

# Wrangell St. Elias News

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

VOL. FOUR ISSUE ONE

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 1995

ONE DOLLAR

Hello Mom -  
We got our phones!

Finally!



Happy New Year from WSEN!



## *A note from the publisher*

BY BONNIE KENYON

Greetings from the west side of the Kennicott! Christmas is just around the corner as I write this "note" to you, our reader. Even though giving is not limited to this special holiday celebration, it is always good to take the time to say "I appreciate you" to neighbors, friends and family.

Rick and I decided to go with a small tree this year so we'd have enough room to maneuver the Gestetner Copyprinter when it came time to print this issue. Winter in the McCarthy/Kennicott area is much different than any other season. Life slows to a crawl—except for chores; they are always there, just different.

I've traded my favorite garden hoe for the snow shovel. (Fortunately, Rick *loves* his small garden tractor and, instead of putting it away for the winter, he installs the snowblower attachments and makes beautiful trails. That curtails much of my shoveling these days). Some of you write and ask what we can possibly do during the long, cold months of winter.

As most of you know, we are weather observers for the National Weather Service. We record 9 daily readings so that keeps us fairly close to home. In between our "obs"—as we call them—water hauling is a daily chore. Unlike summertime when we use a nearby creek that runs behind our cabin, we have to walk or snowmachine to a springfed creek about a quarter of a mile away. We use 6 gallon plastic jugs which we individually fill by the "handdipping method." Hopefully, our winter water "detail" will be upgraded this

spring. With the help of several neighbors, Rick and I hope to encourage a well-driller out this way.

Rick and I never get bored—even at this time of the year. There is always something to do, some project that just didn't get done during the previous season. For instance, I'm finally getting a kit dresser put together. All that is left now are the knobs! Being a Florida "city girl" transported to a remote northern, bush community, battery-powered screwdrivers and electric sanders are not exactly my thing; however, I am having an adventure of my own. Of course, Rick is always on standby or "standing by" keeping an eye on what I am or might do to his workshop. I'm already talking about my next "kit." Thank goodness, all the parts were included! The nearest hardware store is over 100 miles away.

Rick rebuilt our winter sled which we hook to the snowmachine in the winter but in the summer, the sled is converted to a trailer. He also built a new trail groomer which he pulls behind the snowmachine. It helps keep the trails smooth and widened out for our machines.

We'd like to take this time to thank those who sent us Christmas cards and words of encouragement. One particular subscriber from Valdez surprised us with a delicious treat for the holidays. (George, we ate everything *but* the tray. Thank you!) Another special treat came all the way from Italy. Rick and I have never sampled such a delicious assortment of Italian chocolates. (A warm thanks, Sylvia!)

We never tire hearing from you. Some even called us on our newly-installed telephone! Yes, that's

right, phone service in the McCarthy/Kennicott area is finally a reality. (That is a story in itself, so be sure to read about it in this issue!) Jeanne Moore Elliott—a former Kennicott kid—gave us a good laugh when she wrote: "I can't believe that you now have phone service into McCarthy and Kennicott!! What a wonderful thing for you all. Now if you could get electricity and s-s-s-steam heat you'd have it as good as we used to." I guess we're still behind the times!

From time to time specific issues affecting or that could affect our neck of the woods are presented to us. We may choose to write about them ourselves, or reprint articles by those who have—in our opinion—researched the subjects more thoroughly. Such is the case in this issue of WSEN. Our thanks and appreciation goes to the Resource Development Council for their expertise and willingness to share their information with us.

Our subscribers' list has now reached 335. Wrangell St. Elias News welcomes aboard the following new subscribers: Peter Willardt Zewillis, Denmark; Eric Nielsen, AK; Lenoir Ellis, TX; Sue & Frank Entsminger, AK; Majda Taher, CA; Patricia O'Neill, AK; Juddy McMasters, AK; Ken Foutch, WA; Lynn Hummel, FL; Nyla Marsey, AK; Jean Anderson Graves, AK; Eric Graves, AK; Dick Inglis, AK; Richard Osborne, WA; Janet McCabe, AK; Gary LaMouria, AK; Thomas O'Neill, WA; Sven Grage, Germany; Steve Peterson, TX; Robert Schindling, FL; Dale & Thelma McCarthy, SD; Hans & Margret Ogrodnik, Germany; Leah & Allen Cramer, NY.

## Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

**Jurgen Ogrodnik:** If you enjoy listening to Jurgen's classical guitar music, check in with the Kaladi Brothers Coffee Co. in Anchorage. Jurgen says he is playing there every Thursday night during the month of January. Keep those strings tuned, Jurgen, and sample some of that good coffee for me.

**Kristen Janssen and Howard Mozen:** Kristen and Howard are spending a couple of months in Anchorage this winter. With Kristen's students on an extended vacation and Howard, finding a dogsitter for his 3-dog team, the Kennicott pair headed out for the lights of the big city—Anchorage. Thanks, Kristen and Howard, for thinking of all your neighbors back home in McCarthy this Christmas. Your box of goodies arrived on the mail day before Christmas, and each package was hand delivered to its proper mail box.

**Kirk, Lisa, Kira and Svea Olsen:** As most of our locals know, the Olsen family are now wintering this year in Soldotna. Recently they celebrated Kira's 7th birthday. Nine kids provided plenty of noise, loads of fun and a very memorable birthday for Kira. When Kirk's brother and niece went to get in their car as they were leaving the party, a mama moose and her calf were having their own party outside. Seems they must have discovered road salt on Kirk's brother's car. Both mama and baby were busy "licking" the car clean!

**Ed LaChapelle and Meg Hunt:** Ed called from Olympia, Wa. where he and Meg are spending the majority of the winter. When I asked Ed what Meg was up to these days besides her teaching job at Evergreen College, he said,

"Meg is running around doing crazy things, but I am doing normal things like skiing, etc..." Ed did take time off from his outdoor activities and Meg her work schedule over Thanksgiving. They traveled to Arizona and spent the holiday with Meg's relatives. Ed is due back in McCarthy sometime in February and Meg, the end of March.

**Roger Elconin:** Ed passed on an update about Roger. Roger presented a written paper at a rock glacier studies conference in Tacoma, Wa. recently. Ed says Roger did an excellent job and created a lot of interest among some scientists. Roger is presently in Sacramento, Ca. and busy writing a thesis. Our congratulations to you, Roger! Keep up the good work.

**Jim, Jeannie, Matt, Aaron and Stacie Miller:** The Millers—except for Stacie who is in Anchorage attending the university—are spending time in the lower 48 this winter. From all reports, they are doing just fine and having a wonderful time with family in Washington as well as taking some side trips. I'm sure

Jeanie Jordan, Jeannie's mom in Republic, is having a joyous Christmas holiday with her Alaskan family. Stacie came home (McCarthy) for the Thanksgiving holiday but has since returned to the city and is doing very well in her studies. The Miller clan is due back the first week in January.

**Thom, Catie, Frances and Maggie Bursch:** The Bursch family came in to visit their Fireweed Mountain home shortly after Christmas. They are enjoying their stay in Homer this winter. Both Catie and Thom are doing well in their individual studies—Thom, business related, and Catie, nursing. They plan on being in the local area for about a week.

**Mark Vail and Matt Jackson:** Fireweed Subdivision is pretty quiet these days. Well, except for Mark's new litter of huskie pups (a reliable source told me George, Malcolm's famous lead dog, is the father) and Matt's dogsitting adventure—you guessed it, Howard's 3 dogs. This is Matt's first real-life attempt at running dogs, but I'm told he is doing

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just fine and may even get his own team. Mark, on the other hand, is an experienced dog handler; in fact, he was visiting the Sperry family just the other day and gave Rebekah and Sarah their yearly ride.

**Kim Northrup:** Somehow the words "dogsitting" and "real-life attempt" make me think of Kim. A few mail days ago I couldn't help but notice she arrived by a much different method than usual. Come to find out, Kim is dogsitting Malcolm Vance's 7-dog team. Now that is a handful! She told me she actually prefers the dogs to her snow-

rented house. The Green family was in for Thanksgiving and is spending about a week here during the Christmas holidays.

**Gary and Betty Hickling:** If you visit McCarthy this next summer, you'll see a new two-story addition on Barrett Way—just behind the McCarthy Lodge. This is Betty and Gary's house. Betty says she doesn't expect to move in until (maybe) next fall—she wants to wait until it is finished! (I'm not sure a house or cabin out here EVER gets finished, does it? Well, let's not tell her. Maybe she and

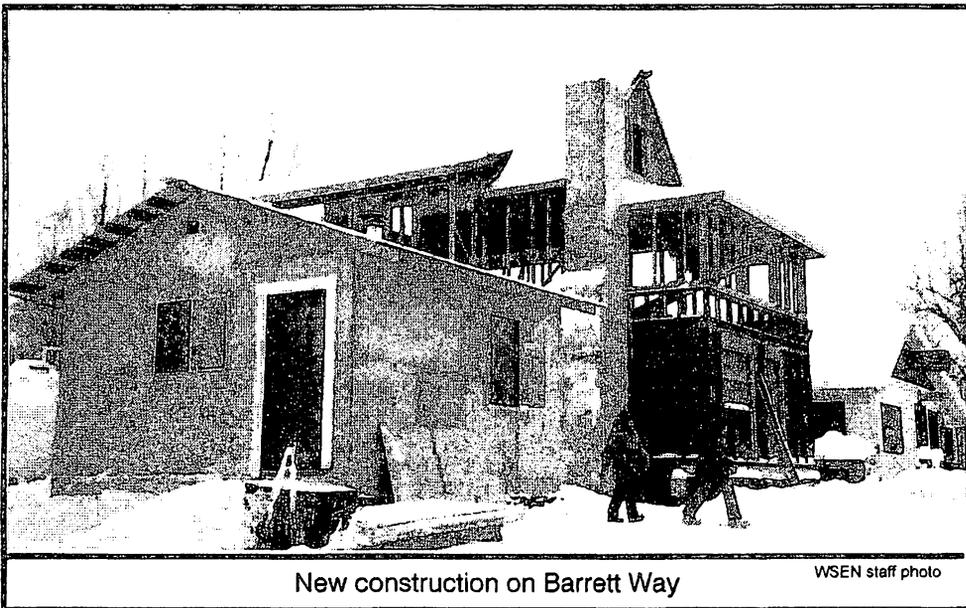
**Richard Villa and Lilly Goodman:** Richard and Lilly are enjoying the fruits of their summer and fall labors. Their cabin—located on Richard's lot in McCarthy—is warm and snug, they say. They did venture over to housesit Paul and Donna Claus' place near McCall Ridge for 9 days in mid December. While they were gone, Richard's cats had more than their share of adventure. Actually, it sounds like they spent a great deal of time in a tree warding off panic attacks due to the unfortunate interest of a few local dogs. When Richard and Lilly

finally got home and discovered the whereabouts of "Richard's pets," Lilly tried her best to coax them down. She admits cats aren't "her" choice of pets. She'd much rather have a dog team, she says. Anyway, as much as she cajoled and/or threatened, the cats (they must be smart to Lilly's preference!) refused to budge from their lofty refuge. However, as soon as Richard arrived on the scene and called up

to the faithful pair, the cats took one daring leap and landed at his feet. Even Lilly was impressed!

**Loy Green:** It's that time of year for Loy to punch his way through to his Green Butte cabin. Richard and Lilly agreed to assist him in opening up the nearly 13 mile trail. The going is always a challenge and they can only make a few miles a day. Snowshoes are a must and there are plenty of snow-laden branches to deal with as well.

**John Adams:** John has been busy upgrading his Arctic Cat snowmachines. He designed and built a luggage rack for his Panther,



machine, but she is quick to admit this is a first for her. Although she admits to quite a collection of bruises, she "is not broken." In between feeding and caring for her canine charges, Kim just recently moved into the new McCarthy Lodge's manager's house in downtown McCarthy.

**Gary, Nancy and Tyler Green:** The Greens are spending a good portion of this winter in Tazlina where Tyler is enrolled in a one-room schoolhouse. Nancy says Tyler "loves school" and has made friends. There are 16 students and 3 teachers. Tyler's schoolbus picks him up right out front of their

Gary can change the pattern of "bush" construction!)

**Dave Adams:** It seems McCarthy is experiencing quite a building boom this year. I understand Dave's house across McCarthy Creek is coming along just fine. Kivalina, Dave's dog, is living it up these days. You see, Dave made a grave mistake. He let Kim Northrup dogsit! Dave may find that Kivalina will expect a much higher standard of living now. The only other problem is keeping Dave out of McCarthy Creek. I hear tell he took quite a "dip" recently. The creek is frozen over now so it is safe to come back, Dave!

then decided the Kenyons needed one. He and Rick spent a day building one for our Panther. John, who has been in and out, spent the holidays with his family in Wasilla. Andy, John's oldest, came out and the two fellows took a snowmachine trip up to Chitistone. They had a great time.

