

Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Volume Seventeen Issue Five September & October 2008

\$2.50

Action-packed adventure issue!



Photo courtesy Julie Loxley

Tales from the Alaskan Wilderness

Page 9



Photo courtesy Molly McCormick

Red Salmon at Long Lake

Page 13



WSen staff photo

Lunch with the Deputy Director

Page 6



Photo courtesy Neil Darish

Historic Cordova-McCarthy flights

Pages 7, 8

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

Rick is nearly ready to roll out the two Ricoh printers from their tucked-away spot under the office counter-top. We are presently experiencing a lull in activity stemming from a busy summer tourist season for the McCarthy/Kennicott area. One tourist in particular, Julie Loxley, and her husband Chris are from the UK and are making a year-long trip visiting special places like our area. Julie wrote a story, *Tales from the Alaskan Wilderness*, about their activities while here and we are pleased to share it with you beginning on page 9. Our local readers will recognize a very familiar face in one of Julie's pictures!

Special thanks goes out to Kenny Smith, Charlie Branch and Troy Tirrell for articles and information contributing to the accounts of the historical flights of the DC-3 between McCarthy and Cordova, on August 17 and 18 which you will find on pages 7 and 8. Both Charlie and Troy, of Cordova, were on board one of the flights—Flight A—and even though I had not met either men, once contacted, each one was quick to provide information. Troy steered me to Charlie who in turn sent me an article he had already written. Kenny, of course, is always a wealth of information especially when it comes to aviation, so he, too, came on board with his article, *Cordovans fly DC-3 to McCarthy*.

COVER DC-3 CAPTION

L-R: Troy Tirrell, Torie Baker, Mikal Berry, Charlie Branch, Laurie Berger, Marilee Moffat, Toni Bocci, Jodie & Chris McDonnell, Frances Mallory, Judy Fulton, Karen Kearney, Al Fulton, Pat Kearney, Kay Adams, Tim Joyce, Carol Hernley of Flight A on August 18, 2008 at McCarthy, Alaska.

Another round of thanks to Dave Hollis and Terry Blosser who teamed up to provide us an update on the John Denver Tribute (page 15) and an announcement for next year's celebration.

Also, thanks to Molly McCormick for her story on the fish weir at Long Lake. Molly is the fish biologist for the NPS in Copper Center.

As I was typing, the phone rang and it was Paul Barr, owner and operator of Sourdough Drilling. (See Paul's ad on page 26 if you're interested in having him dig you a good water well.) He informed me that a few more successful wells have gone in since our last issue. Therefore, we congratulate Stephens and Tamara Harper (McCarthy), Rob and Arlene Koenig (south of McCarthy Creek), and Dan Talcott (backside of McCarthy airstrip) for acquiring good water!

Several days ago, I received a phone call from subscriber Floyd

Hagen of Anchorage. Floyd said he had heard from a relative of Kennicott Kid Vivian Pugh Bickford that she had passed away. I was unable to find an obituary to reprint in time for this issue, but we did find the notice of her death on June 25 in Seattle, Washington, at the age of 82. According to Floyd, who was a very good friend of Vivian's, her father Claude was the last station agent in McCarthy. If any of our readers can steer me to a write-up on Vivian, we would like to share it in *WSEN*.

Thanks, Floyd, for letting us know about the loss of yet another special Kennicott Kid.

WSEN welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Abby Claypoole, PA; Stuart Keek, MO; Tom Krause, AK; Terry Kennedy, AK; David Fair, AK; Charlie Branch, AK; Allen Robertson, MN.

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Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Chet Randall, Joan Fortin, Michael and Lainey: It's been a long time since I've had the privilege of writing an item of interest on this fine family. Chet and Joan share ownership of a cabin and property next door to Rick and I. Email contact has been our sole manner of communication since their last visit five years ago. Seeing them in person is much better. We trust the time will be shorter before their next visit to McCarthy's west-side.

Their trip north on this occasion brought a wonderful addition—Joan's folks, Jerry and Rita Fortin. Both families make their home in Maine. Portland for Chet and Joan; Benton, an hour and a half away, for Jerry and Rita. Says Jerry, "Benton has more cows than people."

The Fortins live on one of the many dairy farms scattered across the area. Although Jerry's dairy is not in full-working force these days, they still maintain a farm-like (including a few animals) atmosphere. Jerry and Rita are more-than-fond of "cabin" living, however, so they built (along with Chet and Joan's assistance, of course) a cabin on an unused cow pasture, about a 5 minute walk from the main farm house. Joan tells me that when she and her family visit her folks, they all hike down to the cabin and enjoy their wilderness time together.

Chet and Joan are lawyers. Chet works for Legal Services, aiding folks with unwelcome fore-closures. He put together a group of 40 lawyers, calling themselves Maine Attorneys Saving Homes (MASH)—all volunteers. Joan works for a private firm, specializing in land use and also assists private developers.

Son Michael is 6 (almost 7). He loves whittling with the careful use of his pocket knife. Wolverines are his favorite animal, he says. Although he didn't get to see one in the wild during his stay, he did meet up with a very friendly weasel. The curious critter poked its head up through a crack in the cabin porch while Michael was busy at work whittling on a stick.

Daughter Lainey, 5, made much of her spare time at their table doing a variety of crafts. She, Michael and Grandma Rita were in our yard the other evening, when Chris and Howard Haley's dog, Moxie, came for a visit. It was apparent that dogs are on Lainey's list of favorite animals. She and Moxie hit it off immediately with Moxie showing off her expertise in running circles around her onlookers. I think Lainey would have liked to stuff Moxie in her backpack and take the outgoing dog home to Maine.

A big welcome back to Chet, Joan and family and a sad goodbye—all in the same "item!"

Tom and Mary Kaye Golden:

Shortly after we said our goodbyes to the above visiting neighbors, Tom drove up needing a refill on his propane tanks. While at the McCarthy Mercantile yesterday, Mary Kaye's son, Dan Elofsen, eagerly told me his folks' cabin, next door to his, was looking mighty good. I was eager to hear "how" good. Tom is pleased, he said, with his progress this summer. He managed to get the cabin all enclosed. Although not yet squirrel-protected, he feels he has accomplished a lot this year.

Tom and Mary Kaye make their home in St. Paul, MN but, more and more, are digging their roots down in the McCarthy area. In fact, Tom said he left Minnesota end of March and won't be returning there until the latter part of September. He's now pushing 6 months for this year.

Mary Kaye is coming up on retirement real soon. Tom is already in retirement (well... depends how you describe "retirement"), so the couple is looking at more free time to travel and work on their cabin south of McCarthy Creek.

Another huge accomplishment this summer, shared Tom, is the successful well the Golden's received from Sourdough Drilling. The depth is 300', says Tom, who is thankful to now have their own water source.

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Congratulations, Tom and Mary Kaye, on your productive season!

Howard Mozen/Elizabeth Schaffer, Avery and Owen: Summer is winding down for Howard and Elizabeth and their family. Howard has already left for Anchorage and his teaching position at Begich Middle School where he teaches 6th grade Special Education. Elizabeth stayed behind in Kennecott to complete her seasonal work as the lead interpreter ranger for the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

When Peggy Guntis, my neighbor, and I went to Kennecott last week, Elizabeth was manning the Kennecott Visitor's Center in their new quarters in the refurbished General Store. When Elizabeth isn't greeting the ever-increasing visitors, she is busy working on payroll, logistics and scheduling for the other interpreters such as Megan Seifert, Diane Thorn, Diane Milliard, Cliff Wright, Earl Sanders and Kay Dev-enport. This year supervising is a new responsibility for Elizabeth and the ability to make some important decisions that benefit our area's guests. For instance, she decided to keep the visitor center in Kennecott open through September 6th which also extends the dates that the history film and the walk the park service offers throughout the summer season will be offered.

Daughter Avery is in 3rd grade this year and son Owen is in kindergarten. Elizabeth said Avery received her first "bush" plane ride when she accompanied Tessa Bay and her mom Natalie (the pilot) to Anchorage.

Have a great school season, Howard, Elizabeth, Avery and Owen, and we'll see you all next summer!

Larry and Lindee Satterfield: The Satterfields are making more trips to their beautiful cabin in the McCarthy area. They "usually" Email me with their plans to visit, but their most recent trip out from Anchorage came as a surprise. The other day I was painting my bath-

room door when the door bell rang. There stood Larry and Lindee grinning from ear to ear. They simply love coming to their home in the woods. Because Lindee does so well in describing their McCarthy adventures, I'm going to let her write her own "item."

"With the summer winding down, and not much time off, Larry and I have managed to get the cabin up to a livable comfort. Larry hooked the wood stove up. Now we have heat when we want it. The birds just have to be observant of a stove pipe sticking out of the roof, that is now in the way of their flight path. Unfortunately, a woodpecker met his fate the first night we had it. The big bang noise gave us a clue.

"We did pretty good putting insulation, drywall and paneling up. At the end of the week I was crawling around like a monkey in a jungle as I climbed ladders and scaffolding. (No, no back flips off the scaffolding.)

"We have electricity and soon we will have a well dug. The best part is having furniture and sitting in comfort. Eating off of a real table and sleeping in a real bed is luxury. Can't tell you how wonderful it is to sleep up off the floor. Yep, an emotional moment indeed! (Gosh, not sure I can ever go camping again..)

"Again, Larry amazes me with his creativeness and dedication to get the cabin done. We look forward to the day we can come up to McCarthy and just relax. I am all about relaxation, but I have a feeling he will keep me on my feet going hiking and exploring around the area. I will hope for some rainy days thinking we will stay inside... but Larry will just bring out the rain gear!

"As always, we thank God for our safety as we continue our work at the cabin! Next time we come up I hope the resident owl leaves the "rabbit parts" in the woods, and not on our deck. I don't know where one gets the term "lucky rabbits foot"

when the rabbit wasn't so lucky losing that foot in the first place!"

Dave Hollis: Another great "item" provider is Hollis. He writes: "My 13th summer in McCarthy has been marvelous as usual. One highlight was the John Denver tribute. The response was so great that we're planning another one—scheduled for Friday June 19th 2009 in the Kennecott Rec Hall, with special guest, Tony Oney, John's bush pilot for 15,000 miles while exploring and filming throughout Alaska.

"My seasonal job ends in late September. I'm looking forward to spending October visiting with my mother, Ruth, and her cat, Jake, in Edgewater, Florida.

"My winter plans aren't set yet—either spend it in Homer, or return to Hawaii for the sixth year in a row. Aloha!"

