

# Wrangell St. Elias News

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

VOL. FOUR ISSUE FIVE SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 1995

ONE DOLLAR

## Helicopters



## Sheep Hunting

## Lost and Found

## New Construction



## New Church Celebrates

## Post Office in McCarthy?

## Mountain Climbing Expedition

## Ghost Town - Ghost Mine

## Volcanoes - Mt. Drum

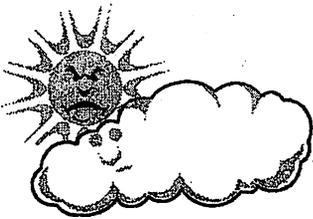
## Scenic Roadway Plan

## Yummy Zucchini

## Weather Watch

## Kid's Camp

## Water Wells



A GOLD MINE OF INFORMATION!

## *A note from the publisher*

Greetings to all WSEN subscribers and those who have purchased our publication. It is August 18 and Rick and I are trying our best to get the Sept./Oct. issue to the post office earlier than in the past.

We apologize for the late arrival of the July/August issue. According to Elaine Seager, Postmistress from the Glennallen Post Office, they left there on July 3rd. Some of you called to let us know you still had not received your copy by mid July. Second class mailing does have its drawbacks.

As you can see by the photo at your right, we are moved into our new office and Rick didn't waste any time setting up his computer. I couldn't resist catching this moment. It's not often Rick is surrounded by 3 lovely ladies all giving him their two cents on a printing project! For those who may not recognize Rick's assistants they are from the left, Jane Gilbertson, Dana Ferrell (sitting) and Phyllis Sperry (standing).

Be sure to read the continuation of Jo Anne World's story (pg 14) about Margaret Anderson, a young nurse assigned to the Kennecott Copper Mine hospital during the latter part of 1920. The first part appeared in our May/June '95 issue.

WSEN celebrated it's third birthday with the July & August 1995 edition. We appreciate all the help and encouragement you, our readers, have given during that time. We have learned much about news magazine publishing, one of which is that we need to raise our prices if we hope to celebrate more birthdays! Beginning with the

January & February issue the cover price will be two dollars. The yearly subscription rate will go to \$10. If you would like to take advantage of the current rate of \$8.50 per year we encourage you to renew your subscription before January 1, 1996. If you have been thinking of



giving gift subscriptions to family or friends this is a great time to do it. We will honor the old rate for all new subscriptions and renewals received before the new year.

If any of our readers are planning a trip to the McCarthy area and need lodging on the west side

of the Kennicott River (the quiet "suburbs" of McCarthy!) we now have a Bed and Breakfast available here at WSEN. Our 8'X12' guest cabin has just been renovated and sleeps two comfortably on a full size bed. A third person can be accommodated on a folding cot. Hot showers in the sauna and breakfast at WSEN headquarters, and you can drive all the way - no need to tram your luggage. Phone (907)554-4454 for reservations. Cost is \$75 per night.

Wrangell St. Elias News welcomes the following new subscribers: Carrol Brice, AK; Brett Barner, FL; Clarence Eliason, AK; Robt. Wm. Habermehl, Sr., WI; Kris Rueter, AK; Jennifer Sperry, NM; Marion Lampham, AK; Ric Goozen, AK; Eva Dunning, AK; Nabesna District Ranger, AK; Fred Meyer, IL; Paul Madden, FL; Ed Madden, NY; Roadside Potatohead, AK; Donald Johnson, AK; Leslie Labrenz, MN; Jim Larsen, AK; Lynn Smith, PA; Diane Jung, AK; Raymond Schell, AK; Marietta Mayberg, MN.

### *Wrangell St. Elias News*

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Contributors to this issue: George Cebula, Carly Kritchen, Lilly Goodman, Jo Anne Wold. Subscription price is \$8.50 for one year in the USA until Jan. 1, 1996, then \$10. Canada and Mexico \$10.00. Other countries \$18.50. Advertising rates upon request. Deadline for publication in next issue is October 15.

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# Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

## Kris Rueter

The word "neighbor"—hopefully—conjures up a good picture for you. It certainly does for Rick and I.



photo courtesy George Cebula

Kris and Andy check the view from the loft dormer.

Our newest neighbor, Kris Rueter, recently purchased property on the hill above us and is now a proud homeowner. Her 12' x 16' cabin has a stand-up loft and is on the road to completion, thanks to Andy Shidner who, according to Kris, is her main helper. Other support (25 people) showed up the first week of June to help Kris carry her building supplies to the proposed cabin site. When I say "carry," I mean hand carry, and 1/4 mile at that.

Although Kris still has a lot of inside work to do, she moved in and has already received her first round of company. That is, if you call family company! Her father from Naples, FL, and her brother and his wife from Fairbanks all paid her a visit.

Kris plans to winter in Seattle where she is going to teach drawing in exchange for tuition in getting her Master in Fine Arts degree. We wish you the very best, Kris, and thanks for being such a thoughtful neighbor!

## Roadside Potatohead

"Home of the flying potato," say Denise Jantz and Kathleen Sustrich. Located at the tram the 1968 Chevy Stepvan is a welcome sight, I'm sure, to many visitors who brave our infamous McCarthy Road. I must admit, it's not just an oasis to our guests, but "locals" such as myself find the van an excellent place to get a delicious Chimichunga. (Kathleen, tell me one more time how to say my favorite burrito!) The logo and hand-painted mural were done by Lori Montgomery and Jeff Fastner of Homer.

The young ladies met at West Michigan University nearly 8 years ago. Denise, 28, received a degree in communications while Kathleen, 26, has degrees in Asian studies and English. (Maybe that's why she can pronounce those funny sounding words for me.)

Denise is not a new face to our area. She worked at McCarthy Lodge for 2 years and eventually purchased property on the westside of the Kennicott. Both girls love the area and plan on returning. Kathleen is quick to say she is having a wonderful, exciting summer and wouldn't miss another season for anything.

I'm glad to hear that, girls, because you do a great job. Let's see; what shall I order next time? A large order of handcut, curly fries smothered with real cheddar cheese, a breakfast burrito, a chili dog, nachos... Oh, too many choices; just give me the usual. You know, the one I can't pronounce!



photo courtesy George Cebula

### The Houghton family

Doyne, Kay and their 5 girls, Beth, Annalisa, Rebecca, Kristi and Holly are making the McCarthy area their home away from home. I'm waiting for the day when their "week-end" visits become year round. Besides owning a house in downtown McCarthy, they



photo courtesy George Cebula

A little more roofing, a little more paint, and...

purchased property on the westside and asked John Adams to oversee the building of a two-story 16' x 24' cabin. As you can see, the project is well underway. Patrick Sperry and John's son, Adam, are helping on it as well.

The Houghton family live in Valdez. Doyne is a barber and Kay, a pharmacist with her own pharmacy. They've been venturing out this way nearly every weekend this summer. Each trip holds a surprise for the family as they watch their cabin come together. The girls were especially thrilled to find that John had built in a small dressing room for them upstairs.

Doyne and Kay, maybe by the time you are ready to retire, McCarthy will be ready for its own barbershop and pharmacy!

Subscriber Lillie Tatum is looking for someone who knew her father, John (Jack) H. Reynolds. He was a U.S. Marshall in McCarthy during the mining era. If you have any information, please contact Lilly at: 9217 67th Street, CT. N.W., Gig Harbor, WA 98335

### Adam Adams

October 10 was opening day for sheep season and Adam didn't waste any time. His dad, John Adams, had flown them up to a promising area the day before. They set up camp and did some scouting of the area before bedding down for the night. Adam was up at 6 a.m. and gave the area a thorough inspection — nothing in sight. Adam thought maybe they should get on their way to see where the big rams were hiding out. Dad said "let's wait a while longer." At 8:06 a.m. Adam spotted 3 rams below their camp. The pair decided that by going higher up the ridge and then down into the valley they had a good chance of getting within rifle range of the trio.

As he and his dad watched the rams, the fog moved in and gave the surrounding area a surreal quality. They were able to stalk to within 100 yards of the animals without undue alarm on the ram's part. Adam got the first shot, and the largest of the rams dropped, then rolled and slid another 100 yards down the valley before coming to rest.

While the first ram was tumbling down the mountain Adam handed the rifle to dad, who promptly downed the next largest animal.

The two hunters packed the meat 1 1/2 miles uphill to their camp. Adams says the unofficial measurement of his sheep was 41". Looks like father and son have a good start on their winter meat — Adam's next adventure is a caribou hunt!

Good going, Adam, and thanks for sharing some of that delicious meat!



WSEN staff photo

A happy hunter with his trophy!

# Mule Spider—lost and found

BY BONNIE KENYON

*Editors note: In the July/August issue of WSEN, a rather unique ad was taken out by Jason Stanton of Palmer. It read: \$500 Reward for the return of my mule Spider. Lost near the McCarthy tram June 17. This is a follow-up story of Spider's capture (maybe I should say "captures.")*

McCarthy—On the day of Spider's "first" escape, he seemed to be intent on finding greener grass. As Rick and I stood in the yard saying good-bye to friends, Spider ambled up the driveway then cut across the grass towards us. At least I thought we were the object of his attention. However, with each step he took I soon realized he was heading straight to my garden!

My transplants were just getting their start. Just what did Spider have in mind? Surely not my tender broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage plants which were now directly in his path. Well, I decided not to give him the opportunity.

We did our best to verbally distract him, but the mule ignored us. I confess my thoughts were not with befriending the beautiful animal and returning him to his distraught owner. So, I "suggested" that Rick chase him away, hoping Spider would simply return from where he had come. That was not the case. He bolted for our neighbor, Jim Edward's, grass airstrip. Another neighbor, Patrick Sperry, spotted the mule and attempted to end Spider's adventure by capturing him.

Spider would have none of it! Once again he was on the run. This time in the direction of Ken and Carly Kritchen's homestead. Leaving his hoof prints behind on their driveway, Spider continued down through the sparsely-populated

subdivision. Maybe Carly's menagerie (chickens, turkeys, cats, dogs...) intimidated the independent animal.

Jason Stanton, an electrical engineer from Palmer who had recently purchased Spider, was in McCarthy working on a temporary job for the state. Spider's quarters were set up on the westside of the Kennicott. Fortunately, the adventurous mule didn't have to swim the river to look for his greener pastures. Jason hoped Spider would prove to be entertainment for him on his off hours.



photo courtesy Tim Riedell

Getting off work for the day, Jason looked up Rick to compare notes. Both men decided to take to the air and see if they could find Spider's present whereabouts. There was no sign of him. Jason spent several days searching the local area and beyond. Finally, his work in McCarthy was finished and it was time for him to head home. Driving the McCarthy Road and searching out locally-owned horses that Spider may have joined up with, didn't reveal a thing. He decided to put an ad in the Wrangell St. Elias News and offer a \$500 reward. He also left behind food and harnesses for whoever might discover Spider.

Tim Riedell, a river rafting guide for Copper Oar of McCarthy, had just embarked on a 3 day trip and was floating the Kennicott River at the time he spotted Spider. Tim says the mule was just standing on the river bar. By this time Spider had now been on his own for approximately 18 days. Maybe he was tired of running and hoped to get a lift home. Unfortunately, the raft was going in the wrong direction. However, Tim knew McCarthy Air Service was due to pick up some other Copper Oar clients at 4:00 p.m. near the Chitina River. Perhaps, he could pass the message of Spider's location on to the pilot, Gary Green, who could relay the information to Copper Oar's owner, Howard Mozen.

