

Wrangell St. Elias News

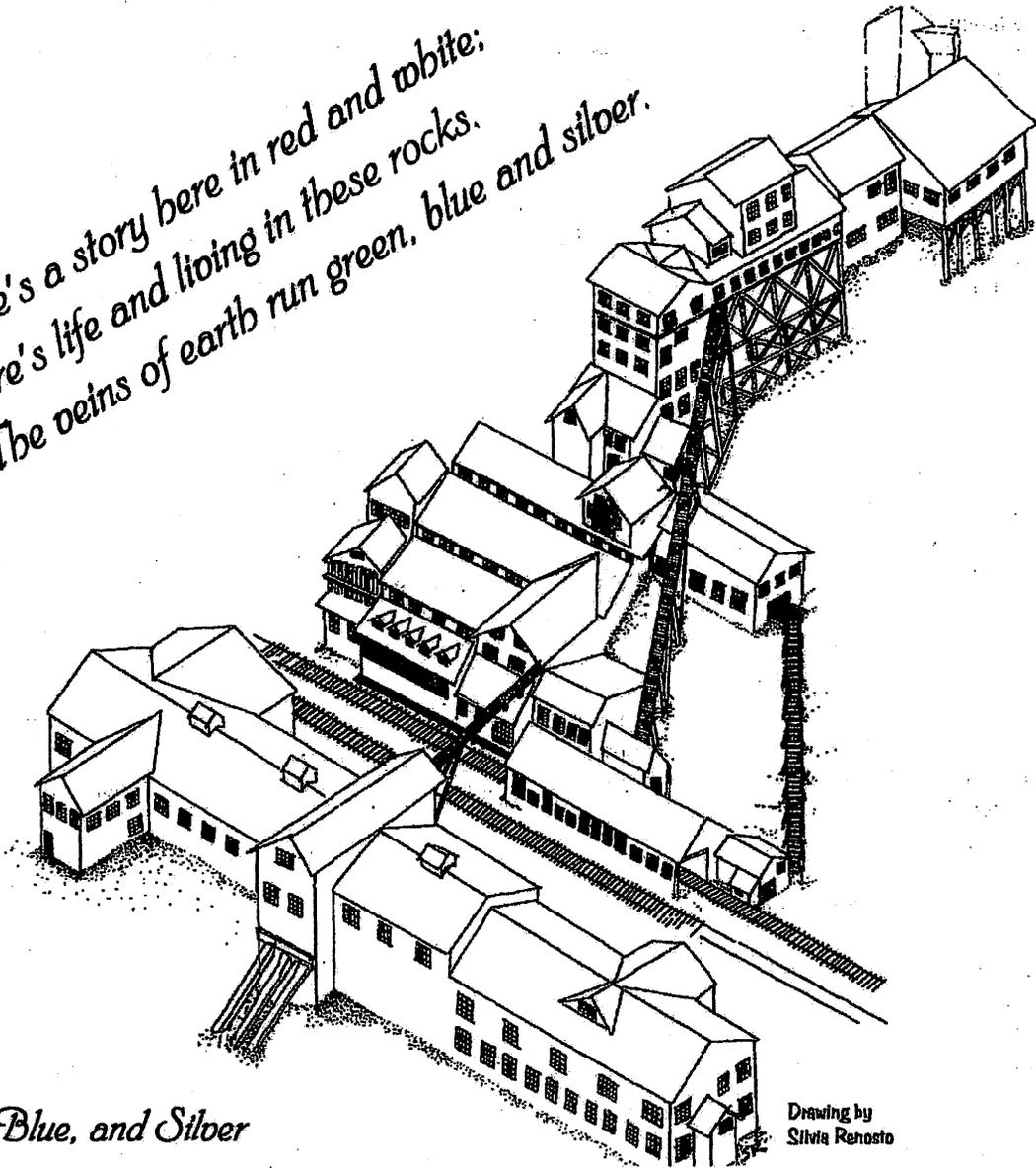
"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" - Thomas Jefferson

VOL. FOUR ISSUE TWO

MARCH & APRIL 1995

ONE DOLLAR

*There's a story here in red and white;
there's life and living in these rocks.
The veins of earth run green, blue and silver.*



Green, Blue, and Silver
page 29

Drawing by
Silvia Renosto

**Interview with
Senator
Georgiana Lincoln**

**"Boyhood
in McCarthy"
The
Otto Lubbe
story**

**Interview with WRST
superintendent
Jonathon Jarvis**

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

Time *certainly* flies when you are having a good time! And this is just what we've been doing—flying and having a good time—since the last issue of Wrangell St. Elias News.

Rick and I left our cabin on January 9 and drove the 300 miles to Anchorage where we caught a flight to Daytona Beach, Florida, on the 12th. Our drive out the McCarthy Road was without incident and "in style," thanks to George Cebula who asked us to take his Chevy Suburban back to Anchorage. (As you'll read in George's weather column, he stayed in our cabin and took over the weather observing job for us the entire time we were gone.) Also, much thanks to the Department of Transportation for plowing the road in December. What a difference that made!

Our visit with family this year had its highlights and sidetrips. For instance, Rick's folks, Carl and Virginia Kenyon, my mom, Neta Schafer, and Rick and I piled into the folks' van and drove north to Donalsonville, Ga. where Rick Jr., Maria, and our grandson, Joniathan David, live. "J.D."—as he is sometimes called—will be 2 years old in May of this year. You can imagine the fun we adults had "playing" with Jonathan. At times, there were two great grandmothers, one great grandfather, two grandmothers, two grandfathers and a set of parents all gathered in one room with J.D. the focus of our attention! I'm not sure if he got everyone's title straightened out, but one thing's for sure—he was surrounded with love!

A very special event occurred while we were in Georgia. Rick Jr.,



Sign in S. Daytona, FL. WSEN staff photo

28, asked me to be his first guest on his new radio program which is broadcasted locally in Donalsonville. Although I felt extremely honored he wanted to "interview" his mother, I couldn't imagine us filling up a half hour time slot. (Rick Sr. had plenty of faith I would not be at a loss for words.) However, once we began

reminiscing about our early days in Alaska, the clock must have speeded up. Before we knew it, time was gone. It's a half hour I will always treasure, Rick Jr. Keep up the good work, son!

While in Daytona, Rick Sr. and his dad spent the majority of their time immersed in computer-related projects. Dad purchased a new computer, got a fax operating and loaded several new programs with Rick's assistance. The two came up for air on several occasions in which Rick could then be found catching bass off a nearby dock.

Mom Kenyon and I took the van and disappeared on Fridays and Saturdays—always taking along Dad's trusty "garage sale" list which he religiously made out the night before. If "sales" didn't go too well, we consoled ourselves with a frozen yogurt and a stop at our favorite store—WalMart.

We stayed at my mom's house which is only a couple miles from the folks. Walking on "real" sidewalks is a favorite pastime for me when we visit Daytona. Mom tries to take a brisk walk everyday as part of her daily routine, so I loved tagging along.

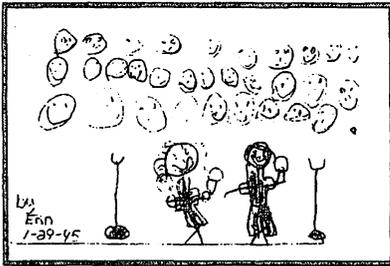
Rick and I did something which we hadn't done in quite some time. Mom asked us if he and I would sing a duet Sunday at a special afternoon service her church was having. We agreed and ended up singing two. That was another very special memory to cherish. I also had the opportunity to sing a couple of solos and speak at a missionary meeting at mom's church.

My brother, Ron, who lives in Deltona—about a 30-



Four generations of Kenyon's. Rick Jr., "J.D.", Rick Sr., and Carl. WSEN staff photo

minute drive from Daytona—called and asked if he and I could sing a duet at his church where he is Minister of Music. I agreed. The sound system at this church is something else! Ron played and recorded most all the background music himself so when it came time for us to sing that particular Sunday night, he just pushed a button on his keyboard and we sang with the music. It has been years since we sang together yet it seemed we just picked up where we left off. The entire trip this winter was filled with highlights I will cherish all my life. Thanks, Ron, for being the best brother in all the world! After the service that night, a little blonde-



headed girl came up to me and handed me a card. On it she had drawn a picture of Ron and I while we were singing. I guess you'd say that was "hot off the press."

The day after we got back to Anchorage, we attended Katherine and Andrew LaForest's wedding. Katherine is the daughter of our friends—John and Susan Bury. John is the kind of friend that takes us to the airport at a time when most people are sound asleep. He even picks us up—bringing his van to haul all our vacation goodies. You know, the kind of friends you can trust to take your best winter parkas to the cleaners and get the same ones back!

Vacation goodies this year were two paper folding machines which we found at a printing shop in Daytona Beach. Actually, we got two for the price of one, enabling us to either use one for parts (they are alike) or set each one up to do a

different job. So, whether it's folding Wrangell St. Elias News, A Visitors Guide to McCarthy & Kennicott, Highlights from The McCarthy Weekly News or brochures, our job will be easier! We managed to get both folders to Anchorage on our luggage allowance which saved us a hefty postage bill.

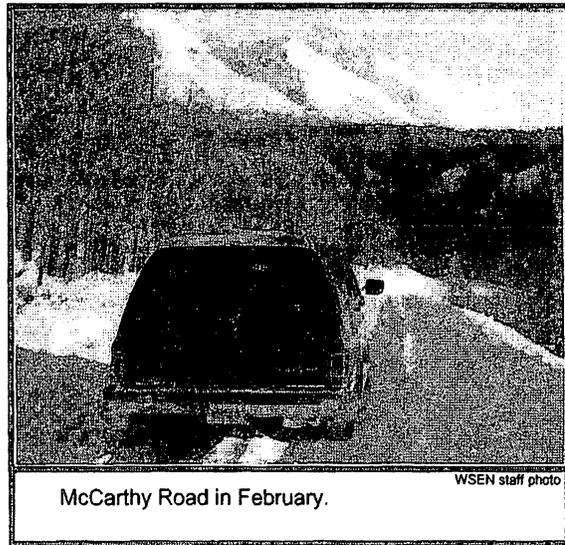
Now that phone service has hit the McCarthy area, Rick purchased a fax modem. As long as the generator is running, we can receive your fax. We try to keep it powered up from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. Just call us at 1-907-554-4454. That number is also our home number which works 24 hours a day. You do not need to call us ahead because a switch will activate the fax automatically.

Speaking of phones...we just recently experienced the "blessing" they can be—especially out here. The day after we arrived at our cabin we received a phone call from Rick Jr. informing us that Rick's mom had taken Dad to the emergency room. He had a heart attack. Fortunately, he came through it just fine and is now back home recuperating. Being able to pick up the phone at any hour of the day or night and receive news from home made this situation much more bearable.

Because we were gone a little over a month, we had several stacks of mail to peruse when we got back. I want to take this time to apologize for the lateness in filling your orders. Also, I started new subscriptions with this March/April issue. If you wanted your subscription to start with the Jan./Feb., please advise us and I will make the neces-

sary changes and send that issue out to you as well.

To those of you who are subscribers, I have a favor to ask. In the past I have sent out postcards letting you know when your subscription runs out and requesting your renewal. This last month I did not get them sent. If each of you would look on your address label, you will see a date in the top right hand corner. Anything with a March/April—MA95—or earlier is up for renewal. If you still want to receive WSEN, just send us your



McCarthy Road in February.

WSEN staff photo

check or money order for \$8.50 and we'll extend your subscription another year. This will save us some time and effort. We are planning on changing the manner in which we remind you of your need to renew. Perhaps an insert in your last issue or a colored postem stuck to the first inside page. Because our WSEN is bimonthly, you will have plenty of time to renew before the next issue comes out. We appreciate those of you who renew even before it is time—just "so I won't miss one issue."

A special thanks to those who took the time to submit a poem, an article you've seen printed elsewhere that you feel would be important to our readers, or maybe a story or article you personally

(cont. on page 5)

Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Andy Shidner and Cynthia Aldridge: Now here is an "item of interest!" The McCarthy couple is certainly not keeping the secret to themselves but are happily spreading their good news. I am told a wedding is in the forecast for May in Jackson Hole, Wy. Andy and Cynthia, we all wish you both the very best—forever.

Jim and Pat Edwards: On Feb. 15th Jim and Pat invited their neighbors over to help them celebrate a very special occasion of their own—Pat's birthday. Most women don't publicize their age, but not Pat. As you can see, she is proudly displaying hers on this beautiful birthday cake. Pat and the Sperrys prepared a variety of Mexican food for us all to enjoy—something she looks forward doing every year about this time. The next day our mail plane brought Pat a surprise package from Glennallen. It turned out to be a beautiful bouquet of flowers from Jim and Jeanie Miller! I wish I could have seen Pat's expression when she peeked inside the box. It's hard to outgive Pat, but I must admit it's wonderful to see someone try!



Mike and Julie Truskowski: Julie and Mike are eagerly making their summer plans to return to the McCarthy area and put the finishing touches on their log cabin. They are both teaching this winter in Russian Mission. Skiing is great, Julie says, with plenty of good snowmachine trails to travel on. Sounds like they should be in excellent shape to tackle their summer project.

Fred Denner and Irene Koivu: Speaking of traveling and snowmachines...Fred is making his annual winter visits to McCarthy from Dan Creek. Rick and I always look forward to this time of year when Fred (and sometimes Irene) venture out to our neck of the woods. According to Fred, things are "quiet at Dan Creek this winter and conditions are beautiful." A few McCarthy area residents have ventured out that way this winter and found a warm welcome at Fred and Irene's cabin.

Al and Fran Gagnon: Rick and I had a surprise visit from Al shortly after we got back home. Al reports he and Fran are back at their May Creek cabin where Fran is making a successful recovery after recent hip surgery. All your friends wish you a speedy recovery, Fran. We look forward to seeing you this spring!

Terry and Dee Frady: The Fradys are staying close to home these days and soaking up the slower-paced days of winter. It sounds like most of the activity on their hill is coming from a variety of visiting wildlife. Dee says there was a red fox under their cabin porch the other day, a

coyote who is making regular appearances, and "lots" of red polls. Feeding the birds is something Dee and Terry enjoy doing, and according to Dee, there are "more than usual this winter."

