

# Wrangell St. Elias News

*"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"*

Vol. Twenty-Two Issue Five

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Photo courtesy Christopher Wright

## Fishwheel Findings

Most of us have seen the many fishwheels in the Copper River at Chitina, but few of us know much about them.

Christopher Wright of Copper Center gives us an in-depth look at the history, construction and use of fishwheels.

To learn about these wonderful inventions, see Christopher's story on page 12.



Photo courtesy Arturo Polo-Ena.

## Wilderness adventure race makes waves in McCarthy

The first annual McCarthy Creek Packraft Race and Whitewater Festival was a day full of sunshine, whitewater and excited rafters.

Two different courses provided racers an 11 mile and a 17 mile course of hiking and rafting. Story on page 8.



WSEN staff photo

Friends of WSEN editor/publisher Bonnie Kenyon celebrate her birthday with her at the pizza bus in Kennecott.

Left, front to back: Dian Cook, Lindee Satterfield, cooking columnist Peggy Guntis. Right, back to front: Julie Nyholm, Barbara Rice, Bonnie Kenyon.

# A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

The neighborhood around me today is all “abuzz.” I don’t think that is a word, but fits the occasion. In between writing and proofing on this issue of the *WSEN*, I am enjoying my short walks to our B & B cabins, getting them prepared for a new group of guests.

The weather is perfect for



outdoor projects. George’s chain saw is alive and well next door, as he and brother Ted continue sprucing up George’s property. Jim Guntis is collecting and spreading sand. Larry Satterfield’s nail gun is adding to the neighborly symphony, giving me extra zip as I take my walks. Life is good!

Rick chose the pictures for the cover and this page. I don’t normally like to be a subject, but friends are included and each of them is special to me. First of all, Rick and I received a visit from David Stricklan of the National Weather Service, who presented us with a plaque recognizing us for thirty years of service as cooperative weather observers in McCarthy since the fall of 1983. The other picture on this page is of Peggy Guntis,

*WSEN*’s cooking columnist, giving me a hand at collating our July/August issue. Thanks again, Peggy!

On the cover some of the neighbor ladies graced me with a birthday luncheon at Tailor Made Pizza. Great food; great friends. Thank you!



That is NOT me in one of those rafts, but these young men seem to know what they are doing and having fun in the water. Be sure to catch the story of McCarthy’s first annual Packraft Race on page 8.

“Fishwheel Findings” is an article on fishwheels, their history, owners and usage. Our thanks to Chris-

topher Wright of Copper Center for placing in print his findings and he and Matt Lorenz’s permission for us to reprint it from the *Copper River Record*.

*WSEN* welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Joyce McCombs, AK; Rasmuson Foundation, AK; Mary Langreck, IA; and Tom Peppel and Mark and Kay Miller, our latest online subscribers.

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## Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

### Larry and Rita Pfininger Hoare:

A perfect sunny morning to visit Rita, I am thinking as I 4 “wheeler” it down to Larry and Rita’s place. There was a time when visiting this fine couple would mean climbing a mountain by 4 wheeler and then by foot. Their Kennicott cabin and property is well above Kennicott proper. These days, however, since they purchased a piece of land not far from our cabin, the travel distance (and comfort) is much easier.

Rita and I do a bit of reminiscing over a cup of tea before moving into the “now” of the Hoare family. Larry is busy at his Winterereek Jewelry business in Kennecott, says Rita. Since the Historic Kennecott Sauna building, which houses his workshop and jewelry business this year, is located near main street, it is easily seen by passing tourists. “He loves talking to visitors about rocks and geology,” says Rita, “and folks enjoy watching Larry at work.”

Work for Larry is making copper ore jewelry out of Kennecott and Dan Creek copper nuggets. Alaskan stones, like jade and agates, are his specialties, too. He’s been making copper ore jewelry in Kennecott since 1979. Interestingly enough, when he and Rita spent their first winter (1980/1981) in Kennecott, Rita contacted the sauna’s owner, sharing that she was looking for a place she could do her oil painting.

She was graciously given permission to fix up and winterize the little ex-sauna. It served her well that winter and now Larry, also an artist, is busily creating beautiful jewelry.

Rita is “finally doing what she has wanted to do since she was 4 year old.” Painting! Her artist “quarters” this year is a screen tent where her easel and paints sit, ready to be used at a moment’s inspiration. Painting landscapes is her speciality. Rita says Larry calls it “anatomy of mountains.” There are plenty of those around McCarthy and Kennecott.

It doesn’t take us long to broach the subject of children. Their boys are now grown: Joe, 26, and Garrett, 24. Both young men are off doing what they like best. Joe works for Sub Sea Seven which supplies Remote Operated Vehicles (ROV’s) to various companies, predominantly oil companies. Rita described an ROV as “a dishwasher with arms.” They repair, monitor and inspect underwater gas lines and equipment. Joe’s job is located in the Gulf of Mexico. He is based near New Orleans and works onboard a ship, one month on, then one month off. On his down time, he often comes home to Homer where he has his own cabin on Rita and Larry’s property.

Garrett lives in Durango, CO and works as a Physical Therapist Technician. Rita had just finished up a phone conversation with him. He was

boarding a plane that will take him to the opposite side of the world, Nepal. He is on quite an adventure! Garrett is doing a Physical Therapy internship with Projects Abroad. He’ll be serving for the month of August in a hospital for human rehabilitation of disabled children. He’ll be providing physical therapy to children coming through major surgeries, says Rita.

After tea Rita and I took a short walk to the new cabin’s building site. The foundation is in; the plan is in place. Rita and I “walked” in the rooms, and although they don’t have walls yet, Rita “painted” me a picture of the finished product. Of course, there is a workshop for Larry and that special niche for Rita. A place for both to continue to carry out their dreams. Thanks, Rita, for sharing them with us!

**Dave Hollis:** “Hollis” checks in from Summer Camp 2013: “My 18<sup>th</sup> summer in McCarthy has been great as usual. A new job this season is working for the National Park Service in the Kennecott Visitor Center. As an Interpretation Ranger, I interact with tourists, seasonal employees, and local residents. I share information on historical and natural topics, hiking and backpacking and local businesses.

“Also, after over 10 years of living in a tent on my property, I’m very excited to get started on building a small log cabin!”

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Congratulations, Hollis, on your new seasonal job this year and the beginning of your log cabin's construction.

**George and Ted Cebula:** The Cebula brothers are having their annual get-together. Ted just arrived from his home in Milwaukee. George and dog Shane were on hand at the Anchorage airport to greet him. A safe drive back to McCarthy gave Ted a pleasant surprise. This morning he joined Rick and I for a cup of coffee. He soon commented on the much-improved condition of the McCarthy Road. We agreed with his assessment. What a change from the early days when we might get out the road but on our return find it closed due to a "washout." Welcome back, Ted!

**Jim and Audrey Edwards:** Jim's son Stephen and his wife, Lana, and their son, Jake, joined Jim and Audrey for a visit to their Swift Creek property. Jake enjoyed running errands with the 4 wheeler while the adults visited and performed a variety of chores.

Audrey and I managed to make time to pay our annual visit to Carmen Russo. Tea time and cookies were on the menu and a show-and-tell of Carmen's new siding for her house. A plus this year was an additional member to our tea party. Lorraine, Carmen's mother, was enjoying a mother/daughter time in McCarthy this year, and Audrey and I were pleased to spend time with these fine ladies.

**Doran and Roni Ward:** July 4<sup>th</sup> festivities always produces fun and the opportunity to see neighbors that live in the rural outreaches of our town. Rick and I always enjoy seeing the Wards at the annual McCarthy parade. The Wards' cabin is located at the base of Fireweed Mountain, so it is a bit further for them to come to town than most of my neighbors.

Doran and Roni thoroughly enjoy time relaxing and upgrading their property. Roni says there is always something to do. She doesn't seem

to know what the word "bored" means as she never experiences it.

Since they've now been in their main cabin for 13 years, the logs need refinishing. Clearing brush is always on the to-do list. And, then, there is the occasional building projects. Their most recent one began in 2011. Doran's hangar is now complete and can be removed from the list. Roni says they had a lot of help from family members and friends.

Doran is a Captain with Alaska Airlines so he commutes on a regular basis and makes good use of their runway and now their new hangar. Congratulations on a job well done!

**Bjorn Keller:** Since it has been awhile since Bjorn and I have visited, I decided to pay a visit to the Keller farm by way of telephone. Allie, Bjorn's mom, answered my call and we chatted for awhile. I told her I was calling to see if there was an "item of interest" from their home. She suggested I talk to Bjorn. He is such an outgoing young man at 8 years old. When his dad, Jeremy, comes for propane he usually brings Bjorn to visit with me while he takes care of business with Rick. Bjorn and I are the kind of friends who can pick up where we left off and catch up on the news.

Nibbles, a male pet goose, is Bjorn's latest farm companion. (Liam, his younger brother keeps him entertained as well.) "Nibbles is really, really friendly and the sweetest!" declared Bjorn. He was hatched about May 1 and loves to follow Bjorn and be cuddled.

Bjorn reports his 11 corn plants are doing well. About half of them are making ears. The strawberry plants could be better, he says, but they are putting out plenty of runners which will become his new crop next year.

His latest hobby is working with clay he found on the farm. His clay "cakes" are being "worked" and prepared for useful things. His recent project is making his mom a candle holder. His next object will be a sign for a swallow he rescued but, sadly,

succumbed to injuries from falling out of its nest. I asked Bjorn about the baking process. He tells me you can bake by just using the sun but it "takes a lot longer than the oven."

He is already planning his winter building project: an igloo-style fort. Last winter he discovered how to make "snow blocks." He filled a cardboard box with snow and after it set up, he found it a perfect block of snow to carve on. His neighbor, Paul Hanis, is quite the expert ice carver. He loaned Bjorn some tools and gave him some pointers. Bjorn was very thankful for the help, he says. This year, however, he will make snow blocks, which he plans to stack on top of each other and shape into his own snow fort.

Since it is 85 degrees today as I type Bjorn's "item," I suspect it may be awhile before he is able to begin this fine winter project!

**Adam, Stefanie, Pheobe and Hayden Tschappat:** The Tschappat family live about 15 miles from me. I don't see them often but a phone call to Stefanie and an email from her provided the following update from their neck-of-the woods.

"We have been in full summer swing and loving the unprecedented sunshine and heat! Not only has it provided many wonderful days of swimming in Long Lake, but has been great for ice cream sales at the Tschappat's new business, Mountain Mamas— A roadside delight. On most days, you can find Stef and girls, Pheobe and Hayden, serving up cones, shakes, lemonade delights, and chilled espresso drinks to customers (or in Pheobe's words, "strangers") with all smiles. We plan to stay open through Labor Day so come on down and see us before summer is over.

"Around the homestead, on Adam's one day off a week from working construction for Twin Peaks Construction and the Mill Building renovation, he has been doing the dirt work and preparing the foundation for another addition to our house. With baby girl Tschappat #3 due in November! We are so thrilled and

feel so blessed to be growing our family again!

“With the new business and the Twin Peak job we scaled back this year with the garden, but the greenhouse that Adam built last fall, fully insulated and heated with a wood stove, has produced some of the best tomatoes, beans, peas, strawberries, peppers, and basil we have ever grown! And with this banner berry year we have put up nearly a case of preserves to enjoy this winter! Not to mention the rhubarb we transplanted from Mom and Daniel Morrison has been an incredible addition to many baked goods.

“It has been a stellar summer hanging out with friends and family! We are also looking forward to the coming fall and starting Pheobe's first year of home school with I.D.E.A., and some family time traveling around the state before settling in for the winter ahead.”