When Howard got word, he called Kennicott resident Stacie Miller, who is excellent with animals, and river guides, Brad Hoessle and Hillary Ross to help him retrieve the mule overland. Unsure of the Tractor Creek area that they wanted to pass through, they called on Mark Vail to guide them. Finding Spider wasn't difficult and he responded to Stacie and the rest of the group by coming right up to them. They brought him safely back to Copper Oar to await Jason's arrival.

The next day Carly Kritchen spent the day working at Copper Oar and in-between arranging raft trips for Howard, fed and pampered Spider with his salt block and plenty of hay. However, Spider soon tired of his new surroundings and decided he'd slip out of his harness and take off on a new adventure.

Later that evening, Denise Jantz and Kathleen Sustrich, who operate The Roadside Potatohead wagon

near the tram, saw Spider running down the Kennicott River bar. The girls called Spider, hoping he would return, but the mule had other ideas.

Howard felt bad that Spider had escaped his care. The next morning he alerted Carly and others of the mule's disappearance. Carly offered to take a look in her area. After all, Spider had been there once. Maybe he'd come back. Sure enough at the bottom of the hill on which her cabin sits, she found fresh tracks. Accompanied by her 3 dogs and a can of corn, Carly followed Spider's tracks. Ewe-dog, one of Carly's faithful companions, ran ahead and found Spider near Kirk and Lisa Ol-

sen's cabin. When Carly called his name, Spider responded with a loud bray. The corn got and kept the mule's attention all the way back to Carly's place where she promptly secured the wayward mule.

Spider relished Carly's grassy yard and took a special liking to Smokey, the cat. In fact, at one point Spider stretched out on his side and basked in the luxury of all the good food and attention he was receiving. On the 8th of July, Spider was finally reunited with his relieved owner.

The \$500 reward was wisely divided among Stacie Miller, Mark

Vail, Howard Mozen, Brad Hoessle, Hillary Ross, Tim Riedell and Carly Kritchen. Tim reports that the Copper Oar crew used their share of the reward money to throw a guacamole party for the community.

We send our best regards to Jason and Spider and hope you both enjoyed your adventure in the McCarthy area. It's not every day you see a "mule" mosey into the yard—maybe a moose or a coyote—but a mule named Spider? Now that's something to bray about!

## McCarthy Road Scenic Plan

BY BONNIE KENYON

The Department of Transportation/Public Facilities (DOTPF) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with alternatives for the physical upgrade of the McCarthy Road. The existing route is expected to be maintained except where diversions are necessary around streams, trestles, etc.

The National Park Service (NPS), DOTPF and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are cooperators in the preparation of what is referred to as a "Scenic Roadway Plan" for the 60 mile long road that runs from Chitina to the west side of the Kennicott River. The state-owned road falls within the boundary of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve (WRST) and receives only limited maintenance.

The "Scenic Roadway Plan" will become part of the EIS and be subject to public review as part of the process. Hopefully, states the Cooperative Agreement, this will help "avoid duplication of effort and to conduct a joint public review process."

According to Page 3 of the Agreement, the scope of the plan shall include recommendations to preserve the scenic, recreational and historic values of the McCarthy Road corridor and provide visitor facilities. Among other things the plan shall include: existing conditions along the roadway including land ownership by the DNR, NPS, Ahtna and others, existing uses of land and resources, scenic vistas and viewsheds, historic resources and points of historic interest and sensitive lands and resources such as wetlands and critical habitat.

The Agreement goes on to say an analysis will be made of existing and potential use of the road including modes of travel, traffic volume, destinations and projected use of roadside areas. Recommendations will be made regarding scenic protection and enhancement such as vegetative cutting to open the views and road treatments to minimize dust. Other recommendations encompass interpretation of historic resources, appropriate visitor facilities such as waysides, pull offs, parking, trail heads, signage, mileage markers, trash collectors,

drinking water, toilets and campgrounds. Desirable locations for development are being examined as well as recommendations for the protection of private property rights, subsistence activities and customary and traditional uses.

A core team made of representatives from each agency are seeking public input from residents and native corporations. According to Jon Jarvis, Superintendent of the WRST, public input is requested "to identify necessary visitor services along the road while protecting private lands and the quality of the experience."

Four Open Houses for the public were held in July at the following locations: Chitina, Strelina, the westside of the Kennicott and in McCarthy. Ken Pendleton and Jim Hummel (NPS) and Dave Stephens and Ken Morton (DNR/State Parks) were on hand to answer questions and offer information.

*Thanks to WRST Superintendent, Jon Jarvis, for supplying WSEN with the above information.*

## Wells on the west side

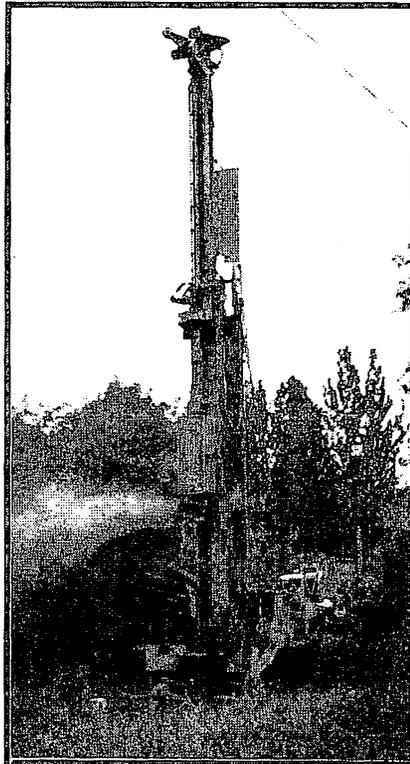
BY RICK KENYON

Several residents on the "west side" of the Kennicott River (the McCarthy suburbs!) won't have to haul their water so far this winter. Doyne and Kay Houghton, Ken and Carly Kritchen, George Cebula and Rick and Bonnie Kenyon all had water wells put in during July.

It was with some apprehension that we all gave the go-ahead to Wayne Westberg of M-W drilling out of Anchorage. This past winter the state of Alaska had drilled test holes for the new bridge across the Kennicott River and told us they did not hit any water down to 160 feet or so. Rather than go for a community well, the McCarthy Area Council had gotten a \$10,000 grant to "study using surface water." Then, on the way in, M-W went down to 300' at Moose Lake without getting water! (Moose Lake is about 20 miles west of us, on the other side of Long Lake.)

We had decided to share a well with our closest neighbor, George

Cebula (who is also our regular weather columnist). When the huge 60,000 pound drill rig attempted to reach the spot we had chosen for the well, they got within 10 feet of



the selected area and promptly sank into the soft topsoil. The M-W crew, Pete Schaefer and Jim Enloe went into action and quickly had the rig up on timbers and moved the final few feet. We watched with interest as they mounted a 20 foot length of drill casing with a large drill bit inside and started drilling, then pounding. Within an hour wet mud was blowing out of the ground. In a few minutes the mud turned to water and our apprehension turned to rejoicing!

We were fortunate in hitting water at the minimum required depth of 40 feet. The two wells to the southwest of us came in at over 100 feet. Apparently there is quite different geology in the two areas.

The M-W crew had to pass up several others who wanted wells as they had to leave for Prudoe Bay. They said they might be able to return this fall for those who missed the first round, or next spring if some of the folks on the east side of the Kennicott River would like to have wells.

## Helicopters get mixed reception

BY RICK KENYON

Some visitors to the McCarthy area were offered an alternative way to flight-see this summer. Two different helicopter operators "tested the waters" at different times during the summer.

And what was the reception? Dave Syren of "Alaska Chopper" told us he had passengers waiting to go up even before he landed. Mike Rugg of "Glacier Wings" said it was mixed. "The tourists loved it," says Rugg. But he said the local residents "have given me a hard time." He says on his first day of operations one competing fixed wing air taxi pilot told him

over the aircraft radio "We really don't want helicopters around here."

Like it or not, these are probably only the first of many to come. One ride and you can readily understand why the helicopter has become the flightseeing

vehicle of choice in other National Parks.



## Fireweed Mountain Day Camp presents...

BY BONNIE KENYON

McCarthy — Chris Gordon, instructor, and grandmother extraordinaire, writes son-in-law, Kirk Olsen, is the inspiration and creative force behind Fireweed Mountain Day Camp. Teaching children is nothing new to Chris who is a retired schoolteacher. Her specialty was Kindergarten through second grade with 29 1/2 years of experience.

When I say "retired" I don't mean finished. According to Phil, Chris's husband, his wife's name is listed on 3 school districts as a substitute teacher. And then, of course, this is the second year for her Fireweed Mountain Day Camp. Something tells me, she stays plenty busy.

This year's camp, with the theme "The Rainforest," started Monday morning July 31 — three days after Chris and Phil arrived in the McCarthy area. Lisa Olsen, the couple's daughter, says her folks have visited her and her family about 12 times.

Four young ladies attended this summer: Svea Olsen 4 1/2, Kira Olsen 7 1/2, Rebekah Sperry 8, Sarah Sperry 9 1/2 (or should I say 10, Sarah?). The camp took place at the

Olsen residence located on the west side of the Kennicott River. The Olsen girls have a unique playhouse their father, Kirk, built several years ago, and a large outside trampoline to share with their visitors.

Each "camp" day was from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and included



lunch. Four days a week were devoted to learning songs, poetry reading and instruction about the merits of protecting our rain forests. Kira says the girls spent time making rain forest dioramas, and designing and constructing masks that native people wore for special events.

Camp also consisted of practicing for the Grand Finale, a program entitled "Rain Forest Revue," which was held at the Olsen residence on the evening of August 12. Relatives were invited as well as the press—Wrangell St. Elias News. Programs were handed out to each

attendee which described the various acts being performed. All acts, songs, and poetry were performed by Kira and Svea Olsen and Rebekah and Sarah Sperry with some prompting and assistance from Chris. Each young lady performed well and took their parts seriously.

Although sunshine was hoped for, the weather seemed to know rain was in the act. In order for the show to go on, Kirk moved the stage to the back deck of their cabin which included a blue tarp for the temporary roof. In-between acts Kirk graciously relieved the collecting water so none of the young ladies would ruin their costumes. Eventually the rain let up and the girls were able to perform on the trampoline and demonstrate climbing a tree and playing a South American children's game called Chicken Fight.

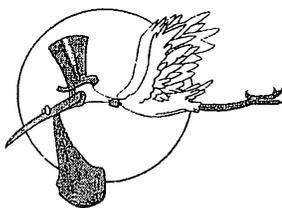
Lisa Olsen was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers—in thanks for all the delicious lunches and snacks she provided the camp girls.

Refreshments which included scrumptious fruit kebabs, mango juice and tea with tropical flavors were served afterwards.

### Congratulations!

Andy and Cynthia Shidner of McCarthy are the proud parents of **Matthew Asgaard Evan Shidner** born on August 15 at 2:30 a.m. at the home of friends in Anchorage. Matthew weighed 8 lb.10 oz. and is reported to be in fine shape. He and his parents are due home on August 23.

