

Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Volume Fifteen Issue Six

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The rains came down — the floods came up



Photo courtesy Pete Sennehauser

Above: Looking down on the Assay Office, water is up to the roof-line. Area resident Pete Sennehauser was on the scene with his camera to capture the event.



Photo courtesy Pete Sennehauser

Above: Assay office from the front. Note water is pouring from window and around the door.



Photo courtesy Pete Sennehauser

Water pressure proved to be too much for the wall, which blew out. Park Service officials say the building will not be restored.

Both Kennecott and outlying areas severely damaged



Photo courtesy Don Welty

The Lakina River, about 17 miles west of McCarthy, overflowed its banks. These structures, which belong to the Lohse family, remained in place but the silt-laden water did heavy damage to them. Neighbors came to help salvage and clean up.



WSEN staff photo

The Lohse's two-story home ended up down-river about a half-mile. The lower story was destroyed but the upper floor remained intact. Plans are being formulated for the salvage. National Park Service officials were quick to respond with a permit for a temporary easement to the site.



WSEN staff photo

The Lakina River Bridge was not significantly damaged but the east approach was washed away. It wasn't long before Rowcon Services was on the scene, repairing the damage. Other areas of the road were damaged as well, particularly Strelina Creek where the huge culvert washed out. Emergency funds were made available for opening the road.

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

Winter finally arrived in McCarthy. Many of us make that determination by the first remaining snowfall that leaves that white wintery “stuff” on the ground. Some locals, like David Rowland who had just recently purchased a new snowmachine, had to take it out for its maiden voyage —down the hill and around the Welty’s house a few spins. Not sure “spin” is the right word for a snowmachine excursion, but you get the idea! With only 6 inches on the ground, it is barely enough to get the job done but it is a good start for our winter enthusiasts, like David.

Before winter showed its face, however, the fall season left with a vengeance. I’m sure you can see for yourself the ravages of the flood water of Kennicott’s National Creek and Long Lake’s Lakina River. Even McCarthy Creek did its thing and took out the footbridge and submerged the rail car that served as a temporary vehicle crossing. Rick and I appreciated the assistance of those who caught some of the damage with their cameras and passed them on to us —

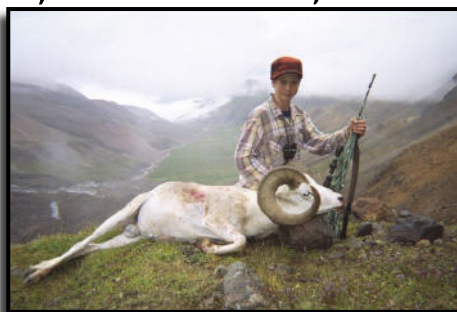


Photo courtesy Keith Rowland

Kaleb Rowland with his Dall Sheep.

Pete Sennehauser of Kennicott and Don and Lynn Welty and the Rowlands of McCarthy. There were many other photos that we couldn’t give space to, but the ones we did certainly demonstrate the damage that quickly-rising flood waters can do.

WSEN thanks Laurie and Keith Rowland for their valuable input in this issue. While Keith was more-than-busy trying to rescue and salvage property from McCarthy Creek, Long Lake’s Lakina Bridge and the Strelna culvert, Laurie recorded the events in a letter to her folks which she then adapted for

you, our readers, into an article called *The big flood* which you will find on pages 7 and 8. A lot was happening in a short time and it was impossible to be everywhere. Rick



Photo courtesy Dave Hollis

“Miss Kitty”

and I thank the “eyes and ears” of our locals and their willingness to share what they were seeing and experiencing.

On a light-hearted note (which we may all need)...before leaving on his winter adventure to Florida to see his folks and vacationing in Hawaii afterwards, local resident, Dave Hollis, submitted a story he wrote about his late pet, Miss Kitty. You will find his account of her nine lives on page 14.

My thanks to Jim and Audrey Edwards for their nudge in the right direction to capture the news and the story behind an historical figure from our neck-of-the woods, Martin Radovan. Audrey steered Martin’s nephew, Scott, to our publication and he so graciously shared the news of his recent visit. Thanks, Scott.

(A Note from the Publisher is continued on page 25)



Photo courtesy Jim Edwards

Left to right: Brady and Scott Radovich, Aaron and Aric Morton at Martin’s cabin.

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Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Todd, Barb and Liam Caden Bureau: The Bureau family is not only my first item of interest for this issue but a first-time for this bi-monthly column. Todd, Barb and their 4 ½ year old son, Liam Caden, are not new faces in our town. Somehow our paths just didn't cross until a few days ago when they stopped over for a visit and a turn at our Internet services.

Hope, Alaska, is the Bureau's home as well as the base for their unique business, Adventure Alaska, which offers small-group tours centered, for the most part, in South-central Alaska. "We seek to show the true character of these wonderful lands and the people that inhabit them and to do so, one must leave the crowds behind and actually feel rather than merely glimpse," writes Todd in his most recent brochure. Although their tour program includes places such as Denali and Anchorage, Todd and his 5 experienced, seasonal guides feature places, such as McCarthy, that are off the beaten track, where their customers can not only experience the unique beauty of each place but also see the "locals" as they really are. "McCarthy is always a highlight," says Todd, who started bringing tour groups to our area 17 years ago. Five years ago he and Barb decided to purchase property within walking distance of McCarthy and build a "wonderfully private island camp" for their multi-day tour groups that want to take in Kennicott and experience a walk on nearby Root Glacier. A 3-sided log cabin is now serving them as their McCarthy home/base (we expect to see more of them in the future) with the rest of the "camp" growing to accommodate their special customers.

I know you are not new to the area, Todd, Barb and Liam, but I still want to say, "Welcome to McCarthy and thanks for loving our town and the locals who call this place home!"

Mark, Emily and Ross Bass: McCarthy's fall season is pretty much over for this year. As far as Mark and Emily's son Ross goes, winter arrived in grand style on October 21st and brought with it that beautiful, fun-loving stuff called snow! Many of the town's folks turned out for a fund raiser for our local dog musher, Jeremy Keller. We woke up that day to 5-6 inches of snow on the ground. When the Basses arrived at the event, Ross turned down the enticing aroma coming forth from the Tony Zak building where ladies were cooking up a brunch for all fund contributors. Instead, Ross took to the snow and kept those lovingly-fashioned snowballs flying in all directions. According to Mom Emily, Ross LOVES snow and even rain, choosing the outdoors as his playground whenever that precipitation shows up. Mark kept Ross' energy level elevated with goodies from the kitchen. Thanks for your wonderful enthusiasm for winter's arrival, Ross!

McCarthy Brunch "Dog-Raiser:" On Saturday, October 21th, at least 31 folks attended the fund raiser brunch given on behalf of Jeremy Keller for his entrance in the upcoming 2007 Iditarod race. Participants were treated to a full brunch which included crepes, eggs, bacon, a variety of homemade coffee cakes, coffee and juice. The local cooks who did a fine job in keeping the hungry McCarthyites' plates full were Allie Keller (Jeremy's wife), Christine Johnson and Elizabeth Schafer. Thanks, ladies, for a brunch well done!

Keith Rowland and boys enjoy the fall hunting season: Maybe I was getting ahead of myself in talking "winter" talk before finishing out summer and fall season activities. Keith's neighbor, Don Welty, took Kaleb and David Rowland hunting in July. The local hunt took place along the Kennicott Glacier with Kaleb getting a black bear. Congratulations, Kaleb!

In August Keith and Kaleb went sheep hunting above the Nizina Glacier. Kaleb shot a beautiful 41" ram. (See photo on page 2.) "We got to observe, at close range, 3 wolverines devouring scraps from the sheep carcass," says Keith.

A family moose hunting party took place in September. Keith, Kaleb, David and Daniel met up with "Grandpa" Rowland, cousins and uncles at moose camp. The group was successful in taking two moose which were split between the 4 families taking part in the hunt.

After the moose hunt, Keith and Don went sheep hunting up the Nizina River. According to Keith, rams were scarce and none were taken. However, Don shot a wolverine that had just killed a lamb. "The kill was so fresh that we salvaged the meat from it," comments Keith. "The next night, at 1 a.m., a red fox ate all the mutton I had carefully salvaged and was dragging off Don's wolverine hide. The dragging sounds finally woke us up. It was pitch dark, but Don managed to end the thief's career!"

It was time to return home, but even the hike out was not uneventful. Keith shot a nice goat just 3 miles from their boat. Congratulations to Keith, Kaleb and Don and all our successful local hunters.

Don and Lynn Welty: The Welty's are counting their blessings this fall season, says Lynn. Usually find-

ing steady work in McCarthy during this time of year is not that easy, but Don has either been constructing an addition for Kelly Bay or driving heavy equipment for Keith Rowland. Daughters Sarah and René are spending quality "sister time" together in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where they are housesitting. René has a job (and her own car!) and Sarah, who just finished up her summer/fall work at Camp Redcloud in Colorado, is now on the search for a new job. Lynn reports that Sarah's time as a horse wrangler for the camp was a "great experience and opportunity" working with the young campers. René recently made the 13-hour drive to pick up Sarah, so she is getting plenty of experience herself — driving on busy highways and putting miles on her first vehicle. Both girls are having fun and, once again, renewing their acquaintance and friendship with Lindsey Kreblin. We all miss Lindsey (who is well known in the McCarthy area and whose dad is Jim Kreblin), but she is doing well. She has a job teaching preschool kids and is taking some online courses.

And what is Lynn doing with all this free time on her hands? I asked her if she missed homeschooling her daughters. Her answer, "No, but I do miss the companionship of the girls." She enjoys using her extra time for helping others in the community, working at the church and hosting tea parties, such as the one Laurie, Hannah and I attended at Lynn's house the other day. She is also working on replenishing her knitting yarn and picking up a few extra patterns. Oh, and, of course, she is counting her many blessings!

Mike Monroe: Mike, who lives north of the National Creek Bridge in Kennicott, just informed me that Rowcon Services were busy at work on the low-water crossing which was destroyed during the October flood. Travel for those north of the bridge — like Mike — has been challenging, to say the least. Today is Octo-

ber 31st and there is now more than a glimmer of better traveling days ahead. It sounds like there is even a plan to give some support work to the trestle bridge over the creek. That is really good news, I said. He agreed, and said he did some tinkering on his snowmachine, getting it ready for upcoming winter transportation. Kennicott could use a bit more snow, however. Six inches doesn't quite cover those rocky places on the trail.

I asked Mike how his "dog sitting" position was going. He assured me that all his boarders were doing just fine. Let's see... there's Luna, Samantha (these are Mike's full-time charges) and Antoinette and Varna, Dave and Marie's dogs, all living the good life at Tanker Mike's home on the hill — or should I say mountain.

Community announcement: An open house will be held at Ed LaChapelle's cabin in downtown McCarthy on Wednesday, November 15th, after mail (weather permitting, of course!) to enable local folks to meet Meg Jensen, the new superintendent of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. All are welcome. Ed says he'll have the tea pot on.

Flood of Help Fund for the Lohse family: The McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church has begun a Flood of Help Fund for the Ralph and Linda Lohse family whose house washed ½ mile down the Lakina River in the recent flood. If you would like to help, financial gifts may be sent to MKCC (designated Flood Relief on your memo line), Box MXY #51, McCarthy, AK. 99588, or call Laurie Rowland at 907-554-4498.

The Lohse Family writes: "Thanks! To all our friends and neighbors, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you so

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However, you'll never know how good and not alone it made us feel to know we could count on the help of so many friends and neighbors.

To bring you all up to date, first and foremost, we would like to give thanks for the safety of the two most precious things that were in our house that evening, Robin and Aaron. We are so thankful that they got out when they did.

Our next miracle was the spotting of the house, we thought was totally gone, but instead was bruised and broken, but fairly intact downstream in the middle of the river. Then, with the help of a convenient log God placed across the stream to the house for a bridge, the National Park Service issuing us an access permit, and Keith Rowland lending us his "tundra tractor," we were able to salvage all the lighter, personal belongings that were still in the house. Worthy of special thanksgiving were the photos of 35+ years and all of Linda's quilts. While many "treasures" were lost—many others were miraculously saved. Then, with the help of Keith's excavator to reach across the water, the heavier and bulkier items were salvaged, or at least removed, even if not operable.

With deep water on two sides, further salvage at this time wasn't an option. So the remains of the house are braced and awaiting freeze-up.

We ask your prayers that we have a gentle freeze-up with no further damage. It is our hope to be able to salvage the top floor of the house in one piece on the river's ice later this winter. If that proves unfeasible, we will be inviting you all to a "house razing" party and BBQ when the days get longer toward spring for the purpose of salvaging as much as possible. We will keep you informed.

Where to next, you wonder. Well, currently I'm writing this from our original cabin setting 15 feet from the river bank. As many of you

have seen over the years, what DOT does at the Lakina Bridge has serious ramifications for us. So, depending on the results of the channelization and diking that are progressing to protect bridge and road, and its effect on the river flow, we may gain some protection from the river or the danger may continue or increase. If it does the latter, we will be looking to move our cabin and outbuildings in the near future. Again, we desire your prayers in this matter as well as for protection for our buildings and contents this winter, especially from overflow. Again—our thanks to you all for your expressions of caring in this our time of loss. Our hope and prayer is that our visitors and guests always felt welcome. We extended the hospitality in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you, The Lakina River Lohses

Chitina Trading Post burns:

On October 26th at approximately 11:50 a.m., the Alaska State Troopers received a report of a structure fire at the Chitina Trading Post in downtown Chitina. The building, valued at about \$200,000, was considered a total loss. Thankfully there were no deaths or injuries reported as a result of the fire. As of October 27th the troopers were still investigating the cause of the fire.