Albina Izmaylova: Albina's winter plans included ending her summer season in McCarthy and returning to her home with John and Barbara Rice in St. Louis, Mo. Local folks and visitors alike enjoyed being greeted with Albina's sweet smile at either the McCarthy Mercantile in the mornings or during dinner hours at the McCarthy Lodge. She is back in school and working in the college Admissions' office.

Before she left our area on the evening of August 2, Albina gave a Russian dinner party at the Rice's cabin. The house overflowed with about 40 friends, neighbors and co-workers of Albina. Albina gave us a grand sampling of her favorite Russian dishes, one being Borsh—a beef, beet soup. (Be sure to find Albina's recipe in *Cooking with Peggy* in this issue.) She served us two Russian salads. Johnny McGrath made his famous pizza. Barbara provided a variety of snacks. Thank you, Albina, for your presence in our town; we look forward to next summer season, hoping you return!

While at the dinner, Rick and I had the pleasure of meeting Bob and Paula Leitzell. Now, this demands an item of interest all by itself!

Bob and Paula Leitzell: The Leitzells, WSEN subscribers since 2001, are from Mokelumne Hill, Ca. After reading an "item of interest" in the January/February 2006 issue, concerning Howard and Chris Haley and their desire to fill-in-the blanks with further information on Howard's dad, Herb Haley, Bob contacted the Haleys. That contact began a new friendship between the two couples and resulted in a trip to the McCarthy area for the Leitzells.

Bob was a member of the original Copper River Survey crew during the summer of 1950. It was during this time that he met Howard's dad, Herb was the pilot that flew Bob and his survey crew to various sand and gravel bars along the river where they set aerial survey control points between Chitina and the Million Dollar Bridge. (See *Letters to the Editor*, page 35, in the November/December 2002 WSEN.) Bob certainly did provide the Haleys with interesting recollections of his time spent with Herb.

Rick and I were honored to have the Leitzells in our home August 3rd. Bob had taken many photos of his visit to our area in the 1950s. What a wonderful way for us to "see" what Bob saw during those interesting years he walked and flew over this valley. We hope to share some of these excellent photos with you, our WSEN readers, in the near future, thanks to the willingness of Bob and Paula to share history with us all.

John and Barbara Rice: The Rices said their round of goodbyes on August 3rd. For many of their neighbors, (and themselves) the summer flew by much too quickly. Barbara assured me that she and John are just going to have to come earlier and stay later. Sounds like a good idea to me! It may have been a short summer season, but there wasn't a dull moment in it. It's a good sign when friends and family return for more of the same "good times" they experienced in past visits. This year was no exception. Their first guest was over the 4th of July, daughter Elizabeth Rice and her friend Mandy Hopson, both from St. Louis.

The next round of visitors were Glenda and Jerry Bentz, also of St. Louis. This was their second visit. They brought their friends Coralee and Jim Kruger from Windom, MN. Then Sara Levins, friend of Barbara's, and another daughter, Laura McGonigle arrived. Barbara, Laura and Sara, chose to drive the Rice's truck back to St. Louis. John opted to fly. It took the ladies (and Clark the dog) 11 days to get home. John arrived in plenty of time to open up the house and get rested up from all the summer work on their McCarthy cabin.

Have a great winter, John and Barbara. You are missed already!

George Cebula and family: Speaking of returning family members... George's brother Ted of Milwaukee, WI and his oldest son, Mike, are due to arrive in McCarthy on Friday's mail plane, August 29th. Thanks for the "heads up," George. I'll make sure I have plenty of coffee on hand for Ted's morning visits!

Kurt and Peggy Smith and family: It is August 25th. My next door neighbor, Peggy Guntis, and I took a drive over to the McCarthy Mercantile in downtown McCarthy. Our main objective *this* time (usually it is to get our bi-weekly ice cream cones on mail days) was to meet Peggy's son, Scott Englund. No wonder Peggy was grinning from ear to ear when we walked in the store. What a polite young man! Scott, 23, is a marine, based out of North Carolina, but soon bound for the east coast of Africa. We were also pleased to visit with Kurt's parents, Janet and Denny Smith of Seattle, who try to make yearly trips to the area.

In this issue you will notice a "thank you" ad from Kurt and Peggy for all the local support their Mercantile has received this year. I would like to say (and I believe I can speak for many of my neighbors as well) a big THANK YOU from all of us to the Smiths for the wonderful service (and a great deck to visit on) they provide our community. Kurt and Peggy, you are appreciated more than you know!! We'll see you in 2009, too.

Sam, Kris, Emmett and Eva Gregory: When I called the Gregory's

McCarthy phone, I was surprised to hear Sam answer. Kris and the kids have been here most of the summer while Sam has been in and out. The Gregory's own property and a lovely cabin on the hill behind Rick and I. The other day Kris called to let us know she was having some trees and brush cut by Daniel Morrison of Morrison Construction. Sam explained that Carrie Lou Hale (also of the Morrison family) had done a fire assessment of their house and property, advising them on fire proofing as well as access for fire equipment, if necessary. Sam couldn't say enough good things about the excellent work done by all.

During August 8-16, Sam brought 8 teenagers from Brooklyn to the McCarthy area to enjoy an Alaskan wilderness experience. On the agenda was a trip on the ice and a hike to the top of Bonanza with the Kennicott Wilderness Guides. Howard Mozen and Tim Riddell took the boys on a guided river trip. "They loved it!" exclaimed Sam. He is thankful to all who made this adventure so special to these boys and for all the leg work done on his behalf by Brian Quigley.

The last *Item*, but not the least in Sam's book, is the great news that he and Kris are expecting their 4th child. Everyone, especially Emmett and Eva, are excited for the new addition to their family. Kris is due October 3rd.

Congratulations! Adam and Stephanie Tschappat, of Long Lake, are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, **Phoebe Lorraine**, who was born at Serendipity, Alaska, on July 11th. Daughter Phoebe weighed 7 lb. 1 oz. and was 21 inches long. For those of you who do not know, Serendipity is 46 miles outside Valdez.

I had the joy of meeting Phoebe for the first time on August 13th while collecting my mail at the McCarthy mail shack. I may not have a picture of Phoebe but take my word for it, she is a doll! Stephanie's niece, Hillary Tschappat Larson, 10, is visiting her Long Lake family and being a great help to baby Phoebe and Phoebe's mom.

Lunch with NPS Deputy Director Daniel Wenk

BY BONNIE KENYON

McCarthy—Daniel N. Wenk, Deputy Director of the National Park Service, and his wife Barbara, visited the McCarthy/Kennecott area August 14 and 15. This was Director Wenk's first visit to Alaska and Meg Jensen, Superintendent of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve, was determined to give him a great introduction to Alaska's national parks.

Lunch at the McCarthy Lodge in downtown McCarthy was on the list of important stops for the visiting park service dignitaries. Vic Knox, Acting Regional Director, and Supt. Jensen were the tour guides introducing and bringing together a variety of local folks for the luncheon on August 14th.

Those from the McCarthy area in attendance included: Jeremy Keller, President of McCarthy Area Council; Neil Darish, McCarthy Lodge owner; Susan Smith, Citizens Advisory Committee on Federal Areas; Mike Loso, President of Wrangell Mountain Center's Board; Ben Shaine, President of Friends of Kennicott and his wife Marcie; Meg Hunt, President of McCarthy's Museum; Mark Vail, Representative at Cuyahoga Workshop, October 2008; and Rick and Bonnie Kenyon, Wrangell St. Elias News.

The National Park Service officials were: Deputy Director Dan Wenk, his wife Barbara; Superintendent Meg Jensen; Vic Knox, Acting Regional Director; Mike Tranel, Alaska Desk Officer based in Washington, DC; and

Stephens Harper, McCarthy District Ranger.

After the luncheon, the out-of-town visitors took a shuttle to Kennecott. A planned meeting with Ken Hutchison, Project Manager, was on the agenda. A walk-through of the Mill Building and a tour of Kennecott filled out the rest of the day's activities before retiring for the night at the Kennicott Glacier Lodge.

The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park (WRST) was one of two Alaskan parks Deputy Director Wenk visited while in the state. Prior to his traveling to our local area, he traveled to Denali National Park and Preserve and then met with WRST employees at the Copper Center Headquarters. On their way to McCarthy/Kennicott, the party stopped at Copper Moose Bed and Breakfast in Kenny Lake for dinner and an overnight.

On March 8, 2007, NPS Director Mary Bomar named Wenk as the agency's deputy director for operations. The agency has an annual budget of \$2.3 billion, 20,000 employees and the National Park System, which includes 390 national park sites covering more than 84 million acres. Wenk also oversees partnership programs such as the National Register of Historic Places and National Trails System.

Wenk began his NPS career as a landscape architect for the Denver Service Center in 1975 where he completed landscape construction plans for the St. Louis Gateway Arch, developed the management plan for William Howard Taft National His-

toric Site and facility designs at Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore, and Theodore Roosevelt, Rocky Mountain, and Dinosaur National Parks. Wenk also served as management assistant at Yellowstone National Park from 1979 to 1984 and successfully completed the Department of Interior's Manager Development Program (1984-1985). He was superintendent of Mount Rushmore National Memorial from 1985 to 2001. He accepted an appointment as manager of the Denver Service Center in Lakewood, Colorado, in December 2001. There he oversaw the agency's centralized planning, design, and construction services, and provided parks and regional offices with services including contracting and project management.

During his career, Wenk has received several awards and honors for his supervisory and management accomplishments, including the Meritorious Service Award, the second highest honor awarded by the Department of the Interior. Wenk earned a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from Michigan State University. He lives in Colorado with his wife Barbara. They have 3 grown children.

Upon accepting his most recent position as Deputy Director, Wenk stated: "I am excited to become part of Director Bomar's management team as we prepare for the National Park Service Centennial, and I look forward to working with the 20,000 men and women of the National Park Service to care for the special places in our nation."

Cordovans fly DC-3 to McCarthy

BY KENNY SMITH

On August 17th and 18th McCarthy was fortunate to entertain 43 overnight visitors from Cordova. This year Cordova celebrates its centennial year. It was 100 years ago that Michel Heney purchased half the surveyed town-site near the village of Eyak, and named it Cordova after the nearby Cordova Bay.

The enterprising Cordova Chamber of Commerce took this occasion to combine a number of historical events. Cordova and McCarthy long had a very close commercial and social relationship, primarily due to the 191-mile long Copper River and Northwestern Railway which originated at Cordova and terminated at the Kennecott Copper Corporation's mill site 4 miles north of McCarthy. McCarthy and Kennecott both became ghost towns when the mine and railroad closed down in November 1938.