The Shidner family owns a cabin on the west-side of the Kennicott in the McCarthy area.



Steve and Tonia Alexander of Wasilla are also proud parents these days. **Levi Carmen Alexander** was born to them on July 24 at the Valley Hospital. Levi weighed in at 10 lb.3 oz.

Levi has two brothers—Josiah and Seth.

The Alexanders are frequent visitors to the Long Lake area where they own property.

# In loving memory of...



Mother, nurse, pilot, wife, best friend, neighbor and local McCarthy resident, Mary Patricia "Pat" Sperry Edwards, died July 14, 1995, at her Swift Creek home after a prolonged illness. She was 65.

Pat was born on February 15, 1930, at Erie, Pa. and lived in New York, Tampa, Fl., and Anchorage, Ak.

After raising 9 children and working as a nurse at University Community Hospital at Tampa, Fl. for 14 years, Pat finally said, "Now it's my turn." She traveled north to

Alaska to experience her life long dream to explore the last frontier.

Always the adventurous type, Pat met her husband, Jim Edwards, through the newspaper. Right off the bat, at the age of 58, she learned to fly her own plane. She and Jim took numerous trips outside to the lower 48 to visit family and friends. The trips were made in a 1948 Clipper and an RV-4 home-built that she and Jim built during the long, winter months in McCarthy.

Summer times were spent gardening, canning, hiking and camping in the beautiful Wrangell Mountains. One of Pat's greatest satisfactions was being a Servas member along with her husband. Not only did she travel to numerous places throughout the world, they hosted dozens of Servas travelers from around the world in their home—their goal being to encourage world peace.

Pat lived her life seeing to the joy and needs of others, while fulfilling her own dreams. She was a wonderful nurse, wife, mother, grandmother, pilot, neighbor and best friend.

Pat was preceded in death by her parents, Albert and Emma Neal Eaker, brother, Paul Eaker, and sister, Nell Hill.

She was survived by her husband, Jim Edwards of McCarthy, Ak., 5 daughters, Nancy Ferrell of Ak., Jane Gilbertson of Fl., Amy Cox, of Ga., Mary Ellen Broome of Ga., Jennifer Sperry-Dawson of NM.; 4 sons, Lee of Wa., Erik of Fl., Patrick of Ak., Joel of Ak.; Step-daughter, Shelly Edwards of Ak., Step-son, Steve Edwards of Ak.; 24 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren; 2 sisters, Elsie Skinner of Fl., Nancy Weed of NY.; 1 brother, Wallace Eaker of NY.; 1 sister-in-law, Leah Cramer of NY.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held on July 17 at her home in McCarthy with family, friends and neighbors attending. Interment took place at the family cemetery at Swift Creek, McCarthy, Ak.

Pat asked that loved ones plant a tree in her memory.

*Pat's favorite scripture*  
I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made Heaven and Earth.  
Psalm 121:1,2

**PAT'S WISH:**  
Weep not for me my loved ones dear. I am not gone but sleeping here.  
As I am now you shall be, so be prepared to follow me.  
Short was my Life;  
Long is my Rest, to take me home God thought it Best.



Pat Edward's family share at memorial service

*Hands*  
Molly Miller (Pat's daughter-in-law)

*There are hands  
That bide  
Hands that lie.  
Hands that make the Children Cry.*

*Hands that take  
Hands that break,  
Wearry hands,  
& hands that ache.*

*Hands that weave  
A magic spell,  
& hands with wondrous  
Truths to tell.*

*Hands that rock  
The child sleeping,  
Hands that clasp  
In friendly greeting.*

*Hands that fight  
In fearless battle.  
Hands that hold  
A baby's rattle.*

*Hands that are strong  
Hands that are kind,  
Hands that search,  
And hands that find.*

*Hands that hold  
A natural grace.  
Hands that caress  
A lover's face.*

*A friend can lend  
A helping hand.  
A hand can sift,  
Time's shifting sand.*

*Hands can quiet,  
Hands can speak,  
Show who's strong,  
And who's weak.*

*Hands can hurt,  
& hands can feel.  
Hands can love,  
& hands can heal.*

*The hand that  
Rocks the cradle  
Is the hand that  
Rules the world.  
Open palmed and trusting,  
Hand is Fist, uncurled.*

July 18, 1995

Dear WSEN,

I was compelled to write you after a most beautiful and warm memorial service for Pat Edwards.

Although I missed her dearly, I felt that she was there with us-joining in on memories, songs, and encouraging us to stay lighthearted. But mostly, as I looked around and saw how almost every McCarthy area resident had dropped work for the day and had joined to remember Pat, I was warmed by how once again-she had brought the whole community together. For me, this joining force is what Pat has been. I can thank Pat for my present

existence in the community-her being the one to give me the initial opportunity and encouragement to remain my first winter-teaching me how to live the lifestyle, and to get to know everyone.

I think of Pat being the driving force behind the formulation of several baby quilts-a compilation of artistic efforts of the whole community. And of her bringing her wonderful giant family together- somehow miraculously incorporating them with the rest of the town.

I fondly recall Pat's 62nd birthday party when some 29 or so community members all came together

in the dead of winter to join Pat in "celebration of life" as she put it. Somehow Pat got every party member to join in a circle and laugh and talk in one conversation-as one group. It was the merriest and largest community gathering I had been to in years.

I want to thank Pat for giving me and everyone opportunities to put politics aside and come together. I hope we will remember her skills in joining us, and will continue to come together to laugh and celebrate life together.

Thank you

Lilly Goodman

# McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church celebrates

BY BONNIE KENYON

Sunday, August 13 is a day Adam Adams, Rebekah and Sarah Sperry, and our church fellowship won't ever forget. Perhaps what occurred on that day is a first for this local area. It certainly was for McCarthy-Kennicott Community Church.



Sarah Sperry

WSEN staff photo

The Sperry girls and Adam requested and got their wish to be water baptized. Since the church building isn't done yet and the group is still meeting in the Kenyon's cabin where there is no baptismal pool (or even a bathtub--yet!), the men put their heads together and came up with a solution. They would build a log crib, line it with a tarp and fill it with creek water. The thought did occur to some of us to use the Kennicott River, but the group opted for what we hoped would be warmer water.

On the Sunday previous to the baptismal service, Doyne Houghton, who once pastored a church in Valdez, addressed our group with the scriptural importance and meaning of

baptism. The next Sunday started out lightly raining but by the time we all gathered outside to witness this special moment, the rain had let up.

Adam, 15, was the first of the three young people to brave the cool baptismal waters. Rick (left) and Doyne (right) shared the honor of immersing Adam while John, Adam's proud father, looks on. I think you can tell by the expressions on each face just how uncomfortable it must have been; however, not one complained or backed out! Even though we added 20 gallons of water heated on the wood stove, it seemed to make little difference.

Sarah, 9 1/2, (but almost 10) was next with her sister, Rebekah, 8, following. Patrick, the girls' father officiated. Because Sarah had fractured her arm a couple of weeks ago, Phyllis made sure her daughter's arm was waterproofed with a plastic bag. Needless to say, all 18 of us who attended were touched by the importance of the moment and why we were together.



Adam Adams

WSEN staff photo

Since the July/August issue of Wrangell St. Elias News went to press, a foundation for the proposed 24' X 30' church building has been poured. As I write this, John Adams

and his volunteer crew are working on leveling and preparing the ground for the concrete basement floor which is due to be poured the week of August 21.

Most of the materials for framing in the building are already on



Rebekah Sperry

WSEN staff photo

hand at the church site. Another pickup truck load is due to arrive the third week of August. Heartfelt thanks goes to all who contributed financially and physically to this historical building project. Memorial gifts were given by Beth Edwards in memory of Maxine Edwards and Pat Edwards. Lena Alexander also gave a gift in memory of her late husband, Al.

I want to thank the employees of McCarthy Lodge and Kennicott Glacier Lodge who have gone out of their way to assist guests who have asked to attend church services on the west side.

The church meets at 10:00 a.m. at the Kenyons on the west side of the river--1.9 miles before the tram.

## Expedition To Mount Steele Commemorates Mountie

### NPS NEWS RELEASE

St. Elias Range — Six mountain climbers/law enforcement personnel are still glowing from their successful Mt. Steele commemorative climb in May. The expedition which spent two weeks (May 10 - May 26) on the 16,664 foot high mountain in the St. Elias Range, was a cooperative event between international law enforcement agencies to honor Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superintendent Samuel Steele as part of the one-hundredth RCMP anniversary celebration.

Constable Pat Eagen of Haines junction was the spark behind the commemorative expedition. He initially got the idea to put a team together made up of members of the law enforcement profession. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park district Ranger Sean McGuinness, and State Trooper Paul Randall of Palmer were the two Alaskans to participate.

"It was a once in a career opportunity to be invited to participate" said McGuinness. According to the ranger, the climb was very appropriate and true to the nature of Steele. Samuel Steele "the lion of the Yukon" was not only the first commander of the Royal Mounted Police in the Yukon, but was also the cautious Mountie who issued the decree that all gold rush stampeders traveling over the Chilkoot Pass bring 2000 pounds

of provisions with them. As one of only 30 or so mounties trying to establish law and order for thousands of miners and natives, Steele was up against unprecedented and formidable problems and forces. Likewise, explained McGuinness, the climb required tenacious strength and courage. Due to an abnormal low winter snowfall, exacerbated by high winds, the climb was more difficult than the team had expected



NPS photo

Arlene Rosenkrans, fabric artist, and Sean McGuinness, a District Ranger at Wrangell-St. Elias display the banner carried to the top of Mt. Steele, a 16,664 peak in the St. Elias Range. Rosenkrans was commissioned to sew the banner and McGuinness participated in the climb. Mt. Steele is named for the founder of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who are celebrating their 100th anniversary this year.

— very icy and exposed, and at times, very scary.

Throughout the expedition, team members continually talked about Samuel Steele, discussing what he would have done during different times of the climb, and occasionally reading out loud from a book on the honored superintendent. By the end of the experience, McGuinness disclosed that he felt a closer connection with the famed Mountie.

McGuinness also expressed deep gratitude for the tremendous amount of support the expedition received from private individuals and corporations. Local communities from Toronto all the way to Vancouver, especially Whitehorse and Haines Junction donated funds and equipment. The Alaska Natural History Association donated the money for Arlene Rosenkrans of Copper Center to sew an expedition

banner. The banner won first place at a Glennallen art show in May and is now permanently displayed at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police headquarters in Whitehorse.

McGuinness seemed to truly enjoy the opportunity to cooperate with Canadian members of the law enforcement community.

The Yukon's Kluane National Park and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park where McGuinness is a district ranger are part of a world heritage site designated by the United Na-

tions. The parks share common borders, common program management, and work closely with one another. It was very fitting that members of the two parks should climb together as a team.

"I am only one; but I am still one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. I will not refuse to do the something I can do."

-- Helen Keller

*Belated Congratulations!*

Doug and Mary Schrage of Anchorage are the proud parents of Aaron Russell Schrage. Aaron was born June 8 at Alaska Regional Hospital and weighed 7 lb. 3 oz.



Aaron has two older brothers named Ben and Calvin.

The Schrage family are frequent visitors to the McCarthy area. They have a log cabin on the "island" — between the Kennicott River crossings — which they built themselves.

