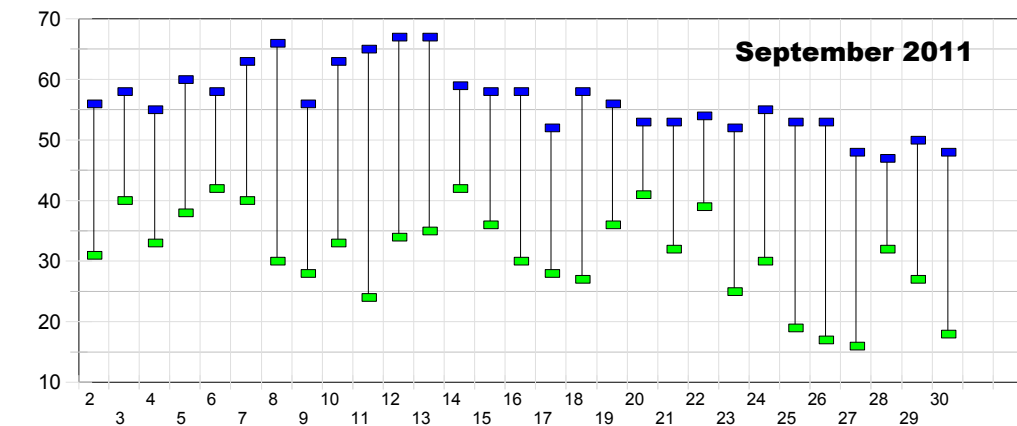
A Jewish folk tale, set in nineteenth century Eastern Europe, tells of a man who went through a small community slandering the rabbi. One day, feeling suddenly remorseful, he begged the rabbi for forgiveness and offered to undergo any form of penance to make amends. The rabbi told him to take a feather pillow from his home, cut it open, scatter the feathers to the wind. The man did as he was told and returned to the rabbi. He asked, "Am I now forgiven?"

"Almost," came the response. "You just have to perform one last task: Go and gather all the feathers."

"But that's impossible," the man protested, "for the wind has already scattered them."

"Precisely," the rabbi answered.

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