**Terry and Dee Frady:** The Fradys are already preparing for their upcoming tourist season. The Willow Herb Mountain Depot's addition will, hopefully, be ready for use this summer. That will give Terry and Dee room to display even more craft items—those of locals, other Alaskans as well as their own creations. Dee says she is even

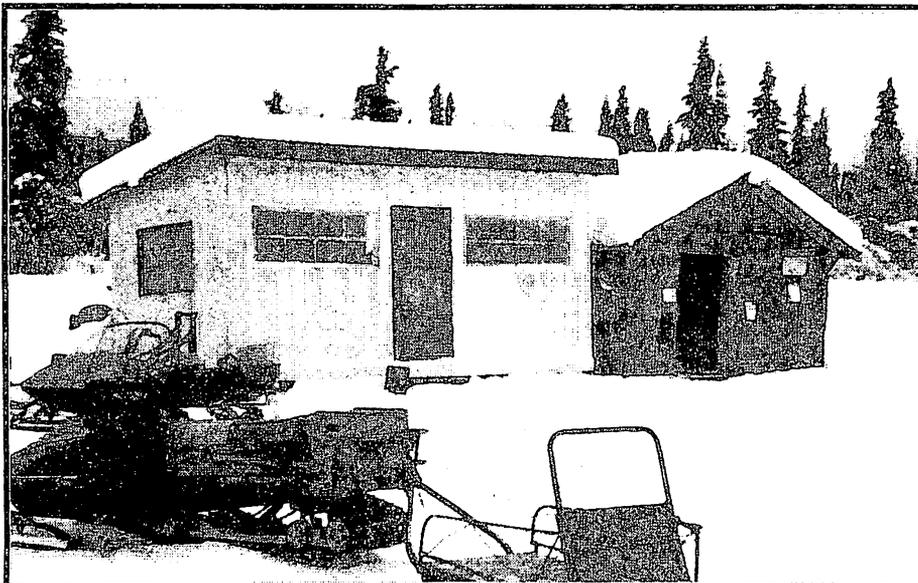
winter. You see, McKenzie is in Kindergarten and dad Mike is teacher and principal. The other day Rick asked McKenzie what date it was and McKenzie didn't hesitate, "December 16th, of course." He was right!

**Ken and Carly Kritchen:** The Kritchen "crew" took off for Cordova shortly before Christmas. Says Ken, "It's too cold up here." At least that's Ken's excuse for leaving our quiet neck of the woods. Now Carly may have it a bit more accurate when she said, "If we could just talk all our family into moving up here..." When the Kritchens go anywhere outside the McCarthy area, they always carry plenty of

"splendor." The Kritchens arrived back at their homestead safe and sound, but not empty handed! Would you believe 4 more chickens?

**Chris Richards/Tim Mischel:** Chris and Tim are keeping an eye on each other this winter. Tim is housesitting and animal sitting for the Miller family, and Chris seems to be spending the winter playing with his telephone. I really hate to be the one to tell his mom that he's been so taken with his new toy that he can't seem to find the time to get a haircut! Rick suggested he should let Tim give him one, but Chris didn't think that was such a good idea. Oh, well, there are priorities in life and answering his phone is one these days. According to Chris, he finally got his first phone call from a customer. Now we're "talking," Chris!

**Kelly, Natalie and Tessa Bay:** The Bays just returned from a visit with family in the state of Washington. They spent Christmas with Kelly's mom and dad, Pat and Mel Bay, of Redmond. Nineteen month old, Tessa, and dad Kelly went out to play one day and, would you believe, ended up in a computer store. I wonder who had more fun?



Mail shacks — the new and the old

WSEN staff photo

working on a new Tee shirt design. Their 12' x 12' rental log cabin was finished by the end of summer and even welcomed several visitors. Terry is happy to announce that he and Dee celebrated their 26th wedding anniversary on December 14. Now that is quite an accomplishment!! Congratulations to you both

**Mike and McKenzie P. McCarthy:** Mike and McKenzie are at their place on Silk Stocking Row. McKenzie P. is making sure his dad doesn't get bored this

excitement with them! This time...2 hens, 1 rooster, 3 dogs and 2 cats. (The gold fish stayed behind at the Kenyons—unfortunately for the Kritchens. There are only 2 left out of 7. It may take some doing to convince Carly that Rick didn't go fishing and use them for bait.) In spite of the cold weather, Ken managed to get all 4 walls up on the workshop—even a window and an insulated chicken house off the side. According to the Kritchens their chickens live in insulated

**Jim and Pat Edwards:** Speaking of neighbors returning...Jim and Pat made it home in time to spend the Christmas holidays with their kids and grandkids, Patrick, Phyllis, Rebekah and Sarah Sperry. Pat gave a small dinner party during the holiday season and those who attended report an excellent meal—as usual—and an enjoyable evening spent with family and friends. Welcome home, Jim and Pat!

## Friends of Kennicott changes direction

BY BONNIE KENYON

Should Friends of Kennicott change its mission so that it can enter into some type of cooperative management agreement with the Kennicott landowner—possibly the National Park Service?

The above question was raised at a board of directors meeting held in Anchorage during October. The board formally moved to begin restructuring itself which will include membership dues to help build a broad base of support and as a way of generating operating funds. The non-profit organization considers the "alternative may eliminate the need for NPS personnel stationed at Kennicott and would be more cost effective than federal government management."

According to a Friends' publication, the "old" Friends of Kennicott has successfully completed a major emergency stabilization program with about half a million dollars. "Had the same work been done by the National Park Service, it would likely have cost about nine million dollars. We plan to carry forward a similar community-based, low key, and cost effective emphasis in the future mission of the organization."

Minutes of the October 6 and 24 meetings state: "With the arrival of Bob Barbee, the new Regional Director for Alaska, there is now more support within the NPS regional office for acquisition of Kennicott. Similarly, there appears to be greater interest in the acquisition from the Department of Interior in Washington, D.C. following

George Frampton's visit to the Wrangell's in July. It has also been determined that a special resource study is probably not necessary to move forward with the acquisition process, although additional NPS documentation will still be required in order to approach Congress with an appropriation request. Furthermore, Bob Barbee is aware of the cooperative agreement/management approach which is currently under discussion and is interested in pursuing the idea further as a way of protecting Kennicott's public values without sinking the park's or the region's budget."

The next meeting of the Friends of Kennicott is scheduled for January 10, 1995 at 5:30 p.m. at the Chugach Alaska Building, 3000 A Street, Suite 400, Anchorage.

## McCarthy gets telephone service — at last!

BY RICK KENYON

Residents of the McCarthy and Kennicott area are finally talking to more than just their neighbors. The long awaited telephone service for the two bush communities became a reality in early November.

Copper Valley Telephone teamed up with a new company, Copper Valley Cellular, to provide a mix of fixed and mobile telephone service. Residents have the option of installing the telephone equipment on the wall of their home or place of business—"fixed cellular," or they can opt for mobile equipment.

The fixed service carries a slightly higher monthly rate than the mobile, but mobile units pay a premium of \$0.50 for each minute after the first 30 minutes. Fixed service runs \$44.41 for residences and

\$48.41 for businesses. The monthly rate for a mobile phone is \$35.

To date, about 8 households or businesses have equipment installed. Several people have mobile cellular phones. One community phone is presently mounted outside the new "manager's house" for the McCarthy Lodge. It will accept phone credit cards only, not currency, and will only take outgoing calls, not incoming.

The new equipment did have a few "bugs." For the first few weeks local calls were nearly impossible due to a loud squeal on the line, but long distance calls worked fairly good—as long as it wasn't snowing. Even a small amount of snow caused the long distance part of the system to shut down until some kind soul—usually Kim Northrup or Richard Villa—came to the rescue

and swept the satellite dish clean. Copper Valley Telephone technicians made several trips to McCarthy to fix these problems and as of January 1st things seem to be working pretty good.

And what do the folks who got phones think about them? "It meant a lot to Terry's folks," said Dee Frady. "They told us, 'you don't seem so far away now.'" Chris Richards said, "It's great—when it's a business call!" Kelly and Natalie Bay could only get service at their Wrangell Mountain Air office in McCarthy,—their homestead at the Nizina River is out of range of the transmitter. Says Kelly, "I think the phones are great. I only wish I could have gotten a few more!"



## NPS news

BY BONNIE KENYON

When Wrangell St. Elias News contacted the National Park Service's office in Glennallen for their usual update before going to press, we were told Russ Lesko and Jim Hummel of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve were on annual leave. However, we did manage to speak to Jon Jarvis, the new superintendent of WRST.

Jarvis said he has been on the job for approximately 3 weeks and is still getting settled into his new position. He is hoping to get out to the McCarthy area real soon, he says, and "sit down and listen." According to the past superintendent of Craters of the Moon National Monument in southeast Idaho, he is "real interested in working closely with the community" on issues such as the future of Kennicott and the McCarthy Road. He hopes to take a "neighbor-type approach—as

another member of the community."

When asked if he had any new information on Kennicott's possible acquisition by NPS, Jarvis said he didn't. He admitted there is a lot of interest for NPS to enter into a cooperative agreement with the non-profit organization, Friends of Kennicott, for the management of Kennicott—should it be acquired by NPS.

NPS hopes to restart efforts to be a "player at the table" for the future long-term plans to upgrade the McCarthy Road.

Jarvis admitted he was only vaguely familiar with the Kennicott River Bridge project. He did say he hated to see McCarthy on the receiving end of tourism growth.

**Bob Barbee**, 58, Alaska's new Regional Director, is a 36-year veteran with the National Park Service

having begun his career in 1958 as a seasonal naturalist at Rocky Mountain National Park (Colorado). In his career, he served as the chief of resource management at Yosemite National Park, superintendent at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Volcanoes National Park, Redwood National Park and, before coming to Alaska he served as superintendent at Yellowstone National Park.

"Yellowstone has been a big part of my life for more than 11 years," says Barbee. "But it's with great anticipation that I look forward to a whole new world of working with parks, the communities and people of Alaska and the issues that surround parks."

Most recently, Barbee was the recipient of the Dept. of Interior's Distinguished Service Award for 1992.

## Kennicott River bridge update

BY BONNIE KENYON

In a recent telephone interview with Steven L. Jochens, Southcentral District Engineering Manager for the Dept. of Transportation, we were told the environmental document for the Kennicott River Footbridge Project is being completed and will be sent to the Federal Highway Administration sometime in January.

After the document is reviewed, public meetings will be set up. As of press time, no specific dates have been announced, but the public can expect an advertised 30 day notice.

When asked if any new alternatives to the three original drawings are being considered by DOT, Jochens said it is still the originals being discussed—a suspension bridge, a truss bridge or the salvaged Nizina Bridge. (See WSEN Nov/Dec. '94

issue for drawings, etc.) Does DOT have any preferences? "We are impartial at this time," commented Jochens.

What about public input to date? A fair amount of support for the Nizina Bridge option remains constant with much opposition to a vehicular bridge.

Originally scheduled for construction in 1995, the Kennicott Footbridge Project is presently not being considered until 1996. Why if there has been such "intense public input," is DOT delaying the project another year? According to Jochens, the foundation drilling couldn't be done because of the needed public input. DOT was being spread too thin.

We asked if DOT will have to purchase any additional property for

the project. Jochens replied that they feel they have sufficient right-of-way for all three alternates, although he is unsure how wide that right-of-way is.

Public meetings will mostly likely be held in Anchorage and Fairbanks if they are scheduled during the winter months. Before the meetings occur, Jochens said there will be another mail out to everyone on their list. Because the environmental document is fairly short, DOT says they can provide copies.

Anyone interested in contacting Steven Jochens, you may write to him at the following address or call 835-4322.

Steven L. Jochens, P.E.  
District Engineering Manager  
Box 507  
Valdez, AK 99686

# Beetle consumes 1.5 million acres, State responds with five-year harvest plan

## *Preservationists file suit in court to stop timber sales*

The spruce bark beetle may have consumed more than 1.5 million acres of timber across Southcentral Alaska this past summer, according to Terry Brady, a private forestry consultant. Over two billion board feet of timber was infested by the beetle, an economic loss of more than \$700 million. That's more than the value of all Alaska salmon delivered to fish processors in 1993.

The beetle infestation is continuing to spread rapidly through Southcentral and Interior forests. Between 1991 and 1993 some 1.33 billion board feet of timber was infested on state-owned lands, more than the 1.04 billion board feet of timber harvested from state lands since Alaska became a state in 1959. In recent years, more timber has been killed by the beetle than has been lost to forest fires or logging under the 50-year contracts in the Tongass National Forest.

Infested forest acreage more than quadrupled between 1990 and 1993, increasing from about 200,000 acres to about 835,000 acres in 1993, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

Yet the state and federal governments have spent only about \$1 million to address the infestation. Most of the funds have been spent on public meetings, monitoring and campground mitigation.

Meanwhile, Trustees for Alaska and other environmental groups have filed suit to challenge the state's five-year logging plan for the Kenai Peninsula. The plan would put up for sale each year about 4,000 acres of beetle-damaged

timber on the Kenai Peninsula, a minuscule amount when compared to the annual loss of acreage to the bug.

The environmental groups were unsuccessful in convincing the courts to approve an injunction on the first of the Kenai tracts the state has put up for sale. Those tracts total about 1,140 acres of more than 2 million acres of state land in the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

The Division's five-year plan requires loggers to follow the strict guidelines of the Alaska Forest Practices Act. Streamside buffers will be required and all work must be done on snow trails rather than on new roads. Reforestation is mandated in all harvest areas.

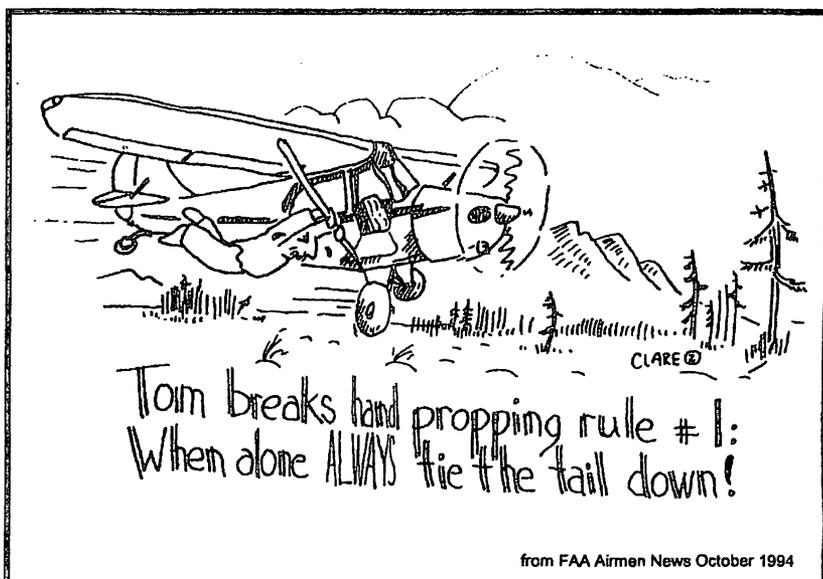
The Kenai spruce beetle infestation is the largest in America. It got out of hand because so much of the forest is over-aged, a direct result of fire suppression and a lack of timber harvesting. Recreation and oth-

er human activities may have caused local forest distress, which helped set the stage for the infestation.