**Tom and Mary Kaye Golden:**

The Golden's have finally arrived from their “long” winter stay in Florida. Tom topped out his golf games with a total of 110 this year, he says, up from 80 the previous year. On May 10<sup>th</sup>, however, Tom put his golf clubs back in the closet, and he and Mary Kaye drove to Wisconsin where Tom's mom lives and where the family farm is located. While there Mary Kaye had surgery and spent her recovery time surrounded by friends and family. Tom was blessed to see his new great granddaughter, Zoe, who was born June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Their drive up the Alcan was spent leisurely sightseeing areas they had not seen before. Normally they fly. Dogs Mollie and Maggie had quite a trip. Tom had made them a bed with a good vantage point from the backseat where they could view the countryside and wildlife. One day they got a great sighting of a buffalo herd, says Tom. Now that really made their day!

They arrived in McCarthy on August 4<sup>th</sup>, about 90 days beyond their normal arrival time. With just a little over a month left of their stay, they

intend to make the most of it. Mary Kaye's sister and husband from Boulder, CO are arriving soon for a week-long visit. Rafting, flightseeing and a variety of other fun adventures are in the making.

No garden this year for the Golden's, but 4 “freebie” carrots came up on their own, reports Tom. Their first morning at the cabin Mary Kaye and Mollie saw a black bear in the yard. Another early morning produced a cow and calf moose, so life is good at their northern frontier home. They are glad to be back and plan on enjoying every minute. We're glad you're back, too, Tom and Mary Kaye.

**Mark, Emily and Ross Bass:**

Last, but certainly not least, is an item on the Bass family. Emily stopped by the other day and we had a “catch-up” visit. Her summer season is coming to a close. She just finished her interim executive directorship at the Wrangell Mountains Center. “It has been four wonderful months working with an incredibly passionate board of directors that focuses on providing programming for the McCarthy community,” says Emily.

The job overlapped with the last month of achieving her Master's Degree. It's been a long but very productive four years. She started the summer 2009 with 20 credits, graduated from UAF in 2012 with a Bachelor's degree in social work. Since she was able to do her studies all online, this enabled her and the family to spend the summers at their cabin in McCarthy. She applied to UAA's advanced placement in their Master's program and was able to do it all in one year. She graduated May 20<sup>th</sup> of this year.

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, Emily will begin a new job with the Rasmuson Foundation in Anchorage. According to Emily the Rasmuson Foundation funds most all the non-profit organizations in McCarthy. Her job title is “Program Assistant”— working on the Recover Alaska Initiative. This program's goal is to reduce the nega-

tive impacts of alcohol and substance abuse in Alaska. She will work together with other funders in the state—working together to help make an impact on this initiative.

“This is my dream job. I have always wanted to work in philanthropy even before I knew there was a word for it,” says Emily. Since her new position is for 10 months, summer in McCarthy may be on hold, but they still plan on making their annual winter trips to the cabin. Son Ross and husband Mark are truly glad Emily is “done with the 24/7 pace.”

Speaking of Ross, he is on his second trip to Chicago to visit family and enjoy a bit of culture, such as seeing the Symphony perform the musical score to Lord of the Rings. Mom Emily says Ross had the “best summer ever in McCarthy.” He and Owen Mozen got a job sweeping the Kennecott Rec Hall. Kaylin Moffitt took Ross fishing and they hiked to Bonanza. Emmett Gregory and other local kids did some “independent things,” like riding their bikes to the store for ice cream. Ross enjoyed playing tour guide to his best friend from Anchorage who came for a week's visit this summer. The school year is just around the corner for Ross. He begins 6<sup>th</sup> grade. His 11<sup>th</sup> birthday was June 4<sup>th</sup> and Oreo, a new puppy, joined the Bass family.

“Mark outdid himself at the house this summer,” says Emily. Lawn work was a challenge as he fought to keep back the forest. He also finished the ceiling in the cabin with a beautiful fabric material. His graduation gift to Emily was an on-demand water heater with a cedar shower stall. “The best gift a woman could ever get!” says Emily.

I'm sure summer 2013 will be a memorable year for the Bass family. Congratulations, Emily, on a job well done! Mark and Ross, you did a great job, too— successfully supporting Emily in seeing her dream come true.

## Hazardous fuels management plan EA

### ANCHORAGE:

The National Park Service (NPS) has released for public review an environmental assessment (EA) that addresses new protocols for protecting life and infrastructure within Alaska National Park System area boundaries by managing hazardous vegetation, also known as fuels. Areas covered in the proposed plan include: Katmai National Park and Preserve, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Noatak National Preserve and Kobuk Valley National Park. The analysis does not include areas in Southeast Alaska, Kenai Fjords National Park, and Denali National Park and Preserve.

Each affected NPS area has an approved fire management plan (FMP) and fuels management plan. The plans were designed to protect visitors, employees, firefighters and infrastructure in the event of a wildfire. FMPs are reviewed annually and undergo a comprehensive review and update every five years. Most of the EAs associated with the original FMPs were completed 8-12 years ago. The original plans emphasize wildfire response and include fuel reduction techniques such as mechan-

ical and prescribed fire. They were developed at a time when the magnitude of the hazardous fuels program was not fully developed and do not address hazardous fuels build up mitigation actions – a critical component of a proactive fuels reduction program. They also do not address potential environmental impacts of specific fuel reduction prescriptions. That level of detail was beyond the scope of the original FMPs and EAs and the fire management program has since evolved to accommodate an increased need to protect NPS and community assets.

This EA is needed to evaluate the scope and effects of detailed hazardous fuels removal protocols and to address a maintenance plan for maintaining adequate defensible space around facilities and sites. The EA available for public review analyzes the proposed action and alternatives and impacts on the environment.

The EA was completed in accordance with the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act and the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1508.9).

The EA comment period will extend 30 days, beginning August 21, 2013 and ending Sept. 20, 2013. Please post comments to the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) program at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/Ala>

skaHFMP. Be aware that comments may be available to the public at any time. If your comment includes your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information, you may ask the NPS to withhold your personal identifying information from public view. However, the NPS does not guarantee we will be able to do so. We will always make submissions available from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of or officials of organizations or businesses. Please send written comments to the attention of Bud Rice at 240 West 5th Ave, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

The EA has been mailed to the State of Alaska, various federal agencies, affected communities, area landowners and parties who have expressed an interest in this effort. Others can request a hard copy or CD-ROM of the EA or download the document from the PEPC web page at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/HFMPEA>

Please contact Bud Rice, Environmental Protection Specialist at 907.644.3530, [william\\_rice@nps.gov](mailto:william_rice@nps.gov) or Dan Warthin, Regional Wildland Fire Management Officer at 907.644.3409, [dan\\_warthin@nps.gov](mailto:dan_warthin@nps.gov) for additional information.

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"In the entire circle of the year there are no days so delightful as those of a fine October, when the trees are bare to the mild heavens, and the red leaves bestrew the road, and you can feel the breath of winter, morning and evening—no days so calm, so tenderly solemn, and with such a reverent meekness in the air."—Alexander Smith

# Alaska Grown—a new era

BY RICK KENYON JR.

The summer had been a busy one and we looked forward to some relaxing days for the winter of 1980. I turned 13 on my birthday in October. A teenager at last! I also began my eighth grade that year. Another thing I recall was Ronald Reagan being elected as President that November. Our Embassy workers in Iran which were being held hostage were released on the eve of Reagan's landslide election. While we didn't get a lot of news in the bush, word got around in our small community. Most of our news with the outside world came from radio station KCAM in Glennallen.

Only a "handful" of residents stayed in McCarthy and Kennicott. We used the CB radio to communicate with the community after the Caribou Clatters on KCAM most evenings.

We had a new neighbor on our side of the river; Scott Reymiller who built his cabin just down from the Wassermans. We got to know him better, and like many in the bush know, the winters are time to visit with friends and neighbors and get caught up on the summer's activities. It was also a time to read books.

We drove to Long Lake several times and visited with Ralph and Linda Lohse and their girls. Our blue snow machine worked well. When Jo and Harley King were in for the winter, we

stopped by and visited with them as well. Harley showed us his beautiful windmill they built. "Max" (Harley's dog) was always there to give a friendly wag and welcome us into their log home. A cup of hot tea helped to thaw



WSEN staff photo

Rick Jr. giving Mom and Sam a ride in home-built sled.

the insides and we welcomed the opportunity to thaw toes and fingers after a long snow machine run.

That winter—like many that followed—lasted longer than we desired. The short days and long nights in the Alaska bush seemed to hang on for eternity. It was always a welcome sight to see warmer temperatures and longer daylight as spring approached.

Spring breakup finally came and it was time to put the heavy winter gear aside and bring out the rubber boots and light jackets. Those patches of grass were soon peeking through dirty snow here and there in the yard. (By April the snow was gone). We spread ashes on the garden area and those ashes allowed the snow to melt faster. Our garden

area was bare in no time and muddy.

The red pickup was freed at last from a snowbank and the battery checked. It started after a winter's rest and was ready to go. When the road was passable,

it was time to drive out and get supplies. Our cupboards were getting low on many essential food items.

I was happy to finish my 8th grade school work and put those books aside for the summer.

When the garden area was dry enough, it was time to get the

garden planted for another season of produce. Seedlings were transplanted into the garden and greenhouse. Dad put together a make-shift greenhouse on the front porch of the cabin. A few tomatoes and cukes were planted in pots. This year, our garden expanded and was larger than it ever had been.

Dad was offered work in Valdez by Chuck LaPage to work in his hanger and fix airplanes. He drove out to Valdez and would be gone for weeks at a time. Mom, Sam and I stayed behind at the cabin to tend to the chores there. The summer creek was flowing and the long black hose put back into service. It would provide all the water we needed for the garden and washing clothes. We set up a temporary wash area behind the cabin with



tubs and hung a clothes line for the clothes to dry on.

I was tired of the outdoor shower that had little privacy and plenty of mosquitos. One day, I had the bright idea to build a small solar shower. I scrounged around the old barn for usable wood and began that building project. Mom assisted in holding the walls up as I nailed them together. It measured 3 foot by 3 foot and 6 foot high. Three sides were covered with old barn wood and the roof had visqueen plastic left over from the greenhouse project. For the door, I used the green



tarp we had hung around trees for the old shower. The final piece to the work of "art" was to

cut a round hole over the door to allow the black hose to fit inside and the nozzle to release water! It did resemble an out-house but did the job and was a step up from the previous shower. When Dad came home from his trip to Valdez though, the first thing out of his mouth was, "What is that thing?" (I was quite proud of my first ever carpentry project and didn't understand his lack of enthusiasm). That fall, Dad built us a nice sauna/wash house that was much better and had more room!

(...to be continued)

## Wilderness adventure race makes waves in McCarthy

BY BONNIE KENYON

The first annual McCarthy Creek Packraft Race and Whitewater Festival took place Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, and was a huge success. It was a day full of sunshine, whitewater and excited rafters.

Kennicott Wilderness Guides and McCarthy River Tours and Outfitters hosted the weekend of whitewater festivities, which included the McCarthy Creek Packraft Race, the Kennicott River Regatta and evenings of music and food. The Packrafting race was a wilderness adventure race that combined hiking and packrafting. The event included two courses with thirty contestants participating.

The 11-mile "Z-Rock Down" course began in front of McCarthy River Tours and Outfitters' office on Main Street in McCarthy. The hiking leg of this route was a 5.5 mile, unmaintained trail with moderate brushy sections and loose rock up McCarthy Creek to

the Z Rock. From there participants rafted the creek back to town. Dale Meck was winner of this course and finished in 2 hours, 3 minutes.