Chris Richards: If you try calling Chris these days, you just might get a busy signal! He says people are calling to sign up for one of his guided tours and hikes of the Kennicott area. Be on the lookout for Chris's ads in the upcoming May/June issues of the Alaska and Sierra magazines. Both magazines should be sporting his new 800 number (1-800-664-4537) which is good in Alaska and nationwide, he says.

Walter and Ursel Mueller: Although Walter and Ursel's home is in Switzerland, they have visited our area enough that we consider them "ours." Before Rick and I left for Florida, Ursel called and we had such a wonderful time talking that I decided, "let's try that again!" I decided to call her. It was 7:45 a.m. here but 5:45 p.m. in Switzerland. When the phone rang, Ursel was practicing her French lessons. As soon as she realized who was calling, she quickly switched to English. (It's a good thing. Otherwise, I probably would have thought I had dialed the wrong country.) According to Ursel, she and Walter are planning a trip to France this year. She is studying hard in hopes she can communicate with those she meets this summer. They both send their love to all their friends in McCarthy and Kennicott.

Ed LaChapelle and Meg Hunt: Ed has returned from his winter stay in Olympia, Wa. He comes bearing news of Meg's present project as well as her upcoming adventure. She is overseeing a

dance production at school. Ed says the opening night went very well. In early April, Meg along with some other faculty members at Evergreen College, plan to take a river trip down the Grand Canyon in a dory. We wish you a fun-filled 2 weeks, Meg! While Meg is maneuvering the white water, Ed is going to be making his own kind of waves—air waves, that is. He says he has all the electronics coming to put together a community radio studio. The goal is to access the KCHU translator and even be able to preempt an existing program for local broadcasts. According to Ed, James Winchester, present manager of the Valdez-based radio station, has applied for a community radio development grant on our behalf.

Gary, Nancy and Tyler Green: Although the Greens have enjoyed their winter in the Tazlina area, it's time to come home, says Nancy. By the time this issue reaches our reader, Gary, Nancy and Tyler should be settled back into their cabin at McCarthy. "I can't wait," says Nancy, "I miss it." When I called Nancy last night and asked her what was new in the Green household, she told me Gary had fallen off the top of a ladder while we were gone. He severed his

cruciate (had to ask Dee how to spell that one) ligament at the knee and is now wearing a brace "just about all the time." They hope to put surgery off a year or two but the next couple of months are crucial, says Nancy.

Kim Northrup: When Kim is not busy maintaining the McCarthy Lodge generators (which power the local phones) and when she is not out running (after or from?) her dog team, she can be found teaching Rebekkah and Sarah Sperry American sign language. I was surprised to learn Kim had 4 years in this beautiful language. The Sperry girls are learning quickly and hope to make a video tape to send to a cousin who is hearing impaired. What a blessing that will be to her!

Condolences: Our sympathy and prayers go out to Mark Vail and Dee Frady who lost their mothers this last year. Also, to Phyllis Sperry who is presently in Illinois attending her father's funeral. Mark, who left here Jan. 10th, had a safe flight to visit his father in Pennsylvania. He is now back at his cabin at Fireweed subdivision.

Special thanks: The McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church thanks Patrick, Phyllis, Rebekkah

and Sarah Sperry for opening their home to the group while the Kennions were in Florida. Also, many thanks to Kim Northrup, for retyping our choruses. We should have the new chorus sheets ready soon.

A note from the publisher (cont)

wrote. In this issue, we are pleased to include a poem about Kennicott written by John Baalke of Glennallen who owns and operates Backcountry Connection, a scheduled van service to McCarthy. Lilly Goodman, a local to our area, decided to write up her most recent "outdoors" adventure which you'll find in the "Outdoors in the Wrangells" column.

Rick and I appreciate our neighbors and friends who have contributed to WSEN. We know it takes your time—a valuable asset. Kenny and Carly Kritchen, for example, have gone the extra mile for us and our readers. Carly, with her cooking column, and now Kenny with his crossword creations. He did warn us he'd have to take the summer off during the busy fishing season, so if anyone out there can come to his (and our aid), let us know.

Last, but not least, is an article by our Dan Creek friend and neighbor, Fred Denner. He takes extra time and effort to study out some of the more intricate issues that affect us here in the Wrangells. Rick and I thank him for doing his homework on the Federal Subsistence issue and, then, sharing his concerns with our readers.

Our subscribers' list has now reached 335. Wrangell St. Elias News welcomes aboard the following: Helen Cebula, OH; William E. Galida, OH; Niebrugge Studio, AK; Prof. Arnold Alanen, WI; Susan Doherty, AK; Polly Proctor, PA; Clark Milne, AK; DOT/Tazlina, AK; Jay & Carole McKee, AK; Otto Seiz, Switzerland.

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Contributors to this issue: Fred Denner, George Cebula, Carly Kritchen, Kenny Kritchen, Evan Swensen, Lilly Goodman, Ed LaChapelle (interview with Georgianna Lincoln), Dan Perry, John Baalke, Kristen Janssen, Silvia Renosto and Lee Adler. Subscription price is \$8.50 for one year in the USA. Canada and Mexico \$10.00. Other countries \$18.50. Advertising rates upon request. Deadline for publication in next issue is April 15.

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National Park Service comes calling

BY BONNIE KENYON

On February 22nd the new superintendent of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve, Jonathan Jarvis, and Ranger Jim Hummel, met with us and gave the following interview. We thank them for taking the time to visit our area and answer these questions. Space does not allow us to cover all we discussed, but, hopefully, we can continue the interview in the May/June issue.

WSEN: What's your philosophy concerning resources from a consumptive point of view? How do you feel about issues such as trapping and hunting?

Jarvis: My dad was a life member of the NRA, gun dealer and a guide. I hunted and trapped as a kid through all my growing up years. I grew up on a farm with cattle and horses, so I'm fairly steeped in that stuff. I hunt and fish myself. Took an elk in Idaho last year. So, perhaps that provides some light on my general philosophy...As to my specific philosophy in terms of the park service and Alaska, I'm just learning all the rules, regs and procedures associated with subsistence.

That's a steep learning curve. I don't have it all figured out. I'm a believer that we ought to be letting the biology of the animals, which I think in some cases we understand some of and in some cases we don't understand very well at all, be driving the consumptive use at a sustainable level. That's the key. We need to be able to sustain the populations. ANILCA is pretty specific to that and allows for a lot of consumptive uses out here.

WSEN: My understanding of ANILCA is that it gave you a dual job — to preserve and provide for continual use of those resources. It seems in the past the management of the park has been more prone to

go heavy on the "preserve" and light on the "use." Can we expect a change in that?

Jarvis: I'm not going to put myself up with whatever was in the past, but I'll continue on in my own philosophy. I see the Alaska legislation as different than the lower 48 legislation. We've been given direction by Congress as to how these parks and preserves are to be managed, and one of the things — the many things — we were directed to do is to provide for subsistence uses and extractive activities.

It's a challenge. I have a biology background, and a college education in biology, and I believe that rather than trying to create this incredible morass of regulations to result in some sort of subsistence level take, we need to look more at the biology of the animals. And say, 'What is a sustainable yield from this finite resource' — particularly when we're talking about fur bearers. And relying a lot on the local user who is right out there and understands it much better than we do.

I'd like to direct this park towards getting a much better understanding of that whole dynamics, because I see that we have a mandate to not only preserve the park, but provide that sustained use in ANILCA.

WSEN: What is your feeling on the Friends of Kennicott proposal concerning Kennicott?

Jarvis: Let me give a little background where the park service is coming from and is now on Kennicott. We've been looking at Kennicott through a variety of eyes for a number of years whether or not it's something we wanted to acquire. The land owner, Jim Harrower as spokesperson, has been patient with us though he's had it on the market. If somebody came in and offered the right amount, he'd sell

it, but he's been patient with us in our deliberations internally about whether or not we really want to own Kennicott.

Frankly, the agency is concerned about costs to the taxpayer — the cost of acquisition, the cost of management, liability, stabilization. So there's been a pretty heated internal debate going on over that. I really think there has been kind of a sea change in the organization in the last year.

WSEN: What level would this be?

Jarvis: Very high. Right at the director's level — Roger Kennedy. A group of people, Joe Sax, being one... is an advisor. George Frampton has been up here. Kennedy is a strong backer on history and this vicinity. Bob Barbee, the new regional director, and then the state's historical preservationist officer, Judy Bittner, have all started to come together — though there's been a lot of handwringing about how expensive this is going to be.

I think most people feel the experiment with Friends of Kennicott has been a success — their stabilization work, where the work was done more cheaply than the park service could have ever done it. It was still done to our standards, historical preservation standards, and it was done locally by local people — giving people an opportunity to work locally on something they liked. We realized there might be an opportunity here to acquire Kennicott and manage it on the same lines.

Particularly, with the opportunity for a third party to acquire and donate it, so there wouldn't be any money out of pocket from the park service. The Conservation Fund was approached. They're a non-profit organization that buys land and donates it to the appropriate

agencies, state or federal, to manage it. They derive their money from foundations and they don't expect to be repaid. They would negotiate with Harrower. We wouldn't really be a party with that. Their funding is the Melon Foundation.

Someone from the Melon Foundation will probably come out here maybe late spring to see the site. The scenario we'd like to see is the Conservation Fund would negotiate with the Great Kennicott Land Co. and probably purchase the option to at least hold the property. They would acquire it and they would donate it to the NPS.

In order for us to take possession of it we would have to do a few things. We would have to survey the corners so we'd know where the property really is.

We would then like to enter into an agreement with another non-profit — this is where we've discussed Friends of Kennicott coming in. They have been lobbying and been the generators of support and they're locally based. They would do the hiring and on site management both from a maintenance and interpretive standpoint.

WSEN: Where does Kennicott Corp. and the subsurface rights come into this?

Jarvis: Kennicott Corp. owns the subsurface mineral rights and it is a separate deal. We don't feel they have any intent on reopening the mine, and we are again negotiating with them directly about acquisition or donation of their rights.

WSEN: There had been some talk about a possible land exchange in Utah. Is that more than just talk?

Jarvis: It's more than talk, but the problem is that an interstate land exchange with the Federal government requires legislation, and that just complicates everything. There is an exchange going on or being proposed that certainly everyone is in favor of in Utah —

with the BLM. They will probably just go ahead and deal with Kennicott. It would be a separate deal up here. That wouldn't be apart of this. Originally it was thought that it would be kind of a three way deal.

WSEN: There has been a perception by some that the National Park Service would like everybody to go to McCarthy and stay out of the park.

Jarvis: Well, I have not heard that from anybody, and I've been through more briefings on the Wrangells than I care to remember. I have not heard that anybody in the park service intends to direct the visitors to McCarthy. A lot of visitors come with sort of preconceived ideas about where they're going. They've heard about McCarthy and Kennicott, and they come in and maybe all they want is a map or directions... and I don't think we're steering them away from the park. The park, and when I say park in this context, I'm linking the park and preserve together — everything within the external boundaries of the Wrangell-St. Elias.

Access is an issue. Access to this park is a problem, and it has a variety of plusses. One being that we have two state-owned roads. The state has plans to upgrade those roads. At least a large segment of your visiting public that come to Alaska want to view things from the road, so they're going to come in on the highway and go up either the Nabesna or McCarthy Road.

Of the 50 plus miles of the McCarthy Road, the National Park Service only has 6 miles of it that is adjacent to NPS lands. The rest of it is state, private or Ahtna. So in developing trailheads, parking lots, access off of the McCarthy Road — that's something we're going to have to work out with those other land owners. We're working real close with the state on the planning of the McCarthy Road to identify

opportunities for visitor facilities and access along the McCarthy Road.

Let's take just for a generic example, there's a location on the road that has some part of the park that we think visitors should see, maybe it already has an historic trail that comes from this location down, crosses Ahtna land and then butts into the McCarthy Road. We would say maybe that's an ideal location for a campground so we go to Ahtna and say, 'Here's an opportunity for you to develop a campground. We'll develop a trail on the other side of it — with a typical trailhead, information or whatever...' We would like to identify sort of zones for this — I don't like the word zones — but areas for certain kind of facilities that the public would need... We would say, 'along this stretch from milepost such and such to such and such there is a good opportunity to develop this.'

There's going to be associated affects from that. There'll be trash, more use in that area, and if there's someone nearby with a cabin, they don't want anybody to use that trail because they use it. There will be concern, and we want to make sure everybody gets their opportunity to have input into that kind of planning.

Access by plane is a viable form of access to the Wrangells. To go in by airstrip, or floatplane in some cases, and have that kind of experience. That's not something we want to curtail. We want to understand it; we want to get a handle on it, but at this point, the Brooks Camp at Katmai are leading the charge because they've got at least a perception of a problem there with all of the air taxis coming in just dumping people off and flying away. They're having to deal with human waste and a trash problem in Brooks Camp. We're not in that situation at all here, but we could be. But we don't have that kind of a core destination unless it's McCarthy.

Interview with Senator Georgianna Lincoln

ED LACHAPPELLE
JUNEAU, ALASKA 18 JANUARY 1995

WSEN: Once again, it is a pleasure to welcome you as our Senator.

LINCOLN: Thank you, I appreciate that. And once again, for the record, I apologize that I did not get into McCarthy. In 1995 you definitely will see me there, whether it is winter or summer. It does feel good to be back here again. I'm sorry that I am not representing McCarthy and the rest of my district as a member of the majority, but sometimes that's the way the hand gets played.

WSEN: How do you see the hand being played for this district as a member of the minority which this time around includes the governor?

LINCOLN: That the governor is a different party from the majorities in both the House and Senate is going to be a shining light for us. It's a check and balance now, where even if a bill gets through both houses, it still is subject to a veto. The governor still has veto power on budgets, including line item veto power. So that is a powerful tool that can be used, plus we are still eight out of 20 in the Senate - a significant impact on making amendments on bills that come through and inputs from the floor. And we will have more direct communication from the third floor - a real positive thing.

WSEN: It appears already that we are seeing better communication with the governor for everyone, not just you or I.

LINCOLN: Yes. And we have to remember that not only the governor's office but every single commissioner is of the same philosophy as the minority. We now have easier access to all of the commissioners. I know all of the commissioners very well personally

with only a couple exceptions. I've known most of them for many, many years, both professionally and personally. That's very helpful so we can get things through that are not necessarily legislative bills or budgets, such as working directly with the departments on regulations.