Foresters warn that large areas of the Kenai Peninsula may revert to grasslands if the harvest and reforestation program is blocked. They also warn that forests across Southcentral, the Copper River basin and the Tanana and Yukon basins are in decline.

Thousands of jobs could be created across Alaska harvesting infested timber and replanting forests, according to state and industry officials. Forester Brady noted that sound forest practices, such as those found in Sweden and Finland, could nearly double the standing volume of timber in Alaska over a 100-year period.

*Reprinted from Resource Review/November 1994*



from FAA Airmen News October 1994

# Moose survey

BY RICK KENYON

Have you ever wondered how many moose are out there in all that wilderness? What percentage are bulls, cows or calves? Is the moose population rising or declining? To find answers to those questions, Bill Route, Resource Management Specialist for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, conducted a moose survey in the local area during late November.

The area surveyed was almost 400 square miles—bordered by the Kennicott River on the east, the Kuskulana River on the west, the Chitina River on the south, and the 4,000 foot elevation contour of the Wrangell Mountains on the north. (4,000 feet is generally considered to be the elevational limit of moose in this area.) Bill, and fellow observers Kurt Jenkins and Patti Happe were flown by NPS Ranger

Jim Hannah, and by local pilot Kelly Bay, of Wrangell Mountain Air.

Bill had hoped to do the entire survey in early November and complete it in 2 days, but uncooperative weather caused some delays. The group started the survey on November 25, and finished on November 28. Bill said the bulls had not started dropping their antlers, at least to any great extent—only one bull was observed who had lost one antler.

Two pilot/observer teams spent a total of 11 hours of flight time searching for moose. They used a method called the "No Strat" technique, and this was the second year of evaluating this method.

And what answers did the team come up with for 1994? Well, they actually observed 228 moose in the study area. Bill estimates that approximately 13% of the moose

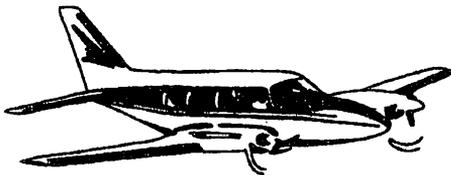
are missed. Applying this correction factor to the 228 moose that they observed, results in an estimate of 259 moose for an overall density estimate of 0.65 moose per square mile. For every 100 cow moose observed, there were almost 29 calves—slightly higher than the number observed in 1991. For every 100 cows, there were 59 bulls, 15 of them yearling bulls. This also compares favorably with earlier counts.

Bill says that, in general, herd density and composition appear healthy. Calf production and recruitment are elevated from 1991 surveys.

The next time someone asks you if there are any moose in the area, go ahead and tell them what you know. They'll be impressed!

## *Scheduled Air Service from Anchorage to McCarthy with stopover in Gulkana!*

Now you can leave Anchorage at 8:30 on Wednesday or Friday morning and arrive in Gulkana at 9:45, McCarthy at 11:00. Or, you can leave McCarthy at 11:15 and be back in Anchorage by 2:00pm the same day! (Leaves Gulkana at 12:45)  
This service is year around.



### Rates:

Gulkana/McCarthy	\$56*
McCarthy/Gulkana	\$56*
Gulkana/MayCreek	\$60
May Creek/Gulkana	\$60
Anchorage/Gulkana	\$105*
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\* Ask about special round-trip rates  
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# New RS 2477 rules draw opposition

The Resource Development Council has joined the Alaska Miners Association and the State of Alaska in urging the U.S. Department of the Interior to withdraw newly-proposed rules which would severely limit the availability and usefulness of existing RS 2477 rights-of-way in Alaska.

RS 2477 remains one of the most useful access tools for Alaskans to cross federal lands, which comprise approximately 60 percent of the state's land mass. With the exception of the TransAlaska Pipeline corridor, it is impossible to cross the state from north to south or east to west without crossing federal lands.

In a letter to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, RDC emphasized that continued public access to and across federal land is essential for Alaska. Because Alaska is a young state, formal recognition of many access routes has not yet occurred.

Options to acquire rights-of-way in mostly-roadless Alaska are scarce. Easements reserved under Sec. 17(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act are limited and the right of way provisions in Title XI of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) are so cumbersome they have not often been successfully used to establish rights-of-way.

Hundreds of RS 2477 trails with great historical and local value have been used across the 49th state to provide access between communities and to access recreation sites, mining claims and important resource deposits. Present usage on these trails can vary from hiking to a modern thoroughfare, but the availability and usage of many of these trails would be severely limited by the proposed rules.

With finalization of the draft regulations, RDC warns that one more important method of access would be lost. RDC noted Congress granted RS 2477 rights-of-way to the people so that federal lands could be accessed and crossed. Now the Department of the Interior is seeking to limit their availability and usefulness.

Here are some major objections RDC expressed to Babbitt on the proposed regulations:

- *The proposed regulations would severely limit the availability and usefulness of existing RS 2477 rights-of-way in Alaska.* RS 2477 remains one of the most useful access tools for Alaskans to cross federal lands, as historically done.
- *The proposed regulations require a high level of development to modern standards.* Current federal policy and existing case law recognize a wide variety of historic construction methods as adequate for establishing RS 2477 rights. The proposed regulations with a modern standards requirement are inconsistent with the way rights-of-way were created and used.
- *The proposed rules rewrite history and retroactively impose limits on the means of travel that would qualify as a method of creating an RS 2477.* Current federal policy and case law recognize that usage over time by all means of travel, including foot and pack animal, establishes RS 2477 rights for the public. Historic and existing methods of travel must continue to qualify as an RS 2477 because of the unique

circumstances in Alaska. Most of the state is still inaccessible by road, as it was in 1866. Historic rural access corridors should be preserved, both summer and winter routes.

- *The proposed regulations retroactively limit valid rights without compensation or offering a viable alternative.* When Congress repealed RS 2477 in 1976, it retained valid existing rights. Current federal law recognizes these rights. Moreover, the proposed regulations would establish an arbitrary deadline for asserting RS 2477 rights, despite the fact that neither Congress nor current federal policy puts a time limit on the acceptance of an RS 2477.
- *The proposed regulations would impose new restrictions and new laws not passed by Congress or established through interpretation by the courts.* In this regard, the proposed regulations are in conflict with

"Not so many years ago there was no simpler or more intelligible notion than that of going on a journey. Travel—movement through space—provided the universal metaphor for change. . . . One of the subtle confusions—perhaps one of the secret terrors—of modern life is that we have lost this refuge. No longer do we move through space as we once did."  
—Daniel J. Boorstin

current law and congressional intent.

In its comments to Babbit, the State of Alaska noted it has operated in good faith with previous federal administrations to establish an acceptable policy to guide the identification and management of RS 2477 rights-of-way. "The proposed rules ignore all previous concessions by the State and impose a one-sided view point on these very important access rights," said Harry Noah, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. "This is wrong and unfair."

Commissioner Mike Barton of the Alaska Department of Transportation disagreed with Interior that limited usage and strict control of RS 2477 will provide for better management of federal lands.

"RS 2477 provides for very basic access," Barton said. "Most routes will not be developed into modern highways, but will continue to be used as they have in the past. Many are seasonal. Some may not be used at all or may be developed only for a hiking trail. They do not threaten land or resources. Current law recognizes that an RS 2477 is an easement that cannot unnecessarily impact surrounding land."

RS 2477 often provides the only established access to a site, Barton emphasized. "To retain them is to retain the option of access; to lose them would be to eliminate access."

RDC and the Alaska Miners Association generated a substantial flow of letters to Interior opposing the new regulations. Both organizations circulated action alerts to their members on the issue.

*This article and the following one are from Resource Review - Nov. 1994. A monthly publication of the Resource Development Council, Inc., 121 W. Fireweed, Suite 250, Anchorage, AK 99503.*

## Alaska is biggest spender on environment

It may come as a surprise to most Americans that Alaska has given more to the conservation movement than any other state. This great northern state accounts for 70 percent of all national park lands, 90 percent of the nation's wildlife refuge lands and 62 percent of all federally-designated Wilderness - enough to fill the entire state of Utah. And despite the fact that Alaska's economy is almost entirely fueled by extractive resource industries, less than one percent of the state's 170 million acres of wetlands have been developed.

No other state comes close to matching Alaska's conservation record, nor does any state, including environmentally-aware Oregon and California, top Alaska in per capita expenditures on environmental programs or the percentage of state budgets spent on the environment.

According to the Resource Guide to State Environmental Management, Alaska ranked number one in spending \$520 per resident on the environment. The 5.8 percent of the state budget allocated to environmental programs was the highest of all 50 states.

California, a seat of environmental activism, ranked eighth in environmental per capita spending at \$68 per resident on environmental measures. In terms of the percentage of state budgets spent on the environment, California placed ninth at 2.4 percent.

Oregon ranked eleventh in terms of per capita spending and tenth when it came to allocating a percentage of its budget to the environment.

Overall, the nation's 50 states spent over \$9 billion on the environment.

### *Western states: big spenders on environment*

Rank	State	Per Capita Expenditure	Rank	State	Percentage of State Budget
1	Alaska	\$520	1	Alaska	5.8%
2	Wyoming	221	2	Wyoming	5.5
4	Idaho	81	3	Idaho	3.6
6	Washington	78	4	Colorado	3.2
7	Montana	72	8	Montana	2.4
8	California	68	9	California	2.4
9	Colorado	68	10	Oregon	2.3
11	Oregon	61	14	Utah	1.8
17	Nevada	46	20	Nevada	1.6
19	Utah	44	21	Washington	1.6
24	New Mexico	36	30	New Mexico	1.2
26	Hawaii	34	43	Hawaii	0.8
49	Arizona	16	47	Arizona	0.7

Source: Resource Guide to State Environmental Management, Third Edition

# Birds and animals of the Wrangells

by Ken Kritchen

**Across**

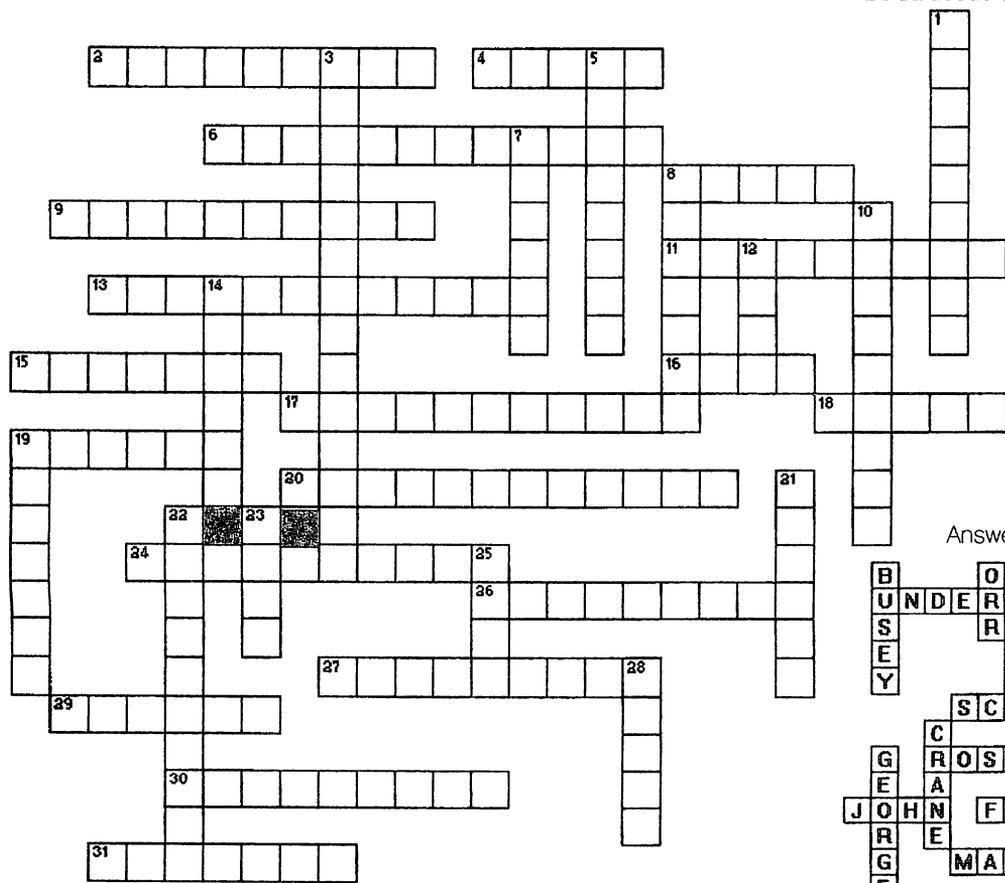
- 2 The Alaska state bird.
- 4 This swamp resident is the largest member of the deer family.
- 6 Flocks of these beautiful birds devour the seeds at your feeder (two words).
- 8 Red breasted sign of spring.
- 9 Looks like a small fox (two words).
- 11 High alpine mammal with curved horns (two words).
- 13 Herbivore that is brown in summer - white in winter (two words).
- 15 This aquatic animal has a tail like a rat's.
- 16 Large feline that inhabits our coniferous forests.
- 17 This rodent is busy collecting mushrooms and spruce cones in the fall (two words).

- 18 The largest of our two commonly seen woodpeckers.
- 19 This bird is a beautiful scavenger.
- 20 Shaggy alpine mammal with curved horns (two words).
- 24 Latin name for Timber Wolf (two words).
- 26 Largest member of the weasel family.
- 27 Ursus Horribilus (two words).
- 29 This sly animal howls at the moon.
- 30 Our national bird (two words).
- 31 Migrating tundra dweller.