Bert Cottle had recently become the owner, having purchased the property from Patsy Waldron who has moved out of state.

The passing of a Kennicott Kid: Pioneer Alaskan **John L. Watsjold**, 85, died peacefully August 28, 2006, at his home in Anchorage of myelodysplasia, a cancer of the blood. His wife, Dolly, and his sons were at his side. A private celebration of life was held in Anchorage.

Mr. Watsjold was born February 14, 1921, in Bergen, Norway. In 1928, he immigrated with his family to McCarthy, where his father owned and operated Watsjold Groceries & Meat. He attended school

in Kennicott and was one of the "Kennicott Kids." After his father died in 1936, he spent a year seeing the world as a deckhand on the Stela Polaris, a Norwegian cruise liner.

After his return to Alaska in the winter of 1939, he worked in Cordova briefly and later in the gold mine at Dan Creek. In the spring of 1939, he worked for the Alaska Road Commission in Seward building the historic Lowell Creek Tunnel. In World War II, he served as an aircraft mechanic in the Royal Norwegian Air Force, stationed at Camp Little Norway in Toronto and later England.

After the war, he returned to Alaska and worked as a civilian crew chief at Elmendorf Air Force Base. Mr. Watsjold's interest in flying led to his becoming a charter member of the Ten Spot Flying Club, where he met his first wife, Evelyn. Together, they owned several airplanes.

From 1952 until 1970, he owned Hanson's Chevron. He also owned and operated Airport Road Car Storage until his retirement in 1983, after which he and his wife Dolly spent several winters enjoying golf and sunshine in Hawaii and Arizona.

His family wrote: "A kind, savvy, unpretentious man, he will be greatly missed."

Mr. Watsjold is survived by his wife and "sweetheart," Dolly; brother, Oscar Watsjold of Seward, and his extended family; sons, John Erik, Kim and Daniel, and their families; step-children, Steven, Michael, Paul and Phyllis Blume (Wolfe) and their families; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Evelyn Sperstad, and sister, Stella Harlem.

WSEN wishes all of our readers a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a Happy, Prosperous New Year! Thank you so much for your love and support.

National Creek Flood Event damages Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark structures

BY VICKI SNITZLER, KEN HUTCHISON AND STEVE PETERSON

The recent coastal storms that Alaska experienced on October 9th and 10th caused significant damage to the Kennecott NHL. National Creek, which bisects the NHL, experienced significant flooding and damaged the historic railroad trestle, the low water crossing and historic buildings. Park staff visited the site on October 12, 2006. Discussions with residents of the Kennecott revealed that most of the damage occurred on Tuesday, October 10.

The Assay building is beyond saving and will probably have to be demolished to stabilize stream flow. Damage assessments will need to be conducted of the historic hospital ruin and the bunkhouses to determine potential demolition needs and to define additional stabilization measures.

An overflight of the Landmark revealed that the main stream flow of National Creek has shifted to the North and now passes on the north side of the Assay Office. Previously it had been flowing to the south between the Assay Office and the Bunkhouses.

The Historic Railroad Trestle was severely damaged and in the interest of safety, has been cordoned off to prevent vehicle and pedestrian use. As a result of the damage sustained in the flood there is a distinct possibility that the trestle

could collapse at any time. Approximately 30 feet of the embankment on the north end of the Trestle was eroded away. Two structural bents, which were previously 90% encased in tailings, were exposed by the eroding bank and

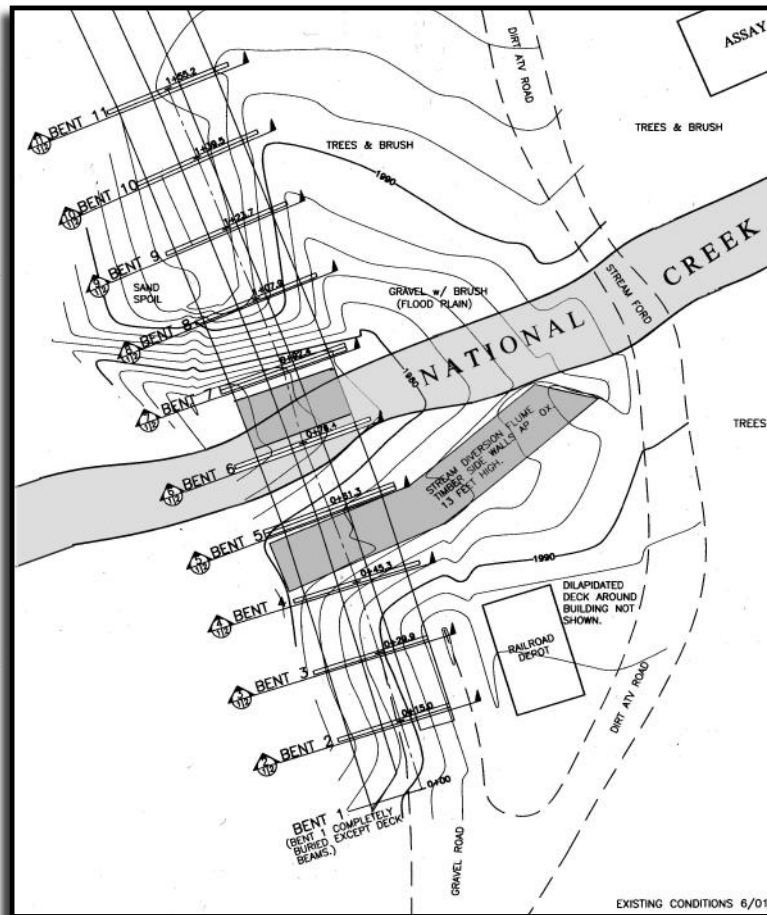
stable. However, if the north half of the Trestle collapses it will, in all likelihood, cause damage to the entire structure.

The low water vehicle route, which is to the east of the Trestle, has been severely eroded to the point that without extensive filling or bridging of the stream, access across at this location is not possible. (The bank on the north side now has a good 8 foot drop.)

The Historic Assay building was damaged beyond salvaging. The flood event took out the north and east walls. The bunkhouses to the south of National Creek were also flooded, compounding already deteriorating condition damage. Other damages within the NHL include washouts to the Bonanza Mine Road, damage to the Sweet Creek culvert which is located

on the road between McCarthy and Kennecott at the entrance to the NHL, and missing footbridges that were used on the Root Glacier trail at Bonanza and Jumbo Creeks.

The NPS has submitted requests to the Federal Highway Administration and the State Office of Homeland Security for emergency funding to repair the damages. We don't know what the time frame for a response to these requests will be.



have washed away (bents 9 and 10 on preliminary design documents - see attachment 1). An additional bent (bent 8) is hanging and provides no support.

The three rail beams that ran along the west side of the Trestle have collapsed in the area of the missing bents and the surface of the Trestle has dropped and shifted. The south end of the Trestle appears to have remained intact and seems

The big flood

BY LAURIE ROWLAND

October 9th and 10th brought some unusually hard, steady rainfall, and it wreaked havoc on the area. During a 36-hour period, McCarthy accumulated 3.4" of rain, Kenne-cott got 6.3," and Cordova racked up a whopping 15" (yes, that's fifteen inches!) of water. In addition, the two feet of snow on the mountains above 4500' was melted off by the warm rain, equivalent to 2½ extra inches of water accumulation.

During the storm, Keith was out and about, keeping an eye on our temporary McCarthy Creek bridge and our shop, which is situated right on the bank of McCarthy Creek.

The creek tried real hard to get under the shop and carry away the McCarthy Creek footbridge. By the second day of rain, our McCarthy Creek vehicle bridge was completely out of sight under the water.

Keith worked late into the night to haul huge boulders to the shop site and dump them into the creek to try to divert the water, but even with all his efforts, the creek-side corner of the shop is now sitting on thin air!

Along towards dark on what turned out to be the last day of rain, I got a call from Charlie O'Neill, who has a beautiful new house above Kenne-cott, which he and his wife have been laboring to build for about 6 years. He was in a panic, because the deluge had spilled over the roadway directly above him and dug a huge, deep trench in the ground—right next to his house! He said he had been digging frantically with a shovel for several hours, but the trench was getting bigger and deeper, and closer to the house. Although wilting with exhaustion, he was driven to keep shoveling in a desperate bid to keep his dream house from sliding off the face of the mountain. By the time he called

us, he said the trench was 6 feet deep, 30 feet wide and about 300 feet long, and the edge of it was only 6 feet away from his foundation. I sent Kaleb out after Keith, and within an hour, Keith had loaded up his



Photo courtesy the author

McCarthy Creek footbridge just before the water swept it away.

dozer and was on his way to save Charlie's house.

There is a small, shallow stream



Photo courtesy the author

National Creek dug deep.

which runs through Kenne-cott, called National Creek, where residents can get clear, fresh drinking water year-round. The road runs

right through it, and fording generally presents no problem. But that dark night, when Keith arrived at National Creek with his bulldozer, this is what he found:

The force of the flood waters, boiling through the National Creek gully in a thick, chocolate-hued slurry, had hurled rocks and debris down its path, gouging a 6 to 10-foot canyon in the formerly ankle-deep stream-bed. While Keith and the boys were trying to figure out the least dangerous place to ford the creek, one of the pilings of the old trestle bridge (which Charlie had crossed just the day before in his truck) exploded out of its place, then disappeared into the raging torrent, leaving the bridge sagging and broken. At this point, Keith began to realize that to cross National Creek this night would be suicide, and he really wanted to get home alive. He called home to say he was aborting the rescue attempt and would I be so kind as to inform Charlie of the fact?

Meanwhile, in another neck of our woods, the Lakina River was doing its best to destroy what man had so valiantly attempted to build. Our friends, the Lohses, had years ago built their home near the river, along with several out-cabins. Now, their beautiful home forms a not-so-beautiful island in the middle of the river, about a mile downstream from where it started. By God's providence, the house did not tumble over when the river took it, so quite a big portion of their belongings—which they had stored upstairs—is salvageable. The house itself, however, will probably be a total loss. As I write, Ralph and the boys are working to get their belongings out of the house, with the help of Ol' Blue, our tundra tractor. To get to the house from the bank of the river, they're taking advantage of a strategically placed tree, which somehow made a bridge of itself during the

storm. It is across this that they are packing their earthly treasures. David reports that Tyee was muscling a heavy trunk over the log, when—Ah, Ah, Oooooohhh, woopsie, oh dear, kerSPLOOSH!—in he went. Their outbuildings are flood-damaged as well, but at least they're still in their original places!

The McCarthy Road was closed in at least four places. Slides had damaged the Kotsina Bluffs, as well as an area around 6-mile. The 12-foot-diameter culvert at Strelna washed out, and the curvy section near the Kuskulana had begun to slump, leaving the road unstable near the edge, but passable.

A day or two after the rain stopped, we got a call from the new DOT boss at Tazlina, John Hoffman.

"Two questions: 1) What's the road report on your end, and 2) Are you available to get to work on it?"



Photo courtesy the author

Lakina River Bridge approach

Just the words we wanted to hear! The plan was for the DOT boys to start working from the Chitina end, and the ROWCON boys to start working from the McCarthy end, and they'd meet each other somewhere in the middle.

Next day was Friday, and Keith and the boys went to work on the Lakina washout. By Sunday, it was

pronounced passable. Then, the boys moved on to the Strelna washout, where they met the DOT crew and worked with them on the repair. The gravel source is on this side of the Strelna, you see, but DOT was on the other side, so the way they worked it was as follows: David ran the loader at the Kuskulana Pit, filling up Kaleb, who was driving our huge, off-road rock truck. Kaleb hauled the gravel to the Strelna and dumped it, then headed back for more gravel. While he was traveling, Smitty, Sam, and the crew from DOT worked from the other side of the washout to spread, shape, and compact the gravel that Kaleb had dumped. Pretty slick, eh?

The latest report is that the McCarthy Road is now passable.

New WRST National Park Superintendent Named

COPPER CENTER

An experienced and accomplished public lands manager will return to Alaska as the newly named superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

Meg Jensen, 52, a deputy state director for the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada, will assume her new duties in Alaska later this fall. Most of her 27 years of federal service have been with the BLM in Anchorage, Arizona and Nevada, but she began her career as a seasonal backcountry ranger in Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Skagway in 1977.

"Meg brings outstanding experience implementing and managing programs for the conservation and management of protected areas," said NPS Alaska Regional Director Marcia Blaszk. "As the deputy state director for BLM for the past seven years, she has overseen wilderness and national conservation areas

throughout Nevada, realty programs, construction, facilities management and resource management. Equally important,



she has an extensive background in community involvement, interagency cooperation, and partnership development."