In early 1929 Clayton Scott piloted a 5-passenger and three crew Keystone Loening Amphibian from Juneau to Cordova. This was the first flight across the Gulf of Alaska and the first aircraft to land in Cordova. During the 1950s Cordova Airlines launched the McCarthy Lodge and ran very popular two night

historic golden day excursions to McCarthy and Kennecott via the May Creek airport using Douglas DC-3s, which held 32 passenger seats. These excursions originated both from Cordova and Anchorage.

For this event the Cordova Chamber recreated those early excursions by chartering a DC-3. Two loads of visitors were transported into the McCarthy/ Kennecott historic areas where they were given local and mill tours and most spent the night as guests at the McCarthy Lodge. Neil Darish, lodge owner, commented that these groups of guests were some of the most delightful folks he's had. "They really came through in representing so well their small town of Cordova," said Neil.

During the flights one wedding and two vow renewals took place. The idea for the marriage came after the Cordovans realized that the first airborne marriage in Alaska took place in the summer of 1929 when Clayton Scott used the amphibian to give many Cordovans their first airplane ride.

The entire trip was kicked off the Saturday evening before the departure at a banquet held at the Powder House restaurant in Cordova. There was an overflow crowd of about 80 people in at-

tendance. The Chamber decorated the Powder House with all sorts of early aviation paraphernalia. Kenny Smith, from McCarthy, went to Cordova for this as he was the keynote speaker that evening. Kenny is the oldest son of "Mudhole Smith," the founder of Cordova Airlines and the person who originated the historic 1950 excursions after he was inspired by a visit to Knott's Berry Farm in California.

Troy Tirrell (Troy happened to also be the bridegroom on the flight and Torie Baker, his bride) and Martin Moe represented the Cordova Chamber and went to considerable effort in organizing this endeavor. They even had a Cordova Airlines brochure from the era advertising the excursions reprinted along with reprinted Cordova Air ticket stock which they gave to all participants.

Neil Darish was invited to ride on one of the return flights from McCarthy to Cordova. "It was awesome!" said Neil. "The mayor of Cordova (Timothy Joyce) drove the pilot and myself around Cordova, showing us points of interest." It was Neil's first visit to McCarthy's "sister city," he said, and he is more than eager to return—next time, long enough to do some fishing.

"If you see a man approaching you with the obvious intent of doing you good, you should run for your life." —Henry David Thoreau

"Gradually it was disclosed to me that the line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either—but right through every human heart." —Alexander Solzhenitsyn

"I say that the Second Amendment is, in order of importance, the first amendment. It is America's First Freedom, the one right that protects all the others." —Charlton Heston

Cordova Centennial DC-3 Adventure

BY CHARLIE BRANCH

The Cordova Centennial DC-3 Adventure to McCarthy-Kennecott was modeled after the Cordova Airlines excursion flights to the area in the late 1950s. The preflight briefing provided by Ken Smith at the aviation history dinner event hosted by the Powder House helped many passengers prepare for this historic event, the first DC-3 passenger flight to that area since 1962.

Ken Smith, son of Merle and Bertha Smith, introduced the Alaska Airlines movie on "Mudhole Smith," explaining sources and locales of photographs and footage used in this production. Appreciation and recognition of aviators still flying today was given, with special note of the safety of their operations. "Dad was not the founder of Cordova Air Service, or Cordova Airlines," Ken noted, "but was asked to become the manager following the death of M.D. Kirkpatrick in 1939." Merle K. Smith's interest in promoting tourism operations was encouraged by a visit to Knott's Berry Farm, after which he began the overnight excursion package trips to McCarthy-Kennecott in the 1950s.

From this bit of history, the plan for a reenactment began to take shape. Transnorthern Aviation at Anchorage International offered their Super DC-3 for August 17 and 18, 2008 charter (no other dates were available), Neil Darish of McCarthy Lodge and Ma Johnson's Hotel (the building purchased in Katalla, shipped to McCarthy and refur-

bished for accommodation by Merle Smith) made his facility available for lodging and dinner, and St. Elias Alpine Guides offered to work with us as the private concessionaire of the National Park Service in providing tours of the Kennecott mill building and town site. Troy Tirrell was chief push on this project, with assistance from Martin Moe of the Cordova Chamber of Commerce and Charlie Branch as Kennecott tour coordinator.

Given this summer's weather, it was as uncertain in the week before departure as it was when arrangements were first made in May whether the flight would actually take place. The skies cooperated, and the first of two flights departed Cordova on Sunday, August 17, 2008. In grand style, Flight A embarked its last passengers after their arrival in the gloss black 1938 Buick of Larry Kritchen, taking off from Mudhole Smith Airport to the east, following the railroad grade upriver to Chitina, thence up the Kennicott River to McCarthy. The purpose of the hanging paper bells and flowers in the passenger cabin was soon discovered as Cordova Magistrate Kay Adams rose to the front of the cabin to perform the wedding of Torie Baker and Troy Tirrell. This was the first in-flight wedding performed at Cordova since May 10, 1929, when Gorst Air Service provided Cordova with the air service of a Keystone Loening Air Yacht piloted by Clayton Scott and Gorst's chief mechanic, Gordon Graham. As reports of that day observed that

the wedding accompaniment was provided by the "wind in the wires, with the bass tones of the Wright Cyclone radial engine," the drone of two Pratt & Whitney 18-cylinder radial engines accompanied this 2008 version.

Once the wedding ceremony between Miles and Allen Glaciers was completed, Al and Judy Fulton renewed their vows in observance of their fortieth anniversary above Abercrombie Rapids. The work of Cordova's Magistrate would not be completed until the following day, when the ring exchange ceremony was performed for Jodie and Chris McDonnell as the Super DC-3 flew over Tebay Lakes on the return flight to Cordova.

Flight A landed at McCarthy Airport, to find the newlyweds greeted with a thrown mix of birdseed, and the plane rapidly unloaded to the waiting fleet of Wrangell Mountain Air vans providing shuttle service to the area, and the Super DC-3 returned to Cordova for Flight B passengers. Thirty-three passengers experienced the Kennecott Mill Building tour conducted by knowledgeable guides, descending steep boat-style staircases through the fourteen story building that once housed the physical process concentration of copper ore. A number of the group also visited the ammonia leaching plant across the rails from the mill building to view the plumbing and huge metal tanks of that chemical concentration process. We then returned to McCarthy, changed from dusty clothing for more

period garb, and migrated to an exquisite dinner prepared by the McCarthy Lodge chef and his staff. All took pleasure in the chef's words that his fish comes from Cordova. Our Sunday dinner ended after dark, and we retired to rooms decorated with photographs taken during the heyday of the mining and earlier exploration period.

Monday morning activity was left to the individual. After breakfast, Neil Darish conducted a group walking tour of the McCarthy Lodge and Saloon interior, and most of the town. We then walked up the street to the McCarthy Museum, and Ken Smith soon appeared to provide a tour of that facility, which includes numerous photographs, a model of the town and a railcar outside housing a display of mining tram cars and providing insight into the electrical systems of the mines and processing plant. As our passenger group

was leaving, our Super DC-3 crew arrived, introductions were made, and a pleasant discussion on the various models, engines and equipment of the DC-3, as well as the history of aviation was to be heard on the museum's deck.

All too soon it was time to board the shuttle vans and leave for the McCarthy Airport, load the plane and return home. But our pilot had a parting gift in store, as he banked to the right after takeoff and flew up the Kennicott Glacier to give us a view of the Mill Building and other structures that we visited the day before. Then we turned



Photo courtesy Charlie Branch

Presentation of Cordova Centennial Coin at Ma Johnson's Hotel. L-R in foreground Martin Moe of Cordova Chamber of Commerce, Neil Darish of McCarthy Chamber of Commerce, friendly dog and Mayor Tim Joyce of Cordova. In Background: Diane Gentry, Torie Baker, Jodie McDonnell.

down-river to pass over Tebay Lakes and the Bremner River on our way home.

Four tours, three days, three towns, and three in-flight ceremonies!

Tales from the Alaskan Wilderness!

BY JULIE LOXLEY

If you book a package holiday to Spain no one ever urges you to read a book about someone who died where you are planning to go. Alaska is different. We lost count of the number of people who said you must read that book about the young man who died there! (*Into the Wild*) After much indecision about whether this was a good idea, my husband Chris and I finally read it just before we went into the wilderness ourselves.

Most Americans who have spoken to us think he was an idiot. I also think that he was so influenced by what he read, that

had he decided to read Tolstoy first, he may still be alive. The man who wrote his story is not viewed as an intellectual giant either, given that during his own solo wilderness expedition in Alaska, he managed to burn down part of his tent whilst smoking a joint!

We city slickers however, managed to survive the Alaskan Wilderness! We have seen beautiful scenery, wolf, moose and even Harrison Ford—and celebrated the 4th of July!

We decided to camp near McCarthy & Kennicott in the Wrangell-St Elias National Park in South East Alaska, which of-

fered the opportunity to venture into the Alaskan wilderness.

McCarthy is a small town at the end of a 60 mile gravel road, circled by mountains and glaciers. It has approximately 45 permanent year round inhabitants who brave the minus 50 winter temperatures. The resident population swells a little in summer with people who choose to spend their summers servicing the tourists in the one bar, hotel, mercantile and takeaway, or else as wilderness guides or pilots. Most leave to live somewhere warmer in winter.

McCarthy looks like the film set of a classic Hollywood western. It also has a really peaceful vibe, perhaps because of the many dogs

lazing in the sun around town. They seem to live like a town pack, which has a noticeable pecking order when the occasional scuffle breaks out amongst them!

Kennicott is another 5 miles up the road, an old copper mining town, now boasting one posh hotel and restaurant we couldn't afford, plus two wilderness guide companies and old tumble down mine buildings, which are all painted red, like something out of the set of "High Plains Drifter" with Clint Eastwood—"Welcome to hell!"

Another thing we loved as we drove towards McCarthy was that virtually every road sign had bullet holes in them. Some were so riddled with holes they were difficult to read! One public toilet even had a sign inside "The windows in this restroom are bullet proof for your comfort!" (This was right next to the window with the bullet holes in it!)

This was the wild West! **Into the Wild!**

We had booked 4 wilderness trips during our 12 day stay, with recovery time scheduled in between.

We chose Kennicott Wilderness Guides because to us they had an un-commercial feel and to genuinely want to share their love of the wilderness, which indeed they did. The other guide service sported red jackets and reminded us too much of "Wally Land" in "National Lampoon's Vacation" with Chevy Chase. Far too

"corporate" for us. We had come to escape that!