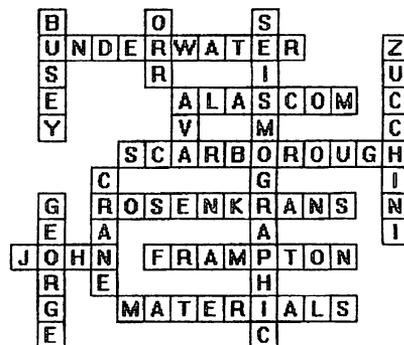
**Down**

- 1 Smallest bruin found in the Wrangells (two words).
- 3 This flyer's resonant Whoo-Whoo's echo through the forest (three words).

- 5 These tricky flyers consume lots of mosquitos.
- 7 This pond dweller lives in a house.
- 8 Small bird with a bright red cap seen at winter feeders.
- 10 Black cap \_\_\_\_\_.
- 12 The haunting cry of this bird echos across area lakes.
- 14 This carnivore is brown in summer - white in winter.
- 19 The male of this specie has a green head.
- 21 We have black cap and \_\_\_\_\_ chickadees in the Wrangells.
- 22 Alias for Canadian Jay (two words).
- 23 This cute mountain dweller resembles a cross between hare and mouse.
- 25 This graceful bird isn't an ugly duckling!
- 28 Raucous coal-black bird.



Answers to last issue's puzzle



# BLM news

Bureau of Land Management biologists are seeking to unlock some of nature's secrets held on the public lands. A variety of research projects are underway in all corners of the state. Three of those projects include:

\*Data obtained from satellites and the space shuttle will be used in a project that monitors changes resulting from the recent surge of the Bering Glacier. The Bering, located between Cordova and Yakutat, is the largest glacier in North America and has been advancing at a rapid pace. "We will be using the information to observe and document changes in the flora and fauna caused by a natural event to help better understand changes caused by human activity," said BLM wildlife biologist, John Payne. "Changes in vegetation and wildlife distribution, and effect on marine life and commercial shipping also will be a part of the study," he said.

\*More than 1,000 hunters received permits for three registration permit hunts for subsistence hunting of moose and caribou on public lands. BLM's Glennallen District manages the largest subsistence permit caribou and moose hunt in the state; this office issued approximately 1,475 caribou and 525 moose permits this year.

\*BLM's Glennallen District completed a three-year cooperative project with the University of Alaska to develop data that could help explain the declining number of steelhead and rainbow trout in the Gulkana River.

### Special investigator named for Alaska

Anchorage--A new criminal investigator has been named by the Bureau of Land Management in Alaska. Peter M. Johnson will take the post early in 1995. He will be

responsible for conducting investigations into crimes on 89 million acres of federal public lands, and for oversight of the BLM Ranger program in the state.

Johnson, 47, has served as a federal law enforcement agent since 1970, including previous Alaska service with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and Federal Aviation Administration. His most recent position has been with DEA in Reno, Nevada.

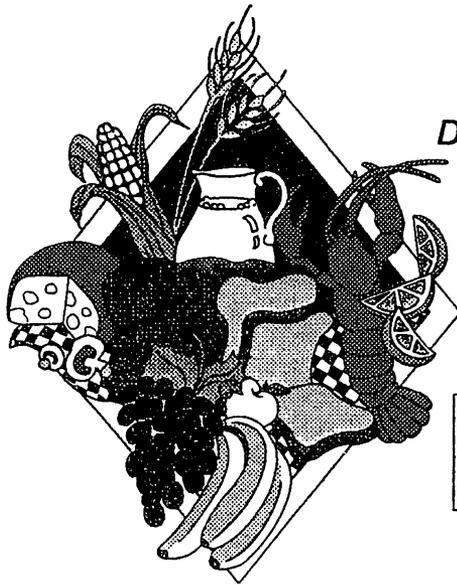
BLM State Director, Tom Allen, said, "Peter has exceptional experience in both law enforcement and with Alaska issues. Having his skills as part of our professional team will be a strong asset."

Johnson, and his wife, Judy, will move to Anchorage after the first of the new year. They have one daughter, Kelley, who attends Montana State University.

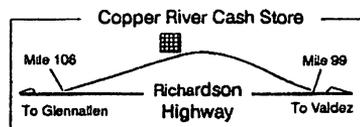
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# One man town

BY JO ANNE WOLD

*Editor's note: Subscriber Jim McGavock of Ogden, UT. submitted the following article which appeared in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner July 29, 1978. Jim corresponded with the author, Jo Anne Wold, prior to her death in 1985 and was impressed with her deep curiosity about life in the north in the early days. While doing research on McCarthy and Kennecott, Jo Anne contacted Jim (a Kennecott kid) as one who might be able to supply additional details about life at the mine and McCarthy. Be on the lookout for more articles by Jo Anne in future issues of WSEN. We wish to thank Jim for his continuing contributions to our publication. A special thanks to Lee Schroer, Jo Anne's husband, who so kindly gave us his permission to reprint the following article.*

If ever there were a natural-born storyteller, it was my Uncle Sig. "By jiminy," he would start out, "there was this fella in McCarthy..." and away he would go.

The stories he told, the songs he sang, the way he laughed and danced made him the life of the party wherever he went. In a way he lived a charmed life. Although he worked hard, opportunities came his way almost effortlessly.

Look at the way he got to Alaska in the first place. While in the army during the first World War Sig met a wealthy young man from Bellingham, Wash., who helped finance his adventures North.

Uncle Sig could see there was no future for him in his home town, Duluth, Minn. His bookkeeping job had been taken over by a girl while he was fighting in France. With the money his friend, Stuart Deming, gave him, Sig traveled West. After

spending the winter with the Demings he got a cannery job at Excursion Inlet and later in Cordova. The checks Sig sent Deming to pay off his loan were torn to pieces and sent back to him.

Working in a cannery was new to Sig, but he soon learned the ropes. By the end of the summer, with more money than he had ever had in his life, he went to McCarthy. In that rip-roaring miners' town 5 miles from the Kennicott copper mines, he went into business. By all rights we should say businesses, because in a way McCarthy was a one-man town when Sig lived there during its heyday (and his) in the 1920s and 30s.

Kennicott was a company town, staid and very proper, with its neat red and white clapboard homes and bunkhouses. Free-spirited McCarthy sprang up as a collection of hurry-up log cabins to serve the needs of the off-duty miners--bootleg whiskey and girls were the major commodity.

Uncle Sig went into partnership in a restaurant and rooming house. The partnership lasted a year, until Sig learned his partner was bootlegging on the side. His partner owed him so much money he didn't have to pay a thing--he just took over.

Later Sig sold that business and operated a taxi, transporting miners the 5 miles to Kennicott, with a truck in summer and a dogteam in winter. He also hauled groceries for an old man who owned a Model T truck. Soon he bought the truck and went into the garbage hauling and drayage business. Garbage hauling included the "honey buckets" in a town with no modern facilities. He charged \$1 for picking up the buckets (5 gallon gas cans).

"After the garbage run I did general hauling like delivering

groceries and supplies. Then I added an ice haul that went over real big"--all in the same Model T truck, please note. Uncle assured us that he swept out the truck very thoroughly with sawdust after hauling the honey buckets and before loading the ice.

"This was the time before refrigerators or ice boxes. In the winter I cut ice from the lake for winter use and summer storage. I used an old cabin for an ice house, insulating it and putting sawdust on the floor. I piled the ice as high as I could--sometimes as much as 30 tons to take me through the summer."

At \$1.50 per chunk, that was not bad for the boy from Minnesota. His best customers were the 20 sporting girls on the "line."

While he was at it, Sig took on a wood cutting and delivery business and on the side picked up laundry for a Japanese fellow who gave him 20 per cent of what he collected.

But that was not all. Sig was also the undertaker. One of his favorite stories concerns the death of poor Lee Ensley. Sig and the members of the coroner's jury trooped out to Lee's cabin to identify the body. It was dark in there, but Lee was dead in his bunk bed, no doubt about it. On the table was a little revolver.

They made a stretcher and took the body to the Alaska Brotherhood hall, the only building big enough to perform an autopsy. Sig helped with that too.

The dead man did not have any shoes on, and when Sig saw his clean socks he thought something was funny. Old Lee was not fond of baths.

"I pulled one sock off, and underneath was a silk sock. Well, I

knew that wasn't Lee. It was Howard Foster. We had the wrong corpse.

"I ran down the street to tell the commissioner, but first I stopped at the pool hall and there was Foster's partner. 'By God,' I told him, 'your partner Howard is dead.' As soon as I said that the pool game was over.

"A month later the body of the real Lee Ensley was found in another cabin. Alongside the bunk was a trap door. When we found Lee he was lying flat on the floor with his head underneath the trap door. In those days it was an obvious case of suicide.

"They figured that Ensley tripped, grappled hold of the door and fell over and knocked himself out with the door and died. Of course Howard Foster's death was suicide too, even though the gun was on the table and the bullet was not found, and to accomplish such a feat Howard would have had to pull the trigger with his thumb. That's the way things were in McCarthy in the good old days."

In 1937 Uncle Sig got wind the Kennicott mine was closing. He sold his businesses and moved to Fairbanks where he bought a saw-mill, an apartment house and a transfer business.

A man named Romeo Hoyt owned a one-ton Graham Brothers Dodge truck. Romeo wore a black bow tie, and kept his truck shiny clean. Sig thought: Boy, that's just about my speed. Suddenly Romeo dropped dead of a heart attack.

"I didn't want to bother his wife about the business, so I decided to wait a few days. Another fellow beat me to it, but some friends put in a good word for me and Mrs. Hoyt agreed to sell. It was Friday, and we couldn't draw up the papers until the following week. On Sunday the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. I thought, gee whiz, I've made a bum deal. Sadie Hoyt

thought I might back out and said she would sell for \$500 less. I said, no, a deal is a deal."

That deal began Sig Wold Storage and Transfer, which still bears his name, although he sold out almost 20 years ago.

Uncle Sig, at the age of 82, still lives in Fairbanks. His hey-days in that one-man town of McCarthy are over, but the stories linger on.

Jo Anne Wold, born April 20, 1938, was an award-winning journalist who lived in Fairbanks all her life and was an inspiration to anyone who knew her.

Arnold Wold, her father, came to McCarthy in 1926 at the age of 24 to join his older brother Sig. He left McCarthy in 1932 to work for the Fairbanks Exploration Co. in Fairbanks. He married Eleanor Gatzek in 1936. They had three children. Jo Anne was the "middle child."

Jo Anne contracted polio at the age of 12 and was paralyzed from the neck down for the remainder of her life. In spite of her handicap, she persevered and refused to let the paralysis ruin her life.

She began her career at the age of 16 when she taped, "The Magic Storybook," a weekly radio program on KFAR. She went on to write four books and numerous magazine articles in addition to working for five years as an editor

and columnist for the Daily News-Miner and Jessen's Daily.

She taught herself to type on a manual typewriter by holding a pencil between her teeth. She worked at home and used a special telephone she could dial and answer. In her later years she used a home computer.

Jo Anne finished elementary school and, studying at home, she graduated from Lathrop High School in Fairbanks with the class of 1960. Nineteen years later she received an honorary doctorate of arts and letters from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks.

Jo Anne married Lee Schroer in September 1979. On October 29, 1985, Jo Anne Wold died at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital from complications relating to pneumonia.

(The above information on Jo Anne Wold was taken from a news story the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner published on October 29, 1985 and from Jim McGavock).

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# Treasure house or pollution pit?

**The EPA says it has no intention of shutting down the great Kennecott mine and its 2,300 jobs. It sure doesn't act that way.**

By Peter Samuel

There's a story in Utah that goes like this: The first astronauts reported that the two man-made things they could see with the naked eye were the Great Wall of China and Kennecott Utah Copper Corp.'s Bingham, Utah mine pit.

That hole is 2½ miles in diameter and half a mile deep. Extending for 7 miles along its eastern edge are 1,000 foot-high yellow and reddish-brown waste rock piles, forming a stark western backdrop to Salt Lake City.

To the Environmental Protection Agency the mine is America's contamination source number one. The EPA complaint reads: "The pit is not lined to prevent connection with local groundwater... Mean water samples obtained from pit water at the center of the pit were elevated in metal concentrations..."

"Unfortunately, nature didn't provide an EPA-approved liner under our ore body," Kennecott's vice president for technical services, Preston Chiaro, says wryly. "But I can assure you we are trying to get that metal out of there just as fast as we possibly can."

Each day Kennecott employees blast, shovel, truck, convey, mill and slurry 300,000 tons of waste rock and ore from that pit and then smelt and refine about 800 tons of copper, 25 tons of molybdenum, 1,400 ounces of gold and 11,000 ounces of silver. It was here that open-pit mining of large low-grade ores was pioneered. Kennecott began with steam shovels and has been doing this kind of thing for 90 years at Bingham. The company has completely taken down what

was once called Copper Hill and in its place produced this huge hole.

Also listed by EPA as a Superfund "source" is the mine's mill tailings impoundment, 4 miles by 2 miles by 200 feet high. Situated alongside the Great Salt Lake, it contains over 2 billion tons of fines—ore that had been milled to fine dust and stripped of its metals in two concentrators and pumped by slurry lines for dumping during decades of metalmaking.

In an earlier era such huge works were lauded as "wonders of the world." Abraham Lincoln was thinking of mines like Bingham when he spoke of Utah's future as "the treasure house of the nation." The miners nicknamed the mine "Old Reliable" for its ability to go on providing work when other mines flooded or caved in, or simply ran out of paydirt and closed. Kennecott still calls the mine its crown jewel.

Here at its starkest is economics versus environmentalism. Bingham is the nation's most productive mine, and the EPA wants to turn it into the nation's largest hazardous waste site.