Wrangell-St. Elias is the largest national park in America, encompassing about 13.2 million acres. That figure includes significant amounts of private and state land. The park has seen growing visitation over the last few years,

with about 55,000 people going to the park in 2005.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to return to Alaska," Jensen said. "I'm looking forward to getting to know the people and communities in and near the park, and to build on the positive things that have been happening in the region." It is of the utmost importance that the park and its neighbors work together to find solutions that will mutually benefit the future for us all. It is a great honor to be chosen to bridge Wrangell St. Elias with its communities, securing a bright future for them both.

Meg is an avid outdoorsperson, enjoying many activities including backpacking, cross country skiing, fishing and birdwatching.

Jensen holds a bachelors degree in Environmental Sciences from Hampshire College. In addition to her work with the Bureau of Land Management, she was elected to the Safford (Arizona) City Council, a nonpartisan position she held from 1994-1998. She is married to Mike McQueen and has two adult stepchildren Frances and Nicolas.

McCarthy-Kennecott Historical Museum

SEPTEMBER 2006

Greetings to one and all! First of all, we apologize for the cyber-glitch that may have prevented many of you from receiving our last newsletter. It told about the Alaska Railroad Open House in Anchorage in May, at which the Museum was nicely represented. It also introduced our 2006 summer volunteer, Jocelyn Oakley, who was already familiar with the McCarthy scene from her participation in the Wildlands Research program in 2005.

This was a busy summer for the Museum and the town. Jeremy Keller, dba iBuild, has refurbished the exterior of our depot building, which looks better than it ever has—maybe even better than it did in its heyday! We are very grateful to the Rasmuson Foundation for making this possible, and we are pleased that the Rasmusons themselves and other board members were able to see the Museum in person during the Wells-Fargo board meeting which took place in Kennicott in August.

2006 is McCarthy's Centennial year, and thanks to the efforts of Neil Darish we had a gala celebration of the Centennial during Fourth of July festivities. Ten beautifully restored antique autos graced the annual parade, which was presided over by various notables, including Mark Kirchhoff, author of *Historic McCarthy*. Dianne Milliard gave an address outlining McCa-

rthy's history, and Paul Barrett, grandson of McCarthy's founder, read a proclamation from the Alaska Legislature honoring the occasion.

The Museum's new and revised Kennecott Walking Tour is now available for \$3.00 per copy. It may be purchased at the Museum when the volunteer is present, at the NPS visitor center in the depot at Kennecott, and at several local businesses. Our thanks to Dianne Milliard for her fine work and persistence in seeing this project through.

Sunny Cook, a summer resident, undertook the continuing work on cataloging our collection. Now every artifact displayed is listed and has a number and a tag. We are very grateful for Sunny's diligent work.

Our sterling summer volunteer, Jocelyn Oakley, helped Sunny in her efforts, among many other things. In addition to the usual duties of sweeping, dusting, greeting visitors, keeping order in the storeroom, etc., Jocelyn glazed windows, made a temporary Museum sign, and wrote up a timeline of local history, which will help visitors get the big picture.

A new Museum display is under construction, thanks to the untiring efforts of Jim Guntis and the generosity of Dave Syren. Jim, a summer resident and electrical engineer, is designing and building a display on the braking system of the ore trams that brought the copper ore down

the mountain to the mill site at Kennecott. It turns out to be an interesting system; our challenge is to write interpretive material that will satisfy the electrical engineers who come to the Museum, but which is also comprehensible to us ordinary folks!

Labor Day was a big day for us—after the Annual Meeting, a crew of hardy souls moved the tram car that used to cross the east channel of the Kennicott River to the new deck of the Museum, where it will become part of a display on local transportation. Then we had to clear the entire Museum of objects and furniture, in preparation for John Adams' interior refurbishing work. We are very grateful to Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, especially Ken Hutchison and Jim Baker, for their invaluable assistance with our interior upgrade. Thanks also to the moving crew: Jocelyn Oakley, Johnny McGrath, Jared Stayaert, Cory Hempesch, Margot Higgins, Katherine and Janet Weaver, Mike Monroe, Meg Hunt, and Ed LaChapelle.

We have been blessed with many fine energetic volunteers this summer, and with the generosity of the Rasmuson Foundation and the National Park Service, making possible our physical upgrade. We continue to rely on the generosity of our members for our ongoing operating expenses. Thanks to one and all for your generous support!

"In times of impending calamity and distress; when the liberties of America are imminently endangered by secret machinations and open assaults... it becomes the indispensable duty of [Patriots], with true penitence of heart, and the most reverent devotion, publicly to acknowledge the over ruling providence of God... that we may... through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, obtain his pardon and forgiveness; humbly imploring his assistance to frustrate the cruel purposes of our unnatural enemies... that it may please the Lord of Hosts, the God of Armies, to animate our officers and soldiers with invincible fortitude, to guard and protect them in the day of battle...." —Proclamation by the Continental Congress, 16 March 1776

Martin Radovan remembered

Editor's note: When my family and I arrived in the McCarthy area in the summer of 1977, Martin Radovan, born Martin Radovanovich in Austria in 1884, was no longer prospecting his copper claims on Glacier Creek or, for that matter, still in the Wrangell Mountains. It is certain my family and I, newcomers to this fine state, would have found Mr. Radovan a most interesting character! Recently it was brought to my attention that Scott Radovich, grand nephew of Martin, along with his son Brady and two other relatives made the long journey from California to our town —seeking answers to many of their long-asked questions concerning "Great Uncle" Martin. This sounded like a tremendous item of interest (just too tremendous to fit in my Items of Interest column) that our WSEN readers would enjoy.

Jim and Audrey Edwards, who spent quality time getting to know our inquisitive visitors, gave me the heads-up, steering Scott in my direction. Jim graciously agreed to write his memories of Martin which are reprinted below.

Kenny Smith, McCarthy summer resident, provided me his recollection of Martin, as well.

Thank you everyone for making this article possible!

My grandfather was the brother of Martin Radovan. We always knew him as Uncle Martin, though to me he was always a legend. For the past 40 years, my family has wondered about how Uncle Martin lived in Alaska. Did he live alone? Where did he spend the winters? How did he survive? We had some clues over the years from his letters and a few Polaroids he took of himself feeding his "pets." But the mystery of where and how he lived always sat there like an unopened can of secrets.

So, finally we decided to open that can. Myself, my son and two of my nephews decided to make the journey to Glacier Creek. One of my nephews, Aric, is a geologist who has experience working on mines, so his knowledge and interest was key. Aric made contact with Wrangell Mountain Air and spoke with Kelly (Bay). Kelly then told Aric about Jim Edwards and the connection with Uncle Martin. This led to a most wonderful contact with the past and our family's history. Jim Edwards became our guide for the day of our visit to Uncle Martin's home.

After leading four tin horns across Glacier Creek, Jim helped us find Uncle Martin's cabin. It was a discovery beyond all expectation. It was as he must have left it 35 years

ago. His hats were on the bed as were his blankets. A newspaper was on the table along with an almanac. Dishes and cans and bottles still cluttered the corner of his kitchen in this one-room cabin. A note was on the door saying he was going to Cordova and would be back in a few days. It was dated October 1971. We think that was when he came to California to spend the remaining years of his life.

Our experience in McCarthy and our day at Glacier Creek is being shared with the rest of our large family and the life that Uncle Martin led has now been revealed to us. For that we are truly thankful. — Scott Radovich.

Martin Radovan —As I knew him from 1955 - 1970+/-

BY JIM EDWARDS

Perhaps throughout life, we can consider ourselves extremely lucky if we can meet, and get to know, a few persons who are most exceptional in some unique way. For me, as I worked on his prospects and got to know him over the years, Martin Radovan fully met the qualifications of a unique and special individual living his life in his own special way.

These memories came to life again this past September, when four men who are directly related to Martin, came to visit his old camp-

site and the wonderful mountain valley that he had lived in, and to share with them my experiences in the awesome cirque where I worked on his several prospects, digging the holes in the old way that Martin himself did in the many years before that.

The main prospect, the one that Martin himself had worked on the most, required leaving camp on snowshoes during the months of March and April, and climbing up the cirque and on the glacier for about 4 miles (each way)— a rise in altitude of nearly ½ mile. Then he had to break new trail about 400 or 500 feet straight up the snow cone and chute of a fault line. Finally, he chipped out a tiny tunnel straight into the face of this 60 degree chute where snow avalanches come down frequently from the top, nearly 4,000 feet above. All this digging was done using a singlejack, (short 4-pound hammer) and a steel rock chisel, while squatted in a tunnel less than 2 ½ feet high. Then, of course, every few days he spent a day raking the broken up rock and ice out of the hole with a bent shovel. This tunnel, at the time that I worked in it myself, measured 125 feet back into the slide.

One or two sticks of dynamite could be loaded into the holes one can chip by hand in a day. Before

lighting the fuse, we had to make sure the tunnel was open, as the slide often closed it with new hard snow at short intervals. If the dynamite went off while one was digging open the exit, you would become a cannonball, flying out of the tunnel bore.

Martin told us that this tunnel was Number 16 that he had dug and failed to reach the ore that he believed he had found.

Ten years later, I worked again in this site, and discovered many mining artifacts that lead me to believe that he had indeed dug in that difficult place, if not 16, at least a lot of them.

During that summer of 1955, we also attempted to visit the site of Martin's "Binocular Prospect," so called because geologists had pronounced it "the only way anyone will ever visit it—with binoculars." After several tries to climb up into the adjoining cirque and over the top into "Radovan Gulch," we (a geologist and I) edged our way along more than a mile of contact where the limestone sits on the greenstone and leaves a sort of ledge a bit more or less than a foot wide, to an area below this prospect, and then scaled the cliff another 100 to 200 feet above and across toward the ore sighting. We, also, did not go actually to the ore showing, but could see the hole Martin had dug there and many of his tools still in the hole. It was too dangerous, we decided, to go the last 50 feet, despite having climbers cleated boots,

pitons and rope, hard hats, etc. Martin, of course, dug that hole just wearing his old rubber shoe packs—and determination.

It was indeed a privilege and most fun day to go there again and share these memories and the place itself with actual relatives of that long-ago friend. To describe this special person in my life, Martin Radovan, in one word, I would choose the word "persistence."

A broader description of Mr. Radovan's life can be read in an article I wrote in the September 1965 issue of the *Alaska Sportsman* magazine.

(Note: Submission of this piece is not intended for the publisher to copyright the material that would in any way prevent myself, James H. Edwards, from subsequently using it again in any other format.)

Kenny Smith writes of Martin:

Yes, I certainly remember him. He had the prospect at Glacier Creek. Pretty tough old bird. Non-drinker, almost a recluse, a no nonsense type of person and appeared to be pretty well educated. He was the only one living at Glacier Creek for many years. I believe he had another life somewhere before ever engaging in prospecting in Alaska, but I've never heard the story. He lived there long enough so that it was a certificated stop on the interior mail run. The airstrip and little mail shack at Glacier Creek are on the east side of the creek. His prospect is on the west side. It is diffi-

cult to cross the creek and his mine was way up high on the mountain, although his living quarters were closer to the creek on the west side. As he couldn't meet the mail plane, he left the outgoing mail in the cabin and we, in turn, left his mail and groceries there. Every once in awhile his watch would be on the table with a note for us to set the correct time on it as he had forgotten to wind it. Mining concerns would periodically come up and scout out his prospect, as he was forever trying to entice investors. It was my understanding that it looked good on the surface but was a pretty shallow copper load that probably wasn't nearly sufficient to warrant a mining endeavor in that remote of a location.

Jim Edwards would go up and work for him from time to time. Also, Cal Aiken did a lot of work for him. Cal and Viola were close friends of his. He was still at Glacier Creek when I flew my last mail runs in the area in the late sixties. I believe he was in his 80s then.

I only had the opportunity to fly Martin just a couple of times. The last time I saw him was in Cordova in the early 1970s, I believe. He was staying with Cal and Viola. If I remember correctly, age and health had finally put an end to his living alone, mostly in a mine tunnel. Although, when I saw him in the restaurant that time with Viola and the kids, he really looked great. Like I said, he was really a tough person. Sometime after that he passed away.

Another Editor's note: Long-time subscriber Theodore W. Van Zelst of Glenview, IL wrote WSEN a letter dated November 26, 1997, in which he in part said: "Geneve-Pacific Corp. was a firm doing general exploration work in the Glacier Creek-Chitistone River area. This is the area in which the prospector, Martin Radovan, worked for so many years. In about 1979 we found a package of old photographic negatives that were apparently taken somewhere in the McCarthy Quadrangle in the late 1920s."

Along with his letter, Theodore sent us a picture of two ladies and two dogs. He continues, "Some people believe that one of the women in the photograph is Mrs. Martin Radovan. She was the Postmistress in the Peavine-May Creek area for many years. It appears that the ladies and their dogs were out for a Sunday afternoon stroll on their snow shoes. Can any of your readers identify these well-dressed ladies?"

Maybe Scott and his family will be able to answer that question for us, Theodore!

"One man with courage makes a majority." —Andrew Jackson

MAC welcomes dignitaries and holds annual meeting

BY BONNIE KENYON

McCarthy: —On September 29th the McCarthy Area Council (MAC) provided the forum for representatives from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park (WRST). The meeting was held at the Tony Zak house and was well attended.