WSEN: How do you see the political changes in Washington affecting the state and your district?

LINCOLN: I think that is going to be another positive, although some people might think it is a negative. But look at all the areas the three members of our congressional delegation have been talking about all the time they have been back there. They've been talking about protecting our military bases and now they are the chair of military and veterans affairs. I know some in my district are against opening up ANWR, but I'm sure ANWR is going to be opened up by the Natural Resources Committee under Congressman Young. With both houses of Congress and this governor wanting ANWR open, I'm sure this is going to be assured, a positive. Our congressional delegation is going to be supporting more economic development -- timber, minerals, fishing -- and this is going to be a positive. We're going to see more in-state processing, such as fish products mentioned by the governor, as well as timber, instead of having raw products going out of the state. We'll get help on these things from the congressional delegation, as well as with the high-seas fishing question. We'll see more international marketing, one of Senator Murkowski's pet projects for a long time, as well as removal of the embargo on oil exports, all positive steps. I've seen Senator Murkowski in operation when I recently went to Taiwan for a

private corporation. The Taiwanese were most interested in expanding their factories because they don't have the land base in Taiwan, so they are looking for other places they can settle on a partnership basis. Senator Murkowski is very active in expanding the partnership idea among countries of the Pacific Rim. There are a lot of other things on the horizon that are going to be positive for us, especially now with all our congressional delegation in key committee chair positions. I see some real good things happening. Also, to my pleasant surprise, I heard our state Senate president say on the morning news that the message of the governor's state of the state address last night is one that she embraces. And then I'm on two committees I wanted to be on, Resources and Transportation, where even as a minority member, I'll have a chance to express our district's point of view.

WSEN: One last question. You've mentioned many positive aspects, but do you see any negative aspects for Alaska from the proposal in Washington for a balanced budget amendment and a presidential line-item veto?

LINCOLN: Sure. I want to be very positive, but I'd be naive to think that everything is going to be rosy and not have some negative fallout. When Congress talks about having a balanced budget, welfare reform -- cut, cut, cut -- we in the states are going to feel part of the spill-over. And at the state level we hear the majority saying that their Contract with Alaskans is a mirror image of the Congressional Contract with America. I have to gasp when I hear that, because each time we hear that we must cut the budget -- and I think there are places we can still cut -- I know that this majority is going to cut in rural

and bush Alaska and continue to cut there, because that is where the fewest voices are, even though that is where the vast majority of state revenues are derived. That's going to be a negative to us in rural and bush Alaska. Somebody from the media asked me yesterday if the honeymoon period between the governor and the House and Senate majority was going to continue. I said that I don't think they've got to the marriage, much less the

honeymoon. Maybe at best there is some courting going on, but that's all it is. The majority is not going to let the governor come out smelling like a rose, because in four years they're going to want to change that governor. I'm not sure they are even dancing, just trying to figure out who they are. You will see the present good climate a lot less rosy by the time May rolls around and the budget comes out. The writing will be on the wall in

the '96 session. We have issues like subsistence to deal with. Are we going to allow the feds to continue to dictate how our fish and game will be managed? Or are we going to assume control and address it once and for all through a constitutional amendment? That's the question.

WSEN: Thank you very much. We look forward to your visit.

100 hour inspections for part 91 operations

BY DAN PERRY
REGIONAL AVIATION SAFETY PROGRAM MANAGER

Last summer Inspector John Elgee raised a question with an operator conducting fishing lodge/guiding operations. Is a Part 91 operator required to have 100 hour inspections on aircraft that isn't currently operated under FAR 135? For the answer to this, let us refer to FAR 91.409(b). This regulation states that no person may operate an

aircraft carrying any person for hire unless it has been inspected within the preceding 100 hours. Some people get confused because they believe all "for hire operations" are covered by FAR 135. However, 1351(b) covers "for hire" exceptions. Thus, even if Part 135 is inappropriate because the aircraft is not used for transportation by air of passengers from one point to another, section 91.409(b) is applicable

because the aircraft was used in a forhire Part 91 sightseeing operation or some other aerial works operation (e.g., spotting game from the air) spoken to by the exceptions clause of 135.1(b).

So, for you folks that make a living with an aircraft in the tourist or guiding business who may have overlooked these requirements, setting up a 100 hour inspection

Telephone update

BY RICK KENYON

Despite some problems with the system, local residents continue to enjoy the "luxury" of having telephone service available locally. Copper Valley Telephone technicians made a trip to McCarthy in January to re-configure the antennas on the "switch," located near the McCarthy airport. According to spokesman Tim Rennie, this change should allow slightly better area coverage for the local signals. Locals still experience less than quality connections between each other, and sporadic problems with incoming or outgoing long distance calls. Rennie said that CVT is working with the manufacturer of the equipment to solve these problems.

CVT plans include a trip to McCarthy in early April to do "site surveys" for those who wish to install service this summer. A return trip is scheduled in May to do the actual hookups. Those desiring service should contact Shannon at (907) 822-3551.

Copper Valley Telephone now has an 800 number for McCarthy/Kennicott residents to use to get information on the system or to report problems. That number is 1-800-478-6612.

McCarthy Trail Rides Bed and Breakfast

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.

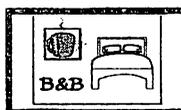
We will accommodate you in our home, or you can choose the seclusion of one of our guest cabins. In the morning, you can help yourself at the breakfast bar.

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 MX
Glennallen, AK 99588
(907) 554-4433

Copper River moose - history and management

BY LEE R. ADLER

Having lived in Glennallen, Alaska for 26 years, and working with and observing moose populations as a Wildlife Biologist, I have come to certain conclusions regarding moose management.

First, let's take a brief look at the past. When early explorers such as Lieutenants Glenn and Allen first came to the Copper River country in 1885, moose were very scarce. The only moose meat they mention eating was some given them by Chief Nicolai at Chitina and some rotten moose left by wolves.

During the Abercrombie expedition 1897-1889, a guide named Addison Powell, stated, "moose, very scarce and wild." They made no mention of actually killing a moose. Powell further stated that most of the Indians living near Paxson Lake, had starved to death during the winter of 1897.

Several old timers have told me that it was not until the late 1940's that moose started to become abundant. At this time the stage was set for a moose population explosion.

It was caused by two factors. First, uncontrolled fires had been burning off large tracts of spruce forest. This set the plant succession back to the brush stage. The major component of moose feed in the winter is willow browse, and these uncontrolled fires had created a favorable winter habitat for moose.

Secondly, from 1948 to 1954 an intensive wolf control program was carried out by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. By aerial gunning and broadcasting poisoned baits, the wolf population was reduced to about 12 wolves for all of Unit 13. Compared to today, when there are about 350 wolves in Unit 13.

As a result of these conditions the moose population soared from

about 15,000 to 80,000, during the 50's and early 1960's. Although this was a paradise for hunters and guides; it was an artificial situation which could not and did not last. With predation almost eliminated as a controlling population factor, food supply and winter snows became the controlling factor.

When I arrived here in 1969, I noticed that on moose winter range the willows had often been browsed down to 1/2 inch stems or more, and the willow bushes were clubbed off and dying. Browse utilization of this magnitude indicates and over population of moose, that is subject to winter starvation. Moose normally only browse willow stems down to about 1/4 inch in diameter.

According to studies by A.D.F.& G. Biologists in 1978-79 on the upper Susitna river, almost 50% of the total moose crop was killed by grizzly bears in the first six months of their lives. Depending on snow conditions another 50% or more of the surviving moose calf crop is killed by wolves during their first winter. From 1989-1993 only about 9% of all moose calves survived the first 18 months of their lives in Unit 13. Predation by bears and wolves is the primary cause for this low calf survival.

I estimate that of the total Unit 13 annual moose calf crop, which is about 10,000; approximately 3500 will be killed by bears, 2500 by wolves, and only 500 - 1000 by hunters. There are also an unknown amount that die of disease, accidents, and starvation. So much for subsistence hunting!

It is my observation that moose populations are controlled primarily by predation as long as the moose population is below the carrying

capacity of the winter range; this has been the case since 1972. When the moose population exceeds the carrying capacity of the range, as in the 50's and 60's, deep snow and starvation can cause a population crash.

The present moose population is estimated to be about 18,000 by A.D.F.& G. Biologists. It is my opinion that the carrying capacity of the range is about 30,000, but this cannot be achieved due to predation losses.

The winter of 1971-72 was the worst in recorded history in the Copper River, and total snow fall at Gulkana amounted to 90 inches, which is double the average year. During this winter it was deep snow, lack of browse and increased vulnerability to wolf predation that caused a crash in the moose population.

For example: a count area near Tonsina Lake revealed over 300 moose, 117 which were bulls during November, 1970. By November 1973, there were only about 25 moose in the same area. A count of the same area on November 5, 1994, revealed 31 moose: 7 bulls, 22 cows and 2 calves. This amounts to a 90% drop in the moose population. A similar 85% decline in the moose population was found to have occurred on the Gakona and Chistochina drainages following the deep snows of the 1971-72 winter. From this it can be readily seen that predator control alone is not always the solution to good moose management.

In conclusion I have four recommendations to State and Federal wildlife managers:

1. Increase and improve moose winter range. This can be naturally by allowing most wildfires to burn and go out naturally.

Prescribed burning is seldom done, but should be used in specific areas where winter range is needed.

The use of mechanical tree crushers is another method used to set back plant succession to the browse stage. All of the above processes benefit not only moose, but also beaver, sharptail grouse, rabbits, lynx, and many other animals and birds.

2. Predator control must be conducted to meet specific management objectives. Bears will probably have to be controlled by sport hunting seasons and natural limiting factors.

Wolf populations need to be reduced when the moose population is below the range carrying capacity. They need to be reduced now, and the most efficient and humane method of doing this is by aerial shooting.

3. Continue to count moose in established areas to ensure the continuity of population data. Also establish utilization transects on key winter areas. This information is needed to determine the carrying capacity of the range.

4. Overall management should be objective and free from political interference. Ignore the animal

rights groups; they have nothing to offer but their ignorance and ill-placed emotions.

Sound, objective wildlife management is one area where Native and non Native Alaskans should agree.

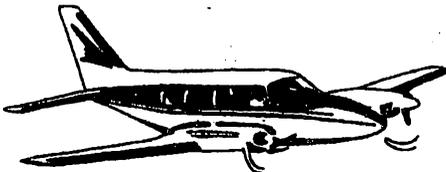
*Footnote: Although the above information pertains to Unit 13, the same population dynamics have occurred in Units 11 & 12, which includes the Wrangell Mountains.

NOTICE

Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative is tentatively scheduled to be in the McCarthy area April 3-7 to conduct site surveys for potential customers. Prior to scheduling a survey you must complete a membership application packet and return it to CVTC at P.O. Box 44, Glennallen, AK 99588 no later than March 24, 1995. Membership applications can be obtained by calling the CVTC office at 800-478-6612 or 907-822-3551.

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.



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Rates:

Gulkana/McCarthy	\$56*
McCarthy/Gulkana	\$56*
Gulkana/MayCreek	\$60
May Creek/Gulkana	\$60
Anchorage/Gulkana	\$105*
Gulkana/Anchorage	\$105*

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Local Geography

BY KEN KRITCHEN

Across

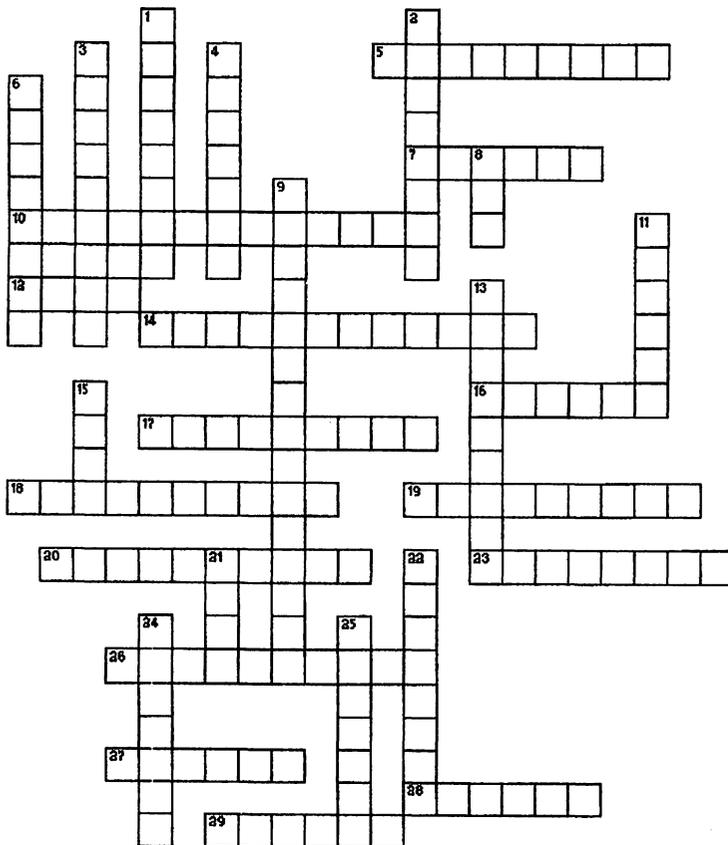
- 5 The ridge between McCarthy and the Nizina River.
- 7 This glacial lake usually causes massive flooding along the Kennicott River in the late spring.
- 10 The remains of this old railroad trestle once spanned the _____.
- 12 The lake that parallels the McCarthy Road for about 3 miles.
- 14 The name of a creek and a pass that lead to the headwaters of Bear and Fohlin Creeks.
- 16 This river runs to the coast and is famous for its salmon runs.
- 17 The river that runs under the McCarthy tram.
- 18 These three peaks tower above the surrounding terrain and can be seen towards Canada.

- 19 This mountain towers on the horizon as you are approaching Glennallen from Anchorage.
- 20 A high school senior might head for this 14,470 ft. peak.
- 23 This creek runs through Kennicott.
- 26 This is one of the passes that leads to the White River.
- 27 The Kennicott River flows into this river.
- 28 This peak stands between the Kennicott and Root Glaciers.
- 29 The other pass at the head of the Nizina River that leads to the Russell Glacier.