Plenty of inactive mine sites are getting the EPA's Superfund treatment. And parts of active mines. But Bingham is the first where the whole shebang of an active mine is the subject of EPA takeover: the mine pit, mills, acid plants, slurry lines, tailings heap, slagpiles, storm and leach water control systems, smelter, refinery and adjoining residential areas—even its railcar "graveyard" and power plant. Involved is an area of 57 square miles, one-sixth of U.S. copper production, a twentieth of gold production, \$800

million in annual revenues and jobs for 2,300 people.

EPA aside, Old Reliable has a big future, according to Kennecott, which is fighting the EPA listing. The geology and economics are right, says the company, for continuing to get metals out of Bingham ore until at least 2020 by further widening the hole and taking the pit floor down another 700 feet.

Opened recently is the new \$625 million Copperton concentrator, containing the world's largest (36 foot diameter) ball mill. Rising now alongside the existing one are the steel posts and beams of a new \$880 million smelter intended to double Kennecott's copper production. And it will be "the world's cleanest" smelter, says the company.

Not clean enough for the folks in Washington, D.C. The EPA says the operation is a fetid environmental cesspool containing no fewer than 103 contamination sources.

There's a major stigma attached to being on Superfund's list. It means that banks, investors, even other government agencies "green line" the operation, seeing it as tied up for years with EPA red tape and litigation. Chris Weiss, a prominent official in the Denver office of EPA put it pithily: "It is the kiss of death if EPA declares your property a Superfund site."

That's why there's industrywide alarm at the EPA move on Kennecott. Leo M. Pruett, senior counsel at Phelps Dodge Corp., told us: "Based on the logic applied to Kennecott at Bingham, every metals mine in the U.S. is a Superfund

candidate." He says it is "EPA muscle flexing."

The public docket clerk at EPA headquarters told us she couldn't remember a Superfund listing which had produced such a huge response in hostile complaints.

William Orton (D- Utah), whose congressional district covers the mine, told us Kennecott has been doing its own cleanup and "should be applauded by EPA, not attacked with the Superfund meat-ax." Orton says: "It is hard to escape the conclusion that the EPA's purpose is to close the whole mine. This could have grave implications for the economy."

EPA officials deny that they want to close the mine. Bruce Diamond, director of site remediation enforcement at the head office, says: "We just think some cleanup needs to be done." In the EPA Denver office, the EPA manager for the

Kennecott cleanup, Eva Hoffman, says: "We have already come to agreements with Kennecott to prevent interference in mine operations."

But back at Kennecott, the man in charge of relations with the EPA, Chiaro, says he has no such assurances. The experience of other companies hit with far more limited Superfund takeover is hardly reassuring. Asarco, after spending \$7 million on a wastewater facility for its East Helena, Mont. smelter, has had it lying idle all this year. It cannot get an EPA permit to operate even though plans for the plant were approved under the Superfund process as a remedy.

Donald Robbins, director of environmental services at Asarco, complains: "Superfund means red tape, bureaucracy and delays. It always slows down cleanup, while costs go through the roof."

Walter Nowotny, general counsel at the Doe Run Co., says: "Superfund is a bit like a meat grinder. Once it has caught you by the sleeve, it relentlessly drags you through its workings."

Perhaps the greatest irony of the EPA's Superfund move against Kennecott is that the company is already in the middle of a large voluntary environmental project. In three years it has cleaned up about the same amount of contaminated material (13 million cubic yards) as EPA's Superfund program has dealt with nationwide at 1,252 sites over 14 years. To move its 13 million cubic yards the EPA has spent \$9.1 billion, while its 13 million cubic yards, Kennecott says, has cost it \$85 million. The Kennecott cleanup peaks this year, with \$80 million being spent and 400 contractor personnel involved.

(continued on page 32)

# PARK'S PLACE

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# OUR TOWN

January 1920 February



## PERSONAL

Mr. J.B. O'Neill returned home yesterday from Kennecott Hospital. Though his limb is in the cast, he is rapidly recovering from his accident.

On January 1st, the wife of Matsumoto, chef of the section camp at Chitina, presented him with a fine baby girl, as a New Year's gift. Both are doing well at the Kennecott Hospital.

## FIRE

On Monday about 4 p.m. a fire broke out on Lower Front Street, resulting in the destruction of two cabins. It originated in the one occupied by Miss Blanche Smith, who was badly burned and was taken to Kennecott Hospital, where she is still under treatment.

In a very short time, the fire had spread to the next building, a cabin occupied by Ernest Gherkin: the fire department and a number of willing helpers did great work and the fire was gotten under control.

We must make mention here of the wonderful work done by the men folk. They were heavily handicapped, but worked with such judgment and method, that a more disastrous fire was averted.

Chas. Chong was the owner of the larger building, which was covered by insurance.

Jan 3

## LAURIE BROTHERS WILL MOVE TO CORDOVA

Messrs. Laurie Bros., who for nearly five years past have been among our most prominent citizens, are leaving here during this month to make their headquarters in Cordova.

During the time they have been in business here, their clientele has spread over such a large district, that they find it will be more satisfactory to conduct their business in the coast city.

The Laurie Bros. have leased the corner building in Cordova which has been occupied by Kenny Holden and will conduct an up to the minute clothing store in that city. They will reside in the apartments above.

Much as we like to know these young men are extending their field of business, it is with very great regret that we see them leave McCarthy, for their departure will mean a great loss to our city. They have always been foremost among our boosters and ready to help with all matters of benefit and interest to the community.

Mrs. Sam Laurie and children have been resident here for 3 and a half years and will leave a large circle of friends. Her clever impersonations at our entertainments will long be remembered.

Mrs. Jack Laurie, who came here as a bride last summer, has been such an acquisition to society, she will be greatly missed.

The News joins their many friends and customers in heartily wishing them great success in their new venture.

Jan 10

## MCCARTHY'S OUTLOOK

Notwithstanding the fact that some prominent people are leaving and also some others, the outlook for business and social conditions in McCarthy is still bright.

Thousands of dollars will be spent in developing mining properties and doing assessment work for 1920 in this precinct, for though we have no authentic information it is generally understood that no further assessment work exemption will be allowed, so each claim owner will have to improve to the extent of \$100 which means a considerable income to McCarthy this year.

The Kennecott Copper Corporation is making continued improvements. The chief ones recently, being a new wing to the hospital and new bunkhouses and recreation rooms at the Mother Lode.

Some of the larger prospects will be developed this season.

Our district's crying need at this time is population and capital. A train load of honest - to - goodness prospectors each with a grub-stake would do the country more good than anything we know of.

Jan 17

## AERIAL SERVICE

The McCarthy Commercial Club is in receipt of a letter from the Aero Club of the North West, which is affiliated with the Aero Club of America asking for its support by a petition to the Postmaster General for aerial mail service directly to our city.

It is planned to make some Eastern city such as Chicago the starting point, mails to be carried from there to Seattle by aeroplane and then to Alaska by hydroplane.

Such a service would be of tremendous benefit to us, both in the saving of time, and by coming directly in touch with the East, that everyone can see the advisability of furthering the plan. A petition for this service has been placed at the News office and all should sign.

Jan 24

## PROSPECTORS SUFFER INJURIES ON TRAIL

James Brown and Dan Campbell, two known prospectors were brought

into town from Chisana trail last evening by mail carrier J. McClellan, in a badly frozen condition, and are now under the doctor's care at Kennecott Hospital.

Leaving Chisana the 3rd. Dec. they encountered severe storms in the vicinity of Russell Glacier, but managed to make the relief cabin on this side where they stayed till the weather cleared sufficiently to enable them to make another start.

Jimmie says that they were making fine progress until a severe storm overtook them on the Nizina glacier, only four miles from Gwin's old barn which the delapidated would have afforded shelter for the night. The storm became so violent that the dogs refused to face it, and as they were off the trail the men decided to camp for the night on the ice.

Abandoning the sled and dogs the following morning, they finally reached this barn where they attempted to thaw out, then continued on to the "Homestead" where they stayed sixteen days. By burning up the spare bunks and using the mail carrier's grub they managed to keep alive until he arrived, having been delayed at the White River for over a week on account of storms, the thermometer at times registering 60 degrees below zero.

McClellan immediately went back to the glacier for the boy's outfit and team, but only found one dog alive, three are believed to have returned to Chisana and three were found frozen. Tho there was plenty of fish and meat on the sled the

faithful beasts had touched nothing.

Joe McClellan and Bill Maher then started for McCarthy with Brown and Campbell, making record time on the way down.

Just exactly how seriously the boys have been injured cannot be ascertained for a day or so, but it is feared Campbell may lose a foot and Brown some fingers and toes.

Had relief cabins been erected on each side of the glaciers all suffering could have been prevented.

Jan 31

### CHITINA NEWS

Harry Cleveland and J.F. Maloney have purchased a Cleveland tractor and are using it for freighting purposes on the Fairbanks Trail with great success.

Using a sled behind the tractor a three ton load was hauled to the top of the Tonsina hill beyond the Tonsina roadhouse & cached. The tractor then returned to Chitina for another load.

The freight is to be hauled to Mr. Cleveland's mining property in the Slate Creek district. The tractor has a twenty horsepower motor.

Ernie Bryson returned with a bride on the last boat and they have taken up their residence here. Ernie will freight for the Elmer brothers, who bought out the Jack Miller interests at Slate Creek and will do big work this year.

Jack Bishop and Ben Cleary returned last boat to

take up their former positions as drivers on the trail.

James Bryson will make a trip to Seattle leaving on the Alaska and will return in about six weeks.

Feb. 7

### TOWN TOPICS

"Let Alaska have charge of her own resources so she can be self supporting," said Governor Thomas Riggs, Jr. at the annual meeting of the Alaska Bureau. "The government is taking away our chances for revenue so we must go to the government for money."

More than twenty millions of people live and prosper in European countries where the climate is less favorable than in Alaska.

Feb. 14

### MANY TOURISTS ARE BOOKED

As an indication of a heavy tourist travel to Alaska during the coming season, a tourist booking association of New York has made overtures to one of the largest companies operating passenger steamers on the Puget Sound - Alaska run to purchase all its passenger accommodation for the coming tourist season.

The transportation company, not desiring to bar local patrons, declined the offer and will handle the summer travel as formerly. Even at this early date thousands of reservations for the tourist season have been made.

Feb. 21

### TOWN TOPICS

A new saw arrived in town last week consigned to John Underwood and Bob Williams who say they have put up a job on themselves, as they have been working overtime ever since it has left the Depot.

Dr. Evans, who was highly pleased with his hunting trip into the interior from here last fall is contemplating coming North again this summer, hunting to the westward first & then finishing up at the White River, according to Cap. Hubrick.

Gwin and Wakefield returned from the Nizina Glacier Monday & report the weather had cleared & freighters were making good progress with their consignment of freight for Chisana.

Senator Sherman calls the Ford car an 'international pest,' with a good substantial bridge across the Nizina and ten miles of a good automobile road thereto, we could stand a few of these international pests this coming summer.

The bright sunny days that have been with us the last few weeks making the snow disappear in our back yards and exposing the accumulation of refuse which is not conducive to good health, remind us very forcibly that the health officer will soon be on his rounds.

It will be quite a novelty to beat him to it and have everything slick and clean before he comes.

Feb. 28

# King Floyd

## THE TALE OF A SMALL TIME DICTATOR

### Part twelve—Mail Day

BY RANDY ELLIOTT

"You let them get away?" the baron asked incredulously, gazing at the bleak onyx wall of the inner sanctum at Fedgov headquarters. A slight tick appeared in his left cheek and he ominously flexed a pencil between his porcine fingers. Constant Whiner squirmed, and a sick smile crossed his face.

"No, M'lord, of course not." The pencil snapped.

"Then where are they?" the baron said evilly, pushing a button on his desk. Whiner broke out in a sweat as the doors of the crypt like office clicked sealing off all noise except the tyrant in front of him.

"They were released, pending clarification of your 'perception of quiet,' M'Lord."

"Released by whom?" The baron's visage grew darker with each moment.

"Hardlee Fair."

"I knew it," yelled the baron. "I knew that miserable... Who does he work for?" the baron demanded.

"Fedgov, M'lord." Whiner whined. The baron started and his brows beetled in thought. Whiner squirmed some more.

"Correct me, Whiner," he said at last. "I seem to recall that you left that definition vague on purpose?"

"Yes, M'lord," Whiner said, developing a tick of his own. "We felt it would allow a much broader range of enforcement in those areas of personal freedom guaranteed by the archaic constitutional rights the squatters are so insistent on." At the

word squatters the baron rose and towered over the hapless minion.

"Are you telling me that three squatters can come here, under arrest and surrounded by 35,000 Fedgov employees sworn to my service— be tried in my own personal Kangaroo court, before a judge I personally appointed, using laws written especially for my purposes—and they got off?" he thundered. Whiner nodded yes, and a cold chill ran up his back. The baron shook in frustration.



"It's only a technicality, a temporary setback, a programming glitch, a non-repeatable fluke..." Whiner soothed, backing up.

"You!" the baron's finger shot out and Whiner jumped as if he had been shot. He pointed the finger again and Whiner jumped again. "Get them back here, or I will personally sign your transfer as a by-catch counter in the Barents Sea."

Whiner shivered, turned and ran full on into the massive door. He scrabbled with the knob and fell into the corridor as the door shut behind him. No one looked at him as he slunk away to contemplate the baron's words.

King Floyd lay on his back on a sandbar near the Ugly River. With Nigel on vacation, he and the queen were dining al fresco surrounded by

the royal hounds who snuffled and played with snags and whatever came to muzzle. The queen was knitting and fending off a puppy who seemed fascinated with the clicking needles. Life was good in the Essential Land.

High above, almost out of hearing, Floyd could see the twin contrails of the afternoon jet passing overhead. As he watched, half asleep, two tiny mushrooms seemed to appear at the tail of the jet. These grew in size—two periods to the rapidly disappearing white lines. He

notified the queen of this strange phenomenon, and she looked for a few seconds and then returned to her knitting.

"Wings," she declared flatly.