The 17-mile "Up & Over" course began in Kennicott, in front of the Kennicott Wilderness Guides' office. The route took contestants up approximately 2,100' on the Bonanza Trail to the old angle station. The course led into game trails to the final scree ascent to National Pass. Racers then descended 2,200' down a rock glacier to McCarthy Creek where they rafted 10.75 miles to the finish line in McCarthy. Luc Mehl was winner of this course and finished in 4 hours, 1 minute.

Prizes included a new 22-ounce Alpaca ultra-light drysuit and an awesome T-shirt with the 2013 Packraft Race logo drawn by local McCarthy artist (and The Potato owner), Ian Gyori.



Photo courtesy Arturo Polo-Ena

Light snacks along the course kept racers encouraged and sustained. Racer, Ed Plumb, of Northern Alaska Packrafts, commented, "McCarthy Creek was by far one of the best packraft trips I have done so far. The hike was spectacular, as well, especially the bacon stop at the pass. Now that was an awesome surprise. You guys did a great job organizing the race and making us feel secure on the river with the people strategically staged along the route."



# Federal Overreach Summit

ANCHORAGE, AK—

The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas (CACFA) has a specific mandate in its enabling legislation.

House Bill 87 section 41.37.220, Duties of the Commission, it reads, "...(a)The Commission shall consider, research, and hold hearings on the consistency with federal law and congressional intent on management, operation, planning, development, and additions to federal management areas in the state. (b) The commission shall consider, research, and hold hearings on the effect of federal regulations and federal management decisions on the people of the state. (c) The commission may, after consideration of the public policy concerns under (a) and (b) of this section, make a recommendation on the concerns identified under (a) and (b) of this section to an agency of the state or to the agency of the United States that manages federal land in the state."

In an effort to meet this mandate and follow through on issues that the Commission has heard and discussed over the years, it hosted the Federal Overreach Summit on August 12-13, 2013.

CACFA invited an impressive list of participants and invited guests to assemble, discuss, authoritatively document, and raise awareness of Alaska's relationship with Federal land, water and natural resource development agencies. The ultimate goal is to generate rational, collaborative, and effective actions which can be taken to our State and Congressional leaders.

## Summit Snapshot

The first meeting in Anchorage on August 12 and 13, 2013 was at great success. There were over 25 invited presenters on the two-day agenda; and more than 175 individuals registered through Eventbrite to attend. The Summit opened with Governor Parnell, by videoconference, and proceeded with a perspective from Juneau, the Departments of Law and Natural Resources.

There was an in depth review of Alaska land ownership history, background of the State's relationship with the Federal government and Alaska specific legislation which defines how the State of Alaska is to work with the Federal land management agencies who manage 69% of the State.

Additional topics were: navigable waters, R.S.2477, access and natural resource development like mining, timber, fish, wildlife and big game.

The second day opened with greetings and a Washington DC perspective on the issues from the Congressional Delegation.

The presentation portion of the Summit continued with a discussion on fish and wildlife issues, and concerns over access and infrastructure. It was wrapped up with a summary presentation of the issues before the group.

The afternoon of the second day was dedicated to a round table discussion to prioritize the issues or problems and brainstorm strategies for resolution, and to identify possible methods of improving the State of Alas-

ka's relationship with Federal agencies.

## What's NEXT?

Commission Staff, along with Senator Coghill's and Representative Keller's Office Staff, are compiling all the comments received at the Summit in August. Since the meeting was paperless, the staff is diligently updating the website with all the meeting presentations, media coverage and recordings. They are reviewing video in preparation for the next phase. Coincident with the Commission's Fall meeting in Anchorage, on Thursday Oct. 3, Friday Oct. 4 and Saturday Oct. 5, 2013, at the Legislative Information Office, 716 West 4th Avenue, Suite 200, Anchorage. Invitations have been sent to all the Federal land, water and natural resource management agencies and the Native community in hopes of further refining the issues and problems identified during the first phase of the Summit discussion and move closer towards resolution or solution.

INFORMATION from the August 12-13 Summit

Editors note: you can access the following links at the CACFA website at

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/cacfa/FOS.html>

[LINK to the AGENDA.](#)

[LINK to the PRESENTERS Bios and Selected Professional Information.](#)

[LINK to Selected Text, Reference and Discussion Materials.](#)

[LINK to the NEWSROOM.](#)

# My Alaska adventures

BY MAIT CAVANAGH

For anyone living in Southwestern Ontario, books, pictures or videos of Alaska are pretty intriguing, so beautiful but so far away. I always thought Alaska would be an exciting place but thoughts of visiting seemed very remote. That changed in 1985 when a Winnipeg Co., Syntex Industries, owned by Danny Martin and run by brother-in-law Ed Cavanagh won a contract for forty truckloads of bulk gravel bags. When filled with gravel and dirt, they would be put around a new island seven miles north of Prudhoe Bay to stop the island from eroding. There was a lot of excitement over this and when I was told, my first question was, "Do you think any of the drivers would take me for a ride?" Yes, Dave Hitchings would love some company on his run. The trip would take two weeks, so in August 1985 off I went for the most incredible time of my life and I vowed then to return. Since I had a family of three boys it was difficult to get away, but in 1995 I left for seven weeks which included 21 days in Alaska. I saw most of the state and enjoyed 3 days at Kennicott Glacier Lodge, hiking to Jumbo Mine and Root Glacier. Then two nights at Ma Johnson's, and an afternoon in Tony Zaks house talking about old times. While in Alaska I picked up a copy of *WSEN* and decided to subscribe. Now I feel as if I know some of the people as I still subscribe.

This year I decided to fly up to Alaska and spend eighteen days. Here is a short run down of

my vacation. I arrived June 24th and drove to Flattop Mountain where I hiked on a perfect 80 degree evening. At 10 pm I went back to D'Mally's Golf Course in Anchorage for a drink and burger. It was strange to realize it was still daylight around midnight, but easy to get used to.

Next morning I left for Seward, stopping at Potter's Marsh and Portage Glacier where I went for a one hour cruise to the face of the glacier. Next stop was the Byron Glacier Trail where I spent a couple of hours and was amazed there was still snow along the trail. My last stop before Seward was the wildlife conservation area where I saw all the native animals. I checked out the city of Seward and the famous Mt Marathon which I decided not to hike. Next morning was clear and I went to Exit Glacier and the views were great. Then I hiked up the Harding Icefield which took 8 hours. The going was slower at the top because of snow, but what a fantastic view. That evening I went to Lowel Point and walked the beach. There was not a cloud in the sky and the surrounding mountains made it quite beautiful.

I went to Homer, stopping at the Resurrection Trail to hike to Russian River Falls. I stopped in Kenai on the way to Homer. Went to Homer Spit for the evening and checked out the Salty Dog Saloon for a halibut dinner and enjoyed the mountains across the bay.

Next day I headed back to the Spit for a couple of hours and on to Anchorage for the

night, stopping in the small towns and more hiking. I visited downtown Anchorage where I met and talked to Rod Perry, an Iditarod musher. I bought his book which will be an interesting read.

Off to Wasilla and Iditarod headquarters where it was registration day for next year's race and a lot of mushers were there. Talked to Joe Reddington Jr for a bit, then left for Talkeetna for a flight to Mt McKinley where I landed on a glacier. The scenery was amazing.

I drove to Grizzly Bear Campground where I had a nice cabin for the next 4 nights. The camp is only 6 miles away from a shuttle to Eillson Centre in Denali Park. Hiked 6 hours on several trails and enjoyed an almost clear view of Mt McKinley. On the trip to and from the Centre we spotted several moose, caribou, sheep and grizzlies. They were a bit away from the road, but some people are lucky to see them on the road. It would be a thrill to be up close to one and still be safe. The next morning I was picked up by the bus for a day trip to Kantishna Lodge where we had lunch and time to walk around. There was a forest fire north of here so the area was in a thick haze. I went back to the park the next day and hiked several more trails. On the Two Lake Trail I saw a mother moose and 2 calves up close. What a great picture.

On the road to Fairbanks there were more fires and we had to follow a lead car through a smokey area. I visited North Pole where there is a Santa Claus

House. Santa was in so I videoed a short hello to the youngest grandkids. My next destination was to be Chena Hot Springs but I did not go because of fires in the area. Instead I went on the Discovery cruise. It is a riverboat that goes down the Chena River, past a sled dog kennel and then to a park depicting the old days for the local Indian tribes.

The next day I went on a bus trip to the Arctic Circle. We also stopped at the pipeline, a trading post and the Yukon River where we had lunch. The driver, Allan Holmberg, was great and kept us informed on Alaskan history, past and present, and all the different things we saw along the road.

I drove to Valdez the next day, stopping for short hikes and photos. There were low clouds as I approached Thompson Pass and Valdez. I saw 7 or 8 black bears as I got up close to Worthington Glacier. The mountains surround Valdez and across the harbour are the oil storage facilities for the oil coming from Prudhoe Bay. The next day I went on a 9-hr cruise to Meare Glacier where I saw several humpback whales and their ba-

bies, sea otters, porpoises and hundreds of sea lions as well as lots of icebergs.

I left Valdez in a light rain, the only rain on my trip. I arrived in Chitina, looked around, and then was off to McCarthy and my cabin at Aspen Meadows B&B where I was met by Bonnie Kenyon, the owner. It was a real thrill to talk to her after reading her magazine for 18 years. The dirt road from Chitina to McCarthy was in very good shape. I went into McCarthy, looked around town and enjoyed the museum, as well as the laid-back atmosphere. Caught the 9AM shuttle to Kennicott. The town buildings are old and made me think about all the hard work in extreme conditions that went into building the railroad and all the mines. The next 6 hours I spent hiking Root Glacier, stopping below Erie mine and seeing a clear view of Mt Blackburn. Back to the Aspen Meadows to enjoy the evening with Rick where we talked about the area. Rick, I hope you got your new phone working so you can use the Visa. Bonnie, I picked up the book on the Pilgrims. I was sur-

prised they had it here in London.

I said goodbye to Rick and Bonnie and headed back to Anchorage, enjoying short hikes and taking pictures along the way. That evening I went up to Hatcher Pass near Palmer. It is an old gold mine area and some of the buildings are still there.

In the morning I took a trip to Spencer Glacier on the Alaska Railroad. Hiked 3 hours right to the glacier where the scenery was spectacular. In the train we sat at tables of four. My companions were Gail Peckham, her brother Scott and her dad Don, of Rochester, NY.

I spent my last full day in Anchorage. I went downtown to get souvenirs, hiked at Earthquake Park and did some of the Tony Knowles' Trail. My last morning started at 3AM for a shuttle to the airport; it was already light out. I had a great holiday and met lots of people, locals and tourists. I hated to leave but the time had come.

Mait Cavanagh

London Ont. Canada

*Editor's note: Mait is a long-time subscriber to WSEN.*

## Wrangell-St. Elias National Park hours change

**NPS NEWS RELEASE, COPPER CENTER:**

The summer is fast coming to a close and with that park programs and hours of operation will be changing at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

The following are scheduled changes for the month of September:

September 2: Last day the Chitina Ranger Station is open.

September 8: Last day the Kennecott Visitor Center is open.

September 15: Last day of ranger programs at the Copper Center Visitor Center.

September 21: Winter hours begin at the Copper Center Visitor Center. 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday, closed on weekends and federal holidays.

September 29: Last day the Slana Ranger Station is open.

For more information contact Kristi Neilson at 907-823-7255.

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"Autumn's the mellow time."—William Allingham

# Vehicle accident on the McCarthy-Kennicott Road

BY BONNIE KENYON

A vehicle carrying six young people, returning from Kennicott, went off the McCarthy-Kennicott Road just south of Jim and Jeanne Miller's residence. It is reported that the vehicle slid down the embankment nearly 20 ft. before coming to a stop.