Sam Means of DNR's Easement and Permitting, along with Easement Manager Marcia Menefee, addressed section-line easements and their history. These public easements find their "roots" in R. S. 2477, stated Means. The dates of legislation and surveys are critical. The state considers a section line to measure 50-feet on either side of the section line. Surveyors should know the section line easements, informed Means. DNR manages the easements which could be anywhere from a "trail to a highway." Although DNR has "right of access," they do not claim ownership of the land. The private property owner owns the trees, dirt and rocks, cautioned Means. In order to clarify a public easement, the first step is to "make sure it is an easement" by contacting the surveyor. Be sure to stay within the easement measurement, and do not go outside it. Build equally within the easement, not burdening just one owner. Land owners cannot prevent the section-line easement, said Means, but make sure the access is reasonable, contacting the land owners and letting them decide what is reasonable. Further information can be found at the following website: <http://www.legis.state.ak.us>

WRST's Regional Deputy Director, Vic Knox, was next on the line-

up of speakers. He announced that Meg Jensen, the new superintendent, would be arriving at Copper Center in early November. Open houses in McCarthy and Copper Center are being planned.

Knox next addressed the User's guide to Accessing Inholdings in National Park Service Areas in Alaska. "There will be an Interim Guide," said Knox. NPS has met with about 10 organizations in order to listen to their concerns on the proposed guide. Much of the input centered around the need for the park service to give detailed responses to concerned stakeholders, and to make clear NPS's "intent" regarding access to inholdings. Knox stated this should have been included in Draft #1. Producing a document entitled, *Guiding Principles —Access to Inholdings*, Knox read the list of 8 items. Of great importance to those in attendance were the first two principles which stated: 1. Residents within Alaska's National Parks are part of the essential fabric of the parks. We acknowledge their value in providing services to park visitors and continuing traditional lifestyles. 2) The National Park Service wants to see residents and communities within and around parks thrive. The NPS seeks to establish mutually respectful long-term relationships with all of our neighbors. (The entire 8 points can be found on page 34, *For Your Consideration*.) A round of applause rang from the residents in attendance.

DOT's Mike Coffey gave an update on the McCarthy Road Improvement Project. They are presently waiting for federal approval which he estimated would occur in about a week. The design project will be next in line. Nothing new had

happened with the Environmental Impact Statement since project manager, Janet Brown, had visited McCarthy earlier this year. Coffey stated that 27,000 yards of surfacing material remained for further work on the road. Fifteen miles were completed so far this year with an additional 18 miles more to do.

Coffey then introduced John Hoffman, DOT's new Tazlina District Superintendent which includes the McCarthy area, Chitina, Nelchikina and Slana. Hoffman replaced Joe Junker who recently retired.

Coffey announced an approval of a "local long-term, non permanent man on call" for McCarthy. He would like to see 2 or 3 people on the list. The position will supplement the Chitina crew, said Coffey, requires a CDL and is considered a union job. If anyone is interested in applying, Coffey encouraged them to contact John Hoffman at the Tazlina office.

The first part of the meeting came to an end but not before those in attendance relayed much appreciation to all the guest speakers.

At 2 pm the annual MAC meeting took place with approximately 19 in attendance. The main thrust of the meeting was to elect officers and board members which are as follows: President, Jeremy Keller; Vice-President, Andy Shidner; Secretary, Marie Thorn; Treasurer, Rick Petter. Board members: John Adams, Keith Rowland, Rick Kenyon, Stephens Harper, Diane Millard, Ed LaChapelle and Elizabeth Schafer.

Jeremy announced there are no scheduled MAC meetings during the winter, but a late May meeting will be set to discuss "all forms of government" and to further educate the community as to what is available.

"To me, conservative means believing in a minimum amount of government and a maximum amount of freedom—and keeping government out of people's lives and business—and leaving people alone." —Lyn Nofziger

National Park Service developing exotic plant management plan

The National Park Service (NPS) is developing an Exotic Plant Management Plan to address a persistent and growing problem with exotic (i.e. non-native) plants in Alaska's National Park System units. This plan and environmental assessment will consider chemical and biological control methods where physical control methods have failed or are unlikely to stop aggressive plants. Control methods for exotic plants involve potential impacts to natural and cultural resources and human health.

"We want your thoughts and ideas to help us identify pertinent issues and develop appropriate alternatives for the plan," stated NPS Alaska Regional Director Marcia Blaszak. "In recent years exotic plant species in Alaska have increased in diversity, abundance, and distribution. Some species are invasive, moving into natural areas and harming our environment, economy, or human health." Public scoping meetings were held in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau.

If you did not attend any of the public meetings, please send us your thoughts by using our public

comment website:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>

Select the link "Plans/ Documents Open for Comment." From the "Plan/Document List" select the link "Exotic Plant Management Plan for Alaska Parks - August Scoping Newsletter."

Impacts of exotic plants to natural ecosystems are many and varied, ranging from fish and wildlife habitat degradation to displacement of native plant communities to the alteration of processes such as nutrient cycling, succession, and wild-fire regimes. As an example, Japanese knotweed is spreading in Southeast Alaska and is known from the Pacific Northwest to form dense single-species stands along streams and rivers, changing water flow and thereby degrading salmon habitat.

While native species predominate in Alaska National Park System units, the threat of invasion grows every year. Active, long-term, and strategic management is necessary to prevent the introduction and spread of exotic plants in Alaska's National Park System units. The NPS is mandated to manage this problem by multiple laws and policies. NPS Management Policies

(2006) states, "Exotic species will not be allowed to displace native species if displacement can be prevented."

All sixteen of Alaska's NPS units have been assessed for the identity, distribution, and abundance of exotic plants within and near their borders.

Parks at greatest risk of invasion are those on the road system and in Southeast Alaska. The NPS response to this problem has increased every year, but exotic plants continue to become more widespread and abundant in our parks. The proposed plan would address prevention measures, inventory and monitoring procedures, and an integrated pest management strategy, which tailors control methods to the species, site, infestation, results, and context.

Planning Team/Contacts:

NEPA Manager and Project Contact, Bud Rice: 907-644-3530

Project Manager, Jeff Heys: 907-644-3451

NEPA Coordinator, Andrew McCarthy: 907-644-3539

Regional Integrated Pest Management Coordinator, Pat Owen: 907-683-9547

"Although socialism has long claimed to be for the poor, it has probably done more damage, on net balance, to the poor than to the rich. After all, the rich have enough money to leave the country if they think the socialists are going to do them any serious harm. Some of our own rich have already had their money leave the country, to be sheltered from the higher taxes that limousine liberals say we should all pay... The rich have learned to adapt socialist policies to their own benefit. For example, the city of Riviera Beach, Florida, is planning to demolish a working class neighborhood under its power of eminent domain, in order to prepare the way for a marina for yachts, luxury condominiums and an upscale shopping district. What will the city of Riviera Beach get out of all this? More taxes from higher-income people, enabling local politicians to spend more money on programs to attract votes. Meanwhile the rich get rid of lower-income folks without having to pay them the value of their homes and businesses that will be demolished. As in so many other cases, eminent domain is socialism for the rich." —Thomas Sowell

CLASSIFIED

WATER WELL??? Looking to put together a list of folks interested in having a well drilled next summer, in order to entice a driller to make the trip. Must have road access for a sizeable rig. Contact Todd Bureau @ 907-782-3730 or advenak@advenalaska.com

1914 Thanksgiving message by Rev. McBride

Reprinted from *The Chitina Leader*, Tuesday, November 17, 1914

That we have an America today is due in a great measure to the fact that the Puritans, persecuted and driven from England because of their desire for religious freedom, possessed to a remarkable degree the element of faith and thought of the future instead of the present. The accomplishments of those pioneer trail-blazers and nation builders and the custom of celebrating a day of thanksgiving which they established in America were the two main divisions of the topic of Rev. Jas. A. McBride's sermon at the Presbyterian church [in Cordova] last evening. The attendance was the largest for several weeks, the church being filled almost to seating capacity. Special music harmonizing with the occasion was rendered by the choir.

"Thanksgiving Day," said the speaker, "is peculiar to America, although other nations hold similar celebrations." He reviewed the history of the custom of returning thanks to God for benefits be-

stowed, a custom reputed to be of great antiquity and to have been borrowed from the Mosaic law. The American adoption of the custom was in celebration of a victory for the privilege of worshiping God as the Puritans saw fit. The speaker told of the trials and struggles and sufferings and hardships of the little band which, under the leadership of John Robinson, established schools and churches and laid the foundation for a country greater than that from which they were driven.

"They were strangers in a strange land, and you who have been up against it on the winter trails of Alaska can best understand how they felt when, after landing from the Mayflower, on an inhospitable shore, they scraped away the snow and built what we would call dog houses," said Rev. McBride. "At one time, after almost indescribable hardships, after sickness had depleted their ranks and a drought had destroyed crops, they had only five kernels of corn left; yet they did not lose faith in God or the future. Pros-

perity followed and a week of prayer and thanksgiving was arranged with the Indians attending in a general peace meeting.

"That was the most remarkable gathering in the history of America," the speaker declared, "and America is proud of the kind of men and women those Pilgrims were. They upset the man-made law of the divine right of kings and because of their faith in God and right, they won.

"Some hearts in Alaska will be sad and lonely on Thanksgiving Day, but it should be a good day to the young man who has a future before him. It isn't gold or copper or coal or the railroad that Alaska most needs for making the best kind of history, but it is character of her men and women. The best history is made by the best men and women. God help us to make Alaska what she should be. It is impossible to get the best unless we give the best—unless we pay the price."

Miss Kitty — MIRACLE CAT

...nine lives on the edge of the wilderness

BY DAVE HOLLIS

KALISPELL MONTANA - November 1989. On a cold rainy evening, a hiking buddy and I parked near my rented house, and then we saw a note on the door:

Found a Kitten
It's in the Shed
Keep it - Suzy

As we circled the house towards the shed, we came upon a soaking wet Calico kitten sitting on a stump squeakily meowing at us. I picked it up and brought it in the house. I told Russ that I didn't want it, that I wanted to travel, and that it wasn't a

good time for me to have a pet. The kitten jumped up on his lap, and then he held it up and said, "Ah... look at this poor helpless critter in this big bad world... you should keep it."

That night I made dinner for myself, and gave the kitten a bowl of milk. Later in bed she crawled up on my chest, and slept with her face in my beard. That cat became my precious pet for over thirteen years. Miss Kitty was a very savvy cat, surviving all those years living at various locations in Montana and Alaska, along the edge of the wilderness. Coexisting with owls, hawks,

foxes, coyotes, lynx, bears, and almost daily harassment from loose neighborhood dogs.

SAVED BY A PITBULL — my landlord lived next door. He had been there for decades, and knew what was going on in the neighborhood. I mentioned the kitten to him, and he told me that he had noticed the starving kitten in this backyard eating dog poop. Gary had no idea where it might have come from. I wondered if it might have been thrown into the giant green dumpster next to his cabin, and somehow gotten out. Gary didn't want it in his yard, so he clipped his

(Continued on page 24)

George Washington
October 3, 1789
City of New York

Thanksgiving

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor, and Whereas both Houses of Congress have by their Joint Committee requested me "to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanks-giving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th. day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be. That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks, for his kind care and protection of the People of this country previous to their becoming a Nation, for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his providence, which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war, for the greatest degree of tranquillity, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed, for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted, for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions, to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually, to render our national government a blessing to all the People, by constantly being a government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed, to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shown kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord. To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and Us, and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

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The World Around Us

BY DON WELTY

My hope, after reading previous articles and personal research, is that you are gaining a greater appreciation for the rich complexity of life here on earth. I often wonder how our creator puts up with our godless explanations for the origins of all we see around us.

A person looks at an artifact dug from an ancient civilization, knowing at once a creative intelligent being formed it. And, yet, the same person looks at a beautiful, information-rich, living organism, millions of times more complex in nature than the artifact, and believes it's a result of time and chance processes. This he believes in spite of the lack of physical evidence and its opposition to natural laws.

The most obvious place to look for physical evidence for evolution would be the fossil record. With our now extensive available fossil record, we should have a window into past events. Let's look through the window and see what is there.

In W. R. Thompson's introduction to *Origins of Species*, he states: "...if we found in the geological strata a series of fossils showing a gradual transition from simple to complex forms, and could be sure that they correspond to a true time-sequence, then we should be inclined to feel that Darwinian Evolution has occurred, even though its mechanism remains unknown. That is certainly what Darwin would have liked to report, but, of course, he was unable to do so. What the available data indicated was a remarkable absence of the many intermediate forms required by the theory. The absence of the primitive types that should have existed in the strata regarded as the most ancient, and the sudden appearance of the principle taxonomic groups." Later

on he states: "...and I may note that the position is not notably different today. The modern Darwinian paleontologists are obliged, just like their predecessors and like Darwin, to water down the facts with subsidiary hypothesis which, however plausible, are in the nature of things unverifiable." (1)

A sudden major outburst of fossils occur in Cambrian geological strata, animals complex and highly developed. Every one of the major invertebrate forms of life are found in the Cambrian. The evolutionary predecessors of the Cambrian fauna have never been found.

Ariel Ross (PhD zoology) states: "The Cambrian explosion is not just a case of all the major animal phyla appearing at about the same place in the geological column. It is also a situation of no ancestors to suggest how they might have evolved." (2)

The fossil record should produce thousands of transitional forms, but instead we find a regular and systematic absence of transitional forms between higher categories. The major invertebrate types found in the Cambrian are as distinctly set apart then as now, giving no record of being derived from a common ancestor.