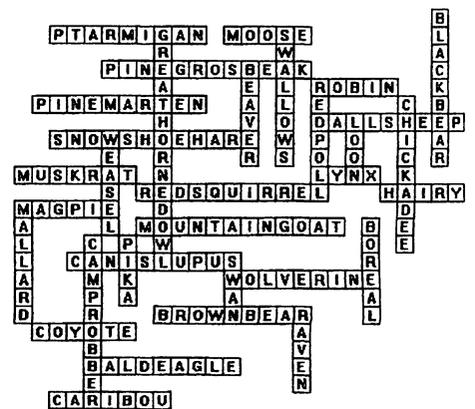
Down

- 1 This creek leads to Green Butte.

- 2 This 6,375 ft. mountain looks down on Kennicott and McCarthy.
- 3 The spectacular view of this river is seen from the only remaining CR&NW bridge.
- 4 The McCarthy road parallels this river for about 40 miles.
- 6 This mountain 60 miles northwest of McCarthy is an active volcano.
- 8 Hydrolic giants were used for placer mining on this creek.
- 9 These mountains tower above the McCarthy Road and can afford possible sightings of Dall sheep.
- 11 Not gold but _____ Lake offers excellent sport fishing.
- 13 This 16,390 ft. mountain can be seen to the northwest of McCarthy.
- 15 This river flows into the Chitina just above Jakes Bar.
- 21 Incredible ice falls can be seen on this glacier north of Kennicott.
- 22 This mountain across the glacier from McCarthy assumes a reddish glow in the fall.
- 24 This creek had a mining camp of the same name.
- 25 This ridge 15 miles long is a barrier between Kennicott and McCarthy Creek.



Answers to last issue's puzzle



Boyhood in McCarthy

BY JO ANNE WOLD

IN THE SPRING OF 1914 Otto Lubbe led his family — his wife, Ella, two sons and a daughter — into the McCarthy-Kennicott country. In eastern Washington's Yakima Valley they left behind their home and a bankrupt farm equipment business which had fallen on hard times. Otto gathered together what he could, some pack horses and some sleigh horses, and they set out by boat and train for McCarthy.

It was not Otto's first trip to Alaska. He had found his way north to Nome with his two brothers in 1902. They worked like slaves shoveling paydirt in sluice boxes for a mining company on the beach. Otto left Nome and settled his family in the Yakima Valley until there was news of the Shushanna gold strike 90 miles from McCarthy. Lubbe went there ahead of his family and determined there was a better future in a freighting business than in mining. The horses were used to take supplies to Shushanna and to make deliveries of goods coming in on the Copper River railroad to the McCarthy merchants.

Of German extraction, Otto immigrated to the United States in about 1880. When he went through immigrations at Ellis Island in New York the officer asked him his name. It was a yard long and almost unpronounceable. "That's too much name," the officer said. "Your name is now Lubbe." Since the officer was wearing a uniform, and to most Germans that was the sign of highest authority, Otto said, "Yes, sir." It's been Lubbe ever since.

THE LUBBE'S HOME IN McCARTHY was a two-story frame building which housed the post office downstairs and the family upstairs. Next door was a stable for the horses. It was the duty of Otto's 14-year-old son, Bill, to feed the horses, help with deliveries and work in the family lumber yard.

In the days of Bill's boyhood McCarthy had a population of about 300 people, mostly adults. There weren't enough children for a school until a year after the Lubbes arrived. Bill remembers McCarthy as a town of wooden sidewalks, false front store buildings of planed lumber, log cabins, dogs, and Coleman lanterns. There was a power plant (the three-story frame building still stands) fueled by oil, but it only provided power to the nearby Mother Lode copper mine.

Like most mining camps McCarthy sprang forth as a tent town, a collection of get-rich-quick businesses set up by Valdez and Cordova merchants when the building of the railroad and Kennecott mine buildings began in the early 1900s. By 1910, when Kennecott had 16 buildings and 300 men employed, McCarthy had graduated from tents to 41 log and frame buildings. A new hotel, built by Peter Johnson, was described by a newspaper reporter as "one of the best and most substantial buildings in the country." It was of log caulked with burlap and paneled with beaverboard.

When the copper spike was driven in 1911 to signal the completion of the railroad, McCarthy had yet to reach its peak, which took place five years later. Already the town offered a steam bath, three barbershops, several general merchandise stores, a sheet

metal shop, a "gentlemen's furnishings" shop, the Club Pool Hall and Card Room, the Mecca Bar, a Chinese restaurant named Charley's Place, several hotels, rooming houses, the office of lawyer F.H Foster, and 20 sporting girls on The Line (a collection of one-room cabins in a row not far from town).

McCARTHY HAD ALL THOSE THINGS, but it did not have a church. Whenever a visiting minister from Cordova came to town everybody turned out to hear him. Services were held in the hotels and saloons which stopped dispensing liquor for the occasion. Rev. Bert Bingle and a lay minister who became a famous artist of Alaskan scenes, Eustace Ziegler, gave sermons in McCarthy.

"I remember going to a service at the Golden Hotel," Bill said. "We were congregated in the bar which had a big pool table. When the smaller kids got tired they'd lay them on the pool table. Before the night was over, the pool table was covered with sleeping kids."

Water for the town came from nearby McCarthy Creek. Young Bill Lubbe, with a dog and sled, hauled water in the wintertime for his family and regular customers, charging 10 cents for a five-gallon can. There was no indoor plumbing, so the water that was carried in eventually had to be carried out. "The water bucket was always empty, and the slop bucket was always full," Bill said. "That was a fact of life in the McCarthy days."

Another fact of life was school, which was held in a one-room cabin starting in 1915. A teacher by the name of Mrs. Kelly came from Cordova and taught grades 1 through 8. Bill was the oldest boy

in town. A year later the schoolhouse was the scene of a town gathering when Congressional delegate Judge James Wickersham spoke about railroad and steamship freight rates.

Bill's boyhood was rich with outdoor activities, with picnics, with skiing, with dances at the Arctic Brotherhood Hall for the entire family, with long hours of reading and card games. In the summer there was a championship baseball game between McCarthy and Cordova with a gang of people arriving from the port town ready for a weekend of games. As in all Alaska towns in those days, the Fourth of July celebration was met with as much preparation, reverence and gusto as Christmas.

But more than all the outward activities, it was the encounters with people that meant the most to Bill. "The people were wonderful. Everybody helped everybody else. Nobody had very much, but we had a lot in other ways, in the spirit between us. Nobody had nice homes or carpeting on the floor. Everything was simple, but we were all in the same boat. As far as food goes, I think we ate better then than we do now. My mother fixed good roasts and steaks and there was lots of it. There wasn't a day that we didn't have pie or cake or doughnuts."

Reprinted by permission of Lee Schroer, JoAnne's husband. Subscriber Jim McGavock submitted this article which appeared in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, October 20, 1979.

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School news

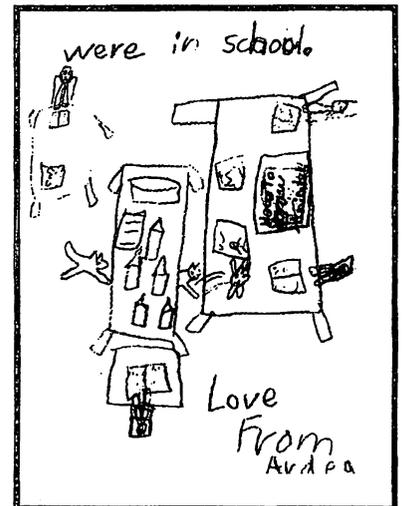
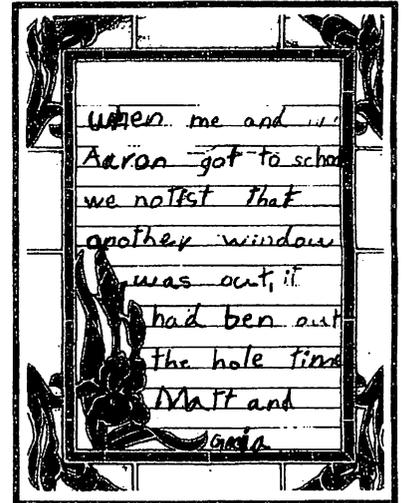
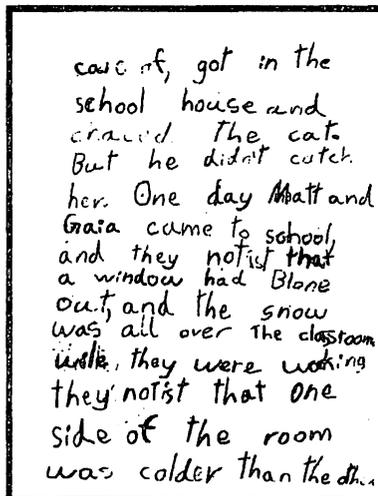
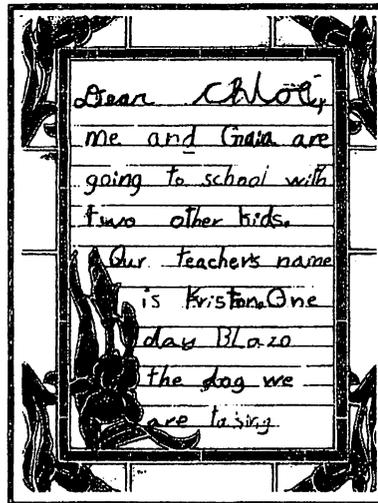
BY KRISTEN JANSSEN

Kennicott schooling resumed February 6th with Matt, Gaia, Aaron and Ardea in attendance. Eighth, fourth and second grades are represented in our school.

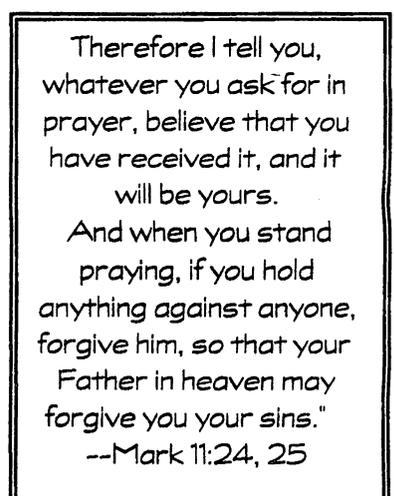
We have been enjoying studying many subjects, including writing, geography, reports, memorizing the multiplication tables ferociously and reading Tom Sawyer aloud.

Our school cabin hums with activity, academic and otherwise.

The best description I can think of to portray a day by day account is the following letter Ardea wrote to her cousin, Chloe Thurston.



We look forward to having Tyler Green join us soon. And, we are glad to be back!



Outdoors in the Wrangells



"A Day in the Life"

BY LILLY GOODMAN

In the afternoon when our chores were done, Richard and I set out onto the river bar. The sun had already dipped quietly behind the mountains, but its light, although in shadow, was bright yet. Our intentions were to cross this bold being. Over five miles wide, the river is a world open and white forever. To be in the midst of it is a thrill. So free, but so lonely.

Where open water moved briskly through the ice, the cold desert stole its moisture, collecting it in billowing gentle stream. Much of the bar was covered by smooth overflow ice. Hairy ice crystals grew from its pale blue surface.

In the far distance, I spotted a dark figure. It appeared large, but my eyes were not strong enough to disclose anymore information than that. A mere hour earlier, I had fondled my binoculars — preparing to bring them with me, but now they rested useless on the kitchen counter. The figure moved quickly, and I called to Richard to look. We watched it, and it watched us from far away.

As we continued skiing, I kept my eye on it and noticed that it was coming closer. It really appeared to be following us. For some reason, this realization startled me. Perhaps my nervous reaction stemmed from an insecure feeling of extreme vulnerability created by the giant atmosphere of the wide open river bar. The river — ultimately more powerful — could swallow us at any whim, be it with icy black water, bellowing wind, curling blinding fog, or any other of its mighty elements of exposure.

Prodding the ice aggressively with a heavy poker, Richard gingerly crossed a narrow channel. As I waited for my turn to cross, I heard a hollow crack, reverberating many times within the secret spaces between ice and water. Fascinated and stunned, we paused as the river spoke to us, changing before our eyes. We watched intently as a narrow envelope of water became exposed. The misty blue grew larger and larger. Richard found a new crossing and quickly came back over to join me. We did not want to get stuck.

Meanwhile, the animal had come quite close to us. Not close enough for us to be certain of its identity, but it appeared to be just a coyote. It paused often to watch me watch it. It passed us upriver and continued its way across the bar towards an island. Now it was our turn to follow the coyote. Maybe it had not been following us but had simply chosen the same route as ours for crossing the river. In any case, its speed far surpassed ours.

We had not been following the coyote for long when it disappeared into the scraggly brush of the island. Then I saw through the moose-cropped willows, the movement of two — maybe three — large animals. They were fast and sly. I barely caught glimpse of the sleek movement. I realized as Richard called to me, that we had run into a pack of wolves! We were separated only by a narrow and very shallow channel of water.

They seemed to surround us in a semi circle. I stopped dead in my tracks. A dark, black wolf stared at us carefully while another — a gray one — and the coyote, ran towards us. At the waters edge the gray wolf stopped suddenly — its face barely

hidden behind the scrawny bare bushes. The coyote ran on free, trotting triumphantly downriver. Jet, our dog, started to run after it. Certain that the old lab would become wolf lunch, we called sternly to it. It stopped, but whimpered in dismay.

Now I saw clearly two wolves — the black one and the gray one. Two more were shielded by brush. Again, my instincts prevailed over common sense: I became afraid. Adrenaline surged through my still body. Here was a pack of wolves. Here we were. None of us moved. I could imagine myself as a moose — surrounded by a cunning pack of killers. Or as a human — a soldier, silently approaching a pack of enemy soldiers, waiting hidden in dense greenery.

Maybe our companion had not been a coyote. Could it have been a wolf pup — sent away by the others as a decoy for our dog? (It was half the size of the other wolves). But then why had it initially been traveling alone? Had the coyote brought us knowingly to the pack of wolves as a scare tactic? Or had we saved the coyote's life by interrupting its chase by the wolves? Or had our three-party encounter been merely a coincidence? We will never know.

The wolves ran away as soon as I skied up to join Richard, and we turned back. Silently plodding along we could see the coyote in the distance. Trotting downriver and away once again from the island.

The sun set soft pink. The colors encompassed the entire river bar, and we were part of it. The quiet colors and the vastness. We were of it. Three lone figures in a lonely white world.