The accident occurred approximately 2:30 a.m. on August 4th. The four boys and two girls were all between the ages of 18-22. The four young men, Matthew Shidner, Carter Neill and Johann Boniek and Kegan Boniek, have connections to the McCarthy area. The two girls, Jessica Rose Piraino and Hazel Underwood are from Anchorage and Kenny Lake.

One of the male occupants was able to climb to the road, calling for help. Nearby residents Jim and Jeannie Miller and Stacie Miller and Peter Machado responded with phone calls to Park Ranger, Stephens Harper, who dispatched local emergency medical responders to



Photo courtesy Dave Hollis

the scene. Among those responding were: Jacob Schultz, EMS squad paramedic; Karen Loso, critical care nurse; Park Rangers, Elizabeth Schafer and Courtney Eberhardy. Other volunteers collected community EMS and park service medical supplies.

Of the six people involved in the crash, three were transported to Anchorage for further medical treatment. The other three suffered no serious injuries. Two King Air airplanes, belonging to Life Flight and Guardian, from the Anchorage area, transported the injured to Providence Hospital and Alaska Regional Hospital in Anchorage. Two people were released after receiving medi-

cal attention. Jessica Rose was admitted with serious skull and back injuries. According to a family blog on CaringBridge.org, Jessica's injuries included skull and vertebral fractures. She had surgery on her skull on the 4th of August. According to her family's postings, there was no brain damage. Surgery on her spine, to stabilize and straighten it, took place on August 22nd. A second spinal surgery is expected within a week.

Thanks to all who responded and gave aid to those involved in this accident.

## HELP WANTED!

If anyone would like to volunteer services or donate to the McCarthy-Kennicott Emergency Medical Services squad, you may contact Jacob Schultz at 503-860-3040 or email him at mxyems@gmail.com. Volunteers do not need to be trained medically. The Ambulance donated to the community year before last is in need of a diesel mechanic. Please consider offering your time and talents to help our local EMS!

# Fishwheel findings

BY CHRISTOPHER WRIGHT  
COPPER CENTER

I recently spent a day harvesting salmon from the Sharon Daniel/CBS fishwheel and had decent success. As I began to de-slime, fillet, and process my bounty, I thought about how the sharing of fishwheels is such an important neighborly community service for so many reasons.

It is simply not possible for everyone to own and maintain a fishwheel due to physical limitations, lack of access, resources, and/or time. I can't say enough about the generosity of Sharon

(Neeley) Daniels & crew and the countless others who share their fishwheels in an effort to spread this abundant food source and important resource to friends and neighbors.

However, talking to Angie, Sharon and other fishwheel owners, I hadn't been aware of how many fishwheels besides those in Chitina were put out of commission this year — by changing channels, by erosion from last year's high water, or because access was blocked by high water and changing conditions.

One person I talked to named about a dozen wheels that were unavailable and several others that had tenuous and difficult access this season in the Copper Center/Tazlina area alone. The destruction of wheels down in Chitina is visible from the bridge.

The many benefits of fishwheels cross the gamut—tradition, the crossing of generational and cultural knowledge, feeding those who are in need and are willing to work for it, even just the exchange of information and making contact with friends and



acquaintances rarely seen otherwise.

Fishwheel owners share their abundance with us and we then get to share with others we know, and I expect that some of them share with even more people. The wheels themselves are a wonder to me—getting so much from what can be a home-made project but ever more because of the tradition of cooperation and sharing that they bring to us.

#### **History of fishwheel use:**

I would be surprised if anyone in the Copper River basin wasn't familiar with fishwheels but not everyone knows their history.

The origins of fishwheels is uncertain. Many believe they were used in historical China but I can't find a valid citation. They were known in old Europe and as far north as in Scotland. Several sources I have recently read say the first Fishwheels in America were developed by the Rockingham brothers of North Carolina between 1780 and 1829 as an idea from seeing fish caught in the many millwheels there. I am asking the North Carolina Archives and Historical Society for a citation for this information.

We do know that fishwheels were used in the Columbia River between Washington State and Oregon back in the 1880's and I suspect that knowledge came up to Alaska with the Gold rush and Copper miners from those regions.

The first known use of this marvelous device in Alaska was on the Tanana River in 1904 but quickly spread to include the Yukon River. By 1914 most rivers in Alaska with significant salmon returns were using them — in-

cluding our own Copper. In those days and up to the 1960's, wheels could also be used in most of the tributaries, like the Klutina, Gulkana, Tonsina, Dry Creek and Chistochina.

In the 1960's, the use of fishwheels was restricted to the more major rivers and now I see that only the Yukon, Tanana, Kuskokwim, Yentna and the upper Copper River are left this wondrous opportunity. There are other places that could have or could use a wheel but, for whatever reason, do not.

The first fishwheel on the Copper was built and used by Frank Carrol in 1912. Frank was the brother of Ahtna Elder, Harry Johns. According to a ADF&G document, there were 10 on our section of the Copper by 1914. These 10 wheels caught over 40,000 fish that year meaning an average of 4,000 fish per wheel.

Some of the family names associated with these 10 were the McCrary, Flowers and Carrol families. By the next year there were 25 and by 1917 there were 37.

Fishwheel use can be permitted to any permanent Alaska resident but building or owning one is only part of the equation. Access to the river is harder to find as most private property is taken and much of the other possible sites are owned by the Native tribes, or the State/Federal governments. It is possible, I understand, to pull a fishwheel by boat and anchor it to islands or other locations that do not require trespass on private property. Possible, I say, but not so easy to do and operate in a powerful river like the Copper. Local owners often share the use with friends and family Fishwheel limits in

this area are presently 65 fish per person and up to 500 per family. I noticed, in looking at the historical numbers and the number of fishwheels doesn't much change the total harvest—it just spreads it out differently.

#### **Who uses these fishwheels?**

Probably everybody knows someone who uses a fishwheel. However, it might surprise you to find out how many of the users are local Copper Basin individuals. I'm not always the best with translating charts and numbers but here are a few numbers from 2012: There were 139 fishwheels in the Copper River sub-district; on those wheels, the State of Alaska issued 660 permits—but only 540 of these permits reported actually fishing; those 540 permit holders reported catching 52,000 fish or close to 100 fish each. That doesn't sound like a huge number (if everybody was telling the truth) but that number comes out to about 74% of the total subsistence harvest (the other 26% would be dipnetting).

So, with that background, things get a bit less clear as the numbers for population spread given are for "all" subsistence users—both dipnetters and fishwheel users. The numbers note that only 26% of the permits issued (not of the permits actually used) were locals—meaning that 74% were from out of the area. That 74% were mostly from the 3 population dense areas of Anchorage, Mat-Su, and Fairbanks.

These numbers bring us to a bit of a conjecture point where they blur the picture.

We know that 74% of the subsistence harvest came from fishwheels and we know that 74% of

the subsistence permits were issued to 'out of area' people. What we don't know from these numbers is which ones were using which gear—dipnet or wheel.

I would venture a guess that most fishwheels are locally made and owned so only a survey of the owners would give us much more of a reliable answer.

There is nothing wrong with 'out of area' folks catching Copper River salmon. Copper Valley residents do tend to think of them as "our" fish in "our" river but it is, in truth, a State resource available to all permanent citizens of our State. While those folks do access our local resources they also bring in and leave some of their resources in local purchasing.

Also to be considered is that many of these 'guests' may actually be family to Copper River people or even former locals themselves who come back as a useful tradition that combines fishing & connecting with friends and family.

### **So, you want to build a fish-wheel**

Well, it's a major project, to say the least. Around the valley, you will see them made of metal, poles and lumber. There are pros and cons for each kind.

**Metal:** The most expensive and requires particular skills and equipment. They are also heavier and require much effort to put in and out of the river. Being heavier, they also have a deeper 'draft'—that is, they float deeper in the water. On the good side, the Copper is a rough river and the metal wheels usually sustain less damage and need less maintenance.

**Lumber:** Less expensive, lighter and can be constructed with basic carpentry skills and equipment.

**Pole:** Less expensive still, as much of the wheel can be harvested in the forest. For most families, lumber or poles are the way to go. You will need to make the working parts, a platform and floats. It is most sensible to start from the bottom up as it defines the dimensions of the working parts.

Ahtna Elder Johnny Goodlataw made and sold fishwheels in the basin and always insisted that the 'float' logs should be standing, fire-killed spruce which floated best and lasted longest. He would tie them together with wire or good rope, generally 2-3 to a side, depending on their size. Some I have seen were bolted all the way through with 'all thread' to further keep them from separating.

The platform is almost always a sturdy plywood or boards with a 2x4 frame with a square hole in the center and protective railings along the outer edges. This platform is bolted to the floats to tie everything together.

Now for the wheel itself. Initially 2 crossbars are made of 2x4's or 2x6's. Next come the pieces to connect the 2 crossbars. This will determine the width of your wheel which is usually between 2 and 3 feet, slightly smaller than the opening you made in the platform.

Two of the opposing connectors will be your paddles and be fitted with flat boards to catch the current. The other two will be your baskets. Baskets can be made out of bent willow or wire mesh and need to be designed so the fish, as the wheel rises, fall to

an angled plane and slide out to the capture box on the side. Paddles (that is, flat boards) can also be placed on the basket arms to increase the speed of the wheels' rotation.

At the center of the X of the original crossbars, a hole must be opened to allow for your axle—a pole or a metal pipe that will allow the wheel to turn. This pole needs to extend beyond the frame of the wheel and usually rests on some sort of a crotch, U-cut or bearing that keeps it in place. The uprights that hold the spindle (axle) are usually made with horizontal holes so the wheel can be raised or lowered by changing the location of the pegs and aligned with a corresponding sturdy stanchion secured to the platform, also with holes in it. The preference for catching salmon is for the baskets to be about a foot above the riverbed, close to shore.

A few more needs include cables to stop the wheel from moving down the river, a walkway to let you get to the wheel however far you put it out and other poles to keep it the distance you want the wheel to be in the channel.

There you go — piece of cake. All you need now is a permit, a truck to get the darn thing on and a place to put it in one huge and powerful and often unpredictable river.

### **Running the Wheel**

Running the wheel is the easy part, once it is moving. The biggest effort is simply checking your box regularly — usually every 5 hours, removing your catch, and making the required clipping required by ADF&G before you put them away.

My personal experiences see the biggest runs coming during the night but a big run can happen anytime. Don't wait for the box to fill up as the weight of the fish in a full box can crush and mush the fish on the bottom. Empty it each check. One of the most exciting but disappointing events is to come to the wheel, find the box overflowing and new catches simply bouncing off of the others back into the river.

There are etiquettes and sensibilities required of you and your catch. You may like Kings over Reds or vice versa but if you catch and kill it, you need to keep it and give the ones you don't want to someone who does. If you simply throw the ones you don't want back in, it is not only wasteful, it clearly blots any image of ethics you have and, should the "Fish police" catch you, you may find yourself out of the bounty in the future—it is as much "wanton waste" as it would be with other game animals.

Keep your area clean. If you process your fish on site or simply clean them there, be sure to not leave a mess around. Our salmon are a desired food for other critters also and some of them you don't want to train to come to your wheel.

Your use of a wheel requires a sign identifying you and how to contact you.

#### **What do you do with it all?**

OK, now you've built your wheel, found a place to put it and the fish are coming. Given the 500 limit for a family, (which has been known to come in one day) at 3-8 pounds a piece for sockeye, what is going to be done with a ton or more of prime fish?

Yep, its good on the BBQ but you better have a lot of fish eating friends to use it all. You can preserve it in jars or metal cans with a pressure cooker, smoke it in that cool smoker you made out of scrap plywood, dry/smoke it in the native way, freezing, kippering (a combo of salting or brining and smoking) or old fashioned salting. It can also be pickled, though I've never had it that way.