During our first hike with Guide Gabriel, my husband Chris learned that he never wanted to hike in crampons again and I learned that it wasn't a good idea to bring salmon sandwiches for our packed lunch, as bears could smell their favorite food for miles! We hiked across the glacier, bush-whacked and then clambered to a beautiful waterfall view on the side of a mountain where we had lunch, before heading back. This took over 8 hours in total. The

over loose rocks on an often sliding slope. It was grueling and incredibly hard work, but we were encouraged when Betsy told us that we had done well. Indeed quicker than a 22 year old Texan who had been so exhausted after just 4 hours that Betsy had to carry his spare boots back for him!

Hiking in Alaska requires that you are prepared for any weather and drops in temperature even in summer—so back packs with extra clothing, rain gear and plenty of water and food meant a heavy back pack even for a day hike. For

our fly-in hikes, we had to be prepared to get stuck out in the wilderness for up to a week if bad weather prevented the plane from landing to pick us up.

The lake lived up to its name. On this day the water was motionless and the color of steel, and reflected huge hunks of ice

which had broken off the nearby glacier. We decided to return via a different route with Betsy. This involved crossing one glacier (wearing crampons), to walk on the flatter moraine between two glaciers. [Moraine is rock which glaciers carve and churn up as they move, so that the edges of a glacier become covered with a layer of broken rock.]

Glaciers have many features, all beautiful, but make walking them very hard work. They aren't flat as one might imagine—but have hills and valleys in their ice. Their surface, if you trip over your crampons as I did, is rough like a cheese grater and easily cuts the



"Steve McQueen," AKA Gary Green!

Photo courtesy Julie Loxley

scenery was amazing and it was surprisingly warm on the ice under a hot summer sun without a cloud in the deep blue sky. Gabriel told us many facts about the geography of the area, but the most amazing to us was about rivers. Apparently if you divide the length of a river from start to finish as the crow flies by the actual length it travels—it always equals pie—for every river in the world. Amazing. Surely that must be by design rather than by accident?

Betsy our 25 year old second guide took us up the side of a glacier to a place called Erie Lake. This involved a 4 hour scramble

skin! They have crevices, some are big enough that if you slip, you'll disappear forever! There are beautiful pools of water in the ice, which are bright blue as if painted like the floor of a swimming pool. The summer melt also creates beautiful bright blue meandering streams of fast flowing water, which tastes cold and sweet. Then there are the moulins. These are circular swirling water falls which swirl downwards for hundreds of feet like a helter-skelter deep inside the ice. Some are small and some are wide enough to fall down. We picked up rocks as big as we could carry to throw down the moulins, so we could hear them thunder and echo as they bounced and fell hundreds of feet down into the glacier. You couldn't get too close for fear you'd fall in. Sometimes we'd throw our rocks, but they would land right on the edge and we'd have to throw other rocks to dislodge them.

Some glacier ice is beautifully blue, because it becomes so dense from thousands of years of being compacted by the weight of new ice, that only the blue light of the spectrum is refracted.

We also found bear pooh on the ice. Mummy bears like to teach their cubs about the glacier too!

The walk back via this route took another 6 hours, making our day hike 10 hours. And it started to rain and get really cold. It became exhausting to hike whilst wearing crampons.

Betsy our guide picked her way across rocks and glacier ice as gracefully and sure footed as a Gazelle, while I followed behind resembling a hippopotamus in Disney's "fantasia" sometimes needing a hand from Betsy to help me up or down a particularly scary or steep bit, or sometimes having

Chris (my husband) push me upwards from behind with his hands on both buttocks! Betsy had been a Rugby player and rock climber. She was a tall, slim build of solid muscle. She instilled confidence and took my hand and led me across the edges of ice crevices I never would have believed I could walk. Chris said she looked so strong that he had no doubt if I had slipped towards a crevice, she would have held my weight. (But just in case he had increased my life insurance.) All our guides were in their 20s, it was a strange feeling being twice their age and putting our lives in their hands, but they had such a calm maturity and confidence about their skills in the wilderness that I never doubted them. Based upon many years hiking experience since childhood, they also knew more than we did ourselves about what we were capable of, and certainly helped me do things I never believed I could do.

At one point I hit a wall and would have happily died of exhaustion. It's amazing what a few complex carbs can do to get you over this! Strangely, at the end of the hike I felt a great sense of achievement. I did something I never thought I was capable of or fit enough to do, and was quicker than some people half my age. I still don't know if I enjoyed it, or whether it was torture! But I'd do it again just to see the moulins.

At the end of our hike, Betsy asked what our plans were for that evening. I replied, "Surviving the night without dying of exhaustion!"

For our third hike we were flown further into the wilderness (Skolai) by Gary Green our pilot from McCarthy Air. Gary's aircraft was a 1953 Cessna 180. The cockpit looked like the dash of our old 1969 E-type Jag! When I saw him

"tickling" the carburetor, I thought, "Oh my God; it's like my old British bike engine—we're doomed and we're all going to die!" Luckily for us Gary was like a gentleman cowboy, as cool as Steve McQueen. We barely noticed we'd taken off. His landing in the wilderness on a tiny bumpy grassy air strip was smoother than most we have experienced on tarmac.

During this hike with Betsy we had the privilege to see a beautiful orange and white colored wolf. Unfortunately it soon spotted us and ran away with its beautiful long tail flowing behind it like a veil. The scenery was breath taking, glaciers, mountains. We could see for more than 15 miles. We went prospecting for gold and precious stones in the streams flowing off the mountains. In Alaska if a claim hasn't been made on a piece of land anything you find is yours! We found lots of jade and other beautiful rocks. The area is volcanic and there are rocks of every color imaginable. We filled the pockets of our rucksacks with those we couldn't bear to part with and walked back to the air strip.

While we were waiting for Gary's plane to pick us up, Betsy told us that she had not wanted to mention it at the beginning of our hike, but in the same area a man had disappeared without a trace the previous Autumn. Twenty five people did ground grid searches for him along with aerial searches in helicopters for 7 days, but all they found was his kit—not even a bone was recovered. As he was alone, it's possible he fell and was injured, in which case he will have become bear or wolf food. But, there is no plausible theory about what happened to him.

Our guides also told us that all the stuff on bear safety, about how double-bagging your packed lunch

and using bear bins doesn't stop bears smelling this from many miles away. Hanging food 15 feet between two trees is also useless. All you can rely on is the bear being unfamiliar and scared of humans, and wishing to avoid us. "A fed bear is a dead bear." They have to be shot if they have become familiar with human food or garbage, as they become a risk to humans. Personally, I think bears are over engineered for an animal that mainly eats berries. They are huge with large sharp claws; a grizzly can rip your head off with one swipe of his paw or gut you like a fish. On another trip one of our guides had seen 8 grizzlies in the area!

Unfortunately, Gary arrived as planned—we wished we could have been stuck out there for a few more days. "Are you the same weight as when you went out?" Gary asked. I thought, "Yes, we all are, but we have a few extra pounds of rocks!"

Chris was our last guide. We flew into a place called Fosse. A place that perhaps only 15 people had been to in the last year. Strangely, mobile phones worked in this area, so Chris phoned in to report we had arrived safely. He wound up his boss by pretending he had misunderstood his brief and just left us in the wilderness and was walking back alone. (We were 5 days walk from civilization and only accessible by air!) Just before the phone signal was lost, Chris managed to reassure his panicking boss that he was joking. Again we saw amazing mountain views. We climbed the side of a steep grassy mountain. Again our guide instilled confidence in me I didn't know I had. When we got to the top I looked down and ex-

plained to our guide that I was scared of heights and the last time I had been up a mountain (by chair lift) I had had a panic attack and perhaps I should have mentioned this before we had climbed up?! Chris just laughed and broke into "the hills are alive with the sound of music" as we followed him to his favorite spot where we had lunch and watched as the clouds cleared and more snow-capped mountains appeared in the skyline. I wondered why most people would rather look at the inside of a shopping mall than views like this? Then I was grateful that we were left to see this beautiful paradise in peace.

Chris took us back down the mountain via a different route alongside a beautiful waterfall, which looked like it had been transplanted from a Zen garden. The waterfall meandered down a rich green incline of moss sprinkled with spring flowers. As we kneeled to fill our water bottles, the moss cradled our knees like soft sponge. We imagined what it would be like to sleep on this soft moss in the warm sunlight next to this sweet tasting ice water. I expected Puck to come skipping along any moment. I imagined I had been transported to a corner of Eden. Here we were standing in this beautiful place in the middle of a mountainous wilderness. What a privilege.

Chris, like our other guides, told us the names of all the wild flowers and we sampled those which were edible. It was strange to hear our bearded guides gushing about nature and beautiful wild flowers. We've met few men who are as confident about their masculinity. My husband fit right in carrying my pink rucksack! Bet-

sy informed us that Alaskan men are good home makers and often good cooks. However, there is also a saying in Alaska about the men—"The odds are good, but the goods are odd!"

We finished our hike with Chris by collecting more amazing rocks. We thought it would be great to be rescued by helicopter, so we debated whose leg we should break. Chris our guide thought he should break one of ours because it would be easier because we were older (cheeky bugger!). We suggested his because he was younger and it would heal quicker. In the end we couldn't agree, so we waited for Gary (Steve McQueen) to arrive in his airplane. We boarded with yet more pounds of rocks hidden in our rucksacks!

When we landed, Gary told us that Harrison Ford had arrived in town flying his own airplane. My eyes popped out of my head.

"McCarthy is a cool place," Gary told us, looking rather cool himself in his white Stetson, leather flying Jacket, faded Levi's and cowboy boots. (Harrison's aircraft was rather bigger—and younger—than Gary's.)

As I write this, we are still in Alaska. We have fallen in love with the land. It will be hard to leave...

"There is one word of advice and caution to be given those intending to visit Alaska... If you are old, go by all means, but if you are young, wait. The scenery of Alaska is much grander than anything else of its kind in the world, and it is not wise to dull one's capacity for enjoyment by seeing the finest first." (Henry Gannett, Harriman Alaska Expedition 1899)

Enough said.

"Faith certainly tells us what the senses do not, but not the contrary of what they see; it is above, not against them."—Blaise Pascal

The Salmon Weir at Long Lake

BY MOLLY MCCORMICK

There has been a salmon weir in the outlet to Long Lake since 1974. It was initially installed and operated for the first two years by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG). In 1976, when ADFG was no longer able to fund the operation of the weir, Cliff Collins, a local private citizen who owned the land where the weir is located, voluntarily assumed the responsibility of data collection and maintaining records of salmon migration through the weir. He and his family operated it continuously from 1976 through 2003. That year Mr. Collins was 93 years old and felt that he was no longer able to continue the weir's operation. He contacted Wrangell-St. Elias National Park (WRST) and an agreement was formed between the Collins Family Trust, the Copper River Watershed Project (CRWP) and the park to keep the weir running. Since 2004, funding has been provided under the Subsistence Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (administered by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management). Starting in 2003, the weir operators began sampling sockeye salmon migrating through the weir for age, sex and length composition according to a sampling protocol established by ADFG. Cooperators in the project include CRWP and Prince William Sound Science Center.