*Condolences*

We offer our sincere condolences to Mr. & Mrs. Jim McGavock of Ogden, UT. at the loss of their daughter, Mary Jean, who died while on a rafting trip on the Snake River on June 16. Please know our love and prayers are with you.

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## NPS news

BY BONNIE KENYON

**Backcountry Committee:** Historical and new trails within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve are being identified as possible trail systems by the Backcountry Committee. According to Superintendent Jon Jarvis, "The work was excellent and we now have a working list of trails to evaluate for potential maintenance and opening for visitor use from the existing roads."

**Helicopters:** The Park Service is currently reviewing its inhouse helicopter policy and identifying areas where helicopter use by NPS personnel will be restricted locally. Due to private lands, wildlife or wilderness concerns, "no fly zones" are to be identified as well as certain spots designated for helicopter use. This policy refers only to departmental use.

**Abandoned explosives removal:** Mike Shields (Denali National Park), Logan Hovis (AKSSO) and Danny Rosenkrans (Wrangell-St. Elias National Park) teamed up in July to clean 13 different abandoned mine sites within the park.

NPS reports removing 1581 lb. of dynamite, 90 ft. det-cord, 315 blasting caps and other products this year alone from the following sites: Rambler, Nelson Mountain Adit and Cabin, Westover Adits, Radar Gulch, Peninsula Camp (Kluvesna), Gateway Millsite, Boulder Creek Camp, Peavine Adit, Glacier Creek Camp, Yellow Bank Mine, Hidden Creek Lake and Crumb Gulch Camp. All products date back from 1917 and up to 1970. Since 1988, 21 sites have been cleaned.

In addition, aerial tram cables at the Grand Prize and Sherrif Mines

in the Bremner District were cut with explosives.

Barrel products were removed from Slana/Nabesna, Ptarmigan Lake, May Creek and other sites and staged at Glennallen. Fluids will be recycled through Alaska Pollution Control while steel drums will be recycled in Anchorage.

According to a report by Will Tipton (NPS), some field sites had deteriorated barrels in water or partially buried that fractured during handling and required using over-packs or transferring to reconditioned drums. The sites were located at Rambler Mine, Berg Creek (Kuskulana Drainage), Horsfeld Creek and Cardin Creek.

*Thanks to Supt. Jon Jarvis of WRST for supplying us with the above information.*

# Ghost mine, ghost town

BY JO ANNE WOLD

Wearing a starched white nurse's uniform, white stockings and shoes and a winged cap, Margaret Anderson performed her duties with the two other nurses assigned to the Kennecott Copper Mine Hospital in the winter of 1928-1929.

She had a private room, simply furnished, in the staff house and took her meals at the private mess where she was served by the Japanese waiters. Wooden sidewalks or narrow footpaths linked the frame buildings, many of them two and three stories high and painted red with a white trim, situated on the slope below the mill building. The ore, transported in tram buckets, came from the mines 4,000 feet above on the rocky ledges.

Some of the Kennecott copper, being of an extremely high grade, was shoveled into sacks without processing, loaded on the railroad cars and shipped the 200 miles to Port Cordova where the company steamships waited. The Jumbo mine, which was richer even than the company's Bonanza mine, had a vein measuring 180 by 80 feet of pure copper.

The first ore train that pulled out of Kennicott in 1911 was loaded with a quarter of a million dollars worth of copper. Production of that value was not constantly maintained, although when Marge arrived in Kennicott the mines still had 10 years left to operate.

You have no doubt noticed that there is Kennicott and Kennecott, and it is not a typographical error. The mining company took its name from the nearby Kennicott glacier, named after the early Alaskan explorer Robert Kennicott. However, some one—maybe a mining company official, maybe a clerk—spelled the name 'Kennecott' (could they have ordered stationary printed or railroad cars lettered?) and by then it was too late to change it and the misspelled word has come down through the years to confuse readers, writers, and printers. It seems as if the rule to apply is that the gla-

bunkhouses who were allowed to come down to the lower camp only on their days off. Kennicott was a self-contained village with the weekly supply train bringing in goods to the company store. Such exotic items as silk stockings and artichokes could be purchased, as well as a variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, frozen meats and clothing. A herd of cows provided some of the fresh milk.

In summer Kennicott mine workers went swimming in the spray pond, took unauthorized walks on the glacier, and went hiking, horseback riding and picnicking. There was a wooden tennis court perched on the side of the hill where the more avid players, rushing the season in the spring, played with red balls so they would be easier to find when they landed outside the court in the snow. A recreation hall where movies were shown and dances held was maintained at Kennicott, but with the limited number of single women in camp (we counted five), the dances at McCarthy five miles down the hill were far more popular.

Free-spirited McCarthy sprang up as a collection of hurry-up log cabins, mud streets, and wooden sidewalks to serve the needs of the off-duty miners—bootleg whiskey and girls being the major commodities. The town was also a service and transportation center for the nearby independent copper and

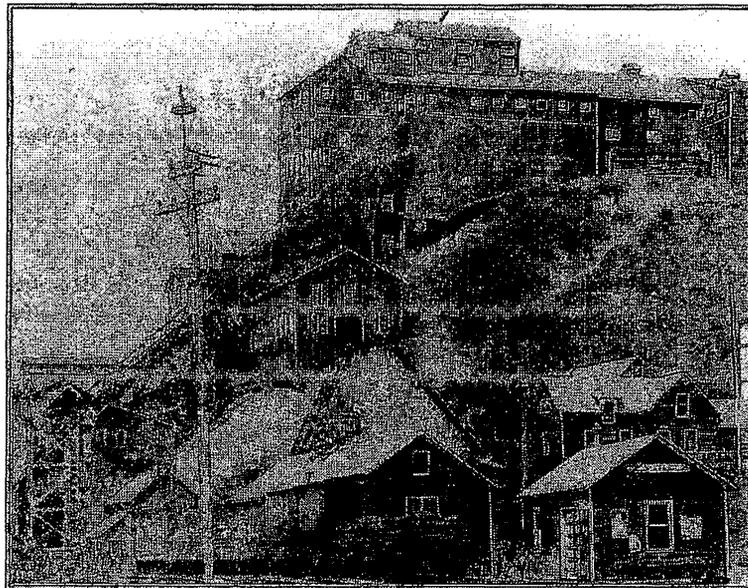


photo courtesy Otto Seiz

acier and the surrounding area is Kennicott, while the mine itself is Kennecott. (Isn't life complicated enough without such details to trip us up?)

While the business of mining took place in the Jumbo, Bonanza, Erie and Mother Lode mines high in the rocky terrain, the support crew of administrators and their families, power plant operators, mill hands, office staff and railroad workers lived in luxury compared to the miners in the upper camp

gold miners and for the Shushanna country.

Marge spent most of her spare time in McCarthy, often in the company of Sig Wold, who had made his way North after the first World War. After working at a fish canery in Cordova and a short job at the Kennecott Mine, Sig went into business for himself—restaurant and rooming house owner, taxi service (dog team in winter, truck in summer), garbage hauling, drayage service, ice delivery, honey bucket pick-up, wood cutting and delivery, laundry pick-up ( he had a deal going with a Japanese fellow who gave him 20 per cent of what he collected), and undertaker.

They were married in the spring of 1930 and lived in McCarthy seven years. When he got word that the days of the Kennecott Mine were numbered, Sig sold out and the couple came to Fairbanks where he purchased a sawmill, an

apartment house and a transfer business.

Sig and Marge had been gone almost a year and a half when the last train rolled out of Kennicott in November, 1938. A ghost mine and two ghost towns—McCarthy and Chitina—were left in its wake. After the last run of the Copper River Northwestern Railroad, most of the rolling stock was sold and the railroad ties near Cordova were torn up and salvaged.

Frozen in time beside the green Kennicott glaciers were the bunkhouses, the mill, the staff house, the depot, the hospital, the school, the office, the private mess, the white house of the manager and all the red clapboard cottages forlornly facing each other across the dirt road where cars no longer passed.

Inside these buildings was equipment and tools and furniture and fixtures and personal

belongings and books and letters and pictures and company files. People who found their way to Kennicott years later stepped into houses where Bavarian china cups were in the cupboards and plates and forks were on the tables. On the shelves were bottles and tins, which became collectibles. Time and intruders have erased many of the signs of the first settlers, and although the Great Kennicott Land Company has sold lots at the lower camp and a few hardy souls live there all year, it will never again be the same.

*Reprinted by permission of Lee Schroer, Jo Anne's husband. Subscriber Jim McGavock submitted this article which appeared in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, October 13, 1979. On October 29, 1985, Jo Anne died at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital from complications relating to pneumonia.*

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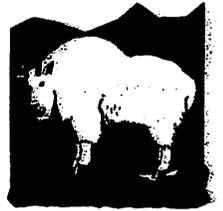
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# OUR TOWN

September 1920 October



## CHISANA NEWS

As there has not been a healthy shower of rain since July 3rd the miners are all very short of water. The James and Nelson outfits are both doing well. James has managed to secure six men and they are working side cuts which Hamshaw left. Don Greene came in to Shushanna with about 700 muskrat skins.

## HIGHWAYS

The Nizina district will, in the near future, enjoy the benefits of an automobile road to the various camps, and it is generally understood that as time goes on, this road will ultimately be continued right on through Chisana and to the Boundary Line, there to connect with a similar road constructed by the Canadian Government to that side of the line.

This will link up a vast piece of territory which has hitherto been impossible, and will render it possible for prospecting and development, not to mention tourists seeing its wonders in the comfort of their own machines.

The next thing which will exercise the minds of the people will be the choice of a suitable name for this thoroughfare.

A suggestion was received by us last week and published, a further suggestion is at hand today. We shall be glad to receive and publish any

communications on the subject.

It should be carried in mind that the name given the road will be lasting, so that we must choose one that is worthy of recognition when Alaska becomes a State.

Sept. 4

## PERSONAL

Mr. Alvah Eames, chief clerk of the Railway Mail Service, paid an inspection visit to Copper River Valley post offices this week.

Jim Dennis won the prize at the special trapshooting match at Kennecott last night, breaking 24 birds out of a possible 25.

## STORK VISITS DEPOT AGENT

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sommer are being congratulated upon the arrival of a little daughter on Saturday, September 4th.

Little Evelyn Alaska and her mother are doing well at Kennecott Hospital.

## COURT NEWS

The defendants in the liquor case which came before the court this week were tried and disposed of as follows:

The first defendant plead guilty and was fined \$250 and costs.

Not guilty was the plea of the second and the case was dismissed.

The third case, that of the chauffeur, who asked for a jury trial, was laid before a jury from Kennecott, who brought in a verdict of not guilty.

Sept. 11

## HOTEL IMPROVEMENTS

Pete Johnson is just completing extensive improvements to his hotel including full concrete basement and complete heating plant, this will make the whole building very comfortable and the inmates will scarcely notice it when the mercury slips to 60 degrees below.

## PERSONAL

Bill Godfrey and Nels Tjosevig left for the Westover property on Wednesday.

Sept. 18

## FARMS AND CROPS

The farmers of this section are yearly becoming more successful in raising crops and especially vegetables which are superior to those imported and have in addition, good keeping qualities.