After the Cambrian explosion invertebrates supposedly evolved into vertebrates. This assumption cannot be derived from the fossil record. The vast differences between the two groups remain unbridged by transitional forms. The first vertebrate, a fish, was 100% vertebrate and no partial vertebrates has ever been found.

Fish supposedly evolved into amphibians. Yet, not a single fossil has ever been found showing a part way fin and part way foot. Also, no transitional forms are found between the diverse living amphibians like salamanders, frogs, or apodems or any of the fossil amphibians.

Reptiles supposedly evolved into birds, yet no one has found a single fossil showing a part way wing and forelimb or a part way feather. The much touted "missing links" between reptiles and birds are very controversial among evolutionists and have either been found to be wholly bird, wholly reptile, or hoaxes. A. J. Marshall stated in his book, *Biology and Comparative Physiology of Birds*, that "the origin of birds is largely a matter of deduction. There is no fossil evidence of the states through which the remarkable change from reptile to birds was achieved." (4) Remarkable because reptiles would have to change: scales to feathers, a new respiratory system, skeletal system, digestive system, nervous system, circulatory system, sound producing organs, and oil glands. Each one of these changes requires extensive amounts of additional information.

And so it goes on up the supposed evolutionary tree up to humans. Evolutionist Ernst Mayr in his book, *What Evolution Is*, states: "Giving the fact of evolution, one would expect the fossil record to document a gradual steady change from ancestral forms to the descendants. But this is not what the paleontologists find. Instead, they find gaps in just about every phyletic series." (5)

In Professor G. A. Kerkut's book, *Implications of Evolution*, this evolutionist states: "...there is the theory that all living forms in the world have arisen from a single source which itself came from an inorganic form. The theory can be called the "General Theory of Evolution" and the evidence that supports it is not sufficiently strong to allow us to consider it as anything more than a working hypothesis." (6)

Darwin himself states: "Why is not every geological formation and every stratum full of such intermedi-

ate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graduated organic chain; and this is the most obvious and serious objection which can be urged against the theory.” (7)

Stephen J. Gould, leading spokesman for evolutionists in the U. S. today, said that, “the fossil record with its abrupt transitions offers no support for gradual change...all paleontologists know that the fossil record contains precious little in the way of intermediate forms; transitions between major groups are characteristically abrupt.” (8)

Mark Ridley, a British evolutionist states: “No real evolutionist, whether gradualist or punctuationalist, uses the fossil record as evidence in favour of the theory of evolution as opposed to special creation.” (9) A person might wonder where we find all the marvelous evidence for evolution? French zoologist, Pierre Grasse, states in *Evolution of Living Organisms*, “Naturalists must remember that the process of evolution is revealed only through fossil forms. A knowledge of paleontology can provide them with the evidence of evolution and reveal its course or mechanisms. Neither the examination of present beings, non imagination, nor theories can serve as a substitute for paleontological documents.” (10) He also goes on to say biology offers us no help in our attempt to understand the mechanism of evolution. He also says that certainly mutations and natural selection cannot possibly provide that mechanism.

So evolutionists find themselves “between a rock and a hard place.” They are unable to find the transitional forms in the fossil record that the theory demands or find a mechanism to explain how the process can occur. Sounds like there is a lot of faith needed in this science!

Colin Patterson, senior paleontologist at the British Museum of Natural History, said in a talk he gave at the American Museum of Natural History, November 5, 1981, that he now realizes that in accepting evolution he had moved from science to faith. Later in a BBC program he stated that all that we really have in the evolutionary phylogenetic tree are the tips of the branches. All else, the filling in of the trunk and branches, is simply story telling of one kind or another. Wow, I didn’t learn that in high school biology!

These examples given above are not exceptions, but, as stated earlier, the fossil record displays a systematic absence of transitional types between higher categories. Also, no mechanism for change has been found. Current examples of evolution focus entirely on “micro evolution” or genetic variability or natural selection. This is quite the opposite of evolution, a subject for another article.

Numerous reputable scientists believe that the sudden appearance of highly developed forms in the fossil record and the sudden appearance of each of the taxonomic groups corresponds better to the “kinds” described in the book of Genesis. And, also, that the extreme complexity in even the smallest sin-

gle-celled creature points to the majesty and awesomeness of an intelligent and masterful creator as also described in the book of Genesis.

Next time you hear the hype about how evolution is proven in the fossil record or how a new missing link has been found, dare to dig in and examine the evidence behind the claim. And the next time you find a fossil, recognize it as an artifact and give its maker the glory.

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“The European Union has just uncovered another dangerous threat to European social stability: home-schooling. Yes, German police recently arrested the mother of children who were being home-schooled. The father had to flee with the children to Austria. The European Court of Human Rights upheld the German ban on home-schooling, which dated back to 1938 in the Nazi era. ... Think about that at a time when Americans, even Supreme Court justices, are advocating the use of foreign legal precedents for American court rulings. Do we really want to start jailing home-schooling parents?” —Patrick Henry College Professor David Aikman

THE CHITINA LEADER

November 1914 December

OF GENERAL INFORMATION

Cordova, October 31

Rev. McBride returned on the train yesterday from a successful trip to the interior. He held a religious meeting at McCarthy on Tuesday night and again on Thursday at Chitina. At both meetings he had large attendances, which encourages the energetic pastor to plan for future meetings at those places and Kennecott. No religious services had ever been held at McCarthy and Dr. McBride was delighted with the interest manifested by the people of that community.

Cordova, November 2

Among passengers on the train for the interior this morning were C. J. Miller who will hit the trail for Katalla and return in about two weeks; Paul Meyer, of McCarthy, who recently returned from New York after being denied the privilege of joining the German reserves, and O. E. Radabaugh, who is returning to Chitina after a week's "vacation" in Cordova.

In a recent letter received from Dan Steacy, from McCarthy, he tells something about the effort to establish a winter trail to the Chisana diggings. He says: "Mr. Simmonds was unsuccessful in his attempt to get across the Rhoan glacier on the way out, so he came back to the Shushanna. The people now in there held a meeting and decided on the Skolai trail as the most feasible. Next day Simmonds and five men started from the diggings and are working this way. I shortly after followed and found him working with his men on Russell glacier. He said he had hopes of having a good double ender trail over Russell in three days. He went in over the Chittistone route and came down Skolai. I expected to meet the McCa-

rthy road outfit at work along the way, but did not see them. When I arrived here and asked about the crowd of trail builders was told that there was some difference of opinion as to the best route and that some considered that the trail should go over the Nizina glacier the same as last winter, while others insisted that it should go over Skolai, so nothing was done. The sentiment of the people in the diggings is for Skolai, so that they may have a winter and summer trail established. In the meantime Mr. Simmonds is doing good work in establishing a trail while the people here are arguing about routes."

Nov. 3

OF GENERAL INFORMATION

Cordova, November 6

James H. Morris was an arrival this afternoon from McCarthy and reports a serious shooting that occurred last night. A. E. Todd and Dean Officer engaged in an argument over the election resulting in Todd shooting Officer through the head, inflicting a serious wound. The man will be brought to the hospital at Cordova on the next train. Mr. Todd is the proprietor of a large store at McCarthy and has been well and favorably known. He formerly resided at Nome.

Cordova, November 7

The greater portion of yesterday's train from the interior consisted of six cars of concentrates, or about 300 tons, from the mines at Kennecott. The train crew reported the "nothing doing" sign out all along the line, so far as news was concerned.

Cordova, November 9

V. J. Dwyer, of Strelina, came in on a speeder yesterday and will sail south on the steamer Northwestern. He goes for a vacation trip to California and will spend the Christmas hol-

idays with his sisters at Los Angeles. Mr. Dwyer is very enthusiastic over the mineral prospects of the Kuskulana country. He says that the developments during the past summer have demonstrated quantity and richness of the copper ore in various properties. This is particularly true of the Hubbard-Elliott and the Rarus and Nugget Creek groups of the Alaska Copper Company. The Ole Berg property also looks promising.

The train for the interior this morning had six loads in addition to the coaches, one consisting of a turbine and accessories and, the other five of lumber for the Kennecott mines.

Max Reed, foreman of the Dan Creek mines, was a passenger on the morning train for the interior, having come down last week for a short vacation.

The condition of Dean Officer, the man who was shot at McCarthy a few days ago, is reported as about the same.

Nov. 10

OF GENERAL INFORMATION

Cordova, November 13

Dean Officer, who was shot by A. E. Todd, former commissioner at McCarthy, during a political dispute one day last week, is recovering from the effects of the wound in his head. He is said to have stated that he will not prosecute Todd, against whom he bears no ill will.

Nov. 17

OF GENERAL INFORMATION

Cordova, November 25

Conrad Miller and J. R. Lowry will depart for the interior on tomorrow's train, returning to their claims at the head of the Chitina. They are taking in a winter's supply of provisions and material and will sink several holes this winter by the freezing process, as

the ground is so wet that bedrock cannot be reached during the summer season without aid of pumps.

Cordova, December 1

W. H. Carson, who left Cordova for Shushanna last February, returned this afternoon on the train from the interior. He accompanied the mail carrier, "Dog Musher" Peterson, over the new winter trail across the Rohn glacier which, Mr. Carson declares, is a much easier route than the old one over Nizina glacier, as the former is at least 1,000 feet lower, has no heavy grades and few crevasses. These two men covered the distance of 40 miles between timber lines in two days of actual traveling time, although they were delayed a day at the camp of A. Eides, the road commissioner, because of the illness of Mr. Carson. This camp is about midway between the timber lines and has been fitted up by Mr. Eides for accommodation of travelers. Mr. Eiden has so thoroughly staked the trail that one can in ordinary weather see 20 to 25 stakes at all times, thus eliminating danger of travelers getting lost.

Mr. Carson stated that at least 200 people are wintering at Shushanna. A stampede started three weeks ago for Ptarmigan creek, but nothing except good prospects were found. The Hamshaw company had 15 to 20 men employed in development work on Wilson creek when Mr. Carson left. He met four outfits going in over the new trail—Lubbe brothers, Brown, Grand Reed and another party whose name he did not learn.

McCARTHY NEWS

Five head of horses belonging to the bankrupt estate of J. A. Fagenbergh were auctioned off Saturday November 21. Rapid bidding disposed of them in a very short time.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Lane are home again after a few months stay in Blackburn. Mr. Lane has been in charge of the J. A. Fagenbergh estate.

Mrs. Alta Hipman is now convalescent after an illness of two weeks.

Attorney F. H. Foster returned from Chitina Tuesday.

Mrs. A. Church entertained November 23 at cards. Three tables of whist were in play. Those present were: Mrs. Mark Lattin, Mrs. J. Barrett, Mrs. Fred Cope, Mrs. L. H. Royal, Mrs. T. Lane, Mrs. Neva Spencer, Miss Ingrid Sather, Mrs. Lillian Frye, Mrs. A. E. Todd, Mrs. Tim Eckstrom, Mrs. J. Baltuff, Mrs. Robert Marshall, Mrs. A. Ketterer and Mrs. A. Church. The prizes were won by Mrs. Royal and Mrs. Eckstrom.

Mr. Otto Lubbe narrowly escaped serious injury from a runaway train last week.

Dec. 1

LATE McCARTHY NEWS

Thanksgiving was very quietly celebrated here with no Thanksgiving service to attend, nor opera, nor even a picture show. A few informal dinners were given to the bachelors and would-be bachelors. The restaurants, with their Thanksgiving "dinner like mother used to make," were well patronized. A jolly sleighing party from Kennecott came down during the afternoon.

Arrivals on Tuesday's train included Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Sheridan, who intend making their home in McCarthy for the winter.

Dec. 8

LATE McCARTHY NEWS

Rev. Jack McBride of Cordova, and Judge O'Connor of Chitina, were arrivals on Friday's train. Rev. McBride held services Friday evening, which were well attended. He also started a Sunday school for the children, which will be held in the court room until a church is built.

F. Youngs, F. T. Hamshaw, Chisana, W. S. Wiknor, Mother Lode Mine, Max Rede, Dan Creek and Chas. David, Spruce Point Road House are registered at the Golden Hotel.

Dec. 15

Cordova, December 16

P. D. Burke, well known and popular pioneer of the Copper River valley, died at Seattle yesterday. This information reached Cordova today in the form of a cablegram to E. C. Ross. Mr. Burke had been ill for about

three weeks before leaving for the outside on the Mariposa which sailed November 15, as he contracted a severe cold when he came down from his farm at Long Lake. His reservations on two different boats were canceled because he did not feel able to make the trip, although he was not confined to his bed at any time here.

Before his departure, Mr. Burke confided to friends here the fact that he intended to give the families of his sons, at his old home in Minneapolis, Minnesota, a pleasant surprise on Christmas Eve by dropping in on them unannounced and as a real Santa Claus; but fate willed otherwise.

The remains will probably be sent there for interment. Mr. Burke was about 75 years of age and was among the first to locate a homestead in the Copper River valley, where he had resided for about 12 years. He was under the care of Malcom Smith, former physician at the Cordova hospital, at the time of his death.