Friends of Kennicott propose joint management

BY RICK KENYON

The nonprofit organization known as Friends of Kennicott has come up with a proposal to manage the Kennicott property — if the National Park Service will agree to acquire the property, and finance the ongoing operations and site stabilization.

According to the proposal, "Only the federal government has the financial capacity and expertise to protect Kennicott's cultural and natural heritage. But can the National Park Service afford to manage Kennicott during a time of severe budget constraints?" Friends conclude that, yes, they can.

"Specifically, we propose that, following federal acquisition, Friends of Kennicott maintain and operate the site under cooperative agreement with the Park Service...."

says the Friends proposal. According to Jonathon Jarvis, the new superintendent at Wrangell St. Elias National Park, an environmental group called The Conservation Fund is negotiating with the owners of the Kennicott property with the idea of donating it to NPS. Subsurface rights would be obtained from the Kennicott Corporation by trading federal land in Utah, probably BLM land.

The Friends' proposed budget calls for \$2,500,000 in capital appropriation for stabilization, securing doors and windows, exterior safety, interior public viewing points, and sanitary facilities. It includes an additional \$420,000 ongoing yearly expense which would go towards building maintenance, direct site supervision and administration, and off-site NPS

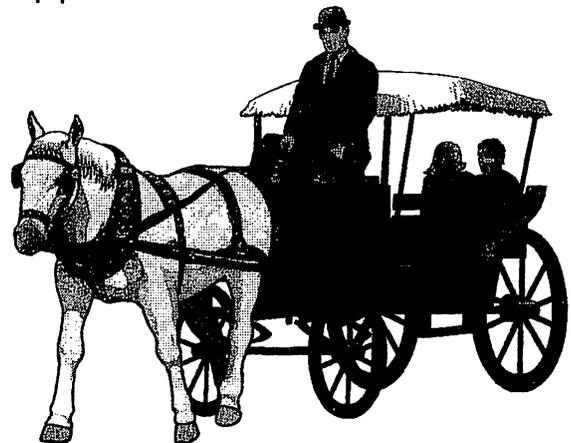
support. Funds would be provided by NPS and administered by Friends, except for \$120,000 per year which NPS would use for off-site support.

Included in the ongoing budget would be \$150,000 a year for a part-time administrator, a full-time caretaker, and a seasonal assistant to the caretaker.

Friends of Kennicott was established in early 1990 as a nonprofit corporation in order to "preserve, restore, and render available to the public the historic mine buildings located at Kennicott, Alaska." In 1991, the Alaska Legislature appropriated \$200,000 to Friends of Kennicott to initiate emergency stabilization of the buildings at Kennicott. In 1992, they received an additional \$376,000 from Congress to continue the project.

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Congress considers closing parks

BY RICK KENYON

The 1980 Alaska Lands Act more than doubled the size of America's parklands by setting more than 23 million acres of land as national parks, preserves and monuments. Now, America's national park system can be saved only by shutting the gates on parks and historical sites that "do not belong in the national park system," says the new chairman of a key House public lands subcommittee.

"Park closure is not an effort to take something away from the public, but is an effort to save lean federal budgets and look to other creative means of management," Rep. James Hansen, R-Utah, recently wrote in a letter to advocates of private property rights. Hansen said creating a "Park Closure Commission" patterned after the military's base closure commission would be one way to target parks for elimination.

The congressman, who chairs the subcommittee overseeing national parks, says areas cut out of the park system could be turned back to state or local governments, with local historical societies taking over closed historic sites.

"This is an idea whose time has come. I wouldn't like to see it as a tool to target our great national parks, but the Park Service has become a dumping ground for open space," said Chuck Cushman, head of the American Land Rights Association.

"All of this 'sacredness of nature' attitude has given us a totally one-sided view of national parks," added Ron Arnold, director of the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise. Arnold predicts that Congress will follow through on Hansen's ideas. He added that he would prefer Congress "Stop the power of national parks to seize private property."

The idea of reversing growth of the 368-unit park system has sent shivers through environmentalists and some lawmakers. "They don't care a whit for jewels in the park system. It's just part of an effort to dismantle public lands in the West," said Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore. "The committee is dominated by radical right, anti-public lands Republicans," he said. DeFazio said the resources panel would probably pass Hansen's proposal, though.

"National parks aren't military bases," added Dale Crane, Northwest representative of the National Parks and Conservation Association. But the idea may find receptive ears among the ascendant Republicans in Congress. The new chairman of the House Resources Committee, Rep. Don Young, fought the 1980 Alaska Lands Act that created many new national park units in Alaska.

The Feds are at it again

BY FRED DENNER

The Feds are at it again. As if the ongoing controversy over the unresolved "resident zones," issues isn't enough, the National Park Service and Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) are embarking on a new controversy: "Customary and Traditional Determinations."

These determinations are a litmus test for history and level of use of specific fishstocks and wildlife populations. The crux of the matter is this: The FSB will arbitrarily set what percentage of the population of a community or resident zone must have participated in a specific use pattern of fish and wildlife in order for a use to qualify as "customary and traditional."

In addition, the FSB will also arbitrarily determine over how long a time period a specific use pattern must have occurred to make it "traditional."

The spirit of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), which is intended to protect the rural subsistence way of life on federal public lands, is threatened.

A memorandum presented at the FSB meeting in Anchorage on November 14 by an attorney who serves as legal adviser to the FSB conveyed the basic message that ANILCA does not authorize the FSB to make before-the-fact determinations of who has or does not have recognized qualification to be a rural subsistence harvester. A very

similar conclusion was reached in a recent discussion of this matter between Superintendent Jon Jarvis, Chief Ranger Jay Wells and myself.

It remains to be seen just what direction the FSB will take on this matter, but letters from concerned individuals encouraging the FSB to stay within the legal boundaries of ANILCA would help them chart a simpler course through the "morass" of legal issues subsistence users statewide now are confronted by.

Address your letters of concern to:
FSB/USFWS
Office of Subsistence Management
1101 East Tudor Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99503

OUR TOWN

March 1920 April



LOCAL NEWS

Having heard a rumor that G.C. Gwin intended to build bridges and culverts on Sourdough Trail, with salvaged lumber from Nizina Bridge, the News wrote asking him if this was so. The following is his reply:

"In regard to my hauling lumber from the Nizina Bridge to build culverts on the trail over Sourdough Hill,—this is quite true. Mr. James Wilson reported to the Road Commission that Johnson had salvaged what is intact to build all bridges necessary over the hill. As nothing was done last year, I intend to use the lumber before it rots or goes down the river.

Yours truly,
G.C. Gwin"
March 6

CHITINA NEWS

Special to News.

ST. PATRICK'S DANCE

Chitina, Alaska

March 9th, 1920

To the People of McCarthy,

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual St. Patrick dance given by the Arctic Brotherhood of Chitina, on Wednesday March 17th.

To make it convenient for our out of town guests we will give the dance on Thursday following, if there is not a train on St. Patrick's day.

Refreshments will be served and prizes given for the best waltzers, etc.

Everybody will be promised a good time.

Cordially yours,

Camp Chitina No. 31,
Arctic Brotherhood.

Committee L.J. Day, L.H. Brown, O.A. Nelson.

March 13

LOCAL NEWS

Pete Ross, who was the one caught in the snow slide at Bonanza last Wednesday, was in last evening. He was caught in the avalanche for two and a half hours and though he was only carried a few feet he was found unconscious under 14 feet, but recovered several hours later under the skillful care of the hospital staff.

He feels sore all over and badly bruised but is otherwise all right. The snow slide itself went down over a mile.

DOG FEED AT MARSHALL'S

BONUS

The proposed bonus of ten dollars per ounce on gold is evidently waking up some of our old time prospectors in this vicinity, judging by the many prospectors' outfits which have been supplied by local merchants this week. The principal consignment of freight is being put up for a party of four, who leave early

next week for the Bremner River country. This section has long been considered attractive to the prospector. Many have gone there for just one season and been able to come out in the fall with a good poke - the result of "sniping" without going to the expense of machinery.

It takes grit and dollars to make these trips and though they may not have all the dollars they need, they have an abundance of grit to make the trip a success and it is to be hoped they strike a fortune.

March 20

LOCAL NEWS

Mike Molinskie arrived in town Thursday to purchase a few more luxuries to feed the boys with this season. Mike will employ about fifteen men on his Rex bench claim and says the best is none too good when it comes to catering to the inner man.

"Red dog" is the latest non-gambling game played in the pool halls. Our deputy marshall looked it up in Hoyles and is now an authority on its obscure rules.

SCHOOL NOTES HONOR ROLL

Elizabeth Murie, Marian and Frank Wills, Laura May Fry, Ted Seltnerich, Laurence Barrett, Victor Marshall, Arthur and Walter McDonnell, Frank Johnson.

The boys have caused no tardiness for three consecutive months.

Letters were received by grammar grade pupils recently from children in similar grades in Ohio. These letters were unusually interesting and instructive.

We hope to get replies from schools in other sections of the country before the close of the term.

March 27

RAGING STORMS HOLD UP PARTY ON ROHEN GLACIER

Joe McLellan, and G. Walker the census enumerator, returned from Chisana on Thursday morning. Though Mr. Walker is an old timer in the country, he says that he has never experienced such storms before in Alaska as he and McLellan encountered on the Rohen Glacier on their way in to Chisana. Not only a raging blizzard did they have to contend with but a heavy fog besides, which made traveling impossible and dangerous. Digging a hole in the snow, they laid down in it for forty hours, when the storm cleared and they were able to continue on in. If only a few more government officials would travel these glacier trails, and under the same conditions as Mr. Walker did, an appropriation would soon be authorized, even if it was only for staking

the trails out over the crevices on these glaciers for winter travel.

TRAINS DELAYED

Cordova, April 2. Special to News.

Double-headed rotary sent out today with fuel for rotary snowbound at 33.

Heavy wind is still blowing, outlook is poor to get through, cannot expect train from Cordova before Sunday or Monday.

NOTED NOVELIST IN NEW ROLE

Word has been received here that Rex Beach, the famous novelist, will come to Prince William Sound and supervise some motion pictures in which his work, "The Iron Trail" will be reproduced by a film company.

The scene is laid in Keystone Canyon, where the great fight took place several years ago between opposing railway forces.

The Copper River Valley is also depicted in many chapters of the book, all of which scenes will be photographed and given to the public in film.

It has been many years since Rex Beach was here and our citizens will welcome him and his company - if they come. (Valdez Miner)

COLD WEATHER

Intense cold the last few nights has frozen everything solid, and now it looks like an extraordinary late spring.

Suffering from acute melancholia and unsafe to be at large, a patient was taken in charge by the Marshal yesterday, pending the arrival of Dr. Gillespie who is expected on the next train and will place him under treatment.

April 3

LOCAL NEWS

C.A. DeWitt is in town en route to his brother's fox farm in Mantasta. Daniel Jones, who succeeds C. Morrison, on charge of the Road Commission work here arrived last train. The first crew will start as soon as the spring thaws commence. Already a number of teams are busy hauling the camp supplies ahead. Birch, one of the drivers, had the misfortune to pierce the white of one of his eyes with a piece of baling wire and has gone to the Kennecott Hospital for treatment.

SCHOOL ELECTION

At the school election today Mrs. J.E. Ketchum, Mr. O. A. Nelson, and Oscar Breedman were elected as clerk, treasurer and director respectively.

April 10

PERSONAL

Jimmie Brown, who was badly frozen on the Rohen Glacier last January, is being operated upon for the removal of the injured toes and fingers.

Bob Johnson left yesterday for Dan Creek, where he will be employed by G.H. Birch for the summer.

F.P. Miller left for the Nizina on Monday, where he will be associated with the Andrus Co. next season.

George Nickles was in town on Thursday on his way to the creeks after a winter in Seattle.

Fred Lubbe and Con Miller left on their last relay trip to the Bremner on Thursday.

Mrs. Hubricks many friends were glad to see her return on Tuesday from her trip to New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Radovan were in town from Dan Creek for a few days this week to secure their season's outfit.

MORE SCHOOL ELECTION

At the school election last Monday, Mr. Sam Seltenreich was elected director, and Mrs. John Barrett, clerk, and Mr. John Underwood, treasurer, were re-elected for another term.

Mrs. Fry, Pete Johnson, and Jas. Hussey served as election judges.

CHITINA NEWS

Bobbie Sheldon was like a boy with a new toy, showing during the past week what a twenty horsepower Cleveland tractor could do, and just how to handle it. It seems to be just the thing for the trail, as it needs so little room to turn around, and can climb almost any grade.

Bobbie leaves for Fairbanks in a few days with a load of freight.

It is understood this tractor has been purchased by the farmers of the interior.

CHISANA NOTES

Andy, miner and packer from Chisana, was in town last week purchasing supplies and also to get a line on what horses can be procured for the coming summer.

Andy had the misfortune to lose all his string but one this winter, the horses breaking away from Harry Boyden who was taking them down to the winter feeding grounds. Boyden also lost his string. Al Fagerberg received word that three of his horses are living & in good shape. Jimmie Brown's horses are all living and are as fat as butter.

Mrs. Lottie White, a resident of Chisana, spent a few days in town, resting up after her trip out over the glaciers and then left for a visit outside to spend the summer.

April 17

PERSONAL

The brown bears are out, according to A. Hagen the track walker, who ran across one, or at least ran away from one about a week ago. She was a monster, with a foot print the size of a leg of mutton; we mean the old fashioned ones we used to get. Hagen has a dim recollection of seeing a cub also, — if it had not been for the speeder he would be one stepping yet.

Al Moore and family have taken the Cameron residence during Mrs. Cameron's absence in the States.

April 24

MALA to be reorganized

BY BONNIE KENYON

The McCarthy Area Landowners Association has met twice since the beginning of the new year. Both meetings — Jan. 20 & Feb. 22 — were held at the mail building on the McCarthy airstrip.

Two options were considered for formalizing the organization. The first option involved forming a second-class city but, after research, it was apparent the community of McCarthy is still too small. The second option, one that was chosen at the February meeting, was to incorporate as a nonprofit corporation which entails adopting bylaws and the election of directors. A new name for the organization is also in the works.

According to the minutes from the January meeting, "it is anticipated in a nonprofit community organization, that voting rights will be limited to whatever definition for

resident we can come up with." It was suggested that the permanent fund requirements could be used to help define residency.