Once sufficiently dried, the fish are packed into "bale." A bale in the Native way is usually 20 for kings and 40/42 for sockeye, depending on who you ask. Interestingly, a bale in old (1915) ADF&G documents was 200 fish. Even dried, that is a hefty load of fish and I wonder if that was some sort of commercial measurement.

An interesting side note, Ahtna people (in history) also deboned and dried moose in much the same way to make it lighter for carrying it over large distances back to the village without spoiling. Those days there were no 4 wheelers or snow machines and it was dog teams or dragging it on a sled.

Canning in jars and cans requires a large pressure cooker as well as the jars and the food can be kept from spoiling for several years but it is in relatively small pieces — no whole fillets. The preference in one or the other method is partially decided by whether or not it will be subjected to freezing — jars will break but cans will not — and what equipment you have available. Pressure canners are known to be potentially dangerous and can explode so learn and listen carefully about dealing with the pressures.

Smoking and then refrigeration in sealed bags will keep for a couple months unless also canned. Many people enhance the smoking tradition by pre-treating the meat in a brine or other preserving and flavoring agent to help the process and the taste. Salting certainly dries the fish and, packed in salt, can last a very long time but it will never taste anything other than highly salted.

Freezing is, by far, the easiest but takes up a lot of freezer space. You can put them in whole and clean them on thawing (not recommended for health reasons); gut them and remove the heads and tails; or fillet the main side meat which preserves the majority of the edible meat in the smallest use of space.

As far as salmon eating goes— there are literally hundreds of ways to prepare salmon— it all depends on taste. Read any cookbook or simply watch the back page of the *Copper River Record* — everybody has a favorite.

I am not a fishwheel expert. There are lots of folks in the Basin with much more experience than I and you should learn from them. However, I have built them and used them over the past 20 years and have a bit of knowledge I'd like to see passed on. I will always be grateful to Elders (Native and non-native) for the information they willingly passed and the wisdom that came along with it. Much of the historical records used were found via ADF&G databases or personnel.

*Editor's Note: This story appeared in the Copper River Record August 1, 2013. Reprinted by permission.*

# The McCarthy Weekly News

## 1922 September & October editions

### F. H. ESTABROOK KILLED

News is just received that F. H. Estabrook, known to his friends as Heinie was accidentally killed at mile 114. He slipped and fell on the track and the train passed over him this afternoon. Both legs were cut off and death was instantaneous. The body was brought to Chitina.

### COLD SNAP SPOILS CROPS

Winter staged an advance act in this district this week. About ten inches of snow fell on Tuesday night and on Wednesday morning there were six degrees of frost. There has been frost every day since, but today at noon the weather moderated.

This cold snap has been disastrous to the farmers, whose crops are ruined. Frank Iverson estimates his loss at from fifteen hundred to two thousand dollars and the others proportionately.

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Victor Marshall, Billy Fields & Lawrence Barrett made a trip to Fourth of July Pass this week hunting. They were caught in the snowstorm and got very little game but had a good time.

The Geological Survey party Messrs. Moffitt, Hunter and Holland, have completed their work for this year and leave on the next train.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Burroughs arrived on Saturday evening's train, the wedding having taken place in Cordova the evening before. The happy couple are occupying the Sommer's home temporarily but will later move into the house the O'Neills are in. They have the good wishes of the entire community, in which the News joins.

### LOCAL AND GENERAL

Mrs. M. G. Refior returned to McCarthy last Saturday and was met at the depot by all her pupils and a number of friends. Her last school was

near Seattle and she is glad to be north again. School begins next week with a short session on Monday and then lessons in earnest on Tuesday morning.

Mr. C. S. Hubbell of the firm of Hubbell and Waller, U. S. Mineral Surveyors of Seattle, was an arrival in McCarthy last Saturday evening en route to the Nizina Mining District, where he will survey the Jolly Gulch claims and others on the left limit of Rex Creek, purchased from L. H. Carvey by John E. Andrus.

Miss Emily Birch, who came to Alaska on the Northwestern to visit her brother G. Howard Birch and Mrs. Birch at Dan Creek, passed through McCarthy on Monday morning. She spent Sunday at Kennecott and came down to McCarthy depot by speeder, transferring there to Snyder's Dodge car, and motored to the end of the Government road, where she was met by her brother with saddle horses. Mr. R. V. Watkins made the trip to Dan Creek on Monday and will spend a short time there.

J. B. O'Neill is having extensive improvements made to the living apartments over the store. Another bedroom and bathroom are being added and the O'Neill family will move there very soon. Dick Woodman is builder in charge.

September 2

### ROADS AND BRIDGES

It is a pleasure to announce the good news that the Alaska Road Commission will establish a permanent camp here in the near future; that work on the Nizina Bridge will begin next winter; and that a bridge is to be built across the Kennecott River to help the ranchers between here and Long Lake.

Mr. T. Huddleston, engineer for the Alaska Road Commission was a McCarthy visitor this week; and made

a brief trip to the Nizina River to check up some data as it is the intention of the commission to start work on the piers next winter.

The engineer also looked into the proposed road round the Pot Hole, but could not recommend work to be done there owing to the fact that there could not be permanent work where the glacier is always moving, but he strongly recommends that a bridge be built over the Kennecott River below the present Railway bridge, and that an appropriation of \$2500 would be passed for this project and the same built next winter. This bridge will not only be a help to the ranchers, but to all those who use the trail thru the canyon in winter.

### LOCAL AND GENERAL

The Pot Hole broke last Saturday evening, making a grand display, about two weeks earlier than usual, due to the heavy rains. It only lasted twenty four hours. Very little damage was done to the bridge and that was remedied by the pile driver on Monday.

September 9

### CARL STETTEL FALLS FROM SCAFFOLD AND IS KILLED

A sad occurrence which cast a mantle of gloom all over the district and caused the death of one of the finest young men in Alaska, happened last Sunday afternoon, when Carl Stettel fell from the scaffolding of the power plant of the Kennecott Copper Corporation, where he was assisting in the installation of the new Diesel engines, striking the concrete floor and was killed instantly. The deceased had been an honored employee of Kennecott for over seven years. He was a native of Alsace Lorraine and was unmarried, leaving one sister, who is in Europe and a very large circle of friends to mourn his loss. The funeral took place last Tuesday



afternoon when services were held in the Kennecott Hall. An impressive address was given by the Hon. Judge Coppernoll and hymns were sung under the direction of Mrs. M. S. Wilson, who was pianist. The pall bearers were: Messrs. Carl Engstrom, Aron Erickson, Victor Olsen, Wm. Angona, Walter Eggert and H. Overgarde. The different departments of the Lower camp closed down for the afternoon to enable the employees to attend and a very large number followed the remains of their friend to the last resting place. Many beautiful floral emblems covered the casket and the solemn rites were performed by Judge Coppernoll at the beautiful little Kennecott cemetery.

Matt Laaniner returned to town last week from Long Lake where he had the contract for cutting the crops of Oscar Anderson and Fred Overlander.

Ed Mullen and Felix Sabis had the misfortune to lose the greater part of their garden truck. Over two tons of lettuce being destroyed by the early frost.

Ed Hammer, Oscar Bachman and Mike Knowles left on the last train for Long Lake on a fishing and hunting expedition.

On last Wednesday's train, Mr. James McGavock, master mechanic of the Kennecott Corporation, was a passenger for the coast city. We have it on RELIABLE authority that his journey is one of grave importance, in fact by the time this is in type he will have embarked upon the sea of matrimony. His partner for the voyage was also a passenger on the train, Miss Ella Scobie, who has many friends at Kennecott, having spent a year there in 1918-1919 as nurse at Kennecott Hospital. Notwithstanding the fact that this happy couple stole a march on us folks up the Copper River Valley in not announcing the wedding date so as to give us a chance to throw old slippers & best wishes, we do so now.

September 16

#### ABOUT McCARTHY

An informal meeting was held last Tuesday evening in the Commission-

er's apartments, to discuss the advisability of changing the name of our town. The chief reason being the fact that mail for McCarthy occasionally goes to Signal Corps station McCarty, on the Tanana River and vice versa. Several short talks were made by business men present against change. It was decided though, that this matter be referred to the Commanding Officer of the Signal Corps, Washington, D. C. with the request that the present name be changed. Regarding the name of the depot, Mr. Burroughs will take this matter up with Supt. Corser and thought that the officials would consider favorably the change from Shushanna Junction to McCarthy.

#### PERSONAL

Fine vegetables grown on the Barrett homestead are on display at the News Office.

#### DON'T BE DISCOURAGED

"Don't be discouraged," says John E. Barrett, pioneer homesteader of this section, who has raised a fine crop of vegetables on his homestead this year, and all his farming has been done in spare time as he has been in charge of the Green Butte transportation and freight all summer.

Yesterday Mr. Barrett brought a big rutabaga weighing over eight pounds, a white turnip weighing nearly five and several potatoes weighing one pound a piece to the News Office, as a sample of his products. He says: "Notwithstanding the fact that this has been the coldest, rainiest summer I have experienced since I took up the homestead, the crop is excellent, and though smaller in quantity than in better seasons, the size and flavor of the vegetables is up to standard, and I would say to all the farmers, don't get discouraged, the success of farming in this district is assured."

September 23

#### A NEW ARRIVAL

Little Miss Eleanor Jean Tjosevig, a plump youngster weighing nine pounds, made her appearance at the Kennecott hospital last Wednesday evening at 5 o'clock. Dr. Mohr reports mother and child doing fine.

October 14

#### MINING NEWS

Warren Nelson, who arrived in town on Thursday, brings some very encouraging reports from the Dan Creek section, he has been prospecting on Copper Creek for the past year and is confident that some day it will be a producer.

On the Jack Pot group, Dexter Cayouette has a surface show of pay over 300 feet long. This property is owned by his brother Clifford and joins Nelson's property on the East. Martin Radavan and wife, who are prospecting benches on the right limit of Dan Creek, have found the old Klofer and Meyers pay streak which produced such rich clean ups five years ago. This pay was known to exist but hard to locate since it had been cut off by a gulch. The pay is about fifty feet in width and pans running from five to thirteen dollars are obtained. The Radavans have worked hard on this property and deserve all the good luck that will now come their way.

A shipment of hay from Fred Overlander's ranch at Long Lake was sold to local parties.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Lander, of Anchorage, are recent arrivals in our city. Mr. Lander is at present employed by the Mother Lode Coalition Co., but owing to the shortage of houses at Kennecott he will secure a residence in McCarthy.

#### REAL ESTATE DEALS

Frank Iverson has purchased the Lubbe barn and lot from Mrs. Elizabeth Lubbe. Mr. Iverson will practically rebuild this barn, making it more suitable for his business, the surplus lumber and iron roofing will be used to improve his buildings on the farm across the river.

John Amber has disposed of two of his residences to Mr. Trim. The property is located next to the Pioneer Hall. Mrs. Trim will be down very shortly from the wood camp to make her home in McCarthy, as the eldest child is now of school age.

October 21

# Tiny barbarians at the gate

BY NED ROZELL

Mosquitoes and black flies, now stirring after a long winter, have probably helped assure that most of Alaska remains unpopulated, says an expert on those creatures.

"I've spent a lot of time in the far north — in Canada, Siberia, and Alaska," said Peter Adler, a professor of entomology at Clemson University. "You can go down rivers for a month or two at a time and see no humans. Why is that? What's keeping them out?"

"There are two main features that might play a role — bitterly cold winters and biting flies."

Adler is interested in the latter element, so much so that he waded through streams of western Alaska and far-east Russia a few years ago, finding and describing the black flies and mosquitoes of the region. He undertook the expedition because he was curious, and because no one had in detail cataloged the biting flies of the former land mass known as Beringia, now cleaved in two by the Bering Strait.