Dec. 22

OF GENERAL INFORMATION

Cordova, December 24

W. S. Wilmot, a passenger from Chitina on yesterday's train from the interior, said the Mother Lode mine had ten teams employed hauling ore down to the railroad at McCarthy.

McCARTHY NEWS

Mr. Fred Young, who accompanied Mr. Ira Hurd and Mr. A. S. Johnson on their trip into Chisana, lost his life on the glacier. The men were traveling after dark and had been warned to make camp and not travel any further that night. They decided to go on further before making camp and not being able to see the status of the trail, stepped over in the crevasse instead of making a right angle. Mr. Johnson succeeded in getting Mr. Hurd out and Young managed to get out by himself, but collapsed after he got out and death overtook him before the other two could get him to the roadhouse. Mr. Young's relatives are in Sweden. He was buried at McCarthy on Wednesday afternoon.

Dec. 29

Wood burners unlock energy with a match

As our breath hangs in the frosty autumn air, thoughts turn to protecting our fragile selves from the inevitable deep freeze. Many Alaskans choose wood heat to make the winter more bearable.

Burning firewood provides warmth by releasing stored energy from the sun that trees have converted to mass we can use. British thermal units, or BTU, define the energy provided by a certain species of wood. A BTU is the amount of energy it takes to increase the temperature of one pound (one pint) of water by one degree Fahrenheit.

Firewood energy is measured in BTU per cord. A cord is 128 cubic feet, which is a four-foot by four-foot by eight-foot pile of wood. If a cord is cut in one-foot lengths to fit in the stove, the resulting woodpile will be 32 feet long and four feet high.

New Englanders might laugh at the fact that Alaskans burn birch and spruce, but hickories and oaks aren't hardy enough to survive our winters. Hickory provides about 30 million BTU per cord.

Paper birch, the first choice of Alaskans, provides 25.4 million BTU per cord, according to a table on the energy content of Interior Alaska trees prepared by George Sampson, a former Institute of Northern Forestry research forester. Tamarack, a tree often mistaken for sickly spruce because of its spindly branches, provides 24.8 million BTU per cord, followed by black and white spruce at about 20.5 million BTU, aspen at 18.8 million BTU, and balsam poplar at 17.5 million BTU. Sampson's measurements are for air-dry wood with a 20 percent moisture content. Wood is considered dry when it reaches a moisture content of 15 to 30 percent. Freshly cut, green wood contains 30 to 60 percent moisture.

Seasoned logs put off much more heat than wet wood. When a log is placed inside a stove on top of other burning logs, it doesn't bring instant gratification. First, the heat energy provided by the burning logs drives off the moisture of the unburned log, and none of the heat from the reaction warms the room. The wetter the log, the more energy

required to dry it out. For that reason, and because dangerous creosote deposits increase when burning wet wood, experts recommend drying firewood for at least six months after it's cut live and split, which should bring the moisture content down to an acceptable 25 percent.

Of Alaska woods, birch has the most BTU per cord because it's dense. This means there's a lot more wood mass, and therefore energy, crammed into a birch log than the same-sized aspen log.

Given that fact, which puts off more heat—one pound of oven-dry (no moisture at all) birch or one pound of oven-dry aspen? It's a trick question. All oven-dried woods have about the same energy content, 8,600 BTU per pound. Therefore, if people sold firewood by the oven-dried pound instead of the cord, aspen would be just as valuable as birch, but it would probably take twice as many woodsheds to store the same amount of energy.

This forum is a reprint of an Alaska Science Forum column that was first written in 1995.

The wet world where ski meets snow

If you've ever seen a man with electrical wires coming from his skis, you probably passed Sam Colbeck. Colbeck, a retired geophysicist at the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, New Hampshire, studied the physics of skis and ice skates.

People sometimes think pressure is the force that propels skis and skates, but Colbeck said that's not so. To demonstrate the real driver of the system, Colbeck rubbed his hands together. The warmth of friction he felt is the same warmth that enables the

movement of skis, snowboards, dog sleds, and ice skates.

When skis or steel blades move against ice crystals, they melt a layer of water that's incredibly thin, about one-millionth of a meter. That diminutive pool allows a skier or skater to glide like a surfer. Colbeck said a 100-pound downhill racer going about 60 miles per hour generates the same heat as if he had three 100-watt light bulbs under each ski. The shiny tracks he leaves behind are the collective reflection of polished snow crystals.

As anyone who has tried to ski at 20 below can testify, the friction system doesn't work well at cold

temperatures because the heat of friction can't warm the snow to above the freezing point. Cold snow is also hard snow, Colbeck said, which is why skis need glide wax.

In cold weather, hard waxes make the ski base more resistant to sharp ice crystals. Warmer snow, especially that near the freezing point, presents a different challenge. In warm snow, a skier generates so much meltwater that it sucks at ski bottoms the way a glass of ice water sticks to a glass table. The solution is a softer wax that repels water. When the snow temperature is close to 32 degrees

Fahrenheit, fluorocarbon waxes work best.

Colbeck tested fluorocarbon waxes versus regular paraffin waxes and found that meltwater tends to ball up on a fluorocarbon-waxed surface, reducing the contact area between ski base and snow. Though fluorocarbon waxes work, they don't come cheap; they cost more per ounce than silver.

Today's ski bases are made of high-density polyethylene, an elastic material that doesn't lose heat to the air quickly, a major reason sleds with metal runners groan at low temperatures. The plastic bases of-

ten come in black or white. Colbeck thinks a black base is a better choice for the north. Skis with black bases are able to absorb energy from the sun because photons in the snowpack bounce up to warm the ski from underneath. Bobsleders know that a warmer blade causes more meltwater; they heat their runners with a blowtorch before pushing off. Speed skaters who use "clapper" skates do quite well, which Colbeck said is probably due to their ability to keep the blade of their skate on the ice longer, where friction makes it stay warmer than in the open air.

For all the interest in gliding faster on snow and ice, Colbeck said there's been a remarkable lack of interest by ski companies in the physical processes that occur where ski meets snow. Most of the industry advances have been like genetic mutations, he said, where a company happens to select a new base material or color, it works, and everyone copies them.

"The geometry of ski bases is not well understood," he said. "It's a science with a long way to go."

This article is a reprint of a previous Alaska Science Forum written in 1999.

WRST and Copper Basin well represented at Science Symposium

Scientists, educators, park managers, students and the general public spent a week enjoying spectacular Alaskan fall weather and a diverse assembly of interesting presentations at the 2006 Alaska Park Science Symposium. Denali National Park hosted the event held September 11 - 15, 2006. "Crossing Boundaries in a Changing Environment" was this year's theme.

The Alaska Park Science Symposium is a biennial event that focuses on research taking place on or near Alaska's National Parks. The 2006 symposium featured Wrangell-St. Elias and Denali National Park and Preserves and Yukon Charlie Rivers National Preserve. Sponsors of the event included the Alaska Natural History Association, the Denali Borough School District and the George Wright Society. In an effort to make the symposium accessible to as many people as possible, the entire event was available on a live web-cast.

In keeping with the theme of the symposium, many presentations focused on the current and potential future impacts of climate change to various Alaskan resources

including wildlife, permafrost and glaciers. Other sessions focused on geology, landscape ecology, subsistence management, education strategies and evaluating the visitor experience in the three parks. The symposium included a poster session and an evening program, "Profiles in History," which were open to the public.

These presentations were of special interest to Wrangell-St. Elias (some papers had multiple authors):

"A 1500-Year Record of Temperature and Glacial Response from Varved Iceberg Lake" by Michael Loso, Assistant Professor of Earth Sciences at Alaska Pacific University;

"Coastline Dynamics of Wrangell-St. Elias and Adjacent Glacier Bay National Park" by Bruce Molina, USGS Research Geologist;

"The Chisana Caribou Recovery Project: Assessing Population Dynamics and Captive Rearing" by Layne Adams, Wildlife Biologist, USGS;

"Dall's Sheep Distribution in Wrangell-St. Elias" by Miranda Terwilliger, MA Thesis;

"Temporal and Spatial Variability of Kittlitz's Murrelets in Icy Bay,

Alaska" by Scott Gende, NPS - Glacier Bay. Mason Reid, Wrangell-St. Elias Wildlife Biologist was one of the authors;

"The Ecology, Status and Stock Identity of Beluga Whales in Yakutat Bay, Alaska" by Carolina Bonin, National Maritime Fisheries Service, La Jolla, California;

"Connecting Place With Science - Katie John and the Tanada Creek Fish Weir" by Vicki Penwell, Nabesna District Interpreter, Wrangell-St. Elias;

"Meeting Remote Educational Challenges in Geo-Science" by Suzanne McCarthy, Administrator/Geology Instructor, Prince William Sound Community College; and "Visitor Preferences for Interpretation at Kennecott National Historic Landmark" by Stephen Taylor, Research Technician, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Information on the symposium and other science and education activities in Alaskan parks can be found through the Murie Science and Learning Center website, at <http://www.alaskanha.org/murie-science-learning-center.htm>

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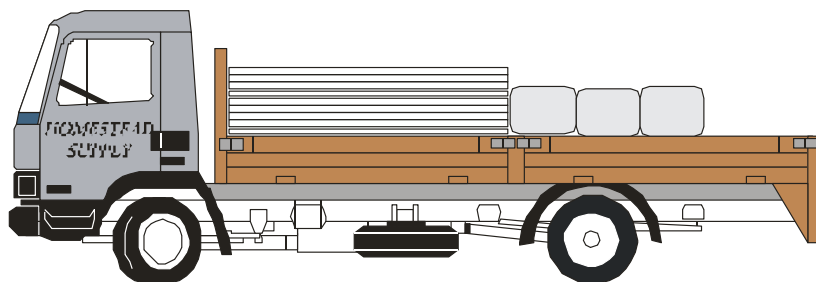
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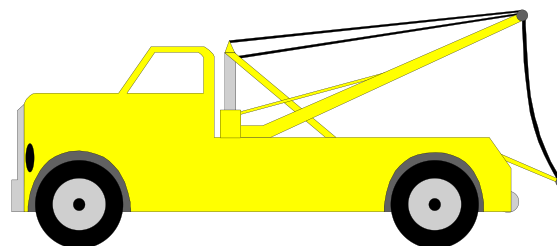
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DAN'S TIRE AND AUTO REPAIR

Home of the Happy Hooker Two

MISS KITTY

(Continued from page 14)

pitbull onto the dog run line, thinking that Buster would scare the kitten away. A couple of hours later Gary looked out and was surprised to see Buster sleeping in his doghouse with the kitten curled up next to his warm body. The next day Suzy found the kitten in my yard.

CRAZY CLIMB — I made Miss Kitty stay indoors for about a week. She gained her health back, and her squeaking became a normal meow—she was very vocal. The first winter storm of the season came through. There was over a foot of fluffy snow on the ground. I shoveled the sidewalk to the street, and when I went back into the house Miss Kitty was next to the door loudly insisting that she be let outside. I was curious about her reaction to her first snow experience, so I opened the door. She determinedly went down the steps, and then boldly marched down the sidewalk seemingly on a purposeful mission.

About ten feet down the sidewalk, without hesitating, she turned and starting bounding through the snow, almost disappearing on each landing. She jumped straight towards a willow tree, climbed about 15-feet up the trunk, and then started walking out on a branch with about four inches of snow on it. I stood below ready to catch her when she fell. She turned around, headed back down the trunk a ways, stopped, and then demanded that I get her down to the ground. I couldn't believe how fearless she was—what a crazy cat!

ARROW ESCAPE—We moved to the edge of town in Helena, Montana. Miss Kitty had a cat door so that she could go outside anytime that she wanted to. One spring morning I headed out to the mailbox, and heard a strange meow. I looked, and there she was with an arrow in her body. I ran to her, noticed that she wasn't bleeding, and

then ran into the house to call her veterinarian. I quickly drove to the vet clinic and they freaked out. They told me to go home and to call them in a few hours.

The vet shaved her body, opened her up, cut the arrow in half and removed it, sewed her back up; and then put on a total body bandage. Miss Kitty was put in intensive care with an IV. For a week, several times a day, including the middle of the night, the vet changed her bandages. I came in every day to talk to her. She always responded with a little mew. She came home after that week. She wore a full body bandage for almost two months. She had a complete recovery with no complications.

The arrow had gone into her chest, grazed the lung cavity, and broken a couple of ribs. The vet called her the Miracle Cat. And for years after that, whenever I brought her into the clinic, the vet showed her off to his new interns who knew the story and had reviewed the records.

PLUMBER SUMMER—Fairbanks, Alaska 1996. In June I left Miss Kitty in my rental shack and drove down to McCarthy in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. I got a summer job driving shuttle vans. My next door neighbor had agreed to feed the cat daily. Miss Kitty had a cat door to come and go as she pleased. I called frequently to check on her, and was told that everything was okay.

When I returned in mid-September she wasn't in the shack. I looked all around my landlord's yard, a plumbing and heating business full of all kinds of machinery and miscellaneous junk, and finally found her all dirty and skinny. I carried her to the shack, but she seemed very uncomfortable there. A couple of hours later a big tomcat came through the cat door. I chased him off, but he kept coming back like he lived there. It took me a couple of days to get rid of him.

Miss Kitty had been booted out of the shack by the big boy. The neighbor knew that the food was disappearing so she thought everything was okay. My landlord said that he had wondered why my cat just lived in the yard all summer.