MALA's beginnings in 1992 goes back to a town meeting which was held to discuss the possibility of forming some type of local government. More than half of those present at the September meeting voted for some form of government or local organization. At a December 16 meeting, McCarthy residents voted against pursuing a formal government or legal entity at that time that would bind other people. However, a nonbinding organization was chosen by those in attendance — one that would provide an assembly to discuss issues that confront the community.

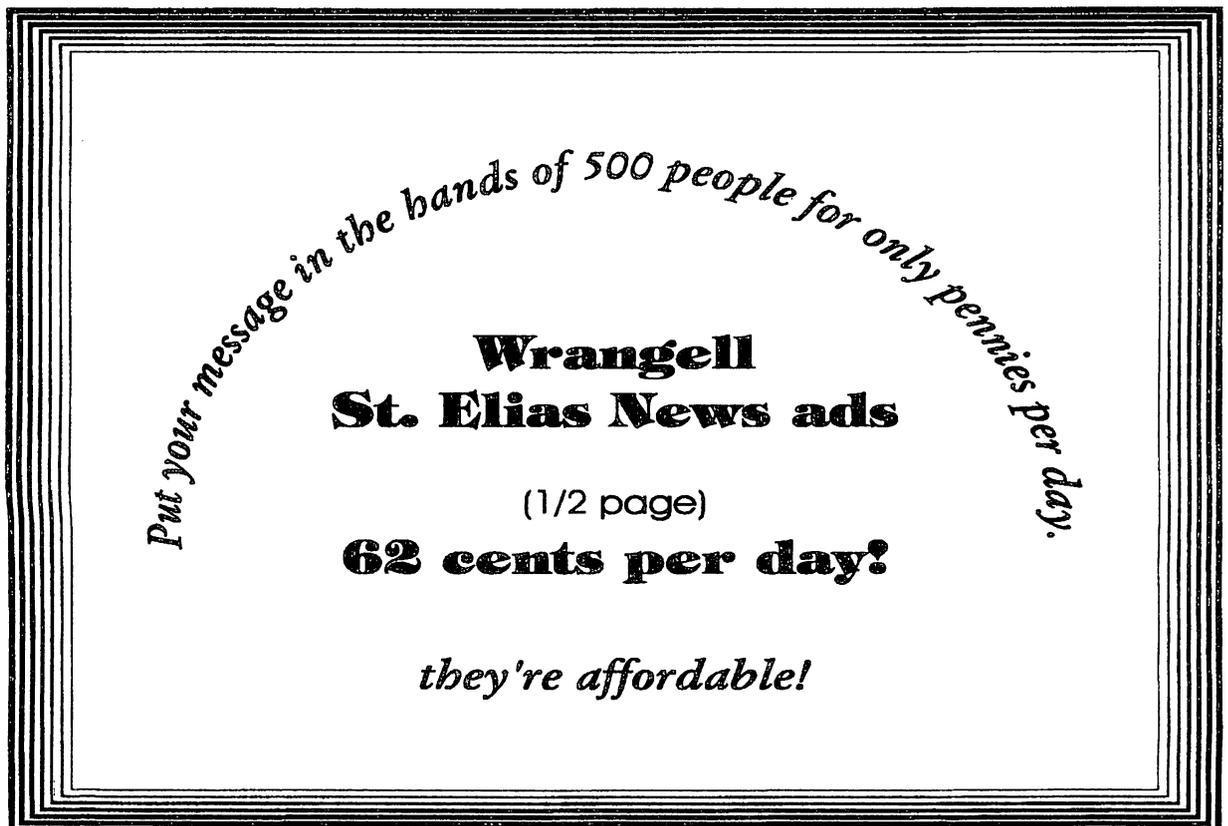
Since that time MALA has made its voice heard to state and federal levels on such issues as the McCarthy Road upgrade and the

Kennicott River footbridge project. Membership includes approximately 50 landowners in the area.

MALA has had its share of problems. Representation has been difficult for those landowners who do not reside in the area and are unable to attend a meeting in McCarthy where votes were taken for a consensus on issues that could affect everyone concerned. New volunteers for positions such as chairman and secretary have been hard to come by.

The new organization wants to fulfill the role of a formal voice at state and federal level and at the same time, be responsible for ensuring everybody has the opportunity to be heard before a majority opinion is formed. Residency — not land ownership — will determine the new membership.

Another meeting is scheduled for March 3 in McCarthy.



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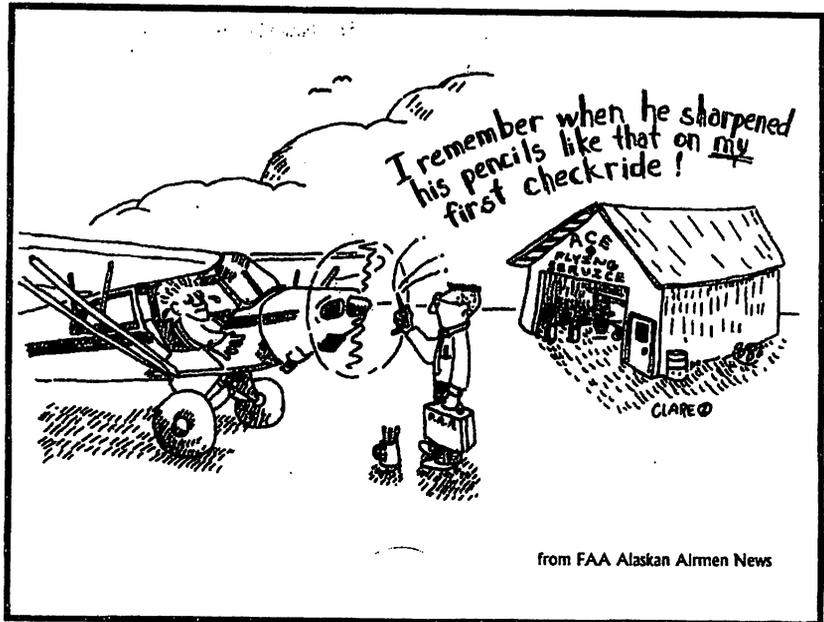
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House passes property bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. FEB. 3

By a vote of 277 to 148, the House today approved legislation that would require the federal government to compensate landowners if environmental rules cause the value of their property to fall at least 10 percent. The Clinton administration and environmentalists oppose the measure, saying it would threaten wildlife and clean water and cost the federal government billions of dollars. The bill now goes to the Senate, where its future is uncertain.



from FAA Alaskan Alirmen News

What others are saying

Edward Grimsley, writing in the Conservative Chronicle:

The secretary of the interior showed his true colors at a recent House Resources Committee hearing on the program to reintroduce wolves to Yellowstone National Park. Defending that project, he said wolves would help control the park's rising elk population by devouring some of the animals.

REPUBLICAN REP. Helen Chenoweth of Idaho, who fears wolves would prefer to attack area

ranchers' cattle and sheep, suggested an alternative. She wondered if it wouldn't be better to open Yellowstone to elk hunters on a fee basis and "use the proceeds for a park maintenance fund." Babbitt was aghast. That couldn't be done, he countered, because hunting

in national parks is "contrary to the history and traditions of the American people."



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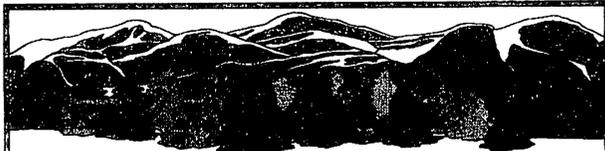
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Cross Road Medical Center

Editor's note: Many times I am asked, "Where is your nearest doctor and what kind of medical facilities are available?" When subscriber John Baalke sent me the following information, I thought it might be interesting to you, as well as answer a few more of your questions. Cross Road Medical Center is located in Glennallen which is approximately 120 road miles from McCarthy or an hour's flight.

Medical Ministries

It is the goal of Cross Road Medical Center to present Christ in the community while providing high quality medical care. Since July 1, 1988, this has been accomplished by Cross Road Medical Center being an independent not-for-profit Christian corporation. CRMC is under the direction of a community Christian Board of Directors.

History

Up to July 1988, Cross Road Medical Center (Faith Hospital) was the focus of the medical ministry of SEND International of Alaska. SEND's work in Alaska was founded in 1937 as Central Alaska Missions (CAM) by Reverend Vincent Joy. In the early years of his work in the Copper River Basin, Rev. Joy was called upon to give medical care to the people of the Copper River Basin. The nearest doctor was 120 miles away over a rugged mountain trail and he felt keenly his lack of training and equipment. Rev. Joy urged his supporting friends and churches to join him in prayer for a doctor to assist. In 1950 these prayers were answered as the first doctor arrived. A second doctor joined the staff in 1954.

Faith Hospital became a reality in 1956 as the medical care moved from a small improvised cabin to a modest but adequate hospital building. A clinic section was added in 1968 to better serve outpatient needs. A new clinic wing was put into service in June 1984.

This expansion added examination rooms, a large trauma/emergency/-room, a larger laboratory and pharmacy, and improved office facilities. The present facility is spacious, modern, and well-equipped, a testimony to God's faithfulness in provision.

Cross Road Medical Center

Cross Road Medical Center is an outpatient and short term emergency care facility providing medical care given in Christ's name to the residents of the Copper River Basin. Cross Road Medical Center includes an active outpatient clinic, 24 hour emergency and trauma services and a 24 hour observation unit. We have the supportive services of Lab, X-ray and Pharmacy. We also operate a critical-care air-ambulance service.

Cross Road Medical Center has the challenge of treating a wide variety of medical problems in a remote setting. The days may be filled with the general problems similar to any general practice outpatient clinic. Often interspersed with this are emergency and critical situations. The nearest specialists and referral center is 190 miles away in Anchorage. Distance, weather and transportation are all part of the challenges of health care here in the interior of Alaska.

Staff

Cross Road Medical Center is staffed by a professionally-trained medical team. There are currently professional medical staff that are associated with SEND International of Alaska.

It is now most common for new staff to come with a direct relationship with Cross Road Medical Center. There are opportunities for both short and long term experiences. Cross Road Medical Center is happy to work with each individual to work out the best financial arrangement possible for all concerned. Short-term volunteers

typically serve from three months to one year. It takes a variety of support personnel to continue the operation of CRMC. Most of these staff members are hired from the local community.

One of the real joys of serving here is being part of the Cross Road Medical Center Team. There is a real feeling of family among the staff as they carry out the unified goal of showing Christ to others through their delivery of medical care.

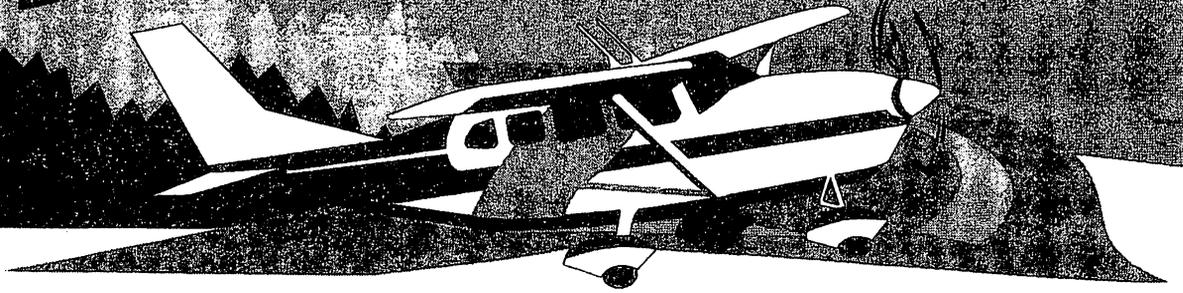
The Area And Its People

The geography of the area presents its own challenges. Weather conditions and rough terrain, as well as long distances, create a unique physical environment in which to practice medicine. Winter temperatures can dip to -50 and below. The summers are a moderate 60 to 80 degrees. The dark winters of just a few hours of daylight are offset by the long summer days of continuous daylight. This area is truly beautiful both winter and summer with its many rugged mountain ranges.

The area population of about 3600 people is spread over a vast area roughly within an 80 to 100 mile radius of Glennallen. Imagine serving the medical needs of this few people in such a vast area and you will be able to comprehend some of the challenges at Cross Road Medical Center. An added challenge is the great influx of a transient population in the summer. One-fourth of the population is Athabascan Indians. The Native culture is in transition; traditional lifestyles and values being modified by the larger society. Much of the non-Native population is quite mobile. All of these groups present unique opportunities and challenges of ministry.

To contact Cross Road Medical Center write: P.O. Box 5, Glennallen, AK 99588 or call (907) 822-3203.

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More national exposure for WRST

A REVIEW BY BONNIE KENYON

One cannot help but take a second look at the beautiful, glossy picture featured on the cover of the National Parks and Conservation Association's magazine -- *National Parks*. The scenic photo by Fred Hirschmann proved to be none other than the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST).

Naturally curious, I turn to the index and find a feature story called "Striking a Balance" by Bill Sherwonit. I am surprised and yet not surprised to see another article written by Bill -- who Rick and I have met on a couple of occasions -- on this park.

I flip through the magazine until I find what is obviously another full-size photo of *somewhere in the Wrangells*. Under the title of the article, these words give me a sense of what is to come. "Park managers, local residents, and conservationists must work to ensure that Wrangell-St. Elias, the nation's largest park, maintains its wilderness character despite growing visitation."

The six page article is interspersed with more color pictures. The McCarthy Road, the Kennicott Mine, the tram and even the McCarthy-Kennicott museum with local resident, Andy Shidner, sitting on the front porch. A map showing the boundaries of park and preserve as well as the communities of McCarthy, Kennicott and Nabesna is also included.

Bill begins by describing the crowds that now turn out for McCarthy and Kennicott's Fourth of July festivities. Comparing what once was to what McCarthy-Kennicott is now, Bill writes: "For decades the quintessential haven for reclusive Alaskans, McCarthy-Kennicott (the two are inextricably linked) has been transformed into a

tourist destination, with all the blessings and curses such change brings."

Laying out the various complications the National Park Service faces in its management of the 14-year old park, Bill accurately describes what many visitors to this area should know: "The irony--and a major management dilemma--at Wrangell-St. Elias, as at many other parks, is that few visitors actually touch the wilderness. Most experience the park from cars, buses, boats, or planes. Despite the vastness, or perhaps because of it, most park users are channeled into small, easily accessible corridors."