According to Ken Roberson, retired Fisheries Biologist for ADFG, who installed the original weir in 1974, the Long Lake sockeye population has the longest known annual spawning duration (April through August) of any in North America. Throughout the winter, they spawn along the northern shore in a small area of the lake which rarely freezes.

The thirty-four years of weir data show annual variations in the

abundance of Long Lake sockeye runs ranging from 4,400 to almost 50,000. The graph on the right compares the number of sockeye salmon counted at the Long Lake weir to the total number of fish that are counted at the Miles Lake sonar counter. Sonar was first used by ADFG at Miles Lake in 1978. The counter is usually installed around the middle of May and removed from the water in early August. Miles Lake is located at mile 48 of the Copper River Highway outside of Cordova, Alaska just downstream of the Million Dollar Bridge.

Weirs have been used since prehistoric times as a way to capture fish for food. A weir is basically a fence across a stream that allows manipulation of the migration of fish up and down the stream. Early weirs were composed of rocks, wood and/or roots. At its simplest a weir is composed of a horizontal framework with vertical posts that can be installed or removed, depending on whether you want to allow the fish a passageway to either side of the weir or whether you want to keep them on one side of the weir.

The Long Lake weir is called a rigid picket weir. The physical structure has changed little since it was first constructed in 1974. A sampling box was added onto the upstream side of the weir when we started sampling the migrating fish in 2003. Stream flows in the outlet creek, called Salmon Creek by the Collins family, fluctuate only slightly and water velocity is low (except for during the flood event of 2006). A walkway is constructed over the upstream side of the wear structure

Year	Miles Lake Sonar (all fish)	Long Lake Weir Counts (sockeye salmon)
1974		4,684
1975		6,768
1976		24,689
1977		8,624
1978	107,011	15,458
1979	237,173	46,110
1980	276,538	39,038
1981	535,263	12,659
1982	467,306	28,047
1983	545,724	28,133
1984	536,806	10,637
1985	436,313	21,131
1986	509,275	16,997
1987	483,478	13,633
1988	488,398	7,543
1989	607,797	14,981
1990	581,895	21,664
1991	579,435	11,511
1992	601,952	10,091
1993	797,902	16,101
1994	715,181	18,289
1995	599,265	17,923
1996	906,867	6,309
1997	1,148,079	4,443
1998	866,957	8,441
1999	848,921	12,922
2000	587,592	8,645
2001	833,569	26,999
2002	819,000	49,747
2003	695,233	4,604
2004	669,646	19,215
2005	854,268	7,770
2006	959,731	9,239
2007	926,438	7,846
2008	717,799	data not available yet

where the person counting the fish can stand. When counting fish at the weir, 2 or 3 of the vertical posts or pickets are removed and the fish are counted as they swim through the opening.

The crew tries to sample at least 10% of the sockeye that migrate through the weir each year. This data is sent to the Commercial Fishery Division of ADFG in Cordova, Alaska which analyzes it for us. The sockeye are aged with a scale sample and by measuring the length of the fish. The scales can be read like a tree core sample; yearly growth rings are visible and able to be counted. The majority of the sockeye returning to Long Lake to spawn are in the 1.3 age-class: they have spent 1 year in the fresh water and then 3 years in the ocean before they return to the lake. The second largest age-class of sockeye in the lake is age 1.2.

The migratory timing of the Long Lake population of sockeye is late. The first fish doesn't show up

until early to mid-August and the last one is usually counted in early October. Consequently the weir isn't installed until mid-July, and then it is left in until mid-October. Migratory timing of the run has been later than average since 2004.

There is also a run of coho or silver salmon that starts migrating into the lake in late September.

Since 2004 the crew working on the Long Lake weir has consisted of several local residents as well as the folks living at the Collins homestead during the summer months. One person can easily count the fish as they migrate through the weir; sampling usually takes place with three crew members.

In 2007 otolith collection was added to the sampling procedures at the weir. Otoliths are small, free floating pairs of bones in a fish's head that are called "ear bones" and that are used by the fish to maintain balance. The otoliths also have yearly growth rings like the scales and can be analyzed to age the fish. But unlike the scales they are not exposed to the outside and are not worn away by the elements, and so they often give a more accurate age reading. The otoliths are removed from sockeye carcasses by cutting into the top of the head of the carcass and lifting them out with tweezers. These are also sent to ADFG in



Long Lake weir, 2007

Photo courtesy Molly McCormick

Cordova to be analyzed. In 2007, 125 pairs of otoliths were collected. This sampling protocol will continue in future years.

Water temperature and stream depth data are also collected on a daily basis. During the four years of data that we have the staff gauge depth has varied from a low of 1.0 feet in 2004 to a high of 3.4 feet in 2005. There is no record of the height of the flooding in 2006: the gauge was underwater. Water temperatures ranged from in the upper

70s° F in late July to the mid 30s° F in late October.

Molly McCormick has worked as a Fisheries Biologist at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve since 2001. She has been an Alaskan resident since 1973 and a Kenny Lake resident since 1988. She is a volunteer at the Kenny Lake Public Library and serves on its Board of Directors as well as on the KCHU/KXXM/KXGA Public Radio Board of Directors. She grows and sells produce and flowers at the Copper Center Farmers' Market in the summers.

Subsistence hunting permits for WRST available

Federal subsistence registration permits for permit hunts in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve are available at the park's Visitor Center in Copper Center and at the Slana Ranger Station. The Visitor Center is open seven days a week during the summer from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; the Slana Ranger Station is open seven days a week through September, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In the McCarthy-Kennecott area, contact the Kennecott Ranger Office at 554-4437 for permit information.

Please bring your State of Alaska resident hunting license, a photo ID (such as a drivers license), and proof of your local physical address when you come to get a permit.

Permit applicants must be federally qualified subsistence users and meet special eligibility requirements for lands managed by the National Park Service. They must have their primary permanent residence in rural Alaska, and their community must be listed in the "Species/Customary & Traditional

Use Determination" column of the Federal Subsistence Management Regulations Booklet for Wildlife for the intended species and location. Individuals wanting to hunt on National Park lands (as opposed to in the National Preserve) must additionally have their primary residence in one of the park's 23 resident zone communities.

For more information, contact the park headquarters at (907) 822-5234.

Princess video wins award

Princess Cruises "Heart of Alaska" Video Wins "Best Cinematography" Award at New York Independent Film Festival

SANTA CLARITA, CALIF.

In addition to the widespread praise already received from the film and travel communities, Princess Cruises' *The Heart of Alaska* video has earned a special level of recognition by winning the "Best Cinematography" award at the New York Independent Film & Video Festival, one of the largest independent film festivals in the world. *The Heart of Alaska* beat out nearly 100 Best Film entries for the prestigious award at the festival's recent Los Angeles competition.

The Heart of Alaska is a unique high-definition documentary that showcases the Princess cruisetour experience by beautifully depicting the land, wildlife and people of Alaska with dramatic visuals and music. The 26-minute film, photographed and directed by Princess video pro-

ducer Scott Martin, features fascinating interviews with some of the people who make the state unique, as they tell their stories of life in the untamed wilderness of Alaska's interior.

"We're delighted that the judges at the New York Independent Film & Video Festival recognized how superbly this film was photographed," said Jan Swartz, Princess Cruises senior vice president. "*The Heart of Alaska* may well be the most unique cruise destination video in the industry because it uses a documentary style to tell its story through local voices. With stunning photography and music, it's just like something you'd find on a nature channel...or in a theater."

Viewers meet rangers from both Denali and Wrangell-St. Elias National Parks, Alaska natives, home-

steads and dog mushers who share an insiders' perspective of life in the 49th state. Other voices include a bush pilot, a captain from Fairbanks' iconic riverboat and a mountain climber.

The film also brings the audience up close to the wildlife of Denali National Park, including bears, moose, dall sheep, and caribou. Soaring photography takes viewers high above the world's tallest peaks, including "The Great One," Mt. McKinley.

The Heart of Alaska is the first in a series of Princess videos offering a unique look at the company's destinations. It can be purchased aboard the line's Alaska ships or at any of Princess' five Alaska wilderness lodges.

Alaska State Museums' hands-on loan program

The Alaska State Museums' Hands-on Loan Program is a special collection distinct from the museums' permanent collections, consisting of objects, photos, and posters for use in interactive educational settings. The museums are pleased to announce a new online searchable database for checking out educational objects for classroom use.

The program is available to Alaska teachers, students, librarians, home schoolers, and museums. Objects will not be shipped out of state. There is no charge for the service except for return shipping costs. The materials currently available represent Alaska's Native cultures.

Objects in the Hands-on Loan Program include baskets, drums, moccasins, mittens and mukluks, bowls, games, clothing, kayak and

hunting equipment models, dolls, ulus and animal hides which may be used for classroom activities or displays. There is a photograph of each object and information is still being added to the descriptive narrative to help borrowers decide which materials they want to order.

The online database will allow users to type in key words or to browse the entire database. For example, a user might type in "basket" as a key word and then either select a specific cultural group such as Northwest Coast, or "ALL," to view what baskets are available for checking out. The following categories are available for borrowers to choose from: Aleut/Alutiiq, Athabasean, Northwest Coast, Yup'ik/Inupiat (Eskimo), and Natural History.

In order to check out objects, a user first creates a user ID and a

password, and identifies the institution they are associated with. They will also be asked to provide phone numbers, email addresses and mailing addresses. The next time the site is accessed they will simply have to log in using the password they created.

Also on the site is a place for users to leave feedback and curriculum ideas or see how others have used the objects. This information will be particularly helpful for developing lesson plans and discovering new and creative ways of using this exceptional resource.

Loan items may be reserved for a full two weeks. Special arrangements for longer loans can be made during the summer months when requests are at a minimum.

The website is currently available through the link at <http://www.museums.state.ak.us/>.

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THE MAIL SERVICE

Post Office Inspector Makes Visit

A. R. Butler, a post office inspector of Seattle, arrived on the Bertha on Tuesday, to inquire into the mail service situation at this place. Mr. Butler found, what the people of Katalla have known for many months-that the mail service so far as Katalla is concerned, is pretty nearly a farce. The situation was gone over thoroughly by Postmaster Williams and Mr. Butler, and the latter stated that he would do everything in his power to secure an improvement in the service including a regular mail by the Bertha.