"Wings?" repeated the king.

"Wings," she reiterated.

"Wings," Floyd told the puppy as he watched the parachutes come ever closer.

It was, indeed, Wings, and Floyd could soon see his mustache beneath the Porsche sky-diving goggles, and a bundle resembling a huge silver cigar with a ball on top. Wings had a harness and he was steering not only his chute, but the bundle as well—both of which came to earth with a thud only a few yards from the vacationing royalty.

Wings was instantly enveloped in the chute while five snarling hounds-- the royal guardians-- attacked this unknown, and therefore, dangerous phenomena.

"Help! Call them off, for crying out loud," Wings' muffled voice came from the center of the melee.

"Boys! Heel!" the queen said loudly and the five furry transporters bellycrawled to their master as the aviator struggled free of the silk. Floyd made to give the salutary bear hug, but Wings had already drawn his pistol and they eyed each other instead.

"I brought the mail," he said brightly and dug into a backpack he had on under the parachute harness. Floyd stepped up to receive the bag. He began going through it, looking for the mail addressed to the kingdom.

"What's with the D.B. Cooper means of transportation?" he asked nonchalantly. Wings looked up from folding the parachutes.

"Well, I haven't gotten Betsy's motor back from the access police at Fedgov, and the mail must get through." Wings stood and placed

his hand over his heart and began to recite solemnly. "Neither rain, nor snow nor dark of night shall prevent the ..."

"We already know that part, Wings," Floyd interrupted hastily. "Er, how do you plan to get back?" The queen stopped knitting and waited for the reply, thinking of their limited mouse stew, which would never stand an extended stay by the intrepid pilot.

"Well," Wings said, "you are looking at the world's first jet powered parachute pilot."

"Gee," said Floyd.

"Nope. G.E.," Wings said smugly, and the two regents rolled their eyes. "Yep, they took Betsy's thumper, but they forgot the J.A.T.O. unit. So I just modified it a little, and here we go." He donned a harness as he said this and then he turned to Floyd. "If you could just help me lift this power-pod?" Floyd struggled to set the gleaming engine

and rubber ball on the tiny tricycle gear that Wings had assembled.

"Why didn't you fly it out here, then?" Floyd asked perplexed.

"Well, it has a few technical problems, and I haven't been able to get off the ground with that much fuel yet," Wings said tightening the bolts and pointing at the rubber bladder above the engine.

"Have you ever gotten off the ground at all?" The queen asked innocently. Wings gave her a jaundiced look.

"As I said, there have been some minor difficulties, but those are behind us now." He lay on his stomach, and adjusting his goggles hooked the harness to the bottom of the power unit. "Just give that red cord there a little tug, King, and I'll see you next week."

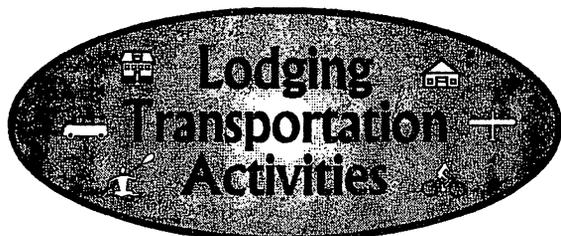
Floyd pulled hard on the cord, and the jet screamed slowly into life. Without brakes it began to move instantly and left the bemused king holding the starter cord as Wings tore across the sand and the parachute re-inflated. In no time he was out of sight.

"How will he start it next time?" the queen asked surprised.

"Must be one of the problems he left behind," the king said and royal laughter pealed above the Essential Land.

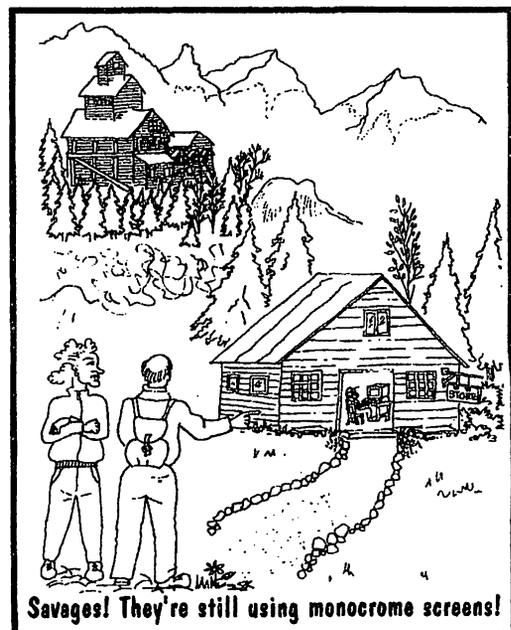
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## Resource Development Council defends helicopter access rights in Tongass

The Resource Development Council and the Alaska Visitors Association have joined forces in opposing a U.S. Forest Service proposal to eliminate 90 percent of the historically used helicopter landing areas in the Tongass National Forest.

The Forest Service is conducting public meetings and accepting comments on a scoping document pertaining to helicopter landings in wilderness areas of the Tongass. The document and subsequent public comments will provide a foundation for an upcoming Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Most Alaska wilderness lands and conservation system units are inaccessible by road or water. While there may be a few that can experience these parks, monuments and refuges by foot, for a vast majority, flightseeing is virtually the only means to access wilderness areas. For that reason among others, flightseeing has become a standard part of an Alaskan vacation.

In Southeast Alaska, flightseeing, both fixed wing and helicopter, has been a major tour product since the 1950s. According to the Alaska Visitors Association (AVA), it also happens to have the highest ranking of experiences among visitors.

AVA reported that the most recent Alaska visitor statistics show that in 1993, 60 percent or 503,000 summer visitors visited Southeast Alaska – 72 percent of these travelers purchased an optional day tour, which included helicopter flightseeing.

As the fastest growing industry in the state, tourism contributes \$1.3 billion to the economy and directly employs 27,000 Alaskans. It is an industry that relies extensively on land management decisions which provide access to the wilderness.

"We do not believe the public interests are best served by these restrictive measures," said Karen Cowart, Executive Director of the Alaska Visitors Association. "We see no evidence for change in the way the Forest Service permits, administers and monitors helicopter landings in wilderness areas of the Tongass."

Cowart said it may be time to consider increasing permits issued to flightseeing helicopter companies. "Ultimately, this would afford a greater number of America's people a better understanding of public trust lands – which we assume is a major goal of the Forest Service as a caretaker."

flight restrictions would severely impact not only Southeast Alaska, but the Alaska economy as a whole.

In defending helicopter landing rights, RDC pointed out that according to the law, traditional use must be allowed wherever there was traditional use. RDC believes the actual number of landings allowed should be based on actual impacts on the resources, not by some arbitrary frequency. Moreover, RDC believes alternative access should have nothing to do with determining limits to traditional use, in this case, helicopter landings.

RDC emphasized that helicopter landings provide access to wilderness areas with no detrimental "footprint" to the surrounding environment.

"Helicopter landings do not jeopardize the wilderness resource for future generations, but they do allow this generation to experience it," said Becky Gay, RDC's Executive Director, in lengthy technical comments on the issue. "Years of helicopter use have left wilderness areas in their natural condition because not much landing development is needed."

All resource industries depend somewhat on helicopters for safety and access, in particular tourism, mining and timber. The Tongass, however, has been progressively put off-limits to traditional multiple uses such as logging and mining, and helicopter access has developed as an environmentally-sound trade-off for roads.

The USFS proposed action places a high value on wilderness resources, as does the tourism industry which is seeking to provide

In the scoping document, the Forest Service suggests eliminating 359 sites – 90 percent of the traditional landing sites that have long been accessible to visitors and industry alike. Such

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access for the growing visitor market.

"By limiting helicopter access, the Forest Service is basically eliminating access except to all but the most hardy souls, agency personnel and the occasional spartan eco-tourist," Gay said. "It is obvious that Alaska wilderness is incredibly remote and difficult to access, but it is almost impossible in the virtually roadless Southeast Alaska to even view it from afar due to its treacherous and steep terrain, covered in thick forests or huge glaciers and ice fields."

The Forest Service's proposed action of banning landings in 12 of 19 areas at this early stage of the scoping process is seen by RDC and others as a heavy-handed move by the federal government. Not only will it probably bias future response to the upcoming DEIS, RDC warned, a likely scenario of eroding even such slim access appears to be in the making.

The Forest Service has not considered the impact of what the proposed decrease in helicopter landing will have on recreation options and economic sectors. There is no discussion on new opportunities, increased frequencies of landings or new sites of interest to the public.

"If the Forest Service can include such vague aspects such as the effects of helicopters on 'yet undiscovered cultural resources,' surely it should be also looking at future demand for access to wilderness sites," said Gay.

Recommendations for the DEIS: **De-facto non-Wilderness should not be discussed in DEIS.** The scope of the question under consideration is the "effects of helicopter landings for access in Wilderness

areas by the general public." Any attempts to limit traditional access elsewhere in the Tongass should be struck from this document.

**Discuss social and economic benefits of helicopter landings in the remote and inaccessible Tongass.** For instance, consider what the proposed decrease of helicopter landings will have on recreation options and economic sectors, including physically-challenged sight-seers and cruise ship visitors which are limited for time and by season.

**Include a full range of possible alternatives, including status quo.** At the very least, the full historic complement of sites (approx. 400) in all 17 areas of historic use must be one alternative in the DEIS in order to meet ANILCA mandates. RDC believes the number of and/or frequency of landings authorized per year should be based on historical use in addition to the need for expansion.

**Improve criteria by which 359 of the 400 historic sites were**

**discarded.** The "in-or-out" aspect of the initial criteria application resulted in a huge number of sites being excluded inappropriately. Alternative access should not determine limits to traditional use.

**Helicopters should not be singled out to address concerns about congestion.** Fair and safe measures should be extended to all aircraft and gear-type.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of the Interior recently released an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to restrict fixed-wing and helicopter flights over national parks and other federal lands. And the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working on new regulations which would ban private fixed-wing aircraft from large areas of the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge by banning upland landings. The regulations could set a precedent for establishing restrictions in other wildlife refuges in Alaska. RDC is closely monitoring the situation and has met with the Interior officials on the issue.



## Klondike Momma Reminiscin'

Alaska calls to the brave and those that won't shave—  
A faintheart cain't choose to stay;  
Cheechako Bride packed up her wishes and set off  
with no dishes  
On that blissful, hot southern day.

North to a land only dreamt of; no, not even seen;  
The south she did leave, feeling free  
Answering the call of the Wrangells and her love for a  
lifetime,  
The Bush Man she'd promised to cleave.

This Bush ceremony traditional, classic and true  
Watched loons laughing, fall colors clashing, on lake-  
side lot;  
But, the preacher that day had to fly in—come what  
may—  
A flight no one has ever forgot!

Coastal gales gusted a full forty plus knots  
As in September the raging winds do;  
Sea gulls stared amazed and were actually quite dazed;  
For even they had grounded their troops.

Now, the pilot had flown many trips to the Bush  
And he's tendered Prince William Sound for years;  
But even he was wondering as the wind was  
thundering  
If those legendary old, wise pilots had fears.

Seat belts were fastened; the preflight was hastened.  
Pontoons hit hard on white-crest waves.  
Spray came over the nose; the blood pressure rose  
As two hearts avoided thinking deep water graves.

With the pilot in front and the preacher sardined in  
behind,  
The supercub bounced, tossed and reared.  
In the realm of the spirit, mighty angels stood by  
As the point of no return quickly neared.

In a fashion true to the salty-sea pilot,  
Our talented navigator spewed,  
"Jeeesus Christ!" Then remembered, "The preacher's  
behind!  
I wonder what condemnations he may have  
construed!"

With sheepish repentance and sorrowful glance,  
The pilot begged mercy anew.  
The preacher slapped him on the back, relieved and  
relaxed;  
Sighed, "That's okay, I was talking to Him, too!"

Well, the journey went fine on the other side of the  
line  
Where the winds and the rough Wrangells meet.  
The preacher was prayin,' as the pilot was sayin,'  
"The sunshine over yonder sure looks sweet."

The Bride tossed the bouquet in the usual way—  
The September day crisp, brisk and cool.  
She got married in white with the garter tight  
Over Grampa's long johns of wool.

Our unruffled preacher performed the wedding on  
time;  
The young couple only later did hear—  
How the preacher nearly missed the call of the wild  
And how the pilot does now God fear.

Cheechako—no more—she has the north in her bones  
And wouldn't leave it for her mamma nor you.  
She's seen many a sight and will give quite a fright  
To any griz' who comes snoopin' her stew.

Now, she can bake her own bread—in a woods-  
tove—it's said  
She can chop her own wood just for fun.  
She can garden and toil in the rich valley soil  
And still lay out a fine dinner spread.

Bush tales through the years could fill laughter and  
tears  
Klondike Momma has now no regrets—  
But few bridal blues top the tale of the two  
And the flight that they can't quite forget!

Tonia Alexander  
January 25, 1994  
Based on the true story of her wedding day, September  
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### Business Announcement

To the townspeople and visitors of the McCarthy Kennicott area:

As you all are aware, Steven Syren has decided to develop his property immediately west of the Kennicott river. This has occasioned some hysteria concerning access and related questions due to the lack of public parking and sanitation facilities at the end of the road.

We recognize that the need for coherent development is paramount for the preservation of the quality of our visitors first and last impression of this area and for the quality of our own lives here in the area. Consequently we have begun a program of improvements centered around the camping and parking areas.

This program should address the parking needs of tourists as well as accommodating local parking in and around the tram and eventually the bridge. The current parking lot holds 80 cars and will be enlarged to hold 110 before June 15 of 1995. More parking in a separate lot to the south of the tram will be added as needed.

The tourist demand for more and improved sanitation can only be met with a well and potable

water system which is being pursued at this time. Given the paucity of cleared land available this system necessarily will occupy the area currently dedicated to local parking and some camping. We will require any vehicles left near the green wall or toilets to be moved by May 1, 1995.