Armed with his field kit, which consists of rubber boots, a 10x hand lens, a vial containing a preservative solution of alcohol and acetic acid, and a set of jeweler's forceps (to pluck black fly larvae from rocks), Adler combed the waterways of western Alaska and far-east Russia.

He and Doug Currie of the University of Toronto rented a

car in Nome, drove every road they could, and stopped at streams to take samples of black flies. They also flew into the upper Kisaralik River, a tributary of the Kuskokwim River, and floated out, gathering larvae along the way. And they explored the Anadyr River in Russia, plucking samples with forceps and using fine dip nets in slower waters.

With a close-up look at each species of black fly, Adler could tell if the female's claw had a thumblike lobe (used to clutch feathers when cutting a bird for a blood meal) or a curved talon (on flies that feed on mammal blood). He found that almost a quarter of the black flies had no scissor-like, serrated mouthparts, and no need for blood, having acquired all their nutrition as larvae in the water. Two species had simplified their lives further by producing no males; females reproduce by virgin birth (parthenogenesis).

Adler also found evidence of the Cold War as it applied to black flies and mosquitoes. In several instances, Russian scientists and American scientists working on opposite sides of Bering Strait had each given the same insect different names.

"We found that more than half of the black flies are shared (between the Russia and Alaska sides of the Bering Strait)," Adler said. "And 70 percent of the mosquito species are shared."

Those findings didn't surprise Adler, as the land bridge existed in the area until about

11,000 years ago, and the 62-mile barrier between Wales in Alaska and Uelen in Russia is not too far a distance for a biting fly to cover, given a sufficient wind. He thinks such pests as the striped black fly, *Simulium vittatum*, a resident of North America at the moment, could easily cross over to Russia, and the same applies to species hovering at the western edge of Russia.

"Some are poised there, ready to make that leap across the Bering Strait," Adler said.

Genetic evidence also tells him that several species of black fly have found their way to the Seward Peninsula from farther south.

"If it continues to warm, then species from more southerly climes will keep working northward," he said. "At some point in the future, you would expect western Alaska to have many more (species of black flies and mosquitoes)."

Those biting flies will have plenty of company. Adler cited other scientists who have measured more than 600,000 black fly larvae in about three square feet of streambed, and more than 12 million adult mosquitoes hovering above one unfortunate acre of northern tundra.

*Since the late 1970s, the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Geophysical Institute has provided this column free in cooperation with the UAF research community. Ned Rozell is a science writer for the Geophysical Institute. This column first ran in 2009.*

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"Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws." — Greek philosopher Plato (c. 428-348 BC)

# HAARP Facility Shuts Down

BY RICK KENYON

**H**AARP—The High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program, the sprawling 35-acre ionospheric research facility in Gakona has been shuttered since early May.

According to a story by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the program ran out of money.

Dr James Keeney at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico, told ARRL that the site was abandoned. “It comes down to money. We don’t have any,” Keeney said.

HAARP put the world on notice two years ago that it would be shutting down and did not submit a budget request for FY 15, Keeney said, “but no one paid any attention.” Now, he says, they’re complaining. “People came unglued,” Keeney said, noting that he’s already had inquiries from Congress. Universities that depended upon HAARP research grants also are upset, he said.

“Currently the site is abandoned,” he said. No one is on site, access roads are blocked, buildings are chained and the power turned off. HAARP’s website through the University of Alaska no longer is available; Keeney said the program can’t afford to pay for the service. “Everything is in secure mode,” he said, adding that it will stay that way at least for another 4 to 6 weeks. In the meantime a new prime contractor will be coming

on board to run the government owned-contractor operated (GOCO) facility.

Part of the reason for the shutdown was that the diesel generators on site no longer pass Clean Air Act muster. Repairing them to meet EPA standards will run \$800,000. Beyond that, Keeney said, it costs \$300,000 a month just to keep the facility open and \$500,000 to run it at full capacity for 10 days.

Jointly funded by the US Air Force Research Laboratory and the US Naval Research Laboratory, HAARP is an ionospheric research facility. Its best-known apparatus is its 3.6 MW HF (approximately 3 to 10 MHz) ionospheric research instrument (IRI), feeding an extensive system of 180 antenna elements and used to “excite” sections of the ionosphere. Other onsite equipment is used to evaluate the effects.

The only bright spot on HAARP’s horizon right now is that the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is expected on site as a client to finish up some research this fall and winter. DARPA has nearly \$8.8 million in its FY 14 budget plan to research “physical aspects of natural phenomena such as magnetospheric substorms, fire, lightning and geophysical phenomena.”

The ultra-high power facility long has intrigued amateur radio operators, often called hams, even outside of Alaska. In 1997,

HAARP transmitted test signals on HF (3.4 MHz and 6.99 MHz) and solicited reports from hams and short-wave listeners in the “Lower 48” to determine how well the HAARP transmissions could be heard to the south. In 2007 HAARP succeeded in bouncing a 40 meter signal off the moon. Earlier this year, HAARP scientists successfully produced a sustained high-density plasma cloud in Earth’s upper atmosphere.

As things stand, the Air Force has possession for now, but if no other agency steps forward to take over HAARP, the unique facility will be dismantled, Keeney said. He pointed out that it would cost less to bulldoze the antenna field than it would to replace the 180 antenna elements.

Air Force officials are hopeful that the facility would open and resume operations in mid-August. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, currently has a sizeable funding bloc allocated for additional ionospheric research in the fall of 2013, so it will likely have to be open for that research.

HAARP has often been blamed for controlling the weather — most recently in the case of Hurricane Sandy and the spate of tornados — and for causing other natural disasters. Quipped Keeney, “If I actually could affect the weather, I’d keep it open.”

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“We should never despair, our Situation before has been unpromising and has changed for the better, so I trust, it will again.” George Washington

## Chitina Search and Rescue

### ALASKA STATE TROOPER DISPATCH

On 8-20-13 at approximately 1717 hours Alaska State Troopers (AST) responded to a 911 call requesting rescue from William Poplin, age 47, who stated that he and Rod Wright, age 72, and Sam Wright, age 36, all of Kenny Lake were fishing the Copper River downstream of Chi-

tina in a 20 foot aluminum boat when their engine was disabled.

At the time of the call, the boat was out of control and washing downstream. The subjects attempted to navigate the boat with an oar but the oar broke. Cell contact was then lost. Hem Charters of Chitina was contacted by AST and requested to respond. At approxi-

mately 1835 hours Hem located all three subjects approximately 7 miles downstream of O'Brien Creek where their disabled boat had beached. The subjects were cold and wet but declined EMS and were transported back to O'Brien Creek. Rod Wright, the boat owner will make his own arrangements to salvage the boat.

## 2013 National Public Lands Day Chitina Area clean-up success

### GLENN ALLEN

Over 50 volunteers and partner staff came together to clean the banks of the Copper River Saturday, August 3, 2013 in Chitina, Alaska. This effort was part of Anniversary of National Public Lands Day where volunteers across America put forth "Helping Hands for America's Lands."

Volunteers removed junked appliances, couches, chairs, broken vehicle parts, and heaping piles of twisted metal, tin and wood resulting in several pick-up and large trailer loads of metal debris and trash. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve Youth Conservation Corp students, Chitina Village youth, and several non-profit partner volunteers cleaned 240 feet of the river front and adjacent roadway at the Copper River Bridge and an additional 2,685 feet of roadway in Chitina. Signs were also posted asking visitors, dip netters, and fish wheel operators to "pack out trash" in hopes of en-

couraging everyone to bestowards of this great Alaskan landscape.

Volunteers were treated to a lunch funded by Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, the Public Lands Foundation, and Copper Country Alliance which featured local raised beef from Van Wyhe Farms and local produce from Flint Family Farms and the Copper River Red Spud Company. The lunch was catered by Gilpatrick's Hotel Chitina.

"The event was a HUGE success, thanks to all of the wonderful partners and volunteers in the Copper River Basin!" exclaimed Marnie Graham, event coordinator and BLM Public Affairs Specialist. "Partners took a landscape approach to the area. Everyone came together to give a gift of stewardship to this great watershed." Partners included the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Ahtna Incorporated, Chitina Corporation, Chitina Village, State of Alaska Department of

Natural Resources Lands and Forestry Divisions and Department of Fish and Game, Copper Basin Sanitation, Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment, Copper Country Alliance, Copper River Watershed Project, and Gilpatrick's Hotel Chitina.

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer effort for public lands. For the rest of the nation, 2013's 20th Anniversary of National Public Lands Day will be held on Saturday, Sept. 28. Events in Alaska are often held early to avoid the possibility of snow. NPLD began in 1994 with three sites and 700 volunteers. It proved to be a huge success and became a yearly tradition.

In 2012, about 175,000 volunteers worked at 2,206 sites in every state, the District of Columbia and in many U.S. territories. 2012 was the biggest NPLD in the history of the event. National sponsors of the event this year are Toyota, REI, and Northrup Grumman.

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"All men having power ought to be distrusted to a certain degree." —James Madison



# McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum reports

SUNNY COOK

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE MCCARTHY-KENNICOTT HISTORICAL MUSEUM 2013 ANNUAL MEETING

This has been a stellar 2013 Museum spring/summer season fast coming to a Labor Day close in McCarthy although our Board of Directors will continue working on-line throughout the year. Special Hats Off to Treasurer John Rice who has also served this past year as Project Director for a \$7,000 Rasmuson Foundation technology grant. Under John's capable leadership, our little museum in a Century-old-Copper River and Northwestern Railway depot has moved right into the 21st Century. Equipped with solar power two years ago, we now have such bare essentials as a telephone along with internet connection, computer, printer, CD player, digital camera and so much more. We are much indebted to the Rasmuson Foundation for their ongoing support of the development of our museum during the past decade. Thanks too to Doreen Warren for her significant role in writing the technology grant application this past winter.

Our Museum Caretaker Shannon Robel has graced the museum (40 hours a week all summer) with her smiling pres-

ence and, along with John, she has figured out how to use the new office equipment. Among other things, Shannon has begun digitizing and photographing our collection, a demanding task that she takes on with a great deal of 'Google' joy. Many thanks to our Friday volunteer George Cebula, (John and I are here one day a week as well); to Jim Guntis for all his electrical talents, especially in the rail car; to Bob Cook for his 'honey-do' work around the museum and on the forthcoming CRNW model railroad in the rail car; to Barbara Rice and her wonderful kitchen crew for serving a delicious pancake breakfast on the Fourth of July. The \$2,700 proceeds from the 4th of July Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction will cover our next insurance bill, the bottom line in keeping us open for another year. See page 22 for the list of local business and individual contributors. Thanks Again!

We have received a host of unsolicited donations to our Museum collection each summer. Long time locals will be especially interested to see the moose antlers hand-painted by Flo Hegland which now hang over the doorway in the McCarthy Room. The antlers and a number of other new items in our growing col-

lection were donated by Dave Adams. We have also received significant donations from George and from Dee & Terry Frady. Among the Frady donations are the last signed and numbered copies of Gail Niebrugge's pen and ink drawing of the 'McCarthy Truck' that sat for many years across from McCarthy Lodge. The Niebrugge prints are now for sale in our small Museum gift store. Jim Thompson traveled from Valdez with a series of original telegrams sent from the "lower 48" to James McCarthy along with others of his original papers from the early 1900's. The creek and then our town were named for James McCarthy. The old telegraph pole now on the Museum grounds was secured from the Kennicott Wilderness Guides by Jim Guntis. Come for a Museum tour soon!