As a matter of fact Katalla has no "regular" mail service; has not had any since McCleary, the second assistant postmaster general, instantly, ignorantly and fatuously caused it to be obliterated last January, through secret influences and misrepresentation the source of which he has persistently refused to divulge, probably for the reason that to do so would still further disclose his utter unfitness for the office which he encumbers. Since last January the Alaska Coast company has been carrying the mail without compensation, simply as an accommodation for the people of this town, whose frequent appeals for something approaching a square deal for themselves and the steamship company, now doing gratuitous work for a great and rich but not a good government.

The direct result of a mail service so hap-hazard was shown recently in the disappearance at different times of two packages of

registered mail between Seattle and Katalla. Postmaster Williams thinks there were probably 200 pieces of mail contained in the missing packages, and if the department has to pay \$25 for each lost letter or package, that sum being the amount of its liability for lost registered mail, it may result in the awakening of the department from its somnolent indifference to the Alaska mail service.

BARELY ESCAPED DEATH BY GAS

Henry Stafold of Katalla, and James King, a Yakataga miner, were nearly asphyxiated by inhaling gasoline fumes early Monday morning, on board the tug Corsair, bound to this port from Yakataga. Stafold and King had lain down in the cabin and gone to sleep, and some later the engine stopped and Capt. Auer went below to see what was the matter. He did not notice anything wrong with the men until after he had started the engine, when he saw that they lay rigid with eyes staring blankly. Hastily summoning Ed. Connor and Billy Crooker, Stafold and King were carried to the deck and the work of reviving them was begun, and it required a full half hour to restore them to consciousness.

King was on his way outside, and he left on the Bertha Monday afternoon.

Finished The Examination

George W. Evans the Seattle coal expert, came down from the coal country Monday evening, having finished an exhaustive examination of the coal fields for outside parties. Mr. Evans declined to be

interviewed as to the result of his investigations, but it is surmised that his report to his clients will be favorable. Among the properties examined was the McDonald mine on Bering lake. Mr. Evans left on the Bertha Tuesday afternoon for Valdez, from which place he will take the Yucatan for Seattle.

READY TO SHIP KATALLA COAL

The work of repairing the damage to McDonald's coal mine, caused by the explosion last spring, has been completed and the mine is ready to ship coal. Mr. McDonald who came down from the mine last night, expects to begin shipping coal for the Katalla company just as soon as the company can send up barges. The mine can now easily produce 300 tons a day of the best steam coal west of the Mississippi.

Green's Big Poke

On Wednesday of this week M. A. Green of Katalla paid to P. M. Mullen, receiver of the Juneau land office, \$57,000 in gold coin. This money goes to Uncle Sam as the purchase price for coal lands in the famous Katalla coal fields.-Transcript, Aug. 29.

Local and Personal

The buildings at the wireless station on Martin island have been painted a railroad red.

Thos. G. White, the well known pioneer, has painted his big house on White slough white.

The Herald this week received some very fine trout from Mayor M. W. Dietrich of Carbon Center.

Ducks and geese are becoming plentiful, and hunters are bringing them into town in large numbers.

Chief Surgeon Whiting of the Copper River road has established a temporary hospital at Abercrombie canyon, where a number of men are employed.

According to The Herald's weather record for the month of August, there twenty fine days during the month, on which no rain fell and there were no storms of any kind.

A large quantity of 30-pound rails are being shipped by the Katalla company to Copper river.

They will be used in constructing the branch road from the main line to the Bonanza copper mines.

The Herald acknowledges the receipt of some fine samples of preserved native strawberries from Mrs. O. L. Willoughby. The berries are large and of fine color, and are on exhibition at The Herald office.

Mayor Dietrich of Carbon Center the other day brought down a wild goose on the wing, several hundred yards distant, with a 30-30 rifle, a feat which amazed Chas. B. Burt, the New York capitalist, who witnessed it.

Messrs. Bren and Davis, who have been up in the coal fields for the past two weeks, returned Thursday. The gentlemen are from Pennsylvania, but they kept the object of their visit here strictly to themselves. They have, therefore, been "sized up" locally as coal experts for the Guggenheims and others, inspectors of mineral surveys, millionaires' sons traveling incog, etc. S. C. Chezum has been acting as their guide, philosopher and friend.

SEPTEMBER 5, 1908

KATALLA COAL FOR RAILROAD

Within a few days T. P. McDonald will begin shipping coal from his Bering lake coal mine to camp 7, Martin river, for the Copper River railroad. He had a conference

with Chief Engineer Hawkins last Sunday morning on board the Pennsylvania, on which Mr. Hawkins was a passenger for Cordova, and he stated that he would take all the coal that Mr. McDonald could deliver inside Sottuk bar during the remainder of the season. Mr. Hawkins also agreed to furnish a number of barges for moving the coal from the mine. The railroad is using a thousand tons of coal a month, and Mr. Hawkins is anxious to get as much Katalla coal as possible.

News Notes

The government has begun the construction of a lighthouse and wireless station on Orca island, nine miles from Cordova. The wireless station will be of 20-kilowatt power, and it will be able to reach long distance.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1908

Donohoe Well Pleased

Denis Donohoe, head of the Donohoe Exploration company, owner of copper properties in the Kennicott district, returned from a trip to the interior, accompanied by John E. Barrett, also interested in the company, says the Prospector. Mr. Donohoe is not only well pleased with the showing resultant upon the season's work on his own properties, but declares no longer is there question as to the future of the interior copper district. He says that the work done on his own and other claims in the Kennicott district establishes beyond the peradventure of a doubt that the surface showings continue in depth and that high values exist. Until this year Mr. Donohoe was inclined to be skeptical as to the result consequent upon seeking depth.

NEWS NOTES OF THE WORLD

Thomas A. Edison is confident that aerial navigation will soon be an accomplished fact.

Lieut. Selfidge was killed and Orville Wright, inventor of the Wright aeroplane was seriously injured at Washington a few days ago. While attempting to make a flight, and when the airship had risen 75 feet the propellor broke and the machine dropped to the ground.

OCTOBER 10, 1908

A Big Coal Mine Promised

A. B. Hunt was in town this week from Carbon mountain where the Alaska Petroleum & Coal company is developing the Hunt coal mine, one of the most promising properties of that section. the tunnel is now in 300 feet, and there is nine feet of solid coal, as fine as ever was seen, anywhere. "We have a coal mine beyond a doubt," said Mr. Hunt. "Satisfactory progress is being made with the work which will be prosecuted according to present plans some time longer."

OCTOBER 17, 1908

RAILROAD WORK ACROSS THE COPPER

Work on the Copper River & Northwestern, at last accounts, was being pushed on the west side of the Copper river, about five miles of the road having been graded from Glacier lake, near Childs glacier, up the river. A scow was being used to transport supplies and material across the lake, but the recent cold snap may have closed it to navigation. The work of grading through Abercrombie canyon, has been completed. Many laborers are constantly leaving and the construction force is short-handed.

A report comes from Cordova that three steamers will be operated on the Copper from Abercrombie canyon to the Chittina next year, and railroad work in the Copper river country will be concentrated up the Chittina to the Bonanza mines. A townsite has been located at the mouth of the Chittina.

OCTOBER 24, 1908

Inside the Gray Matter of an Arctic Grayling

On the south bank of the Klutina River, near Copper Center — I'm sitting on a muddy rock, trying to think like an arctic grayling. Nothing's coming to mind.

A couple of guys expended a bit more energy trying to understand grayling in the late 1960s. They emerged with some interesting insights into the behavior of one of Alaska's most popular game fish.

Gian Vascotto, then with the University of Manitoba, and James Morrow, then a researcher with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, spent much of the summer of 1968 on their bellies, peering into McManus Creek in Interior Alaska. Using "a brushy barrier for concealment," they studied six pools of the river in great detail, lying motionless to watch grayling for up to 14 hours at a time.

In what must have been a buggy but rewarding summer, the researchers found that the biggest grayling seemed to call the shots. Large grayling always lurked closest to the bottom of the deepest pools, while smaller fish hung at medium depths. The real shrimps were found near shore.

Vascotto and Morrow were able to recognize individual gray-

ling, and they found that grayling usually had a favorite spot they occupied all summer. If a fish was caught, "the subordinate ranks moved up and occupied new territories."

If a pool was disturbed, the grayling all congregated in the deepest part of the pool. When the coast seemed clear, the smallest fish were the first to venture back, boldly occupying the deepest parts of the pool. Then the researchers noted an odd ritual as the larger grayling returned. A larger grayling would move alongside the smaller grayling as if it were preparing to parallel park. The larger fish drifted sideways toward the smaller one until they were practically touching. One of the fish, usually the large one, would then swim about 15 centimeters ahead and arch its body into a bow, with the concave side toward the smaller fish. Holding this half-moon position, the larger grayling drifted backwards and sank below the smaller grayling. The larger grayling then rose from below the smaller one, which then drifted backward. The smaller one would then drift out of the picture or pull up parallel and take the lead role in the same strange ritual. The researchers watched the rapid display five different times.

They also watched the grayling feed and checked the stomach contents of the fish to come up with the following conclusions, which may interest a few anglers:

- ❖ Grayling fed very little, if at all, on rainy days.
- ❖ Large grayling at the head of a pool rarely traveled far to check out drifting food items. Instead, they turned to face the oncoming object and waited for it to reach them.
- ❖ When large grayling went up for food on the surface, they ascended slowly, mouthed the food slowly, and sank only slightly faster than they rose.
- ❖ Smaller grayling subject to more competition, would often leap out of the water to chase flying insects. In one case, "a 10-cm fish chased a crane fly for 2 ½ meters, jumping out of the water four times and capturing the insect in the air on the last leap."

I'll need the same determination as that grayling to cross the roaring Klutina River tomorrow. Or maybe I'll just use the bridge.

This column is provided as a public service by the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks, in cooperation with the UAF research community. Ned Rozell is a science writer at the institute.

"Calling fishing a hobby is like calling brain surgery a job."—Paul Schullery

"Three-fourths of the Earth's surface is water, and one-fourth is land. It is quite clear that the good Lord intended us to spend triple the amount of time fishing as taking care of the lawn."—Chuck Clark

Kennecott's John Denver Tribute

BY TERRY BLOSSER

The June 20 John Denver Tribute in Kennecott's Recreation Hall attracted well over 100 people to its community potluck social, movie showing, and two-hour concert featuring the famed performer's compositions by an ensemble of local vocalists and musicians.