WALK ON THE WILD SIDE—McCarthy, Alaska. A couple of summers later Miss Kitty and I moved to a somewhat isolated spot off the old wagon road up to Kennecott. I set up a deluxe camp. Miss Kitty's safe haven was in my car. The windows were opened just enough for her to come and go, and I fed her dry cat food in there. She wasn't around after the first night. I thought that was odd, but I bicycled off to meet the Friday mail plane.

A few hours later I bicycled back into my new camp with some buddies. As we rode in we saw a sow black bear running off with two cubs. Then my friend noticed another cub that had squeezed thru the window into my car. After finally running the cub off, and looking over the rather minor damage, I decided that the camp was in a major wildlife corridor. So, I broke it down and moved back to town with no sign of the cat.

Everyday for a week I searched for Miss Kitty. I bicycled up and down the old wagon road, the McCarthy road, and the airstrip — stopping frequently to call for her. A local woman said that a lynx had probably gotten her, so I stopped searching, and gave her cat food away.

Two days later in McCarthy, a seasonal employee approached me and said that she'd seen Miss Kitty down by the old Golden Saloon. I didn't believe it—why wouldn't she just return to our old campsite? I walked down there, and sure enough it was her—I couldn't believe it! She barely acknowledged me, and had a wild look in her eyes. I grabbed her, she struggled a bit, but I carried her up to my camp, and life went back to normal for us.

She had spent 9 days in the wilderness working her way back to McCarthy.

LYNX LUNCH — McCarthy, August 15th 2003. At age 13 ½ I'd noticed that Miss Kitty had lost a step. I bicycled back to my cabin briefly one evening, she ran out the door, then I left. Three times that night I had a premonition that something was wrong with her. When I got

home that night I knew something wasn't right. Miss Kitty wasn't there waiting — she didn't wander far in her old age. I walked concentric circles around the cabin, but found absolutely no evidence of any foul play.

Over the next couple of weeks two other older cats disappeared without a clue in that neighborhood. We figured that it had to have

been a lynx. Actually, I think that it was a great way for Miss Kitty to go.

Whenever I've bicycled through that area since then, I look for a lynx — thinking that maybe I'll see in its eyes the spirit of Miss Kitty living on in that wild feline...

HAPPY TRAILS!

If you would like to comment on Dave's story you can contact him at haulaska2001@yahoo.com

Book Review—The Alaskan Trapper's Handbook— by Dean Wilson

BY RICK KENYON

Dean Wilson is known to many of us McCarthyites. He lives in Kenny Lake and his wife Ada runs the Tonina Native Arts and Crafts store at mile 13 on the Edgerton Highway. Dean has been trapping the Copper River area for decades, but more importantly to local trappers he was a fur buyer for many years.

In *The Alaskan Trapper's Handbook*, Dean offers a lifetime of experience living, trapping and surviving in the deep snow country of the far north. Following the long trapline trails, as did his father before him, the author has accumulated a wealth of experience as a professional trapper. His learned and earned skills are presented in his 96 page

book in a relaxed and informal writing style.

Although I am not a trapper, I enjoyed reading the *Handbook*. There are chapters on such things as climate, transportation and shelter.

Each variety of fur-bearer has its own chapter, many of which contain little known details. For instance, in the chapter on wolves, Wilson says this: "Wolves also love grizzly bear meat and will often kill and eat grizzlies. This isn't widely known by the experts, but it is a fact."

If you enjoy the Alaskan outdoors and its wildlife you will enjoy *The Alaskan Trappers Handbook*—even if you have no desire to harvest fur. You can contact Dean at St. Rt. Box 288, Copper Center, AK 99573.

I found the book for sale on the Internet at the following locations. ADIRONDACK OUTDOOR COMPANY P.O. Box 86, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

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(A Note from the Publisher continued from page 2)

WSEN is pleased to announce the first article in a new column written by local resident Neil Darish. He loves the history of McCarthy and is willing to share it with us. Please read *Finding artifacts* on page 29. Thank you, Neil!

We are sorry to say goodbye to one of our long-time advertisers — Copper River Cash Store of Copper Center. The owners, Barry and Karlene Waggoneer, announced their retirement as of October 31st. We will miss your fine "bush" service to

the McCarthy area but wish you all the best in the days ahead!

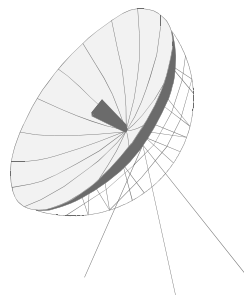
WSEN welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Gary and Susan Varra, CO; Dan Chappell, AK; Susie and Henry Zurbrugg, CO; Susan Lopez, TX; John and Doris Miller, AK; Ardelle Gervais (online subscriber).

"If you are ever morally confused about a major world issue, here is a rule that is almost never violated: Whenever you hear that 'world opinion' holds a view, assume it is morally wrong." —

Dennis Prager

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Finding artifacts

BY NEIL DARISH

When I was a kid I used to spend time with my dad at his work. He owned a junk yard in the Boston area—(actually a plumbing and heating salvage operation). Sifting through “junk” is part of my childhood. Finding “junk” in an old dump site is not all that uncommon in and around the McCarthy area, after all hauling out trash on the railroad was not something most people would have considered back then—so what didn’t burn was buried. In McCarthy, everyone’s ‘trash’ from the past is just waiting to be ‘treasured’ today!

The McCarthy Lodge actively pursues finding and preserving McCarthy related items from many sources. Preserving and documenting the remnants from McCarthy’s early history is an ongoing process. The artifacts in the McCarthy Lodge, the Ma Johnson’s Hotel, The Golden Saloon, and McCarthy Ventures LLC buildings are all covenanted as part of the property and will remain with the buildings in perpetuity.

Besides the internet, friends, anonymous gifts, and the stuff previous owners accumulated and added to the lodge over the years, there is the ongoing possibility that something will be unearthed in a new dig. This fall, while digging behind the Ma Johnson’s Hotel for the installation of a new leach field, we came across two small “dumps” only a few feet below the surface. Besides the seemingly unlimited supply of old bottles and cans in various stages of decay, there were a few notable stand outs. A small perfume bottle, still containing a



gold colored liquid, with a Russian, Arabic and Japanese flag embossed on the bottom was unearthed by Joe Russo, one of the workers on the job site. A few cold cream bottles were also found (apparently a very popular item in McCarthy as we have amassed a rather large collection of these). We also found a 3 digit “For Hire” license plate from 1929, and assorted shards of metal as well as leather harness pieces and other remnants. This small dump site was probably created in the early 1930’s. Not the oldest buried trash (or treasure) in town, but still containing some interesting clues to an earlier life in McCarthy.



The more time-consuming tasks come after these items have been found. Trying to figure out more about these old scraps of the past is an interesting pursuit. Fortunately there are many resources available to figure out what many of the ‘artifacts’, still found almost daily in McCarthy, really say about our town’s past. Ephemera in the form of old paper such as records, bills, letters, registration books and the like have been collected extensively from the area. Thousands of old photos of the area as well as copies of old newspapers are important references. McCarthy was always a mercantile town, and advertisements in the old newspapers reinforce the fact that providing goods and services was a fundamental part of daily life in McCarthy. These sources provide clues to the relationships between living a remote life, the availability of luxury goods, and the discarded trash buried in the area.

The discovery of yet another 3-digit “For Hire” license plate got me to re-read some letters from the McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum between the Territorial Treasurer W.G. Smith and Harvey Sullivan, United States Marshal in Valdez. These letters tell the story of automobile taxation in McCarthy

in the 1920’s. I could not find a 1929 list of automobiles in McCarthy, but a 1925 list for taxation of automobiles includes four “For Pleasure” licenses and ten “For Hire” licenses in McCarthy. A guest of our hotel this past summer was so excited about seeing a few 3-digit “For Hire” license plates on the walls of the Golden Saloon that he could not resist asking if they were for sale. Disappointed at the fact that the Lodge is not an antique

store, he went on to tell us how collectors would pay dearly for license plates with "For Hire" on them, especially from Alaska during the 1920's. What higher value can there be on these discarded items than trying to figure out more about McCarthy and preserve what we have? If nothing else, preservation efforts are an answer to every revisited story of how "McCarthy and Kennicott used to have so much more stuff before, too bad it was taken away..." Collectors of an es-

teric item like a rusted out license plate are easily trumped where context (provenance) adds the highest value.

Some additional loose threads that need to be explored since this latest dig:

I have to contact the Alaska DMV and see where I might find pre-statehood records of automobile licenses. It would be fun to figure out who owned the vehicle this license plate belongs to. I also have to contact Dave Syren, an avid Mc-

Carthy automobile collector who has been lovingly restoring many of the McCarthy historic vehicles he owns. The NPS historians at Wrangell St. Elias may have more clues and information on this topic. Our friends at the Antique Auto Musers of Alaska may also have some information relating to this latest auto-related artifact. The process of discovering more about these early McCarthy scraps continues...

Of Community Interest!

In the interest of preserving local history, Ken Rowland has provided a private display area for items of historical significance.

States Ken: "Many thanks to those who have contributed labor, items and information. My list includes, but is not limited to, the following: Les and Flo



Hegland and daughters, Janet and Faye; Lane and Betty Moffitt; Malcolm Vance; Kelly and Natalie Bay; Loy Green; Jay Williams and David Person of Fairbanks Truss; Mike Squires; Gary Green; John Adams; Chris Richards; Dana Seitz; Rowcon Services and Jeremy Keller.

Copper Valley Wireless to Install CDMA2000 Digital Wireless Solution

VALDEZ, ALASKA—SEPTEMBER 14, 2006

Copper Valley Wireless (CVW), a subsidiary of Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative (CVTC), announces plans to provide digital wireless service by purchasing the All-IP CDMA2000 solution; "After many months of research and investigation into CDMA digital network platforms and vendors, we feel strongly that this technology will provide CVW with a proven and innovative high-performance end-to-end solution that will give us a competitive advantage and position us well within our market area," said Dave Dengel, CEO/General Manager of CVTC. "We feel confident that we have a product that can offer us the state-of-art solutions we need to compete in this ever changing market," he adds.

This new technology will bring CVW's subscribers digital wireless service, with improved voice and call quality, longer battery life for phones and a much larger phone selection with capabilities including camera options, text messaging, downloadable ring tones and games. Subscribers will be able to exchange text messages and send multimedia messages such as pictures, pictures with a voice message or short video clips. Additionally, high-speed wireless internet access will be available to handsets, mobile computers and fixed terminals.

"We are thrilled to be able to give our wireless customers, located across over 9,200 square miles in rural South-Central Alaska, the advanced wireless services that they need and want. Our plan is to have digital service operational by the first part of 2007," Dengel says.

CVTC reports that if all goes as planned, they should be getting to the McCarthy upgrade phase by summer of 2007.

In the meantime, Copper Valley Wireless is offering a special promotion to all who sign up in advance of its new digital service implementation. The promotion, dubbed "The Early Bird Special," offers new and existing customers free service for the remainder of 2006 with the purchase of a CDMA digital handset for only \$29.95. "It's our way of rewarding folks who sign up early and thanking them for supporting their local cooperative," says Dengel. To take advantage of this special promotional opportunity, customers should call Copper Valley Wireless at 907-835-8000.

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Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

Hi everyone. Happy Fall! After an uneventful 4,000-mile trip with beautiful scenery, wonderful people and no car trouble, we're back home in Tucson. Now I'm back in diet mode after eating all the wonderful foods offered to us by our friends in McCarthy.

First let me share another recipe from Nancy Rowland whose wonderful Rhubarb Cake was in the last issue of the WSEN. This is a recipe that she got originally from the Gourmet Grains cookbook by the Stone-Buhr Milling Co. It's not only one of her favorite blueberry recipes but one that has won prizes for her. She cautions: "The lemon peel is what makes this coffee cake stand out from most. I've tried making it without when I didn't have a lemon on hand, and it was not as tasty."

GERMAN BLUEBERRY KUCHEN

1 cup sifted Stone-Buhr all-purpose flour
 ½ cup Stone-Buhr graham flour, unsifted
 2 teaspoons baking powder
 ½ teaspoon salt
 ¾ cup sugar
 ¼ cup soft shortening
 2/3 cup milk
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 1 egg
 1 ½ teaspoons grated lemon peel (divided)
 1 cup fresh blueberries
 3 tablespoons sugar

Stir together flours, baking powder, salt and ¾ cup of sugar. Add shortening, milk, vanilla and ½ teaspoon grated lemon peel. Beat with electric mixer on medium speed for three minutes, or 300 strokes by hand. Add egg and beat

with mixer 2 minutes longer, or 200 strokes by hand. Turn into well greased 8"x8"x2" pan. (Nancy's note —She has often used a rectangular Pyrex pan.) Lightly stir together blueberries, 3 tablespoons sugar and 1 teaspoon of grated lemon peel, and spoon onto batter.

Bake at 350 degrees F. 40 to 45 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool slightly in pan. Cut into squares and serve warm. Yield 6 to 9 servings

Now another from my granddaughter, Anna Wallin. Jim and I were having family in for dinner one night this summer in McCarthy and Anna volunteered to make dessert from a recipe she had gotten from Bonnie. I ALWAYS accept someone else's offer to help with the meal! Before dessert happened, two more people dropped in to visit, and I was thrilled that just as they came, this wonderful dessert popped out of the oven.