In the case of potatoes, the growers are using native seed, so improved that the old theory that Alaskan grown potatoes were not equal to outside is all exploded.

The Kennecott Copper Corporation is purchasing shipments of the local farmers and receive this week 1 ton of potatoes from W. Tibbs at Chitina, 1 ton of carrots from Ed Mullen at Long Lake and two tons of potatoes from Tom Brown at Tickell. Oscar Anderson has a wonderful crop of potatoes, etc. which is bringing a ready sale through the McCarthy Mercantile Co.

Frank Iverson and other ranchers nearer town have great potato crops both in size and flavor.

Sept. 25

## PERSONAL

Mr. Bloxom of Kennecott has made a novel and interesting collection of the many varieties of wild flowers which grow near the glacier. These, artistically mounted he is sending to his friends outside to prove conclusively that Alaska is not all ice and snow.

A gay party went by automobile to the foot of the Nikolai mountain last Sunday. Fishing, taking kodak pictures and round the bonfire they passed a pleasant day, returning at dusk. The party included Mesdames Underwood, Refior, Barrett and Hubrick with Jim Morris as chauffeur.

## KENNECOTT NEWS

Billy Bold is a patient in the Hospital this week; the

result of running a miners pick into his foot.

With three hooks to the line and three fish to the hook every time the cast was made, J. McGavock was kept extremely busy pulling in fish at the Nizina lakes where he has been spending a short vacation. He also has the sheep hunting record of the camp to date, having secured two fine sheep recently at a point beyond the Angle Station.

Half a dozen fat porkers from the Company's own pens furnished fresh pork for the mess tables this week which was thoroughly enjoyed.

Fred Lubbe has been out sheep hunting but we have not seen any proof.

Sept. 25

## TOWN NEWS

Mr. A.E. Trim arrived from the interior this week. He brought in a splendid collection of musk rat skins.

All the hunting outfits have returned to town and report good hunting and a general good time. Messrs. Brown, Miller, Nickell, Simpert, Taylor, Graham, Hanson and Quon, are resting up for a few days.

Mr. Angus McLeod of Strelna suffered severe burns on his hands, through an explosion of oil this week.

## A GOOD SEASON

This has been McCarthy's "Busy Week." We have had more visitors the past ten days than for that many months.

Miners with their seasons cleanup, heavy buckskin pokes of gold, workers with their pay checks, many running to four figures,

trappers with great bundles of skins, hunters with their full quota of heads and horns, tourists who have been seeing the country and promoters who have been looking the field over with an eye to future investments—all these have rubbed shoulders and exchanged experiences good and bad both while waiting for transportation to their destinations.

And what different destinations they have! One goes to Switzerland to the home of his boyhood, one to Norway. Two go to Texas and many back East everyone with the knowledge of a season well spent, and the intention of returning in the Spring.

## VALUABLE GROUND SOLD

Mike Molenski has sold his placer bench claims on Rex Gulch for a goodly sum and has left on a tour of the States:

Oct. 2

## LOCAL NEWS

Fred Ahrens has had remarkable success with his garden this season, as he dug six sacks of potatoes from a comparatively small piece of ground.

Joe McLellan is busily engaged with a number of helpers in moving a building 20' by 30' several blocks up to his lot on Second Street.

Fred Erickson bagged fourteen mallards on his hunting trip to Nizina this week.

## PERSONAL

Mr. and Mrs. J.B. O'Neill and Deanie returned home on Monday's train after a

vacation spent in Seattle and other places.

Miss Jean Underwood arrived this week from Los Angeles on a visit to her father Mr. John Underwood.

## MR. JOHN BARRETT HAS ACCIDENT

While traveling to the Tjosevig property on Thursday morning, Mr. John Barrett had his foot hurt quite badly through his horse falling on it. He was taken to Kennecott hospital at once and Dr. Gillespie, who examined the injury under the XRay and pronounced the ankle broken. Mr. Barrett will be at the hospital several weeks.

This is the third of our town people to suffer the same break within a year. Mr. O'Neill & Mr. Longley were the others.

## THE FISHERIES HEARING

The investigation into the fishery regulations is being conducted this week in Cordova, follow-up hearing will be held in Seattle next month.

It is expected that relief to the Copper River section will result—and it may be possible in future seasons for a prospector to be able to spear enough salmon in the Nizina in the fall, to feed his dogs in winter, for he has not been able to do this for several years.

Oct. 9

## WINTER STAGE TO RUN

As it is probable that the roads will not be fit for automobile traffic much

longer, Henry Olsen is making arrangements to secure equipment to run a winter stage line regularly.

He expects to secure one of the big four horse stages from the Chitina - Fairbanks line.

Oct. 16

## PERSONAL

John Barrett has been making rapid progress at Kennecott hospital, and is expected to return home today, but will probably be confined to the house a long time yet.

Oct. 23

## ALASKA WET WITH LIQUOR AND SNOW

William H. Jordan, federal prohibition agent, has just returned to San Francisco after a visit of a month in Alaska, where he was sent to inquire into the report that Alaska was still wet in spite of the fact that the U.S. had gone dry.

"When the snow stops falling in Alaska, the territory will be dry," said Mr. Jordan. There is plenty of booze but it is hard to get it. The people who are well known get it, but the stranger has to go out and dig in the snow."

The old timer in Alaska has it all over the federal agent. He can dive into a snow bank and get a drink. The federal agent dives in after him and gets pneumonia.

Raiding a still in Alaska is a futile task. They start another one in the next snowbank.

As long as fermentation will produce alcohol, it seems to me that the frontier countries will have their spiritus frumentii."

Oct. 30

# The old...

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# Volcanoes of the Wrangells — Mt. Drum

*Editors note: This is the second in a series of excerpts from the newly released publication GUIDE to the VOLCANOES of the WESTERN WRANGELL MOUNTAINS, ALASKA, by Donald H. Richter, Danny S. Rosenkrans, and Margaret J. Steigerwald. In our last issue we dealt with Mount Wrangell. This time we'll take a look at Mount Drum.*

## MOUNT DRUM

Mount Drum is the westernmost Wrangell volcano. Though more than 4,000 ft lower in elevation than its neighbor, Mount Sanford, this volcano dominates the local landscape as it rises above the adjacent Copper River Basin lowlands

**Name.**—Named in 1885 by Lt. Henry T. Allen, of the U. S. Army after Adj. Gen. Richard C. Drum (1825-1909), who served in the Mexican and Civil Wars and later attained the rank of brigadier general. Ahtna name: Hwdaandi ("downriver")-K' elt'aeni ("the one who controls the weather").

**Type and form.**—Stratovolcano or shield volcano whose original morphology has been severely modified by violently explosive eruptive activity and subsequent glacial erosion. Several small peaks, each formed by an individu-

al late-stage volcanic dome, ring the main structure along about 270° of arc on the south and east sides of the volcano.

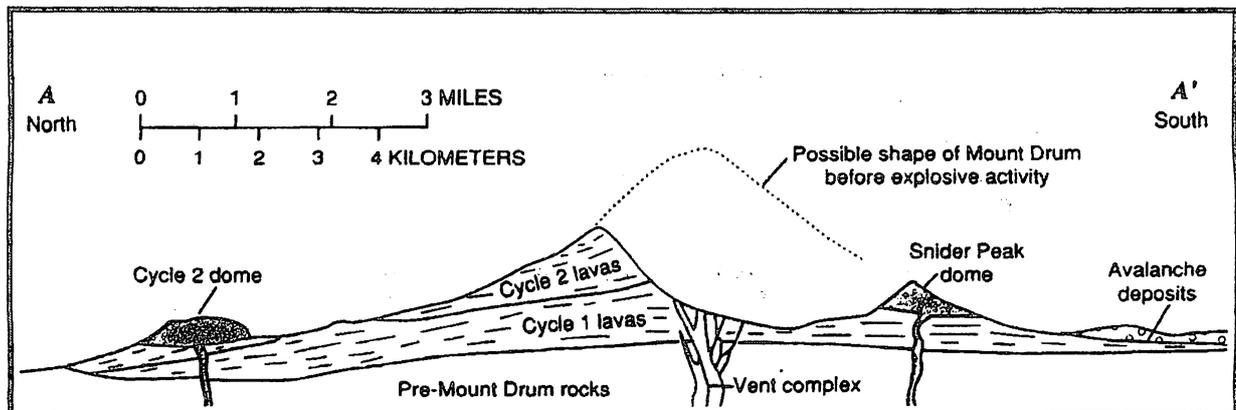
**Location.**—29 mi. (47 km) due east of Glennallen, Alaska, at lat. 62°07' N., long 144°38' W. Shown on U.S. Geological Survey Gulkana A-2 quadrangle map.

**Height.**—12,010 ft (3,661 m). First ascent, 1954; Heinrich Harrer, Keith Hart, and George Schaller.

**Latest eruptive activity.**—Violently explosive volcanic activity destroyed the top and much of the south face of Mount Drum, probably between 250,000 and 150,000 years ago. The last documented eruptive activity, based on radiometric K-Ar dating techniques, occurred at Snider Peak about 240,000 years ago.

**Volcanic history.**—Mount Drum was constructed between about 700,000 and 240,000 years ago during two major cycles of eruptive activity. The first cycle (700,000-500,000 years ago) included the development of an early stratovolcano or, possibly, shield volcano, consisting largely of andesitic lava flows and breccias. A series of early rhyolite domes formed toward the end of the first cycle of activity; their distribution suggests that they were erupted along a short

arcuate fracture system on the new volcano's southeast flank. The second cycle of activity (500,000-240,000 years ago) apparently followed the emplacement of the rhyolite domes without a significant time break. Again, large volumes of mostly andesitic lava were erupted, building a volcanic pile that may have been as high as 14,000 to 16,000 ft (4,300—4,900 m). Toward the end of this period of constructional activity, as many as 10 dacite domes were erupted along at least two major arcuate fracture systems that almost completely encircled the volcano at distances as far as 5 mi. (8 km) from the central vent. Snider Peak dome and its associated lava flows, which were erupted about 240,000 years ago, probably represent the last products of constructional volcanic activity on Mount Drum. After the eruptions at Snider Peak and, possibly, as recently as 100,000 years ago, cataclysmic eruptions destroyed much of the volcano. These explosive eruptions, which apparently originated on the south flank of the volcano, possibly near Snider Peak, produced a series of hot and cold volcanic avalanches and mudflows containing as much as 1.5 mi<sup>3</sup> (7 km<sup>3</sup>) of material and covering an area of about 80 mi<sup>2</sup> (207 km<sup>2</sup>). The mudflows (fig. 17) produced during the destruction of part of Mount



Drum were extremely fluid because of the addition of large volumes of water from melted ice and snow at and near the eruption site. Cascading down the lower south flank of the volcano, these mudflows, carrying along house-size and larger masses of cohesive volcanic rocks, poured into the Copper River Basin and coursed down the Copper River Valley to at least the location of the present village of Chitina, a distance of more than 52 mi. (84 km) from their source. The mudflow deposits are well exposed in the cliffs of the Kotsina River where it joins the Copper River near Chitina and in roadcuts along the McCarthy

Road just east of the Copper River Bridge. The mudflows also crop out at mile 17.9 on the Edgerton Highway to Chitina at the top of the bluff where the highway drops down into the Tonsina River Valley.