We hosted well-attended talks by Duane Schuldt and NPS historian, Katie Ringsmuth and a book-signing event by our neighbor, Tom Kizzia, for his bestselling book, *Pilgrim's Wilderness*. Thanks to our volunteer Docent, Patt Garrett, for her continuing work on our collective behalf including purchasing books for our Museum store. We re-open on Memorial Day weekend in 2014. Find us on Facebook.

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"If our youth is rightly instructed in the faith of our fathers; in the traditions of our country; in the dignity of each individual man, then our power will be stronger than any weapon of destruction that man can devise. ... The great documents of [our] heritage ... are from the Bible, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. Within them alone can the safeguards of freedom survive."—President Herbert Hoover

"A tax supported, compulsory educational system is the complete model of the totalitarian state." — author Isabel Paterson (1886-1961)

"Our federal tax system is, in short, utterly impossible, utterly unjust and completely counterproductive, [it] reeks with injustice and is fundamentally un-American." --President Ronald Reagan (1911-2004)

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

*The McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum  
would like to thank all those who helped make our  
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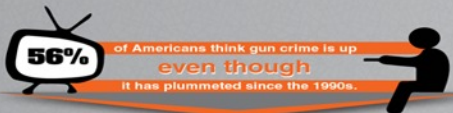
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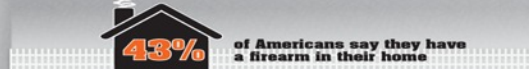
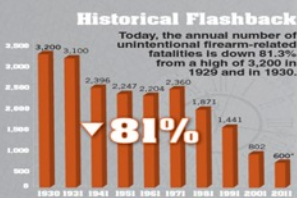
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# Overdue plane at May Creek found

**ALASKA STATE TROOPERS PRESS RELEASE  
OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2013**

On 7/24/2013 at approximately 0629 hours, AST was notified by RCC of an overdue aircraft (N207CW), piloted by Craig Walls age 54 of Wasilla and his son Justin Metheny age 29 of Anchorage.

Walls had called his wife via Satellite phone on 7/23/2013 at approximately 1400 hours from Chitina and told her that he would be flying to May Creek and spending the night in the public use cabin. Walls also told his wife that he would call her at approximately 1600 hours when they landed at May Creek. Walls

never re-contacted his wife, so she notified RCC.

RCC responded to the area and advised they had located the aircraft at May Creek in Wrangell St. Elias National Park at the May Creek strip, but were unable to locate Walls and Metheny.

An AWT and AST Trooper were transported to May Creek by the National Parks Service in a Cessna 185 while an AWT Trooper responded to the area in a State Super Cub.

After a quick search of the area, the troopers were able to cut a track through the brush and followed it to the Chititu River located approximately .5 miles East of the cabin.

Upon entering the river drainage, two sets of shoeprints were observed heading downriver towards the Nizina River.

After a short aerial search by the AWT Super Cub, the two men were located, uninjured along the Nizina River.

A National Park Service helicopter, which was in the area, responded and transported the two men back to May Creek strip.

The men indicated that they had gotten turned around and were unable to find their way back to the cabin. The men followed the river downstream until dark and held up for the night.

# New Copper Valley WIFI hotspot provides coverage in Kennecott

In July, Copper Valley Telecom added a new public hotspot to its robust WIFI system. The new hotspot is located in the historical mining town of Kennecott. Signal is strong along the main corridor through the mine buildings. Dave Dengel, Copper Valley's Chief Executive Officer said, "Our purpose for installing the WIFI hotspots is to improve overall communications coverage for residents and visitors. It helps supplement DSL Internet and mobile wireless data that folks may also subscribe to. An individual doesn't need to be a Copper Valley customer to make use of the WIFI – anyone can use it." All hotspots may be used by any WIFI enabled device such as laptop computers, tablets, or smart phones and are available for hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly rates.

In Valdez, Copper Valley Public WIFI hotspots are located at the Civic Center, Mancamp, Airport, Kelsey Dock and Small Boat Harbor. In the Copper Valley, WIFI is available at the Hub, Caribou Hotel, Chitina, Kenny Lake, and downtown McCarthy.

For more Information contact Joanne Winney at 907-835-7734 or Tabitha Gregory at 907-835-7763.

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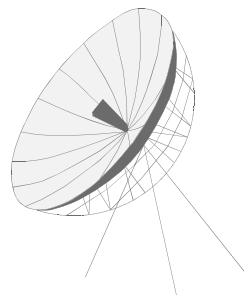
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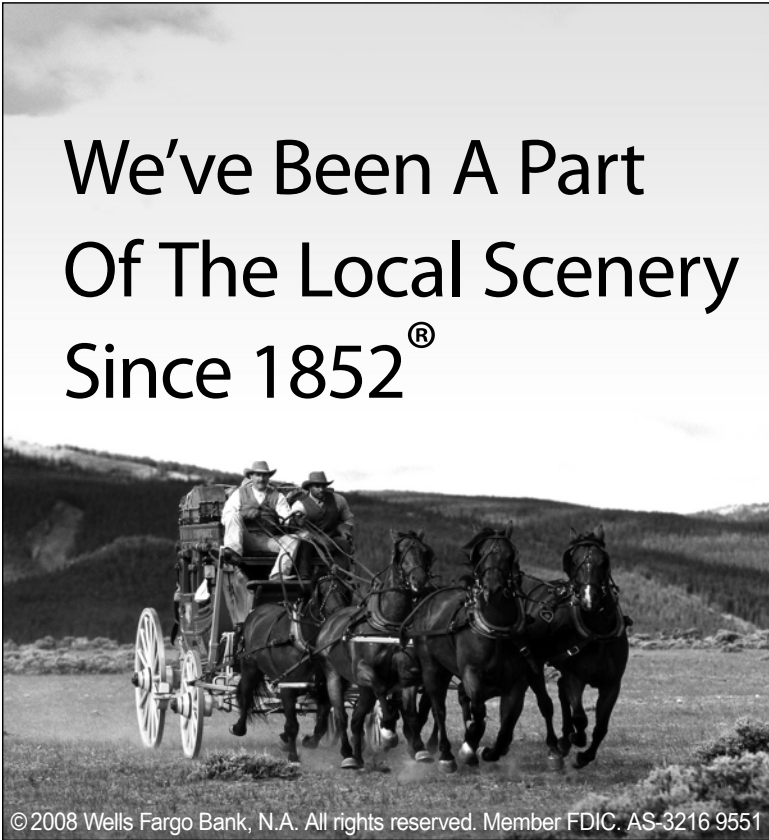
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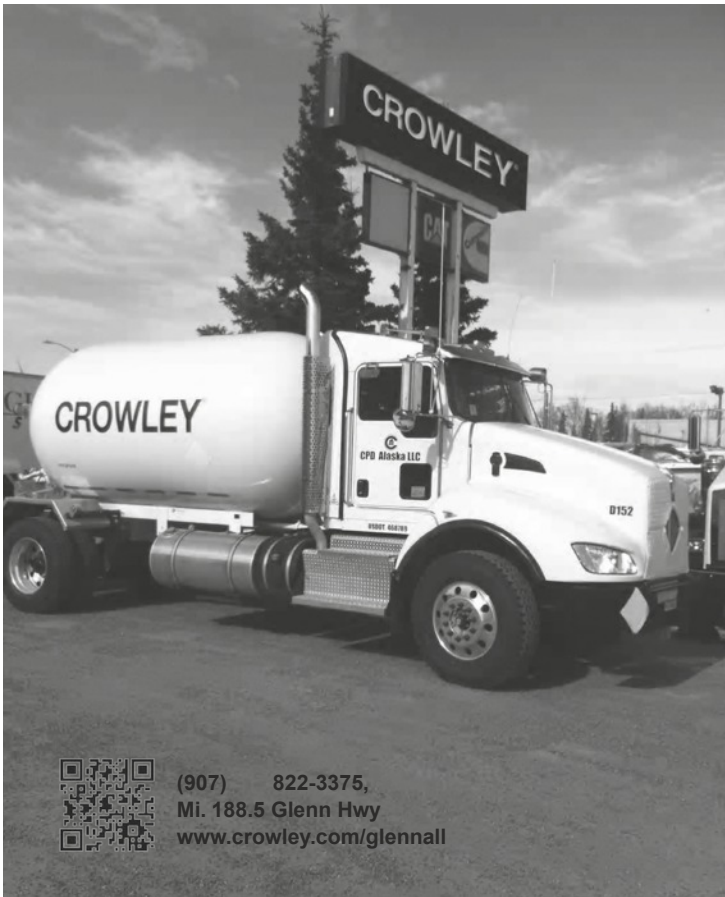
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The WRST Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) will be meeting in Chistochina on October 29-30. On the agenda are several proposals to change federal subsistence regulations for the harvest of wildlife and also on the process for making rural determinations.

The Southcentral Regional Advisory Council will be meeting at Kluti Kaah Community Hall in Copper Center on October 1-3 and there will be a public hearing on the rural determination process from 7 to 9 PM on October 1 again at Kluti Kaah. Additional information can be found on the Federal Subsistence Management Program website:

<http://www.fws.gov/alaska/asm/home.html>

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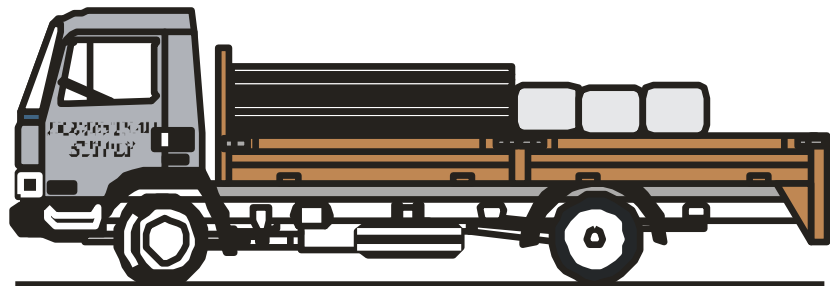
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# Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

**D**ear Cooking and Eating Friends, it is finally summer here in McCarthy! Being from Arizona and having family tell me it is 115 degrees there and last week (early July), here in McCarthy, we were building a fire in the morning to get warm, you can imagine why I get my seasons confused. Today is beautiful though and I wanted to just sit down and pass along some very special recipes to you.

Bonnie received a letter from Lucy and Gilbert Whitehead who live in Anchorage, AK. With the letter Mrs. Whitehead attached the recipes that follow. They are the recipes of Anna Eckstrom who arrived in McCarthy in 1914. I went online to ancestry.com and got the 1940 census information about Anna and her husband. Anna was born in about 1891 in Norway and died in 1965. She was married to Tim Eckstrom who was born in Sweden in about 1884. Mrs. Whitehead included some information about Anna Eckstrom in the note she attached to the recipes and since then, I've been lucky enough to speak with her on the telephone. She told me that Anna arrived in McCarthy in about 1914 where she married Tim Eckstrom. At that time, he was managing the bar in downtown McCarthy. They married and he began to work as a brakeman for the Copper River Railroad. They moved to Cordova, Alaska and had two children, Tim and Mary Ann. When the mines closed, they moved to Anchorage. Anna was famous for her cakes and cookies and became the baker for the Westward Hilton where,

at that time, Jack Clawson ran the cafe with Harry Hill. Anna lived there until she died in 1965 and was buried with her cousin, Anna Iverson in the Anchorage cemetery. Anna Iverson was from the Iverson family that ran the dairy in McCarthy.

Mrs. Whitehead told me that her own husband Gilbert was raised in Cordova and was very good friends with Anna. Gilbert moved to Anchorage in 1940 and he and Lucy were married there in 1941. Of course the friendship continued when the two couples were both living in Anchorage.