RHUBARB CRUNCH

1 cup sifted flour
 5 tablespoons powdered sugar
 ½ cup margarine or butter

Pat this mixture into the bottom of an 8" pan and bake 15 min. at 350 degrees.

Mix:

1 ½ cups sugar
 ¼ cup flour
 2 eggs, beaten lightly
 dash of salt
 2 cups rhubarb, chopped small

Spread over the top of the baked crust and return to oven for approximately 35 minutes. You can eat this "as is" or add a scoop of ice cream or a dollop of whipped cream.

Now for all you fisherman who caught more halibut than you could eat and froze some or when you

catch some next summer, here is a recipe that Jim and I love. When we were visiting Kim and her husband Richard in Homer, and when they had extra room to take Jim out on their charter boat, he caught wonderful, wonderful halibut. I came up with a recipe for Halibut Cakes that we loved — hot or cold. Actually, they helped to sustain us on the trip back to Tucson and were even good for Jim's breakfast with eggs and potatoes. Try them; you might like them.

HALIBUT CAKES

about 12-oz. of halibut, cooked and flaked
 1 cup seasoned bread crumbs (divided)
 1 egg, beaten
 ¼ cup finely chopped green onions
 ¼ cup finely chopped sweet red pepper
 ¼ cup plus 1 tablespoon reduced fat mayonnaise (use regular mayo if you want and judge the amount by the way it holds everything together)
 1 tablespoon lemon juice
 ½ teaspoon garlic powder
 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
 butter

In a large bowl, combine the halibut, 1/3 cup bread crumbs, egg, onions, red pepper, mayonnaise, lemon juice, garlic powder and cayenne. Shape mixture into balls, roll in remaining bread crumbs and flatten into ½" thickness. In a large, nonstick skillet cook halibut cakes in butter for 3 - 4 minutes on each side or until golden brown.

Hope you all enjoy eating and cooking as much as I do! Have a wonderful holiday season. I'll write to you again when the snow is on the ground.

"Bodily vigor is good, and vigor of intellect is even better, but far above is character." — Theodore Roosevelt

A LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

August 2006 will be remembered for its cloudy and wet days. The high temperature for the month was 74 on the 8th (84 on Aug. 13, '05 and 85 on Aug. 17, '04). There were 3 days when the high was 70 or higher. The first freeze was on the 29th as the temperature fell to 29, this was enough to kill some of the garden plants. There were only 3 days when the low was 32 or below and the low temperature for the month was 29 on the 29th (27 on Aug. 28, '05 and 27 on Aug. 30, '04). The average monthly temperature at McCarthy was 51.5 compared to 54.8 in Aug. '05, 56.2 in Aug. '04, 51.5 in Aug. '03 and 51.7 in Aug. '02. *There will be no Silver Lake data as the station was closed in early August.* The August precipitation at McCarthy was 3.24, compared with 3.90 inches in Aug. '05, 0.74 inches in Aug. '04, 2.30 inches in Aug. '03 and 4.86 inches in Aug. '02. There were 20 days with a trace or more of rainfall recorded. The average precipitation for August (1984-2005) is 2.60 inches.

September 2006 will be remembered for the return of the sun. The high temperature at McCarthy was 67 on the 14th (68 on Sept. 11, '05 and 65 on Sept. 9, '04). The low temperature was 19 on the 24th and 25th (24 on Sept. 29, '05 and 15 on Sept. 18, '04). There were 10 days with the high 60 or above and 8 days with the low of 30 or lower. The average monthly temperature at McCarthy was 45.9 (47.4 in Sept. '05, 40.5 in Sept. '04, 42.1 in Sept. '03 and 44.6 in Sept. '02). This was about 11 degrees warmer than the record low of 34.3 of September 1992. There was just a trace of snow recorded at McCarthy in September, on the morning of the 30th (00 in Sept. 05, 8.2 inches in Sept. '04, 1.1 in Sept. '03, 00 in Sept. '02 and '01, and 29.5 in Sept. '00) and the total precipitation was 2.70 inches. The average for September (1984-2005) is 2.95 inches and compares with 2.82 inches in Sept. '05, 4.95 inches in Sept. '04, 0.98 inches in Sept. '03, 1.47 inches in Sept. '02, 2.07 inches in Sept. '01 and the record 10.82 inches in Sept. '00. There were 15 days with measurable rain-

fall, compared with 23 days in Sept. '05 and 13 days in Sept. '04.

The first 15 days of October have been cloudy and wet, with about average temperatures. There has been no snow recorded as yet. Heavy rainfall was recorded on the 9th and 10th. 3.43 inches was recorded in just over 36 hours. 6.30 inches was recorded at Kennicott during the same period. Flood damage was reported at along National Creek, McCarthy Creek, and the Lakina River. The total monthly precipitation so far is over 5 inches. The highs have been mostly in the 30's and 40's, with a few days breaking 50. The low temperature has been below 20 only a couple times. Winter should be here to stay very soon.

A few interesting weather facts for the Summer of 2006. The high temperatures May thru August reached 70 or higher on 45 days (59 in '05 and 83 in '04) and 80 or higher (June thru August) on 2 days (9 in '05 and 31 in '04). Total precipitation May thru August was 7.06 inches (12.37 in '05 and 4.06 in '04).

Have a great winter.

NPS announces photo contest

A new photo contest called the "Share the Experience" photo contest was announced by the National Park Service. It continues through Dec. 31, 2006.

Viewers can browse a photo gallery of entries already submitted at www.sharetheexperience.org. The grand prize-winning photo will grace the front of the "America the Beautiful—The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass," a new pass currently under development that will provide access to all participating federal land management agency sites where entrance

and standard amenity fees are charged. The new pass will be available at federal recreation land management entrance stations, ranger stations, visitor centers and some agency offices starting January 2007 and will be valid for 12 months from the date of purchase. Previously issued passes will remain valid until they expire. Site-specific, regional and age-specific passes will continue.

Amateur photographers can enter up to three photos taken at any of America's federal recreation lands in either of two categories: the Federal Recreation Lands Pass

category and the Family Fun category. The winning photo in the first category will be displayed on the front of the 2008 Federal Recreation Lands Pass. The judging criteria for the winning photo include creativity, visual appeal and ability to show the diversity and richness of America's lands. Winning photos in the Family Fun category will award photos that show families enjoying federal recreation sites, have visual appeal, and include an unexpected perspective. More information on the "Share the Experience" photo contest and prizes can be found at www.sharetheexperience.org.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Our hats are off to the National Park Service and Deputy Regional Director Vic Knox who recently announced their newly drafted *Guiding Principles — Access to Inholdings*.

Speaking at the fall McCarthy Area Council meeting Knox said the finished document, (at this time in draft form,) would be part of the next version of the NPS Access Handbook.

Residents see this as a welcome answer to the editorial written by Neil Darish and published May 8, 2004 in the *Anchorage Daily News*. (Reprinted in the July & August 2004 WSEN.)

“Nature and thriving pre-existing communities are not mutually exclusive concepts,” wrote Darish. He continued, “Management actions reflecting the 1960's philosophy of ‘man is a threat to the wilderness’ instead of the worldwide standard that ‘the residents are a resource’ are counterproductive.”

Darish closed his appeal with this statement: “What is needed is a clear statement from our Park Service Alaska regional director that her philosophy allows the residents in this park to thrive.”

We believe the *Guiding Principles* are indeed a clear statement and will go a long way towards building trust and respect towards this agency whose past record is dismal when it comes to inholder relations.

We look forward to working with the new WRST Superintendent Meg Jensen as she builds on the good legacy that the late Jed Davis left behind.

Guiding Principles — Access to Inholdings

1. Residents within Alaska's National Parks are part of the essential fabric of the parks. We acknowledge their value in providing services to park visitors and continuing traditional lifestyles.

2. The National Park Service wants to see residents and communities within and around parks thrive. The NPS seeks to establish mutually respectful long-term relationships with all of our neighbors.

3. ANILCA 1110 (b) gives owners of property within Alaska's National Parks a guaranteed and permanent right to adequate and feasible access.

4. ANILCA 1110(b) also gives the NPS the responsibility to reasonably regulate access to inholdings to insure that the access does not cause undue harm to park resources.

5. Documenting private access across park lands provides certainty to the landowner and to the NPS. Certainty of access will allow landowners to make long-term plans and insure that access occurs in ways that minimize effects on park resources.

6. The documentation and authorization process should be as quick, simple, inexpensive and enduring as possible. This process should be transparent to the public and fully understood by all NPS managers.

7. Access under ANILCA 1110(b) does not affect the status or validity of other access rights under other state and federal authorities (such as RS 2477).

8. The NPS will treat all landowners fairly and consistently across the state and over time.

“We Americans are blessed in so many ways. We’re a nation under God, a living and loving God. But Thomas Jefferson warned us, ‘I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just.’ We cannot expect Him to protect us in crisis if we turn away from Him in our everyday living. But you know, He told us what to do in II Chronicles. Let us reach out to Him. He said, ‘If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land’.” —Ronald Reagan

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New website for ROW

Residents of the Wrangells, better known as ROW has a new website and "Blog."

The new site is much expanded from the original. Most of the correspondence between ROW and various governmental agencies has been posted. There is a section on the National Park Service Access Handbook that includes both drafts, and all of the ROW comments to date.

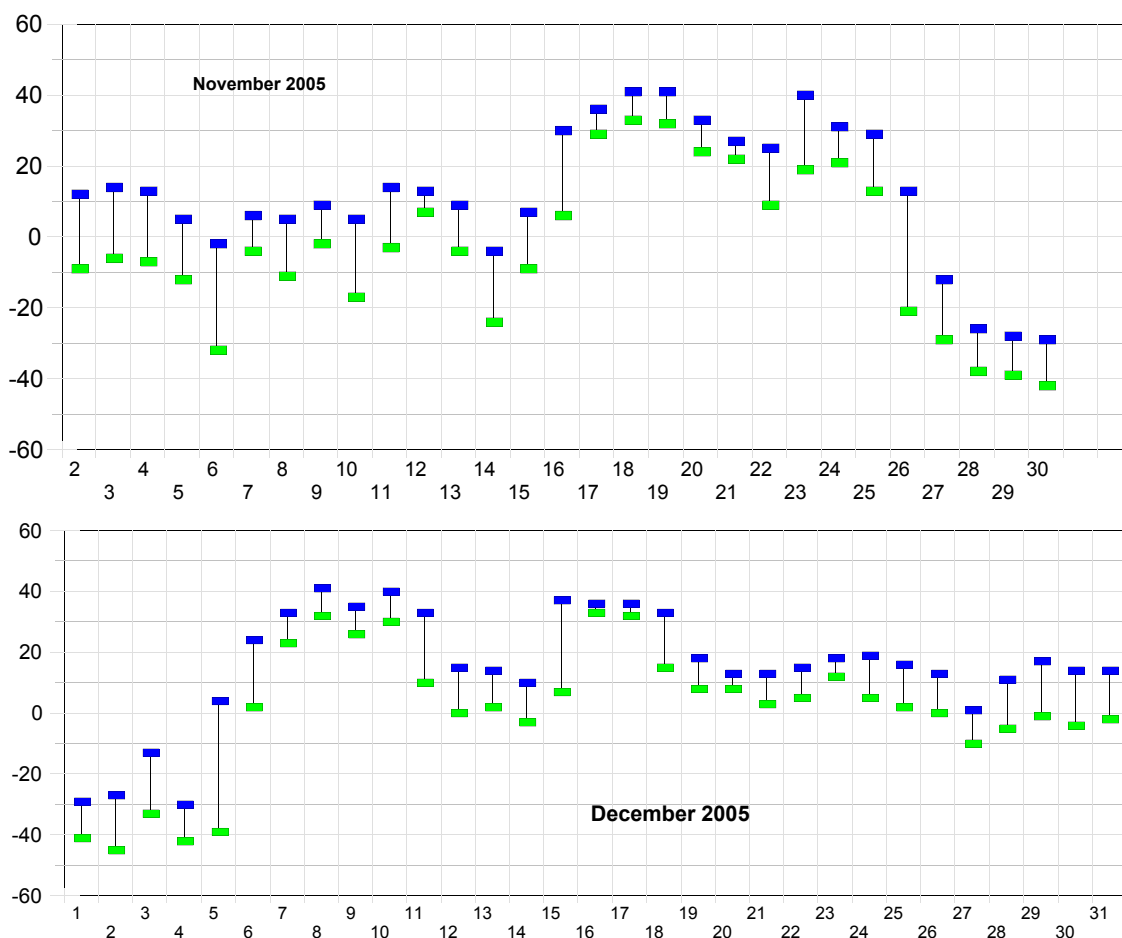
A section titled "Alerts" has past and current alerts posted.



There are links to WSEN articles regarding ROW issues.

There is also a Web Log, commonly called a "Blog," where readers can stay up-to-date on events and can post comments.

The site is still under construction, but check it out at <http://rowonline.org/> and then drop Chairperson Susan Smith an email with suggestions and or comments. Her address is chokosnawilderness@starband.net or you can just write row@rowonline.org.



Wrangell St. Elias News

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