**Glaciers.**—At least 11 alpine glaciers extend outward from the perennial icefield that mantles most of Mount Drum above elevations of about 8,000 ft (2,400 m). The largest, Nadina Glacier, flows southwest more than 9 mi. (14 km) from the large amphitheater on the volcano's south flank. Scattered spruce trees and shrubs cover the lower,

stagnant end of the glacier below about 3,500 ft (1,070 m) elevation.

**Best viewing.**—Mount Drum is the first of the Wrangell volcanoes to come into view when driving east from Anchorage toward Glennallen on the Glenn Highway. It is readily visible from the Glenn Highway as far east as Chistochina and all along the Richardson Highway from Tonsina north to Sourdough. Excellent viewpoints are at mile 1 on the Tok Cutoff of the Glenn Highway and at Willow Lake (mile 87) on the Richardson Highway.

## ANILCA hearings—Director Bob Barbee

*Editor's note: In our last issue we covered the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) hearings that were held in Anchorage. Since then we received testimony given by the Alaska NPS Director, Bob Barbee. (Wrangell St.-Elias Superintendent Jon Jarvis did not give written testimony, but answered Senator Murkowski's questions.) Since Barbee's testimony ran to 11 pages, we have excerpted the parts that might be of interest to our readers and present it below. We have compiled a number of peoples written testimony which can be obtained by writing us here at WSEN and enclosing \$5 to cover copy and postage costs.*

*Senator Murkowski's office called and reported that the Senator wanted our readers to know the full transcripts of the hearings would be available in 3 months, rather than the more normal 8 months reported in our last issue. For transcripts write: U.S. Senate, Energy and Natural Resources Committee, SD 364, Washington DC 20510 or phone (202) 224-4971 or FAX (202) 224-4068.*

Senator Murkowski, thank you for the opportunity to address you this afternoon. I've submitted written testimony and expect to add to the record in the next two weeks to provide detailed answers to any questions you may have and to cover some rather lengthy material.

I'll focus my comments on visitor access and our view of a couple of key provisions of ANILCA.

I urge you to move with caution as changes in ANILCA are considered. We can do better in meeting the needs of individual park inholders and businesses. We can do better in hiring Alaskans. We can do better in providing visitor facilities. And we are making changes on every one of those fronts within our Alaska organization.

But we should not tinker with the foundation that ANILCA provides for both protecting parks for future generations and providing for today's users. Specifically consider that:

Title 11 does work to get people to their land. Since 1986, the regional office has had 23 applications for transportation or utility

systems; half have been approved, six are pending, two were withdrawn and only four were rejected. The parks have dealt with several more permits, generally for one-time events or smaller inholder access issues. (One recently finished Title 11 project handled by a park is the Hutchinson access request at Yukon-Charley Rivers. The request was completed on September 1, 1994; the environmental assessment was done this winter, and the access will be allowed this summer. Winter access was not an issue in this case.)

Provisions restricting all-terrain vehicle access, major airport changes, and helicopter landings in parks are critical in preserving not only the land but the experiences that our visitors expect, experiences that make these places so very different than parks in the Lower 48. National parks should not offer every experience and opportunity we can think up; but across Alaska, on state, federal and private land, the mosaic of allowable uses covers not only every need identified today, but preserves opportunities for the future.

Title 8 subsistence provisions are complex and controversial. The Department's position remains that we would like the state to move back into compliance with ANILCA through a constitutional amendment. Absent that, we will continue to manage subsistence as dictated by ANILCA and — increasingly — the courts.

We are moving into a more complete implementation of ANILCA Title 13, and are currently taking public comment on proposed Section 1307 regulations.

### *Working in communities*

In the course of these hearings, you will hear complaints from some constituents. We acknowledge up front that we've not always done best by individuals. Sometimes those situations are the result of laws and policies that clearly cannot please everyone at once; on other occasions we have not been sensitive to individual situations. But before you go too far down the road hearing tales of woe, consider that ANILCA has allowed us to build several partnerships and community relationships that are working well.

The Friends of Kennicott this month received a partnership award for their work with Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and the State of Alaska in stabilizing the historic buildings at Kennicott. This work has added to the safety of the buildings and puts the Park Service in a better position to negotiate with the

private owners and interested foundations for possible acquisition. Regardless of ownership, these are an important part of the state's history, and we will continue to work for their preservation.

Last month we signed a cooperative agreement with the state of Alaska to work with the state Department of Transportation to design improvements to the McCarthy Road that will keep it an scenic gateway to Wrangell-St. Elias. When complete, it will likely include wayside exhibits, trailheads and other access points on public lands, but also significantly improve the driving conditions. Given the rising popularity of the park, we also expect to see significant development of visitor services by Native corporations and others with property along the McCarthy Road.

Lastly, many local residents are upset at the closure of all hunting — both sport and subsistence — of the Mentasta caribou herd in Wrangell-St. Elias. In time, hunting will re-open. With a good science program, we have developed a plan for managing and reopening the herd to harvest based on productivity. The State Department of Fish and Game, the local advisory groups and the regional advisory councils have agreed to this approach.

### *Visitor Facilities and Visitation Growth*

In Wrangell-St. Elias, we have purchased a site in Copper Center for the construction of a true visitor center to replace the building now in use. While use of the existing structure is popular with the local schools and receives a growing tourist trade, we are proposing a major visitor center along the Richardson Highway. Using existing authority in ANILCA Title 13, we hope that it can be developed in cooperation with the AHTNA Native Corporation. The Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce is in strong support of this project.

This project comes at a time when Wrangell's visitation is on the rise, topping 50,000 for the first time last summer. This has more than doubled in 10 years. The number of licensed commercial visitor service businesses in the park has increased 30 percent in the last 12 years. If the numbers are not convincing, we believe a quick scan of magazines such as National Geographic, Conde Naste Traveler and others will lead one to correctly conclude that Wrangell-St. Elias is becoming a significant tourism destination.

### *Mining Issues*

Since the park road was completed in 1938, the linkage between miners in Kantishna and the Park Service has been characterized by

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historian Bill Brown as a "shotgun wedding." We acknowledge it remains a sometimes rocky relationship.

The Mining in the Parks Act of 1976; 90 Stat. 1342 (16 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.) is implemented by 36 CFR subpart 9A. These regulations control all activities within units of the National Park System resulting from the exercise of valid existing mineral rights on patented or unpatented mining claims without regard to the means or route by which the operator gains access to the claim. The regulations apply to all mining and related operations conducted within the boundaries of any unit of the National Park System.

Since December 1978, no Plans of Operations have been received at Denali National Park offices for any proposed mining on patented properties.

All Plans of Operations reviewed for Denali since 1978 —

from a total of six owners or representatives — have been for mining on unpatented claims — claims where the surface estate remains in public ownership.

At Wrangell-St. Elias, the park has 686 mining claims, of which 458 are patented. There are two approved plans of operation this year, and we have recently issued an environmental assessment for Jim Moody to access his mining claims.

In closing, Senator, we want to reiterate our opinion that ANILCA works well for most people most of the time. The compromises and balances struck in 1980 were hard fought, but for 15 years the business community, the visitor industry, the environmental

groups, and our park neighbors have had a known playing field on which to operate.

I again recommend caution in opening up ANILCA. In the cases where inholders and other neighbors have had difficulty, I believe the solutions are available administratively, and we are renewing our efforts to resolve individual problems while staying true to the overall mission of the Service.

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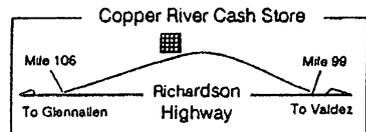
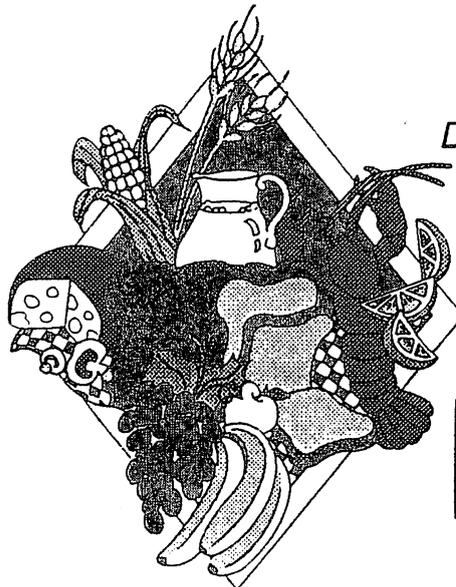


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# A post office in McCarthy?

BY RICK KENYON

Questions come up periodically about the mail service at McCarthy and the feasibility of a "real" Post Office. To get some answers I talked with Elaine Seager, Postmaster at Glennallen about the situation. Elaine referred me to Joshua C. McCoy, who is the Manager of Address Management Systems in Anchorage. Mr. McCoy told me about "Public Service Contract Postal Units," (PSCPU) which are designed for communities that are too small to qualify for a regular Post Office.

"The Postal Service pays up to \$100 annually for the operation of public service contract units," said Mr. McCoy. "The requirement that you sell stamps and supplies at post office prices does not make this a good business venture for you as an individual. However, the community could tax itself to fund the contract facility." He went on to list things he felt could benefit the community by establishing a CPU:

## COMMUNITY IDENTITY -

We will list McCarthy in our National Address Information Files as an authorized last line address. Residents will be able to use "McCarthy AK 99588" instead of using the Glennallen last line.

**MAILING SERVICES -** Limited retail services can be added to the contract. Stamps and postal supplies can be obtained from the Glennallen Post Office for resale in the community.

**POSTMARKING -** We can provide hand canceling devices for postmarking mail originating in the community.

**SECURITY -** Postal regulations require certain levels of security for operating contract units. The public service contractor will be

responsible for the mail which will eliminate everyone having access to the mail when the plane arrives.

Mr. McCoy sent the following information which is reprinted in its entirety:

## PUBLIC SERVICE CONTRACT POSTAL UNITS

### A. Description

A public service contract postal unit is established when a community business or organization enters into an agreement with the Postal Service to assume responsibility for selected postal services, labor and facilities to operate a contract unit for an annual payment not to exceed \$100.00.

A public service contract unit is established and maintained in communities where a considerable number of people would be seriously inconvenienced if required to travel an unreasonable distance solely to transact postal business, and it is inadvisable to establish an independent post office.

### B. Requirements for Establishing Public Service Contract Units

#### 1. Families and Population:

30 to 35 families with a population of approximately 125 or more

#### 2. School:

The community should have a school

#### 3. Business and Government Agencies:

There should be some type of business or industry in the community; e.g., a general store, co-op, cannery, logging, mining, Native Corporation or government agency.

#### 4. Permanence:

The community should be a permanent establishment with an expected longevity of ten (10) years or more. Seasonal public service contract units may be established when there is a need to provide adequate postal services during a limited period of the year.

#### 5. Census Designated Place (CDP):

A census designated place is a location where the US Census Bureau collects population data for a specific area. Although being a CDP is not a requirement for final approval, a community or area designated as a census designated point establishes longevity and permanence.

#### 6. Transportation :

There must be access to the community. Established roads, airport, or water docks (as appropriate) must be serviceable.