Thank you so much, Mr. and Mrs. Whitehead, for taking the time to send us these recipes of Anna's, and, Lucy for calling me to answer some questions I had. To my readers, may I add that when Lucy answered my email with a telephone call, she had just gotten out of the hospital after falling and having to have her shoulder replaced. I'm so happy to be able to share the wonderful information about Anna and Tim Eckstrom and for being able to speak with someone who knew them personally. Get well, Lucy!

## SPRITZ COOKIES

1 cup butter  
2/3 cup sugar  
3 egg yolks  
2 1/2 - 3 cups flour  
1 teaspoon almond extract

Cream the butter, add sugar and mix thoroughly. Add beaten egg yolks, flavoring and sifted flour. Fill cookie press, force thru in shapes desired onto cookie sheet. Bake 8 to 10 minutes in hot oven 400 degree F.

NOTE FROM LUCY: She said Anna really loved butter! When she was making these cookies she would let the butter sit out all night to soften and then she would cream the butter and sugar by hand until it was unbelievably creamy. She said these cookies were one of her favorites.

## DATE FILLED COOKIES

1/2 cup butter and shortening  
1 cup sugar  
1/2 cup sour milk  
1 teaspoon soda  
2 cups flour  
1 1/2 cups rolled oats  
1/2 teaspoon baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt

Cream sugar and shortening. Add alternately flour and baking powder and milk to which soda has been added. Add other ingredients and mix well. Roll out thin and cut cookies. Put one scant teaspoon date filling on cookies, place another cookie on top, press together firmly and bake in moderate oven until light brown.

Filling for above:

Cook 1 package chopped dates in half cup water and three tablespoons sugar until thick.

PEGGY'S NOTE: I copied these recipes exactly as they were sent to me. If you notice, the ingredient list asks for 1/2 cup butter AND shortening but the instructions only mention creaming sugar and shortening. At first I thought the list meant 1/2 cup of each and the word butter had just been left out of the instructions BUT then I read the recipe for the Date Crystal Dream Bars and discovered that it also calls for 1/2 cup shortening but has the sug-

gestion to use part butter or margarine for flavor. When I talked to Lucy and asked for her opinion, she again told me how much Anna loved butter and agreed with me that this recipe is having you use a ½ cup of a combination of butter and shortening.

**ANGEL PIE**

**CRUST:**

- 4 egg whites
- ½ teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1 cup sugar

Beat egg whites until foamy, then beat in cream of tartar and gradually the sugar. When stiff enough to hold it's shape, spread in a slightly buttered 9-inch pie plate. Bake about 40 minutes in a slow oven (300 degrees F.), cool while making the filling.

**FILLING:**

- 4 egg yolks
- ½ cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons lemon rind, grated
- 1 cup cream, whipped

Beat the egg yolks until thick and lemon colored. Beat in the sugar, lemon juice and rind. Cook in double boiler until thick. Cool and fold in cream that has been whipped stiff. Pour into cooled shell and chill 24 hours before serving.

**DATE CRYSTAL DREAM BARS**

(Bake pastry part first, then spread the topping over it and continue baking. Be sure to cut bars while still warm.)

**PASTRY:**

- 1 cup flour
- ½ cup shortening, using part butter or margarine for flavor.
- ½ cup brown sugar

**TOPPING:**

- 2 eggs, well beaten
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup date crystals
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

Make pastry by blending flour, shortening, and sugar thoroughly. Pat and press mixture firmly into a shallow 8" x 12" pan. Bake 15 minutes or until light brown at 375 degrees F.

Beat the eggs and sugar together. Add flour, baking powder and salt. Stir in date crystals, nuts and vanilla. Spread over baked pastry. Return to oven and bake 20 minutes at 325 degrees F.

Note: Date Crystals may be obtained from: Shield's Date Gardens, 80225 Hiway 111, Indio, CA 92201.

PEGGY'S NOTE: This is another one that is a favorite of Lucy and her husband. I didn't know what Date Crystals were and just wanted to make sure Shield's Date Garden was still open for business so I "googled" it and it certainly is. Floyd and Bess Shields came to the California desert in 1924 and started Shields Date Garden. If you read the story about the Shields and the business, you'll discover that Mr. Shields invented the Date Crystals that are called for in this recipe. They are 100% pure dates. The size of oatmeal flakes, they can be used in salads, right on your oatmeal, in this date bar recipe and in many other recipes that are provided by Mrs. Shields when you order them.

**WALNUT DREAM BARS**

- ¼ cup butter or margarine
- 1 ¼ cup sifted cake flour
- 1 ¼ cup brown sugar, firmly packed
- 2 eggs
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 ½ cups shredded coconut
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

Cut butter into 1 cup flour and ¼ cup brown sugar with knives or pastry blender until mixture consistency of coarse cornmeal, as in pie crust. Pat this mixture firmly into an ungreased 8 x 8 pan, and bake in oven 350 degrees F. for 15 minutes or until light brown. Meanwhile, beat eggs until light. Then add remaining brown sugar gradually while beating continuously with electric or rotary beater until mixture is light and fluffy. Fold in remaining flour, which has been sifted with the baking powder. Add vanilla, coconut and chopped walnuts and combine thoroughly. Spread mixture over top of still warm baked mixture in pan and bake in moderate oven at 350 degrees F. for 20 minutes or until crisp and lightly browned. While warm cut in 2" squares or bars.

Hope you enjoy these wonderful desserts. I've ordered some date crystals for Bonnie and me and as soon as they arrive, I'll be trying the Date Crystal Dream Bars!

I'm off to Homer in a few weeks so I'll try to pick up some good seafood recipes for everyone. Jim plans to fish for both halibut and salmon so I'm always looking for wonderful (and easy) ways to cook them. Have a great summer and I'll see you in the fall.



## A LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

The summer of 2013 has been hot and dry through mid August.

June temperatures were well above normal and the precipitation was below normal. The high temperature for June was 90 on 25<sup>th</sup> (83 on June 23, '12, 80 on June 24, '11, 77 on June 2, '10 and 83 on June 10, '09). This was a new record high for McCarthy; the old high was 88 on July 8, 2009. The low was 27 on June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> (32 on June 2, '12, 30 on June 7, '11, 31 on June 11, '10 and 28 on June 27, '09). The average temperature for June was 58.0. This compares to 53.7 in June '12, 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 12 days with a high of 80 or above and 2 days with a low of 32 or lower. The total precipitation was 0.93 inches (2.74 inches in June '12, 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 above normal in temperatures and below normal in precipitation. The high for July was 86 on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> ( 80 on July 27<sup>th</sup> , '12, 81 on July 21, '11, 82 on July 9, '10 and 88 on July 8, '09). The low was 39 on July 21<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>th</sup> (29 on July 9, '12, 35 on July 20, '11, 36 on July 9, '10 and 34 on July 25, '09). The July average temperature was 59.4, compared to 55.1 in July '12, 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 17 days with a high of 80 or above and 5 days with a low of 40 or lower. The total July precipitation was 2.41 inches (1.17 inches in July '12, 3.65 inches in July '11, 3.88 in '10, 0.22 inches in July '09, 4.48 inches in July '08, 1.39 inches in July '07, 1.21 inches in July '06, 5.34 inches in July '05 and 1.65 inches in July '04).

Hidden Creek Lake began releasing its water on June 25<sup>th</sup> (July 20, '12, 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 June 26<sup>th</sup> and crested at 1300 on June 29<sup>th</sup> . The crest was 24.96 ft compared to 25.31 in '12, 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 only 3.68 feet in 79 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 3<sup>rd</sup> .

The first 12 days of August were a continuation of July, hot and dry. The high was 85 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, with 4 days of 80 or higher. The low was 33 on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Precipitation was about a quarter 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.

## Valdez museum has new website

BY PATRICIA RELAY

The Board and Staff of the Valdez Museum are excited to announce the launch of our new website [www.valdezmuseum.org](http://www.valdezmuseum.org)

With the completion of a new strategic plan last summer, came some new goals and objectives for the Valdez Museum. One of those objectives is enhancing technolog-

ical resources to have a more dynamic communication program, and upgrading the website, for easier navigation and interaction, was a crucial part of that.

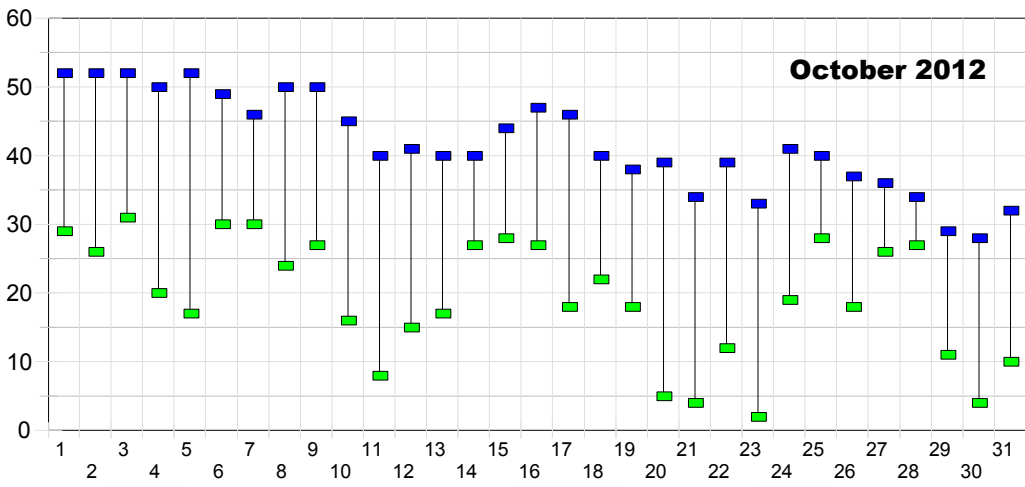
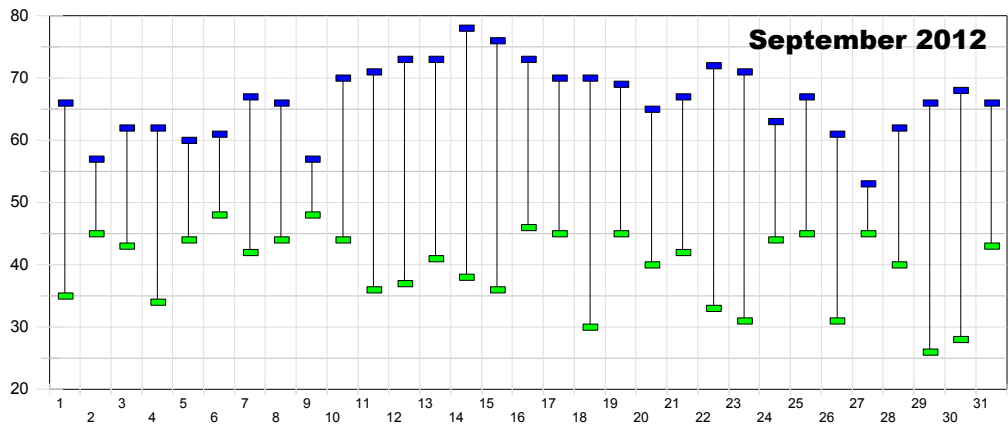
Our Goal was to make your visit to both our website and our physical locations easier. Now you can even buy your tickets from home, and finding out what is happening next at the museum has never been easier!

We think we have done just that and we hope you agree. Please take some time to explore our new website and all of the information that it has to offer.

Thank you to Sound Web Solutions for all of their hard work in creating this beautiful new website design for the Valdez Museum.

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"People are pursuing happiness, but they're pursuing things that will never, ever make them happy, and they don't know that. They've got a distorted view of what will make them happy, what happiness is, and it's based on what they see on television."—Rush Limbaugh



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