A silent auction with many items donated by McCarthy-Kennecott businesses raised almost \$600 in support of the educational, research and arts activities of the Wrangell Mountains Center, the event's co-sponsor along with the National Park Service.

Tribute organizers Dave Hollis of McCarthy and Terry Blosser of Havre, Montana conceived the tribute during backcountry treks in the Wrangells last summer. Their vision was fully realized, thanks to solid community support and volunteerism.

Denver visited the Alaska wilderness in 1975, in refuge from his stardom, and wrote several songs in tribute to his Far North experiences. Denver died October, 1997 in the crash of his experimental plane.

A spirit of kindness, warmth and light humor permeated the celebration. The evening began with a potluck social generously assisted by culinary contributions from Kennecott Glacier Lodge, McCarthy Lodge, and the Wrangell Mountains Center's Jared Steyaert.

The standing room only crowd then delighted in the movie clip that featured Denver's visit to McCarthy and Kennecott. Scenes featuring the musician scampering about the old copper mill in a "Keystone Cops" chase sequence drew much laughter from the crowd.

Titled "Alaska: America's Child," the movie with Denver's environmental advocacy themes was telecast by ABC Sports in 1977, at the peak of his world-wide fame.

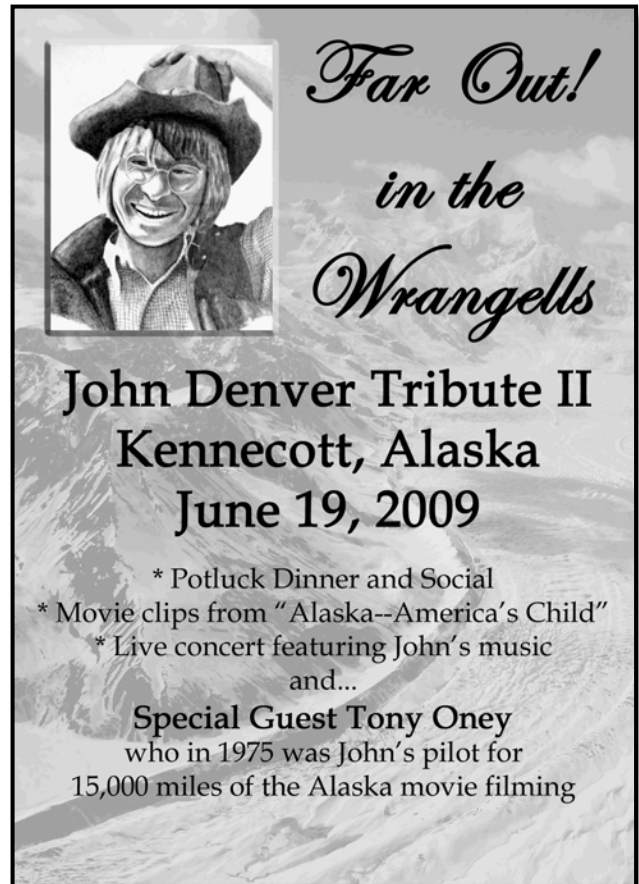
Longtime McCarthy resident Eric Wasserman spoke to the crowd about the impromptu concerts that Denver gave for locals at the Golden Nugget Saloon. He related how the artist's charm and wit transcended a difficult era as locals pondered a National Park and more development in the region.

Local musicians then took to the stage, and the audience was treated to almost two hours of fondly-recalled John Denver tunes.

"Our volunteer sound man Chris Epton from Glacier View Campground did a super job with the sound system designed by the late Ed LaChapelle for the Friends of Kennecott. The old Rec' Hall was rockin'," said Hollis.

The ensemble players and vocalists included Paul Hanis, Rebecca Hodges, Jake Schlapfer, Rebecca Boniek, Diane Malik and Terry Blosser. Their closing renditions of "Take Me Home Country Roads," and, "Wrangell Mountain Song," drew a standing ovation.

Other highlights included Hodge's strong vocals on love songs,



Far Out!
in the
Wrangells

John Denver Tribute II
Kennecott, Alaska
June 19, 2009

* Potluck Dinner and Social
* Movie clips from "Alaska--America's Child"
* Live concert featuring John's music and...

Special Guest Tony Oney
who in 1975 was John's pilot for
15,000 miles of the Alaska movie filming

Flyer for next year's tribute

Hanis' yodeling on "Calypso," Schlapfer's virtuoso guitar playing, and 12-year old Rebecca Boniek's dedications of songs to her mother and father. During several selections, the audience responded enthusiastically by singing along with the performers.

Tribute Co-Directors Dave Hollis and Terry Blosser are already planning a second Denver Tribute Concert on June 19, 2009. In addition to expanding upon this year's event, it will feature Special Guest Tony Oney of Anchorage who was Denver's pilot during the Alaska movie filming in 1975.

"During times of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act."
George Orwell

Marketing company is charging online shoppers every month without their knowledge

ANCHORAGE, AK —

Your Better Business Bureau (BBB) wants to warn consumers to closely check their credit card statements for suspicious charges. Thousands of consumers have filed complaints with their BBB. Upset online shoppers have contacted their BBB about suspicious credit card charges. The charges are traced to a Connecticut-based marketing company, Affinion Group, who recently changed its name from Trilegiant.

In the past 12 months, BBB has received almost 1,800 complaints regarding Affinion Group. Most complainants state that they were shocked when they discovered unwanted charges on their credit card for membership services such as “Shoppers Advantage,” “Privacy Guard” or “Great Fun.” Charges ranged from \$12 to \$59.99 every month. Some consumers were charged by Affinion Group every month for years, resulting in hundreds of dollars being paid for services they never took advantage of or realized they had signed up for.

Consumers who are signed up for Affinion’s programs usually don’t provide their credit card information. The large volume and pattern of complaints many BBBs have been receiving indicates that Affinion is not taking the appropriate steps to ensure consumers understand exactly what they’re getting into when they click on enticing pop-up ads—and that’s why they have a

longstanding unsatisfactory record in their BBB.

Some complainants were able to retrace their steps and find out how they were inadvertently signed up for membership services that resulted in the monthly charges. Typically, consumers had purchased items online, such as movie or airline tickets, from a reputable Web site. At some point in the transaction process, pop-up ads or chat boxes appeared offering incentives, such as \$20 rebate cards for the Web site or claims such as, “Click here for your 10% savings.”

Complainants allege they were signed up for unwanted services simply by clicking on pop-up ads or replying to chat windows, even though they ultimately declined the offers. Complainants never provided their credit card information to ads or chats because the company with which they had just made their online purchase had a pre-established agreement with Affinion Group to automatically transfer consumer information when they clicked on the ad or chat.

Most complainants report to BBB that they have no idea how or why they were being charged and were extremely angry when they discovered how much money they had lost through affinity marketing practices. Unfortunately, many credit card holders are learning the hard way about the value of reviewing their financial statements every month.

BBB has also received complaints from consumers who knowingly signed up for the memberships or services with the promise that they could cancel after a month and pay nothing. In the end, they never received the promised rebate cards or incentives, or were given the runaround when they tried to cancel their membership.

In 2006, 16 state Attorneys General reached a settlement with Trilegiant Corp. and Chase Bank totaling \$14.5 million, to resolve allegations that the two companies partnered to deceive consumers into paying for membership programs. According to BBB records, Trilegiant is now doing business as Affinion Group.

For more information on Affinion Group and to see the more than 50 names the company is doing business as, click your BBB’s free reliability report.

To find trustworthy businesses in thousands of industries, search BBB’s database of more than four million reports free-of-charge at www.bbb.org.

About the BBB serving Alaska, Oregon, and Western Washington

Your BBB is a not-for-profit organization funded by BBB accredited businesses. The BBB’s mission is to be the leader in advancing marketplace trust. For more information about the services and products provided by your BBB, call 206-431-2222 or 253-830-2924 in Washington, 503-212-3022 in Oregon, 907-562-0704 in Alaska, or visit our Web site at www.bbb.org.

Careless food storage leads to destruction of bear

NPS KENNECOTT—

According to National Park Service personnel, it was improper food storage by campers in the Donoho Basin of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve that led to food-conditioned bears there. On July 17, campers were confronted by a food-conditioned bear which had obtained their food. Based on this incident, the area was closed, the Park consulted with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, and Rangers were dispatched to

monitor. On July 31, they destroyed a food-conditioned black bear which was displaying aggressive behavior. The meat was salvaged and given to a needy family.

"We take this unfortunate situation very seriously, and will take steps to minimize future such outcomes," stated Park Superintendent Meg Jensen. "We will be working closely with commercial operators, the local community, and visitors, adjusting our management of the area where necessary to curtail food-

conditioned bears and negative human-bear interactions."

Donoho Basin, 7 miles northwest of Kennecott in Wrangell-St. Elias, is one of the most heavily used areas in the Park. In spite of Park regulations concerning food storage, there have been numerous incidents of black bears accessing human food there. This has led to some aggressive behavior from food-conditioned bears and temporary closures of Donoho Basin in 2004, 2006, and 2008 to protect human safety.

The Garbage Truck

One day I hopped in a taxi and we took off for the airport. We were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us. My taxi driver slammed on his brakes, skidded, and missed the other car by just inches! The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at us. My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And, I mean, he was really friendly.

So I asked, "Why did you just do that? That guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!"

That is when my taxi driver taught me what I now call, "The Law of the Garbage Truck." He explained that many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it and sometimes they'll dump it on you. Don't take it

personally. Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Don't take their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the streets.

The bottom line is that successful people do not let garbage trucks take over their day. Life's too short to wake up in the morning with regrets, so love the people who treat you right, pray for (and love) the ones who don't. Life is ten percent what you make it and ninety percent how you take it!

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"Are you willing to spend time studying the issues, making yourself aware, and then conveying that information to family and friends? Will you resist the temptation to get a government handout for your community?" —Ronald Reagan

"In general, the art of government consists in taking as much money as possible from one party of the citizens to give to the other." —Voltaire

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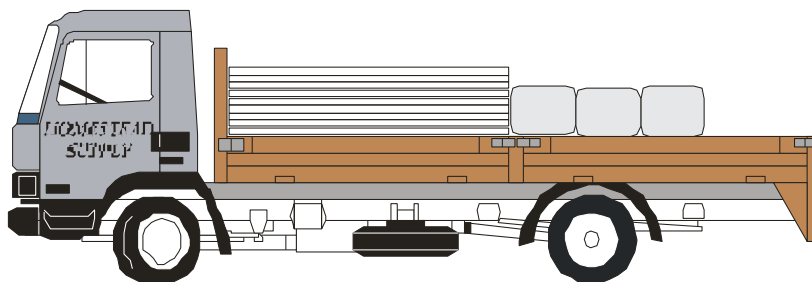
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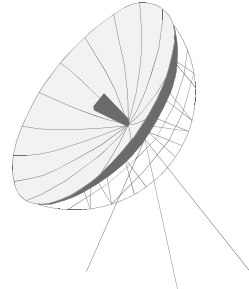
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thank all of our patrons for another great
season.*

*Be sure to stop by next year and check out our
expanding grocery and hardware sections, and
have a hand dipped ice cream cone!!*

See you in 2009!!