**The community must indicate to the Postal Service that at such time the certified air carrier discontinues service, the Postal Service is under no obligation to continue such service.**

### C. Administrative Procedures - Public Service Contract Unit

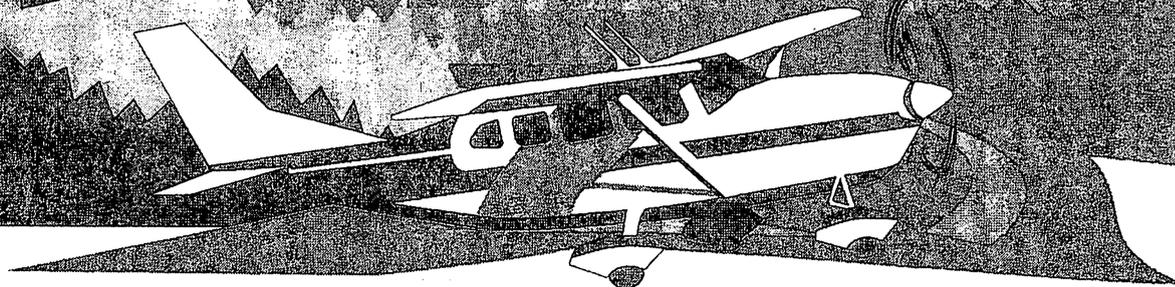
#### 1. Request Received:

The Postmaster or Manager, Post Office Operations receives a written request to establish a contract unit.

#### 2. Questionnaire Mailed:

A questionnaire is mailed to the person(s) making the request, which outlines the "basic" criteria involved in establishing the service. The questionnaire must be completed in its entirety and returned to the administrative postmaster for recommendation before further

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action is taken on the request. (Attachment B)

**3. Request Does Not Meet Basic U.S. Postal Service Criteria:**

If the community does meet the U.S. Postal Service's "basic" criteria for establishing a contract unit, the appropriate person(s) will be notified in writing of the reasons for this determination.

**4. Request Meets Basic U.S. Postal Service Criteria:**

If the community does meet the U.S. Postal Service's "basic" criteria for establishing a contract unit, the following guidelines will apply.

**a. Area Review**

1. Operating efficiency of existing retail service points
2. Retail needs of the community
3. Retail Analysis Program (RAP) surveys
4. Window transaction counts
5. Consumer Service Cards
6. Analysis of local financial or growth surveys
7. Any community market or growth surveys
8. Benefits to U.S. Postal Service points, collection schedules, staffing, scheduling.

After the above items are reviewed, thoroughly analyzed and documented, a recommendation is made.

**5. Review / Evaluation:**

The Manager, Post Office Operations will review and evaluate the request and recommendation. Items to be considered are trans-

portation, routing, scheduling, location, etc. After a review by the Manager, Operations Programs Support and Manager, Transportation Networks, the package will be returned to the Manager, Post Office Operations.

If it is determined that justification is inadequate, the appropriate person(s) will be notified in writing. If it is determined that approval should be granted, the recommendation is finalized.

**6. Requirements Package:**

The requirements package and form 7381 requesting the contract will be forwarded to the Manager, Post Office Operations, for his/her concurrence/approval; to the Manager, Finance for his/her concurrence/approval; and the District Manager, Customer Service for his/her final concurrence and approval.

**7. Procurement Office Action:**

Following approval, the requirements package is forwarded to the Purchasing Office, for review and preparation of the solicitation package. Any questions concerning the requirements package must be resolved prior to issuing the request for proposal.

*Mr. McCoy also sent the following concerning Contract Postal Units, which are the next level up from PSCU's:*

**CONTRACT POSTAL UNITS**

**A. Description**

A contract unit is established and maintained in communities where a considerable number of people would be seriously inconvenienced if required to travel an unreasonable distance solely to transact postal business and it is inadvisable to establish an independent post office, or classified station or branch.

**B. Requirements for Establishing Contract Postal Units**

**1. Families and Population:**

60 to 70 families with a population of approximately 250 or more.

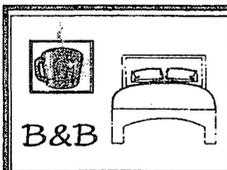
"People who pride themselves on their 'complexity' and deride others for being 'simplistic' should realize that the truth is often not very complicated. What gets complex is evading the truth."  
-- Thomas Sowell

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---

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**B&B**

We will accommodate you in one of our private guest cabins. In the morning, you can join us for breakfast.

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

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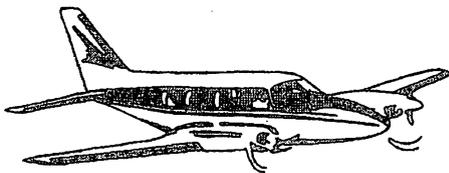
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# Cooking with Carly

BY CARLY KRITCHEN

What a summer this has been! We had such dry weather in the spring that we worried about wild fire danger, then it seems as if it rained for the rest of the summer. Although it has been great not to have to water the garden much, the lack of sun has definitely taken a toll on some of the vegetables. The cabbages and cauliflower are smaller than they should be, and the broccoli is not maturing as early as it usually does. The zucchini, however, is flourishing. I already have enough "zukes" to feed a small army, and more are on the way.

Last year, I tried grating and freezing zucchini in pint-size freezer bags. I put about one cup of shredded zucchini in each bag, so none was wasted. It stored great in the freezer, and most recipes that I used worked just fine with fresh or frozen squash. You may need to discard the excess water from the thawed zucchini in some recipes.

Try freezing some zucchini, and enjoy a taste of summer in the middle of the winter!

*If you like creamy custard pies, you'll like this recipe*

## Zucchini Custard Pie

- 1 cup shredded zucchini (thawed)
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 1/2 Tbsp. flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 1 cup evaporated milk
- 9 inch unbaked pie shell
- Cinnamon
- Nutmeg

Mix zucchini, egg, vanilla, flour, sugar, butter, and evaporated milk in a blender until thoroughly blended. Pour mixture into the pie shell. Sprinkle top with cinnamon

and nutmeg, Bake for 20 minutes in a preheated 450 degree oven. Lower temperature to 350 degrees and bake for 10 minutes more. Serves 8

*These burgers are really great! I've also seen a similar recipe with about a pound of ground turkey added, but we like these just the way they are.*

## Zucchini Wheat Germ Burgers

- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup toasted wheat germ
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/4 cup chopped mushrooms
- 3 Tbsp. minced onion
- 1/2 tsp. thyme
- 1/2 tsp. crushed rosemary
- 1 1/2 cups shredded zucchini (thawed and drained)
- salt and pepper
- 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil

In a medium size bowl, beat eggs until blended. Stir in wheat germ, cheese, mushrooms, onion, thyme, rosemary, and drained zucchini. Add salt and pepper to taste. Shape into 4 patties, pat until about 3/4 inch thick. Cook in a non-stick pan in vegetable oil over medium heat until golden brown, about 5 minutes on each side. Serve on buns. Makes enough for 4 burgers.

*This is a tasty side dish, and quick to fix.*

## Creamy Grated Zucchini

- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 2 cloves minced garlic
- 5 cups grated zucchini
- 1 Tbsp. fresh thyme, chopped

3 Tbsp. low fat sour cream salt and pepper to taste

Melt butter in a medium size skillet. Add garlic and sauté. Add zucchini and thyme and cook over medium heat until zucchini is tender. Remove from heat and stir in sour cream. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serves about 4

*This is my favorite new recipe. It says "pizza" but you can also use this as a pie crust for your favorite quiche. Just turn the heat down to 350 degrees and bake for about 20 minutes.*

## Zucchini Pizza Crust

- 3 cups shredded zucchini (thawed and drained)
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/2 cup grated mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 cup grated cheddar cheese

Mix drained zucchini, eggs, and the two cheeses in a bowl. Press the mixture onto a greased 12 inch pizza pan. Bake the crust at 400 degrees for about 10 minutes. Add pizza sauce, and all of your favorite toppings, then bake for about 15 minutes more. Serves 6.



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# A look at the weather



BY GEORGE CEBULA

The summer of 1995 was rather cloudy and wet with average temperatures and above average precipitation. June and July were slightly warmer than 1994 and July received more than three times the rain received in 1994.

The high temperature for June was the same as 1994, with 82 degrees on the 10th and 11th (82 on June 15, '94 and 79 on June 4, '93). The low was 24 on the 2nd (28 on June 4, '94 and 27 on June 8, '93). The June average temperature was 53.3, about a half degree warmer than the 52.6 in 1994 and the 52.7 of 1992 and '93. The total precipitation was 1.63 inches compared to 1.44 inches in June 1994 and 2.06 in June 1993. *Silver Lake had a high of 84 on the 12th (86 on June 16, '94) and a low of 28 on the 2nd (30 on June 1, '94). The average June temperature at Silver Lake was 53.4 (53.9 in 1994) and precipitation was 1.50 inches (0.70 inches in 1994).*

July was a bit warmer than last July and much wetter. The high temperature for July was 80 on the

6th and 7th (79 on July 13, '94 and 87 on July 5, '93). The low temperature for July was 35 on the 15th (32 on July 10, '94 and 35 on July 2, '93). The average July temperature was 56.6 almost a degree warmer than the 55.8 in 1994 and a little cooler than the 57.1 in 1993. The total July precipitation at McCarthy was 3.36 inches, about three times the 0.97 inches received in July 1994 and 1.27 inches received in July 1993. *Silver Lake recorded a high of 81 on the 22nd (79 on July 2, '94) and a low of 37 on the 31st (33 on July 12, '94). The average July temperature at Silver Lake was 57.1 (56.3 in July '94) and precipitation was 3.41 inches (1.11 in July '94).*

The water from Hidden Creek Lake dumped into the Kennicott River just after noon on July 22. The water level at the USGS gauge next to the tram began to show a steady rise begin-

ning about 5:30 pm. Just after midnight the water level was two foot higher than it was at 5:30. The high water was observed around the tram until late Sunday afternoon when it began to recede. The water level never got high enough to flood and no damage was observed. By Monday morning the water level was back to normal.

The first part of August has begin to show signs of autumn with lows around 30 and some early morning frost. It's time to cover the plants in the gardens.

Freezing temperatures will begin to appear by early September and the first snow by the end of September. Summer is just about over and winter around the next corner.

"Why is it that those who have something to say can't say it, while those who have nothing to say keep saying it?"

-- Anonymous

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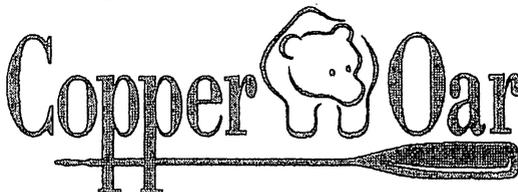


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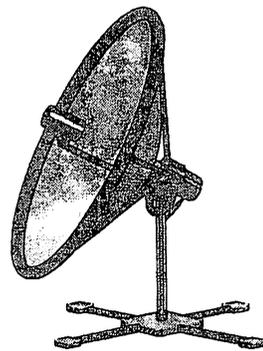
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# FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

## Grow the Park?

BY RICK KENYON

**pristine** *adj.* 1.a. Remaining in a pure state; uncorrupted by civilization.

Much talk about the possible acquisition of the Kennicott property by the federal government has been heard around McCarthy the past few years. The Conservation Fund is debating whether to buy the property and donate it to the National Park Service, who would then be required to fund the ongoing operations there, possibly through a nonprofit organization such as Friends of Kennicott.