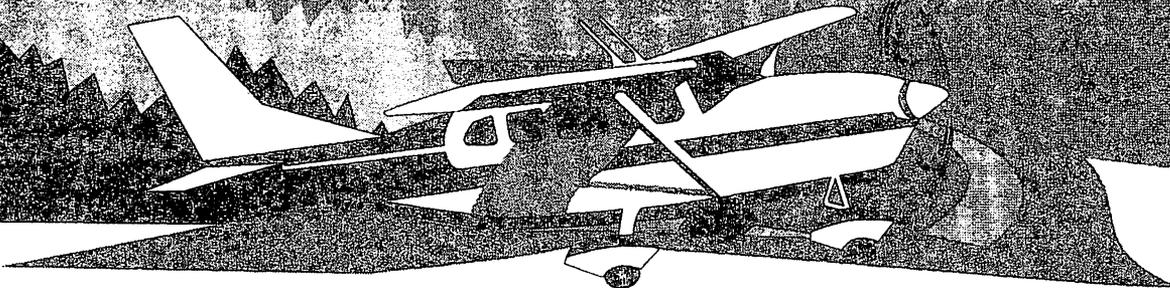
Business employees for the 1995 season will not be allowed to park free as was the case this year. Business owners should contact me before the arrival of your staff to arrange for parking if it is needed. We will be offering dedicated local parking at long term rates on first come basis this spring. Residents on the west side of the Kennicott will be provided with an area to park on for mail purposes free of charge.

ALL OTHER PARKING WILL BE AT TOURIST RATES.

We further request that local parking take place next to the tram until May 1 to allow for the timely construction and improvements to the tram station building and the parking lot proper.

Please address questions to Randy Elliott care of this newspaper or see me in person at the industrial site in the spring.

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# Cooking with Carly

BY CARLY KRITCHEN

Doesn't it seem as if this winter so far has been colder than usual? With the cold weather, and short hours of daylight, it really makes the evening hours seem even longer than they really are! One of our favorite things to do on these long winter nights is skip dinner, and eat snacks while we read or watch a good movie. I think we feel that we can justify the extra calories in these treats if we don't eat a heavy meal first. Gee, I wonder where those extra pounds are coming from?

Most of these recipes are fast and easy, although the first recipe does have a lot of ingredients. This cookie recipe was given to me over 20 years ago by a friend in Seattle who was a great cook. She was a working widow with 6 children, yet she still found time to bake delicious treats that she brought to the job at least once a week. I wish I had half her energy!

## 7-LAYER MOST-UNUSUAL COOKIE

In a 9x13 in. cake pan melt one stick of butter. Then sprinkle over it:

1 cup graham cracker crumbs

Then sprinkle over it:

1 cup coconut

Then sprinkle over it:

1 small package chocolate chips

Then sprinkle over it:

1 small package butterscotch chips

Then drizzle over it:

1 can Eagle brand milk

Then sprinkle over it:

1 1/2 cups chopped walnuts

Add love: and bake at 350 for 30 minutes. Cool and cut.

*I love this recipe! It's easy to fix. It's quick to fix, and it satisfies a severe case of the munchies!*

## POTATO NACHOS (FOR TWO)

1 large baking potato  
 1/8 tsp. salt  
 1 jar taco sauce (8 ounces)  
 1/2 cup sliced green onion  
 1/2 cup chopped green chilies  
 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese  
 1/2 cup sliced black olives

Scrub potato and cut into 1/4 inch slices. Place the slices in a single layer on a greased broiler pan; then sprinkle lightly with salt. Broil about 4 inches from the heat until golden brown. Turn and brown the other side until tender when pierced with a fork. Drizzle with taco sauce; sprinkle with green onions, chopped chilies, shredded cheese and black olives. Place back under the broiler until the cheese melts.

*This dip has made its way to almost every party I've been to in Cordova in the last few years. I begged the recipe from my friend Marilyn after Ken got hooked on it! This is a slightly "lighter" version of the creamy recipe.*

## HOT ARTICHOKE DIP

1 cup grated parmesan cheese  
 1 large package (8 ounces) Neufchatel (cream) cheese, at room temperature  
 1 cup light sour cream or low cal mayonnaise  
 1/8 teaspoon dill weed  
 1 large can (13 3/4 ounces) artichoke hearts, drained and chopped

Set aside 1 tablespoon parmesan cheese. Beat the remaining parmesan, Neufchatel cheese, sour cream and dill weed until well blended and creamy. Stir in the chopped artichoke hearts. Spoon mixture into a shallow 3 or 4 cup baking dish. Sprinkle with reserved parmesan. Bake uncovered at 325 degrees until lightly browned and hot in the center. Serve with French bread slices or crackers.

*Well, you didn't think I'd let you go without at least one salmon recipe, did you? This is a good last-minute spread if you've got some canned smoked salmon around the house. You can substitute milk for the whipped cream, if you don't have it.*

## SALMON SPREAD

1 1/2 cups smoked salmon  
 8 ounces soft cream cheese  
 2 green onions, sliced  
 3 Tbsp. whipping cream  
 Cayenne pepper, to taste  
 Black pepper, to taste  
 Lemon juice, to taste

Blend onions, cream cheese, whipping cream, lemon juice and peppers. Mix well before adding crumbled smoked salmon. Thoroughly blend and serve with crackers.

"Jesus lived a good life in a wicked world to show us it could be done. And he died and rose again to show us that we can do that, too."

—Paul Harvey

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### **M.A.L.A. update**

BY NATALIE BAY

The McCarthy Area Landowners Association is considering incorporating as a non-profit community organization.

The issue was raised by Chairman Mark Vail at a meeting held in November 1994. He suggested a formal organization may help MALA deal with the problems faced by the community. It would also provide a formal entity for accepting assistance from the state and federal agencies.

MALA would appreciate input from members and other interested people. The agenda for the next meeting, scheduled for Jan. 20, will include options for incorporation and election of officers.

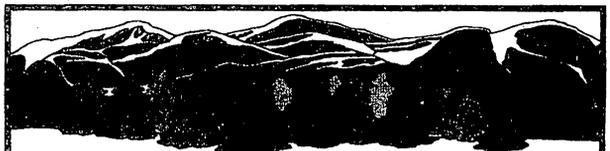
A recent Gallup Poll showed that the National Rifle Association has an approval/disapproval ratio, among all Americans, of 54-36%. That's higher than any other political organization, and significantly higher than Congress or the President.

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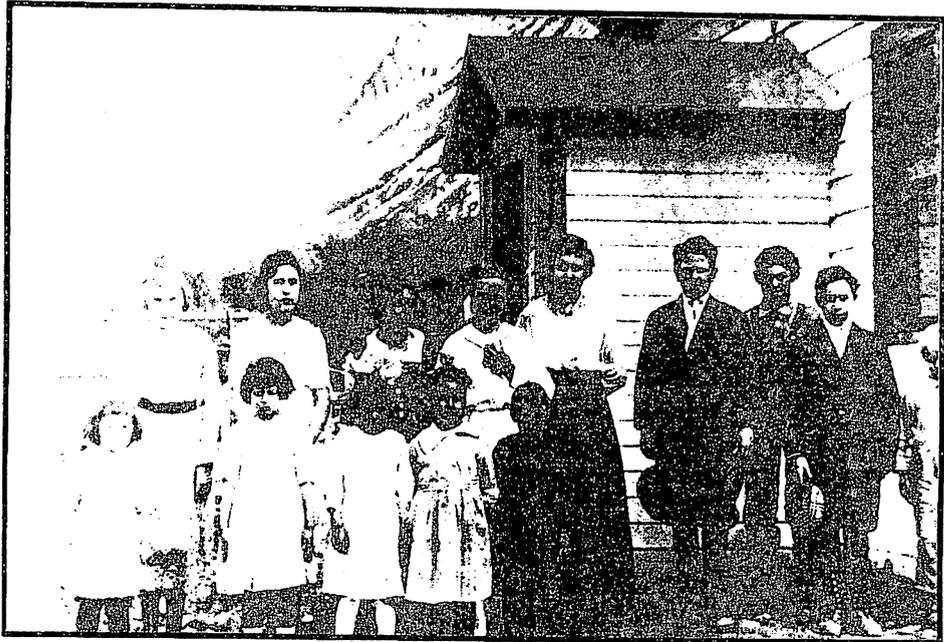
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### McCarthy - Kennecott Museum requests your help

Kim Northrup, Betty Hickling and Richard Villa are taking advantage of the cold winter days by searching for clues and historical information to aid in the completion of a "model" of McCarthy's early days. Betty says one day they spent 6 hours cross referencing old photos and identifying various people. One bit of treasure was discovering that the old Ketterer house used to sit where Kim and Betty's houses are sitting today.

One photo, in particular, remains a mystery and the museum

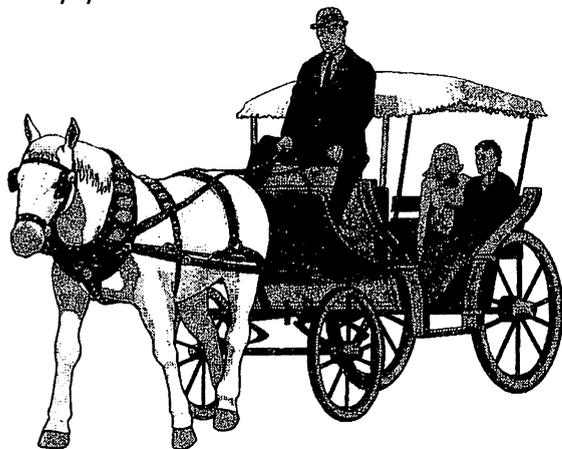


is asking for your help. Can anyone identify the people standing in front of what used to be the McCarthy schoolhouse? If you can, please write to the museum at the

following address: P.O. Box MXY, Glennallen, AK. 99588. Thank you!

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Kennecott's cleanup was initiated in 1991, when the company was told it risked Superfund listing. It hired some top environmental engineers and lawyers, funded studies and budgeted \$200 million for a four-year cleanup, while negotiating with the EPA for an umbrella agreement whereby it would continue further environmental work outside the framework of Superfund. Those negotiations foundered, mainly over money. The EPA wanted financial guarantees of around \$1.2 billion. That was just too rich for Kennecott, which is now owned by RTZ Plc.

Kennecott's worst environmental problem has been leakage of acid mine drainage from unlined storm and leach water ponds into the aquifer of the Jordan Valley south of Salt Lake City. The drainage contains some dissolved lead and arsenic. The \$200 million cleanup underway consists of complete reconstruction of the mine wastewater collection system. Earthen holding dams are being dredged of sludge, then lined with impervious material and fitted with leak detectors. In 22 gulches along the 7 miles of active waste rock dumps, concrete drainage cutoffs are being built right down to bedrock. The old open concrete channel is relegated as a backup to a new network of large-diameter, black polyethylene pipes.

More spectacular, if less justified by any real

health concerns, has been the company's massive earthmoving of old tailings and sludges at a variety of sites around its 150-square-mile property. By the end of the year some 16 million cubic yards of soil and rock with elevated metals will have been capped in place, put in lined and capped repositories or moved inside the mine pit's leach water system.

EPA's hazard ranking of Kennecott makes no allowance for the company's cleanup. Indeed, the 1,200 page-plus "Documentation Record" lists as "sources" of contamination dams that have already been dredged and lined and tailings that have been capped or removed—under EPA oversight. Two approved on-site waste repositories and the groundwater protection system itself are named as "sources" too.

Included among EPA's "potential" contamination sources are mills the EPA could have found only on musty yellowing maps and in archival accounts, for they no longer exist. Source number 7 is the Utah-Apex Mill, where there was a sensational manhunt of Mexican fugitive Raphael Lopez in November 1913. This mine closed in the 1930s. Together with 17 other EPA-listed "sources" of current contamination, it has long since been swallowed up by the huge pit.

Kennecott surveyors say the Utah-Apex Mill site is now 900 feet above ground level, and the

others are several hundreds of feet up in midair! Any heavy metals of EPA concern have long since been processed through Kennecott's mills and smelter. Another 12 EPA-listed contamination sources are deeply buried under billions of tons of rock waste on the pit's east side.

The public docket at EPA shows the U.S. Bureau of Mines protesting the use of false data against Kennecott: "To make regulatory decisions and to take enforcement actions upon incomplete, unsubstantiated and

perhaps outdated data is not representative of the Administration's desire that regulatory decisions be based upon scientifically sound data." The bureau complains the listing could "adversely affect the nation's economy" and says it is "inappropriate" to Superfund active mine facilities.

The Superfund law is directed at "abandoned" hazardous sites, but EPA clearly goes where the money is. Kennecott has deep pockets, and the EPA senses easy pickings.

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While visiting the park you are invited to stay at our home style bed & breakfast. We'll tell you some of the history of this ghost town and show you some points of interest.

We will accommodate you in our home, or you can choose the seclusion of one of our guest cabins. In the morning, you can help yourself at the breakfast bar.

If you want to see a glacier up close, and even walk on it, we will take you up to the Root Glacier. On the way, we will tour the

historic ghost town of Kennicott, then we proceed on to the ice where you'll learn to use crampons and see a river of ice up close.

If you're not into walking on ice, we can take you up to Kennicott (where the CR & NW railway terminated) for a tour, then on up the Bonanza Ridge to where the copper was discovered that led to the building of the towns of Kennicott and McCarthy.

We can arrange for other activities such as River Rafting, Flightseeing or camping.



John Adams P.O. Box MX2  
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# A look at the weather



BY GEORGE CEBULA

October at McCarthy was a month of average fall temperatures and light precipitation. The first below zero readings didn't arrive until the 29th and the first measurable snowfall blanketed the ground on the 18th.