Bill gives the reader a background of the 60 mile long McCarthy Road and reveals the desire of park managers and many locals to keep the upgrade of the gravel road minimal and "part of the experience." I could not help but agree with Bill when he wrote: "Unfortunately, most of McCarthy Road offers little to catch visitors' attention. The roadway has few scenic pullouts, no interpretive displays, no road-side wildlife viewing, and no bathrooms or campgrounds until road's end."

In the article, Russ Lesko, the then acting superintendent of WRST, addressed this issue by stating that although park managers desire to meet some of these needs, they are limited in what they can do. It is true the state owns the right-of-way and that the majority of the land along the McCarthy Road is privately owned. But this is not the case with the Nabesna Road.

I found Sherwonit's article very thought provoking. Especially, when he described the Nabesna Road and what is happening at that end of the park. Unlike the McCarthy Road, the Nabesna Road, says

Bill, is "mainly bordered by parkland, not private property, and it offers scenic vistas along nearly its entire length." He writes that "District Ranger Sean McGuinness expects Nabesna Road to be inundated with park explorers when construction work on the Tok Cut-off Highway is finished in 1995--a scary prospect, considering the lack of facilities along the corridor. Visitors will find no bathrooms, campgrounds, or other services along the roadway."

Ranger McGuinness is quoted as saying: "There's toilet paper everywhere, and people drive off the road, across the tundra, camping wherever they want. In places they are trashing out stream banks and lake banks, cutting down trees, leaving garbage."

Even the backcountry is experiencing increased human impacts, says Bill. Vegetation is being trampled, problems with littering and overcrowding in certain places. Bob Jacobs, owner and operator of St. Elias Alpine Guides based in McCarthy, suggests spreading the use to other areas. I kept waiting for someone from the park service to suggest building a few facilities to meet the needs of the visitors. No one did. Chief Ranger Jay Wells has his opinion according to Bill's article: "Maybe, says Wells, "we'll eventually need to impose certain restrictions, go to a permit system or limit group sizes."

In reviewing this article I feel Bill did a very good job presenting the issues clearly and accurately. The spotlight is once again on the Wrangells. Perhaps those reading "Striking a Balance" who plan a trip out this way will be much better informed and prepared for the positive that awaits them as well as the negative.

Attention WSEN subscribers! *Important subscription information*

We need *your* help. Please take note of your mailing label on the back cover of this issue of WSEN. Besides your name and address, you will see a date in the top right-hand corner. This indicates the issue your subscription ends with. For example, if the date reads MA95, that means your subscription to the Wrangell St. Elias News ends with the March/April 1995 issue. You need to renew!

Any subscription whose label date is earlier than MA95 is overdue. In the past we sent separate notices on preprinted cards, but we feel our upgraded labels should make it easier for each subscriber to keep track of their own subscription.

The date abbreviations we use are as follows:

January/February is JF

March/April is MA

May/June is MJ

July/August is JA

September/October is SO

November/December is ND.

The year's subscription to our bimonthly (6 issues) publication is \$8.50 in the USA, \$10.00 in Canada and Mexico, \$18.50 in other countries.

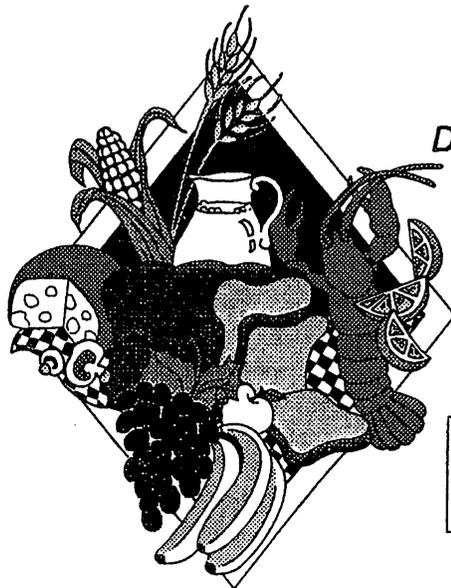
Please send your renewal to: WSEN, McCarthy #42, PO Box MXY, Glennallen, AK 99588.

Thank you so much.. We appreciate you!

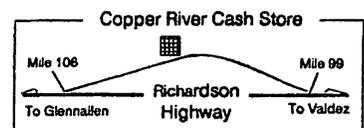
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Business Announcement

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.

Cooking with Carly

BY CARLY KRITCHEN

The thing that I most enjoy about writing this column is that it gives me an excuse to dig through my recipe box. I have a huge box of clippings from magazines, recipe cards and various other scraps of paper that have handwritten recipes that I've copied or gotten from other people. A lot of these recipes are so old that I hardly use them any more, but I can't bear to throw them away because of the memories that are attached to them!

When I was first learning how to cook, I was really only interested in learning how to bake. Why learn how to make something I didn't really want to eat, anyway? As a result, a lot of the recipes I first collected are for sweet bread and roll recipes. The ones I've picked for this column would be great for an Easter breakfast, or to take to a potluck or party.

My mom and her lady friends in the neighborhood used to get together for tea every day at someones house, and my mom sometimes made this raised sweet bread when it was her turn to host the party.

CINNAMON COFFEE BRAID

3/4 cup milk
1/4 cup sugar
1 1/2 tsp. salt
1 cup butter
2 packages dry yeast
1/2 cup warm water
3 egg yolks, well beaten
4 1/2 cups unsifted flour
1/2 cup sugar
2 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 cup butter, melted

Scald milk; stir in 1/4 cup sugar, salt, and 1 cup butter. Cool to lukewarm. Measure warm water in large warm bowl. Sprinkle in

yeast; stir until dissolved. Add lukewarm milk mixture and beaten egg yolks; stir to blend. Add flour; beat until well blended. Cover tightly and refrigerate at least four hours or overnight.

Combine 1/2 cup sugar and cinnamon until well blended. Turn dough out onto lightly floured board; divide in half. Divide each half into three pieces. Roll each piece into an 18 inch strand. Braid three pieces together; seal ends well. Place on a greased baking sheet. Brush with melted butter and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Repeat with remaining three pieces of dough. Cover; let rise in a warm place until doubled in bulk. Bake at 400 degrees for 25 minutes.

I got this sticky bun recipe from a friend who makes great desserts. I don't make it very often because each bun has over 500 calories, and they're almost impossible to resist!

WICKEDLY STICKY BUNS

12 Tbsp. butter
1 package dry yeast
1/4 cup sugar
3/4 tsp. salt
3 egg yolks
1/2 cup milk
3 to 3 1/2 cups flour
3/4 + 1/3 cup brown sugar
2 Tbsp. corn syrup
3/4 cup pecan halves
1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Melt 6 tablespoons butter and let cool. Dissolve yeast in 1/4 cup lukewarm water. Stir in sugar, salt, yolks, milk, 4 tablespoons of the cooled butter and 2 1/2 cups of the flour. Turn mixture out onto a lightly floured surface. Knead until dough is smooth and elastic, about 5 minutes, working in enough of the remaining flour so that the dough is no longer sticky. Put

dough in a buttered bowl, cover and let rise until doubled in bulk, about 45 minutes.

Butter a 9 inch baking pan. In a saucepan, combine 6 tablespoons butter, 3/4 cup brown sugar and the corn syrup. Stir over low heat until smooth. Pour into prepared pan and strew 1/2 cup of the pecan halves on top. Combine in the 1/3 cup brown sugar with the cinnamon. Chop remaining 1/4 cup pecans.

Punch dough down. On a lightly floured surface, shape into an approximate 18 by 9 inch rectangle. Brush with the remaining 2 tablespoons melted butter. Sprinkle with the brown sugar and cinnamon and the chopped pecans. Roll up dough starting with a long side. Cut into 9 slices and put in the prepared pan. Cover; let rise until doubled, about 40 minutes. Bake at 375 degrees until browned, about 30 minutes. Let cool in the pan 5 minutes. Invert onto a plate and let stand about 30 seconds before removing pan. Cool slightly before serving.

I like this coffee cake recipe because it calls for canned peaches, if I get fresh peaches, I'd rather just eat them!

PEACH COFFEE CAKE

2 - 16 ounce cans peach halves, drained
1 small package cream cheese (3 ounces)
2/3 cup sugar
6 Tbsp. butter
1 large egg
1/2 tsp. almond extract
1 1/2 cups flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. baking powder
2 Tbsp. chopped almonds
1 tsp. ground cinnamon

Whirl 3 peach halves, cream cheese, 1/2 cup sugar, 5

tablespoons butter, egg, and almond extract in a blender until smooth. Mix flour, soda, and baking powder; add to batter; whirl to blend. Pour into a buttered 9 inch wide cake pan. Lay remaining peaches, cut side down, on batter; dot with 1 tablespoon butter. Sprinkle remaining sugar, nuts, and cinnamon over fruit. Bake in a 350 degree oven until cake is well browned and pulls from pan sides, about 45 to 60 minutes. Serve warm or cool.

These tasty apple pastrys are good for either dessert or breakfast.

APPLE SQUARES

- 1/2 cup butter
- 3 large tart apples
- 2 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds

Beat butter and 1 cup of the flour in a bowl until smooth. Press evenly into bottom of a 9 inch square pan. Bake at 350 degrees until golden, about 15 minutes.

Peel, core, and chop apples. Mix with lemon juice in a bowl. Arrange evenly over baked crust.

In the bowl, beat eggs until foamy. Gradually add sugar; beat until thick. Mix in baking powder, cinnamon, and remaining flour. Pour evenly over apples; sprinkle almonds on top. Bake at 350 degrees until top is golden, about 30 minutes. Cut into squares and serve warm.

Green, Blue, and Silver

There's a story here in red and white;
 there's life and living in these rocks.
 The veins of earth run green, blue and silver.

Steel wheels screech, hammers rise and fall;
 stars pierce the stone.
 Powder and caps, bells ring out, foundations tremble.
 Another day's work is done.
 The veins of earth run green, blue, and silver.

Assiduous rapture — the souls of men ascend
 in pilgrimage to the mountains.
 Deep in this rock, flesh and bone beat the walls
 of vertiginous limbo.
 The veins of earth run green, blue, and silver.

Rusted buckets tumble through clouds
 on silver cords.
 Red and white-trimmed towers awaiting,
 glass glinting in the sun;
 Unseen figures labor the imagination.

The Iron Horse stands expectantly; steaming breath
 enshrouds the bystander.
 A whistle fires the mountainside, the engine
 pulls away in turn;
 To the sea, to the purifying flames, a final
 destination.

The pilgrims still come, the walls are ghost red
 where this rock has been bled.
 There's a story here in red and white;
 there's life and living in these rocks.
 Here the veins of earth run green, blue, and silver.

— John M. Baalke

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RS 2477 comment period extended

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt announced today that the Department is extending the comment period for proposed rules governing R.S. 2477 rights-of-way until August 1, 1995. The proposal was published August 1, 1994, for public comment.

The Department decided to extend the comment period because several requests had been made for such an extension. In addition, the Department had not intended to promulgate final regulations until the Ninth Circuit decides an important RS 2477 case, Shultz v. Department of the Army. The argument on rehearing in that case was held in December. Finally, the Department determined that delay would not create any harm to any federal land resources

Extension of time to complete the rulemaking will pose no genuine risk of harm to public land resources because of the peculiar circumstances surrounding this rulemaking. The statute authorizing these rights-of-way was repealed by

Congress in 1976. Therefore no new rights-of-way can be obtained under it. The proposed rules deal only with the process to be used for, and the standards to be applied to, federal agency recognition of rights-of-way that existed prior to repeal. In the meantime, until final rules are published, federal agencies will continue their current practice of not issuing any acknowledgments, or starting any process for formally recognizing the existence of R.S. 2477 rights-of-way.

R.S. 2477 was a provision of the Mining Law of 1866 that said, simply, that "the right of way for the construction of highways over public lands, not reserved for public uses, is hereby granted." Although Congress repealed the statute in 1976, it did not terminate rights-of-way in existence at that time.

The problem has been the lack of a process and standards for determining when valid rights-of-way do exist. Public land users and managers have sought an end to the uncer-

tainty, and in 1992 Congress asked the Secretary to study the problem and recommend a solution. In 1993, the Secretary issued a report to Congress recommending the rule-making now under way.

The State of Alaska, along with the Resource Development Council and the Alaska Miners Association urged the Secretary to withdraw the proposed rules because they would severely limit the terms under which existing trails could be declared valid.

The proposed regulations ignore historic and existing means of travel such as foot and pack animal trails, and require that trails have been developed to modern standards in order to qualify. There are over 100 potential RS,2477 trails in Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

Comments should be addressed to:
Secretary Bruce Babbitt
Department of the Interior
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, DC 20510

Park Service reports record visitation

Visitation to Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST) reached record levels in 1994 and is expected to increase in 1995, according to a recent NPS press release.

"In the last month, we've responded to 300 inquiries by individuals planning a trip this summer," said Superintendent Jon Jarvis. "With feature articles in three national magazines last year, the Wrangells are being discovered as a spectacular wilderness park accessible by the Alaska highway system. This growth in visitation is an opportunity for local businesses in the Copper River Region to provide lodging, food, transportation and other services to the visitor."

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(1/8 page)

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According to figures released by NPS, WRST had 50,146 visitors in 1994 as compared with 42,229 in 1992. They did not say how these figures were obtained — presumably they were visitors to the NPS visitor center in Copper Center rather than the actual park.

A look at the weather



BY GEORGE CEBULA

December and January at McCarthy were a continuation of November's conditions with just about normal temperatures and below normal precipitation for the two months.