The remains of what was once the richest copper mine in America is possibly the most visited area "in the park." The only thing is, it is not "in the park" — it is privately owned. In fact the entire McCarthy Road corridor and most of the surrounding lands are either privately owned or owned by the state of Alaska. Many, if not most, of the visitors to this area never set foot on Park Service land.

However, the acquisition of the Kennicott property presents something of a dilemma for NPS. Wrangell-St. Elias Park (WRST) was hailed as "pristine," as untouched by civilization. Hardly an apt description of Kennicott, which hangs under a cloud of possible Environmental Protection Agency Superfund Site designation — even after the Kennicott Corporation spent several million dollars removing asbestos and other materials deemed hazardous by the EPA. (The area is still "contaminated" with heavy metals, says the EPA. Heavy metals? "Yes," they say — "copper!")

When Congress was debating whether to make WRST a park at all in the late 1970's, people like Senator Joe Biden could be heard on national media saying "We have to act now — the bulldozers are

poised, ready to destroy the land." The truth was that Senator Biden and friends were too late. The bulldozers had come 75 years earlier and had left with no intention of returning. In an area that had once been home to several thousand miners, farmers, and small business people, by 1978 only a few small placer gold mines were being worked, and a handful of homesteaders and "back to the landers" inhabited the land. Visitors were few and far between, and nature was busy restoring the land.

Beautiful, yes. Peaceful, yes. Pristine? Hardly. Hundreds of miles of roads and trails had been left by the earlier occupants. Bridges and airstrips had been built to service the numerous mines of the 1920's. Thousands of abandoned 55 gallon barrels had been left scattered throughout the area. (The Park Service has spent several hundred thousand dollars collecting and flying these barrels out of the park.) A railroad had hauled thousands of tons of ore taken from the mine tunnels that honeycomb the mountains above the Kennicott millsite to the coastal town of Cordova. Hundreds of acres of timber had been clear-cut to make room for crops of potatoes, cabbages and wheat to feed what was at the time the center of activity in Alaska.

Does this part of the park really harmonize with the pristine image of WRST? Its historical significance makes it a good candidate for visitation, preservation, or even restoration — but pristine it isn't.

Add to all this the present federal fiscal problems, and it seems more logical to explore ways of making the park smaller rather than bigger — retaining the areas that are more in keeping with the "untouched by civilization" motif.

To the south of Kennicott, running east to west, lies the Chitina River. The river was utilized to some extent for freighting supplies,

but the bulk of the mineral discovery, and therefore mining and development, was north of the river. South of the river lie the Chugach Mountains. Further south is the geologically interesting Bagly Icefield and the immense Malaspina Glacier.

If we were to keep the southern boundaries of WRST, and use the Chitina River as the northern boundary, a number of things would be accomplished: The illusion that the park is pristine would become a fact; most of the conflict between inholders and the National Park Service would cease, as almost no one lives in that part of the park; and perhaps most importantly the park would become a more manageable 4 or 5 million acres rather than the 12 million acre behemoth it is now. The important wilderness areas that lie to the north of the Chitina River would be in no danger, just as they were in no danger in 1978 — no one is going to build a hotel on Mt. Blackburn or Mt. Drum! The fears of uncontrolled growth in the McCarthy/Kennicott area would be relieved, as the engine driving the growth would be removed — the fact that tourists perceive the area to be a National Park. Perhaps Princess Tours and Holland Westours would postpone building hotels in the area another 15 or 20 years, or even build them to the south, in the park!

If the Conservation Fund or other like minded group can negotiate a deal for Kennicott, great. But let them donate it directly to Friends of Kennicott, rather than the federal government. If Friends are not willing to accept the responsibility for ongoing operations there, perhaps the Alaska Miners Association would be interested, or even the Kennicott Corporation itself — after all, who could better help the visitor understand what went on here than the people whose forerunners did that work?

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fairbanks, Ak

Your news publication is timely at a time when interest in the region is growing rapidly. The park service updates are of particular interest.

Let me introduce myself as a student of the history of the Kennecott Alaska mines system and its Copper River & Northwestern Railway. After extensive hours of research I have compiled approximately 400 black and whites (mostly 8 x 10's) on the subject. I also have some 40 to 50 enlarged framed photos, including some panoramics covering the railway system, McCarthy, Chitina, the millsite and minesites.

Additionally, I am constructing at "G" scale a model railroad system patterned after the CR & NW RR. Included at the 1:24 scale at this time are locomotives #1, #2 (the Dinkeys), #50 (the 1881 Rogers, present at the driving of the copper spike), #100, #101, #102 (75-ton Moguls purchased in 1909). The six Pullmans are there as well as numerous ore cars, gondolas, and other freight cars along with one of the rotary plows.

A model of Breedman's Hotel Chitina is here, as is the locomotive two-bay barn at Chitina, a trestle section modeled after the Gilahina. This one is 42 inches tall, with 8 feet of curve.

The Chitina train depot and the staff house at Kennecott are under construction. The Kennecott superintendent's residence is here.

With the exception of the Gilahina trestle, none of those structures, nor any of the railway stock has survived.

The final piece in the model will be a section of the mill.

Eventually all this will be available in your region for the public to see.

At the smaller 1:96 scale we are constructing a model of the entire Bonanza minesite, including the tram terminus/ore bin, barracks #1, barracks #2 (the large one), blacksmith shop, boiler building, transformer house and snow sheds as well as the geography these structures rested on. All this will fit on a 3 foot by 8 foot board. This will be available for public viewing possibly later this summer and represents the year 1925.

Additional projects related to the Kennecott and its CR & NW RR are underway here, but that's another story.

Oh yes, we will eventually construct a model of the entire millsite and all the minesites to eventually extend to the town of McCarthy itself. This assumes we successfully acquire the additional funds necessary to continue the project. I believe we will.

If any of this interests you please feel free to write.

Ronald N. Simpson  
98 Lakeriew Dr.  
Fairbanks, AK 9701-7825

3409 S. Honey Creek Ct.  
Milwaukee, WI 53219

Dear Rick and Bonnie,

It hardly seems like two years since we visited you for what proved to be an all-too-short time. Our visit to your place and to McCarthy and Kennicott was one of the highlights of our Alaska trip. I certainly hope to do it all again sometime. Last year when Ted Ce-bula visited his brother George I

almost went with him but a birthday trip to Virginia caused a conflict. One of these days I'll be able to accompany him. Maybe we'll be able to help George with whatever building project he may have going at the time. I have informed one of my sons and an RVing friend that if either of them decides to go to Alaska I will be happy to go with them.

I think I've borrowed Ted's copies of WSEN long enough. (I read each one from cover to cover). Enclosed you will find my check to cover the cost of all back issues plus a one year subscription. I sincerely wish that I could be up there seeing it instead of being here reading about it. It appears that if your operation continues to expand you may have to move it or you out to the out buildings. Good luck. Best regards to you both,  
Bob and Doris Habermehl, Sr.

July 31, 1995  
WSEN

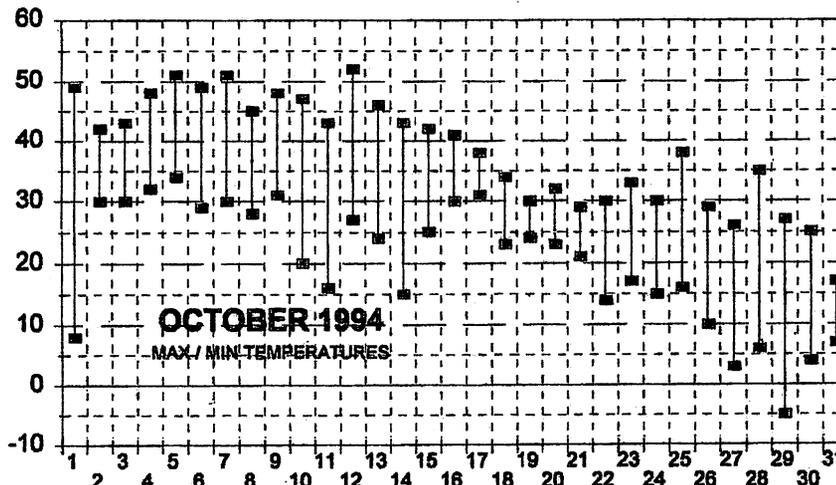
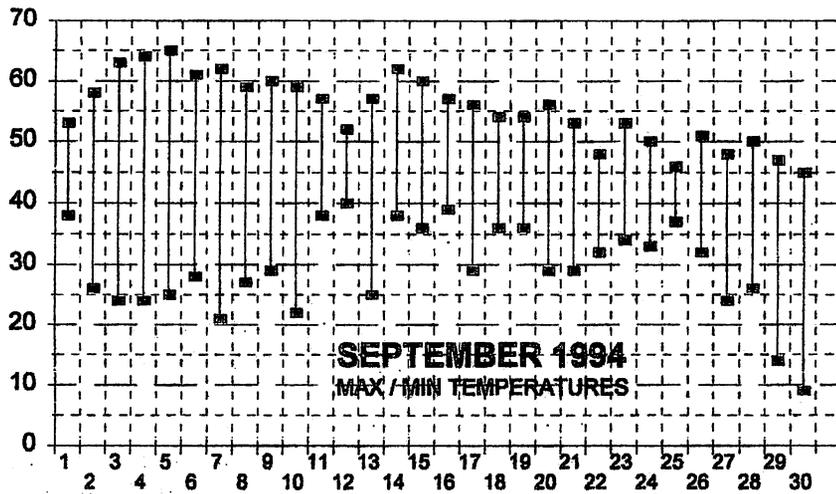
I would like to start a subscription to your enjoyable bimonthly publication, Wrangell St. Elias News. I have finished reading your July/August issue and enjoyed it very much.

I was in your beautiful surroundings this month with a tour group, "Explore", and fell in love with your gorgeous, breathtaking mountains and scenery.

Since I don't know when I will be returning, I thought this would be a great way to continue my Alaska experience.

Ms. Lynn Smith  
2330 Berkley Road  
Reading, PA 19605-2809

*Weather - What can we expect?*



Wrangell St. Elias News  
McCarthy  
PO Box MXY  
Glennallen, AK 99588



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We need *your* help. Please take note of your mailing label on the back cover of this issue of WSEN. Besides your name and address, you will see a date in the top right-hand corner. This indicates the issue your subscription ends with. For example, if the date reads SO95, that means your subscription to the Wrangell St. Elias News ends with the September/October 1995 issue. You need to renew!

Any subscription whose label date is earlier than SO95 is overdue. In the past we sent separate notices on preprinted cards, but we feel our upgraded labels should make it easier

for each subscriber to keep track of their own subscription.

The date abbreviations we use are as follows:

**January/February is JF**

**March/April is MA**

**May/June is MJ**

**July/August is JA**

**September/October is SO**

**November/December is ND.**

The year's subscription to our bimonthly (6 issues) publication is \$8.50 in the USA, \$10.00 in Canada and Mexico, \$18.50 in other countries (Until Jan. 1, 1996).

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

*Thank you so much — We appreciate you!*