The October average temperature was 29.2 (33.0 in Oct. '93 and 24.8 in Oct. '92). The high was 52 on October 12th (61 on Oct. 1, '93 and 52 on Oct. 6, '92) and the low was -5 on October 29th (-2 on Oct. 24, '93 and -15 on Oct. 18, '92). *In comparison Silver Lake had an average temperature of 28.6 (33.8 in Oct. '93), with a high of 54 on Oct. 4 and low of -3 on Oct. 31 (56 on Oct. 2, '93 and 7 on Oct. 24, 25 and 26, '93).*

The total liquid precipitation was 0.81 inches (4.04 in Oct. '93 and 0.64 in Oct. '92) and total snowfall was 1.9 inches (16.9 in Oct. '93 and 2.3 in Oct. '92). *Silver Lake had 0.99 inches of liquid (3.29 in Oct. '93) and 8.0 inches of snow (.1 inches in Oct. '93).*

Greatest snow depth was 1 inch from Oct. 24th through the 31st., with only a trace on the ground from the 18th through the 23rd. *Silver Lake had a dump of 5 inches on the 19th and 8 inches on the 22nd. By the end of October there was still 6 inches of snow on the ground at Silver Lake.*

Winter arrived in November and it looks as if it might be a long cold one. The November average temperature at McCarthy was 3.2 (16.5 in Nov. '93 and '92). The highest was 39 on Nov. 3 (38 on Nov. 10, '93) and the lowest was -41 on Nov. 25 (-34 on Nov. 21, '93). The all time monthly high was 48 on Nov. 1, 1970 and low was -46 on Nov. 11, 1989. *Silver Lake had an*

*average temperature of 4.9 (15.9 in Nov. '93) with a high of 45 on Nov. 3 (40 on Nov. 10, '93) and low of -36 on Nov. 25 and 27 (-25 on Nov. 21, '93).*

The total liquid precipitation for November was 2.40 inches (2.00 in Nov. '93 and 1.35 in Nov. '92) with 19.6 inches of snow (24.5 in Nov. '93 and 10.3 in Nov. '92). *This compares with 1.88 inches of liquid (1.80 in Nov. '93) and 17.0 inches of snow (21.7 in Nov. '93) at Silver Lake. Snow depth ranged from 1 inch on the 1st to 16 inches on the 21-30. Silver Lake started the month with 6 inches, it dropped to 2 inches on the 3rd and ended the month with 17 inches on the ground.*

December and January are usually the coldest months with the lows falling to -50 or lower. Daylight is cut to just under 5 hours by December 21, before it begins to increase again.

I spent most of October and November at McCarthy working on my cabin. I had the help of my brother, Ted, for a couple of weeks and fellow retiree and long time coworker Joe Princko.

As I was returning Joe to Anchorage on Oct. 21st we had an encounter with icy road conditions and found ourselves in the ditch on the Tonsina Hill at mile 20 on the Edgerton Highway. Instead of gearing down, I hit the brakes—and they locked. The suburban did a 180 in the middle of the hill and we landed in the ditch heading in the opposite direction. No one was hurt and there was very little damage to the vehicle.

Cal Datta, the DOT foreman from Chitina, arrived on the scene in a few minutes and set out to get a

wrecker to winch us from the ditch. In the meantime, the roadway was so icy that it was almost impossible to stop and we waved the traffic on. It took more than 4 hours for Tom Suter to get his wrecker chained and drive the 20 miles from his garage, but he was sure a welcome site as he started to climb the hill below us. It took the power of both vehicles to finally free us from the ditch. My sincere thanks to Cal, Tom and everyone who stopped to offer help as we waited. I have been by that spot twice since and really feel grateful that we were not seriously injured or killed.

I would also like to thank Gary Hickling for his truck tracks through almost 2 foot of snow that guided me the first 20 miles out of McCarthy on Nov. 17th. I would have never been able to stay on the road without those tracks.

I am now equipped via Copper Valley Cellular with a cellular telephone that operates from the cabin at McCarthy along the full length of the McCarthy Road and throughout the Copper River Basin to Anchorage.

## Appropriate trade

Of the many gun turn-in ploys publicized to date (i.e., exchanging guns for sports tickets, athletic shoes, toys, food, cash, etc.), the one that seems to make the most sense was recently instigated in Contra Costa County, California, where 36 psychologists agreed to provide three hours of free therapy for those who opt to surrender their firearms. Law-abiding citizens who relinquish their guns do indeed need their heads examined.

from *The New American*, Nov. 14, 1994

# FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

BY ROBERT NOVAK

*A free press is one of the foundations of a free society. Yet Americans increasingly distrust and resent the media. A major reason is that many journalists have crossed the line from reporting to advocacy. They have, in effect, adopted a new liberal creed: "all the news that's politically correct to print."*

How does one define "political correctness" in the newsroom? One need look no further than the new style book of the *Los Angeles Times*, one of the largest, most influential newspapers in the nation. It forbids reporters to write about a "Dutch treat" because this phrase is allegedly insulting to the Dutch. Nor can one report that a person "welshed on a bet" because that would be insulting to the Welsh, and one certainly cannot write about a segment of our population once known simply as "Indians." They must always be referred to as "Native Americans." Jokingly, I asked one of the *Los Angeles Times* editors, "How do you refer to Indian summer? Is it now Native American summer?" He replied that he would substitute "unseasonably warm weather late in the year."

This is what political correctness can do to the ethnic groups it supposedly protects. Do we really think that these groups are so unintelligent as to be unable to distinguish between conventional idioms and genuine prejudice? Is their identity so fragile that it must depend on censorship?

People who believe in the real dignity of the individual, no matter what his race, sex, ethnicity, or other condition, shouldn't embrace political correctness because it is bad philosophy—and reporters shouldn't because it is bad journalism.

## *Elitist Reporters*

Twenty-two years ago, I wrote a paper in which I alienated many of my colleagues (and won the approval of a few) for publicly stating that the national media—the five hundred or so reporters and editors based mainly in Washington, D.C. who work for newspapers, wire services and television networks—had become elitist. I noted that reporters were no longer the typical working class populists of earlier years who lived on small salaries and who had constant contact with ordinary people, problems, and views.

But the members of the Washington press corps are even more elitist today. I am not just referring to "media stars" like, Diane Sawyer, who is earning \$7 million annually. Most run-of-the-mill reporters and editors in the national media are in the top 1-2 percent of income earners in the nation. A Washington bureau chief makes over \$100,000 a year, a senior reporter makes over \$70,000 a year. Is it surprising that many of them have trouble understanding and appreciating the difficulties other Americans face or that they think differently from other Americans about such issues as taxes, government regulation, crime, family values, and religion?

I also declared twenty-two years ago that members of the national media tend to share a uniformly liberal ideology. This does not mean they are secretly meeting every other week in someone's basement to get their marching orders. Rather, their ideology originates from a number of left-of-center experiences in their university education, in their tightly-knit peer groups, and in the

milieu of popular culture since the Sixties.

Am I exaggerating the impact of this liberal ideology? Of the five hundred or so reporters and editors I mentioned earlier, I am aware of only two who are well known, admitted conservatives. Nationwide, there are only about ten editorial pages in America that could properly be called "conservative" and that stance does not extend beyond the editorial page at more than a handful. At the very least, this striking imbalance speaks volumes about the potential for liberal ideology to dominate the news.

## *Liberal Axioms Held by the National Media*

Of course, many journalists hotly deny that they are liberals. Others claim that they do not allow their liberalism to influence their reporting. But here are some unquestionably liberal "axioms" that I believe (based on polls and other sources as well as my own experience) are held almost universally by the members of the national media:

1) The "rich" (and this covers many middle-class Americans) are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. The income of the rich should be redistributed to the poor.

2) Americans are undertaxed. Our taxes are well below those imposed in Europe, and the federal government should therefore raise rates, especially for those who earn more, save more, and invest more.

3) Government is, on the whole, a positive force in America that has done vastly more good than harm.

4) The balanced budget amendment is a dangerous idea.

5) Term limit amendments are even more dangerous and are also undemocratic.

6) There is a nationwide health care crisis, and only the government can solve it by establishing universal coverage for health insurance.

7) The "religious right" (a term that lumps millions of ordinary believers together with a few extremists) is a serious menace to the future of American society.

8) Being pro-choice is not enough; there should be absolutely no interference with the reproductive rights of women.

9) To support school choice, whether through vouchers or tax credits, is to support the destruction of all public education.

10) It is far better for the forces of the United States to be under multinational command than for them to be controlled by our own military commanders.

11) Conservatism is a narrow philosophy; liberalism, by contrast, is more broad, unprejudiced, and compassionate.

### **Advocacy journalism**

There is no doubt that the strongest trend in the media industry is toward advocacy journalism. The news sections of most newspapers are even more ideological than when I first criticized them twenty-two years ago. Once the editorial page was the place for journalists to express their opinions, but now they do so on every page, including the front page under the misleading banner of objective reporting.

Increasing selectivity is also leading to increasing bias; members of the media are not only more subjective in determining whether a story will make it into the news but in determining what kind of "slant" it will be given and how much coverage it will receive. Even the wire services have succumbed, running (and not running) stories that in the past would have gotten the reporters and editors responsible for them

fired. And, of course, the worst examples of bias and selectivity are seen on network television programs, which have come to value "entertainment" more than the news.

Liberals often argue that conservative bias—as evidenced by a growing number of conservative journalists ranging from William F. Buckley, Jr., to Rush Limbaugh—makes up for any liberal bias in the media and leads to "balance." But they are being disingenuous, and not just because liberals greatly outnumber conservatives in the journalistic profession. Buckley, Limbaugh, and others like them are opinion journalists. They have never tried to represent themselves otherwise. Moreover, bias of one kind cannot possibly "make up" for other kinds. By all means, liberal and conservative views are welcome in certain areas of journalism, but when they intrude on the objective reporting of the news, they are both equally harmful.

### **Reforming the American Media**

How do we return to the old standards of objectivity and "a fair press"? It is important for Americans to make their views known and to convince the media that reform is not only desirable but necessary. But this is not enough. Twenty-two years ago, I remarked that the pressure of public opinion would surely force the media into more responsible behavior, but it has not happened.

That is why we must also take special care to educate properly the young men and women who want to pursue a career in journalism. This is not an automatic recommendation for journalism school; unfortunately, most of these institutions are in the business of spreading bias and political correctness, not curbing them. And there are

none (with the notable exception of the National Journalism Center in Washington, D.C.,) that challenges the dominant liberal ideology in the media. But one does not have to attend journalism school to learn the fundamental principles of good writing, reporting and editing, or to understand bias and how to avoid it. A good liberal arts education can provide ethical as well as academic training.

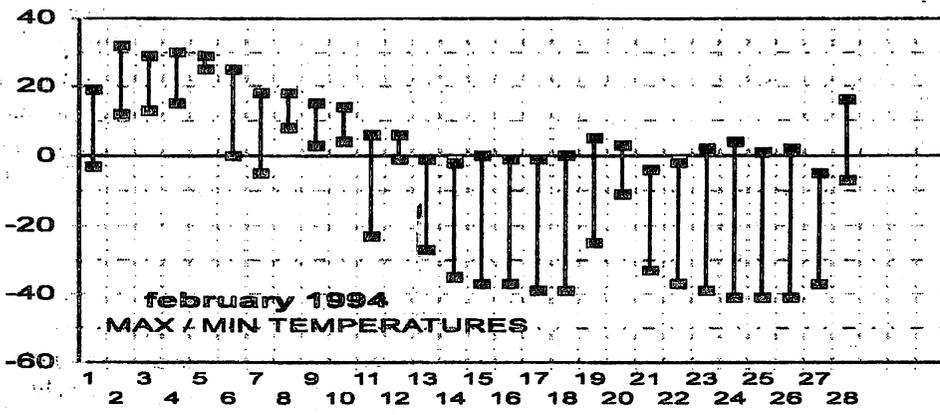
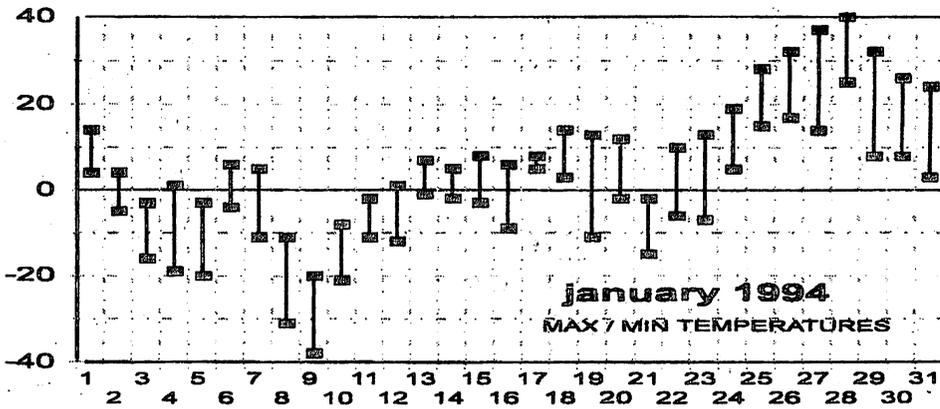
Finally, action must be taken at the top; people who are dedicated to the principles of good journalism as well as the principles of good business must take leadership positions at or even buy newspapers, magazines, and television stations. They cannot merely wait for the current establishment to change — they must lead the way.

The stakes are high. When the media is out of touch with its citizens, the nation is vulnerable—when facts bow to bias, truth is also in jeopardy.

Robert Novak writes "Inside Report," one of the longest-running syndicated columns in the nation. With his partner, Rowland Evans, he also edits a newsletter, the *Evans-Novak Political Report*, and hosts CNN's interview program, "Evans and Novak."

Additionally, Mr. Novak is a roving editor for Reader's Digest, a frequent cohost of "Crossfire," an interviewer on "Meet the Press," and the coexecutive producer and host of CNN's weekend roundtable, "The Capital Gang." He has written *The Agony of the GOP: 1964* and cowritten *Lyndon B. Johnson: The Exercise of Power*, *Nixon in the White House*, and *The Reagan Revolution*.

*Weather - What can we expect?*



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