The average December temperature was 0.3 (7.9 in Dec. '93 and -14.4 in Dec. '92). The high was 36 on December 12 (38 on Dec. 19 and 23, '93 and 39 on Dec. 2, '92) and the low was -38 on December 2 (-31 on Dec. 14, '93 and -41 on Dec. 22, '92). Twenty one days had readings below zero and four saw the temperature hit thirty or above. *In comparison, Silver Lake had an average temperature of 9.8 (15.5 in Dec. '93) with a high of 42 on Dec. 5 (39 on Dec. 7, '93) and a low of -34 on Dec. 9 (-25 on Dec. 14-16, '93).*

December precipitation was about normal with liquid precipitation of 1.01 inches (1.71 in Dec. '93 and 1.56 in Dec. '92). All precipitation fell as snow with 11.8 inches recorded for the month. The snow depth was 16 inches at the beginning of the month, with a maximum of 23 inches on the 14th and ending the month with a ground cover of 20 inches of snow. *Silver Lake had 0.65 inches of liquid (0.52 in Dec. '93) and 4.0 inches of snow (trace in Dec. '93). The snow depth at Silver Lake was 17 inches on the 1st, dropping to 14 on the 5th and ending the month as it began with 17 inches of snow on the ground.*

1995 at McCarthy began on the cold side, but by the latter part of January as the daylight increased so did the temperatures. The average January temperature at McCarthy was -2.6 (2.9 in Jan. '94 and -5.3 in Jan. '93). The high was 33 on January 21 and 22 (40 on Jan. 28, '94

and 35 on Jan. 17, '93). The low was a -30 on January 11 and 12 (-38 on Jan. 9, '94 and -55 on Jan. 25, '93).

The temperature was below zero on 26 days and above 32 on 2 days. *Silver Lake had an average temperature of -2.4 (3.3 in Jan. '94) with a high of 43 on Jan. 22 (40 on Jan. 30, '94) and a low of -30 on Jan. 15 (-31 on Jan. 10, '94).*

The precipitation at McCarthy in January was on the low side. The total liquid precipitation was 0.55 inches -- about half of the 1.19 inches received in Jan. 1994 (1.57 in Jan. '93). There was only 5.4 inches of snow (12.9 in Jan. '94 and 24.9 in Jan. '93) with 0.19 inches of freezing rain on Jan. 21 and 22. The snow cover was 20 inches on the Jan. 1, increasing to 23 by Jan. 14 and then staying at 23 until the end of the month. *By comparison, Silver Lake was very close to McCarthy with 0.45 inches of liquid precipitation and 5.0 inches of snow (1.28 inches and 16.3 inches in Jan. '94). Silver Lake started 1995 with a snow cover of 18 inches, increased to 23 by the 21st and finished January with 20 inches of snow on the ground.*

The first week of February continued the warm temperatures with a high of 38 on Feb. 6 and only a trace of precipitation. Daylight has reached 8 hours again, and the heat from the sun will increase a little each day. Well below zero temperatures are still common through February, but March should show a steady warming trend. The second week had rain again with temperatures cooling a little in mid week and 6 inches of new snow by week's end. Then the winds picked up from the north and reached speeds of 40 knots at the station and were reported in excess of 50 knots

at the airport and at Kennicott. The winds finally abated by the middle of the third week and temperatures returned to normal with lows around -20 and highs about +10. By press time the sunlight has increased to more than nine hours.

I arrived at McCarthy on January 6 and spent the rest of January and most of February here. For the past 17 years, until my retirement in October, I have been traveling to remote places in Alaska. This is the first time the people I worked with and visited, departed and I was left on my own. In this case, Rick and Bonnie were off to Florida for a month, and I was left to take the weather and look after their place.

The first weather report was at 5:30 a.m. and the last was at 7:30 p.m. So, it was up by 5 every morning, and in bed by 8:30 at night. If the expected-overnight low was -10 or lower, then the diesel generator needed heat all night. If the heater was not going and the temperature was -10 or colder at wake up, then the first chore was to get the generator running before it cooled off too much to start. The generator keeps the batteries for the weather station charged and needs to run for about 4 hours in the morning and about 3-4 hours in the evening, depending on outside temperatures. Warmer temperatures require less generator time.

The cabin has both oil and wood heating stoves, so unless it was really cold (-10 or less) the oil was sufficient. Water was something different. Every two or three days it was a 1/4 mile walk with a steep climb to the water hole with a six gallon jug.

The mail arrives on Wednesday and Friday so it was a 5 mile ride to

the airport on snow machine to pick up and send out the mail. If there were any packages for the neighbors, then I would usually deliver them.

Everything had to be scheduled around the weather reports. If I went visiting, I had to be back in less than two hours for the next report. Needless to say, everything had to be planned in advance. All the weather reports were taken and transmitted on time. After a few days everything became routine, and it was a nice change from the past 32 years of going to work at the office each day.

Since the telephone was available, Rick had set up his computer to send E-Mail messages via America Online. Each afternoon at 5:45 I would compose my message of the day's activities and problems and the computer would call America Online and send my

message and receive any messages Rick had coming my way. The whole process of sending and receiving usually took about 1 minute. No matter where Rick was traveling he was always available each day. This really was great. The only problem I encountered during this period was when Alascom lost their cable and went to satellite. After a day of not getting my calls through, I changed my daily schedule to 5:45 a.m., a low traffic time, and solved that problem. Modern technology is really great and helped to give me peace of mind.

After Rick and Bonnie returned, I spent a few days house-sitting for my new neighbor's, Ken and Carly Kritchen. One of their dogs needed treatment in Anchorage and rather than see Carly have to stay behind, I offered to take care of the rest of their animals.

This time I was responsible for two dogs, three cats, two gold fish and seven chickens. This was a little different then staying at Rick and Bonnie's!

The first night I was checking the fire in the wood stove at 2 a.m. and the smoke alarm went off. There I was with the dogs and cats all looking at me and wondering what I had done to disturb their sleep.

Things got better after that, but Oscar, the older cat, still fought me each time I had to take him outside. He finally gave in after a few days. The chickens even came up with four eggs one day, up from the usual two or three.

These experiences have really been an eye opener for me, and I must say that I enjoyed it and would gladly do it again.

The New

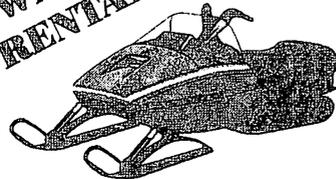
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FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

The following was an editorial that ran in the February 1995 issue of Alaska Outdoors magazine. It was written by Evan Swensen and is used here by permission.

The National Park Service, like the Internal Revenue Service, does not serve the public, but serves their own interests. I can't speak for other areas of the nation, but in Alaska, my experience has been disturbing. My visits to Katmai National Park and Brooks River particularly.

This editorial surrounds a news release by the National Park Service. It is printed here verbatim. It was dated December 14, 1994 and received in my office just prior to the Christmas holiday. On the surface it sounds like a good deal. Everyone who wants to visit Katmai, see the bears, go to the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, and camp in the process, will be treated on a lottery basis.

Now isn't that just the National Park Service, don't make reservations like a free enterprise company with real service, one driven by a profit motive, but leave it up to chance. The lottery in of itself, may not be that bad, that is if the NPS really offered service, but they don't.

I suspect that under this new and improved reservation system, brought about because their phone is busy, will limit and restrict the number of people who will be able to visit the area. The good thing is, maybe that will relieve some

NPS personnel of their assigned duties of yelling at park visitors from the floating bridge across the Brooks River. They, then could use the extra time to answer the phone and offer service to the public, and maybe even make a real reservation instead of a chance.

You may expect from reading this editorial that I've had a bad experience with the National Park Service. Fact is, to paraphrase a cliché, if I hadn't had bad service for NPS, I wouldn't have had any service at all. All my dealing with NPS tells me that they are not motivated to serve the public by allowing them to enjoy the parks. On the contrary, NPS seems dedicated to preserving the parks for NPS by doing just about everything they can to make sure as few people as possible enjoy the wilderness experience. They do this, in part, by lottery system reservations, allowing the public in only narrow and specific areas, and conducting the Park's contact with people as if the park ranger was the king and the public were serfs.

Yes this new National Park Service restriction, that they try to make sound like a good deal, is akin to the lack of marked trails in Denali National Park and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Long before NPS came on the scene, I hiked or hunted these two beautiful wilderness areas. Before I arrived in Alaska nearly 4 decades ago, and long before the Park Service took possession, Indians, miners, trappers, explorers, and other

backcountry travelers crisscrossed the area in search of furs, mineral trade routes, and isolation. Their trails, for the most part, have been lost or shortly will die in a tangle of new trees and underbrush. Die because the park service comes along and says there are no trails in the park. No trails in the nation's largest park. Baloney. There are hundreds of trails. Historic trails NPS is letting go to weeds and brush.

As an example, visit Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve headquarters and they'll show you a video about the park. The emphasis of the video is on the old town of McCarthy. Funny thing though, McCarthy isn't part of the park. NPS would like you to visit McCarthy and stay out of the park.

Another example. NPS won't even let Hiker's Guide to Alaska be sold in any park concession because the book suggests that there are specific places to hike and things to see. NPS claims the park is a no trail park, and it is, but only because they've cut the public out and let the trails disintegrate. Trails, like their reservation system, served the public and gave access to wilderness areas NPS wants to keep people out of so they came up with a better way. NPS's better way always restricts the people NPS is commissioned to serve. If you doubt me, test NPS. Call an NPS phone number and see if anyone at NPS welcomes you to one of their parks.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Anchorage, AK

Dear Rick & Bonnie,

I did receive your note that Heidi (sister) & Andy Linton had gifted me another subscription to WSEN. How nice!

I've been very busy this past year & only recently have I had a little time to express some things in writing. One thing I've wanted to say for a while is how much I've enjoyed WSEN. It's

informative, educational, & positive.

Thanks for publishing such a delightful newspaper!

Sincerely,
Dave Syren

Find my own gift subscription for friends in Germany.

Valdez, AK

Rick & Bonnie,

Thank you for a great newspaper on the McCarthy

area. My wife and I are friends of Cliff and Jewel Collins and go to Long Lake two to three times a year. We also have a home on Silver Lake near Gene and Edith Coppedge. We read and study everything we can find on the McCarthy area. Really liked your 1918 newspaper we purchased from you.

Keep up the good work, we will try to stop in and see you sometime.

Good ice fishing,
Mike & Leanne Christenson

Brooks Campground Lottery

The National Park Service will use a lottery drawing to assign camping permits in Brooks Campground at Katmai National Park for the 1995 summer season. The new lottery will enable the Park Service to more efficiently manage the campground and will provide an equal opportunity to all permit applicants.

"Growing demand for campsites is the main reason for switching to a lottery system," according to Katmai Superintendent Bill Pierce. "Our phone-in system has become too cumbersome and doesn't give everyone an equal opportunity at obtaining a camping permit," said Pierce. Applications for the lottery will be available from Katmai National Park beginning January 3. Applications must be received at the park no later than February 15. The lottery drawing will be held during the last two weeks of February and applicants will be notified of the results by mid March.

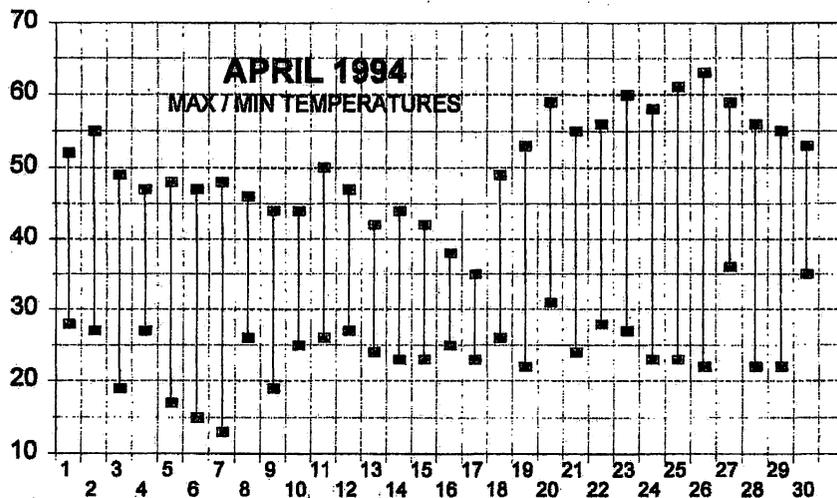
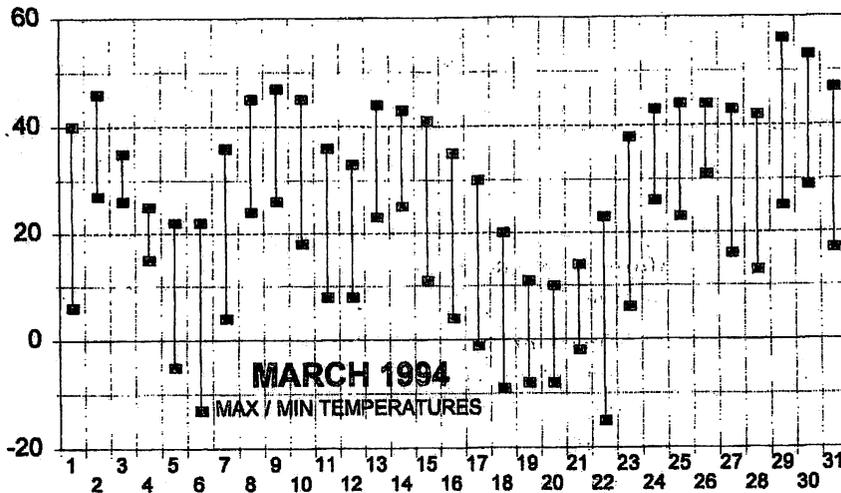
Campers will be limited to a maximum of four nights under the new permit system. "We want to give as many people as possible an opportunity to visit the Brooks River area. Four nights will give campers enough time to view bears, fish, visit the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, and take in some of the ranger-guided activities like the cultural walk to the reconstructed Barabara," said Pierce.

Brooks Campground has 18 sites. Each site is limited to four people and two tents. Sites will be assigned when permits are issued. Campers will have 81 four-night date blocks to choose from beginning on June 1 and continuing through September 17. Each applicant will have three choices from among those blocks. Peak interest in camping occurs during July and in September when brown bears congregate along the Brooks River to feed on spawning salmon.

Information packets and applications are available from the Superintendent, Katmai National Park, P.O. Box 7, King Salmon, AK 99613.

Please write for a packet as soon as possible; the Park phone line is often busy.

Weather - What can we expect?



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To be included in this year's Guide, just call (907)554-4454 or write: WSEN, McCarthy, PO Box MXY, Glennallen, AK 99588. Tell us who you are and what you do, and we will be happy to mention it **FREE OF CHARGE!** Display ads are also available at very reasonable rates. Call or write today - the deadline for publication is April 1.