Kurt and Peggy Smith

Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

Greetings from McCarthy! Here we are again in the land of the well fed! Between the Bar-BQ ribs at Glacier View, the hamburgers at the Potato Head, lunch on the patio of Kennicott Glacier Lodge, fine dining at McCarthy Lodge, then over to Peggy's Mercantile to eat her baked goods with coffee and a couple dips of ice cream or to Bonnie's for her fantastic cinnamon rolls and then end your week at Church followed by a delightful lunch prepared by Barbara Rice and add to this the wonderful food offered and shared by visitors, was it even conceivable that I would go hungry or lose weight this summer? NO!

It is recipes offered by visitors that I'd like to give you in this issue. The first is from Albina Izmaylova. During the summer she works at both the Mercantile and McCarthy Lodge so you can see her smiling face just about any time. Albina was born in Siberia and came to McCarthy in 2006 on a college-work-Visa. During the winter she lives with John and Barbara Rice in St. Louis, MO and attends Merimac Community College. Albina is sharing her recipe for her delicious RUSSIAN BORSH. As you put a bowl in front of someone be sure to say Priyat-nao'a appeteeta! as the Russians do.

RUSSIAN BORSH

2-3 lbs. beef (stew meat or chuck cut into bit size pieces)

or even 4 cans roast beef from Costco
4 medium size potatoes cut into small chunks
1 whole cabbage—chopped
1 large or 2 medium onions—chopped
3-4 carrots—shredded
4-5 medium size beets—shredded
1 ½ small cans or about 9 oz. tomato paste
1-2 tsp. olive oil
4 bay leaves
parsley
sour cream

1. Boil beef for 45 minutes or until cooked in a large soup pan filled with water.

2. After the beef is done, into the boiling water add the potatoes and cabbage and boil until done.

3. In a separate frying pan, add the olive oil and onion. Fry the onion until it is golden brown.

4. Add the shredded carrots to the onions and continue to fry; stir periodically.

5. Add shredded beets to the onions and carrots and continue frying and mixing periodically.

6. Add tomato paste and mix until carrots and beets are completely cooked.

7. Add fried mixture to boiling potatoes, cabbage and beef.

8. Mix everything and add bay leaves and parsley flakes.

9. Cook on low heat for another 20 minutes or more.

10. Add a scoop or 2 of sour cream to each bowl as served and stir.

This next recipe was offered for your enjoyment by Glenda Bentz. She and her husband Jerry were here this summer visiting McCarthy and their friends Barbara and John Rice. The friendship started when Barb was 8 and Glenda was 9 and their backyards butted up to each other. To give you an idea how long ago that was, Glenda and I have both been invited to our 50th high school reunions this year! This CRAB AND RICE SALAD would be delicious for a main course for one of those hot summer evenings or for that special luncheon. (The hints in parentheses are from Glenda.)

CRAB AND RICE SALAD

Dressing:

1/4 cup white wine vinegar (have used red wine vinegar)

1 ½ tablespoons Dijon mustard
½ teaspoon sugar

½ teaspoon salt

1/8 tsp pepper

½ cup salad oil (I used olive oil)

Ingredients:

3 cups cooked rice

6-8 oz Alaska snow crabmeat, canned or frozen (have used mock crab)

2 Golden Delicious apples, skinned, and then dice apple (have used Fuji)

¾ cup chopped celery

½ cup chopped green peppers (I used red and yellow)

½ cup chopped onion (I used green onions)

Salt and Pepper to taste (I did not do this)

1 can water chestnuts diced (optional)

Mix all of the ingredients together and add as much dressing as desired and mix well again. Refrigerate but remove from refrigerator at least one hour before serving.

Also visiting Barb and John were Coralee and Jim Krueger from Windom, MN. Coralee and Glenda (Crab and Rice Salad) have been friends since they met at the University of Minnesota many years ago. We as readers of the WSEN are all beneficiaries of the love of cooking these three friends share. Coralee's salad is unique and delicious! You can't

possible imagine how wonderful it tastes until you try it.

CORN BREAD SALAD

1 pan corn bread (baked) — 8" x 8" pan
1 pint mayonnaise
2 stalks celery, chopped
1 large bell pepper, chopped
1 can chopped pimientos (small)
1 cup chopped green onions & stalks
½ cup pecans
1 large tomato diced

Crumble corn bread in bowl. Mix all ingredients and stir. Put in refrigerator to chill.

Now ATTENTION JERRY BENTZ - I asked for requests of

recipe subject matter while you were visiting and you replied with Kohlraabi! That one gave me pause because I'm here without my computer or many of my favorite cookbooks. I asked one of our trusted McCarthy vegetable growers, Mark Vail for a suggestion. Jerry it's your lucky day - he gave me two!

1. Leave the peel on, slice, pour a little lime juice on and eat raw.

2. Take the peel off, cook, and mash and eat like you would mashed potatoes.

Enjoy everyone!

▲ LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

So far the summer of 2008 has been cloudy, cool, and wet. June temperatures were below average and precipitation about average. The high temperature for June was 78 on the 21st (82 on June 28, '07 and 81 on June 14, '06). The low was 29 on June 11th (27 on June 9, '07 and 29 on June 24, '06). The average temperature for June was 52.6. This compares to 60.0 in June 2007, 53.2 in June 2006, 55.2 in June 2005 and 57.7 in June 2004. There was only 10 days with a high of 70 or above and 8 days with a low of 32 or lower. The total precipitation was 1.49 inches (0.28 inches in June 2007, 2.14 inches in June 2006 and 1.49 inches in June 2005). At Kennicott the high was 77 on June 20th, the low was 32 on June 11th and the average was 54.0. Total precipitation was 1.70 inches.

July was below average in temperature and above average in pre-

cipitation. The high for July was 81 on the 4th (81 on July 29, '07 and 80 on July 6, '06). The low was 29 on July 2nd and 29th (35 on July 15, '07 and 35 on July 17, '06). The July average temperature 53.0, compared to 58.1 in 2007, 57.1 in 2006 and 56.1 in 2005. There was only 2 days with a high of 80 or above and 4 days with a low of 33 or lower. The total July precipitation was 4.48 inches (1.39 inches in July 2007, 1.21 inches in July 2006, 5.34 inches in 2005 and 1.65 inches in 2004). Kennicott recorded a high of 80 on July 4th, a low 33 on the 27th and an average temperature of 53.6. Total precipitation was 5.30 inches.

Hidden Creek Lake began releasing its water on Aug 9th (July 4, '06, June 19, '05, July 10, '04, July 3, '03, Aug 2, '02, July 2, '01 and July 26, '00). The water in the Kennicott River began to rise during the morning of August 10th

crested at 8:00 pm that evening. The crest was only 22.75 ft compared to 23.00 ft. in 2007 and 31.50 ft. in 2006. The increase was 2.55 feet in 18 hours. The water had been rising slowly for the past 4 days. There was no flooding and no water on the road across the East channel. The river was back to its normal level by the morning of August 12th.

The first 12 days of August saw cool and wet weather with more than 2.4 inches of rain. The high was 74 on the 3rd, with 3 days of 70 or higher. The low was 30 on the 11th. It's about time to think about covering the plants in the garden. The first frost usually occurs in mid August and lows below 30 are not far behind.

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

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

BY PASTOR RICK

On December 6, 1829, a man by the name of George Wilson robbed a United States mail carrier in Pennsylvania. Wilson was subsequently captured and tried. In May of that year he received his sentence: Execution by hanging. The sentence was to be carried out on July 2nd, 1830.

Shortly before the set date a number of Wilson's influential friends pleaded for mercy to the President of the United States, Andrew Jackson, on behalf of their friend.

President Jackson issued a formal pardon. The charges resulting in the death sentence were completely dropped. Wilson would have to serve only a prison term of twenty years for his other crimes.

George Wilson refused the pardon. When Wilson was returned to court as they attempted to "force" the pardon on him, George Wilson

chose to: "...waive and decline any advantage or protection which might be supposed to arise from the pardon referred to..." Wilson also stated that he "...had nothing to say, and that he did not wish in any manner to avail himself in order to avoid sentence ..."

The case reached the Supreme Court. (United States v. Wilson, 32 U.S. 7 Pet. 150 150 (1833)) The Attorney-General made the following comments:

"The court cannot give the prisoner the benefit of the pardon, unless he claims the benefit of it... It is a grant to him: it is his property; and he may accept it or not as he pleases."

In other words, George Wilson committed a crime. He was tried and found guilty. He was sentenced to be executed. A presidential decree granted him a full pardon. But George Wilson chose rather to refuse that pardon. The courts con-

cluded that the pardon could not be forced upon him.

The prophet Jeremiah foretold how God would offer pardon to us through His Son, Jesus. "And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me; and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned, and by which they have transgressed against Me." (Jer 33:8 MKJV)

After Jesus had paid the price for our pardon, the apostle Paul told of the finished work: "...God, Who through Jesus Christ reconciled us to Himself [received us into favor, brought us into harmony with Himself] and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation [that by word and deed we might aim to bring others into harmony with Him]." (2 Cor. 5:18, AMP)

What will you do with the pardon that God offers? Will you accept it, or, as George Wilson did with President Jackson's pardon, refuse it?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor

April 5, 2008

Dear Bonnie:

Of course I must have another year of the WSEN! Enclosed is check. Beyond corresponding with Inger your fine printing is all I know about my beloved Kennicott and the magical six years of my life there, born in the little white hospital June 25, 1920...

Irma Padgett Haaland
Roseville, CA.

WSEN:

Enjoy reading about your beautiful part of the U. S. A. It has been 3 years this month since we were in

your area. Hope to return in 2010 for our 45th wedding anniversary.

Keep up the good work.

Harlan & Nancy Weltzenkramp
Oakland, NE.

25 August 2008

Dear Rick and Bonnie Kenyon,

Please find enclosed my check for one year's subscription to WSEN, and a copy of the Cordova Centennial Super DC-3 Adventure report. We're still amazed that the weather cooperated, and that everything else fell into place.

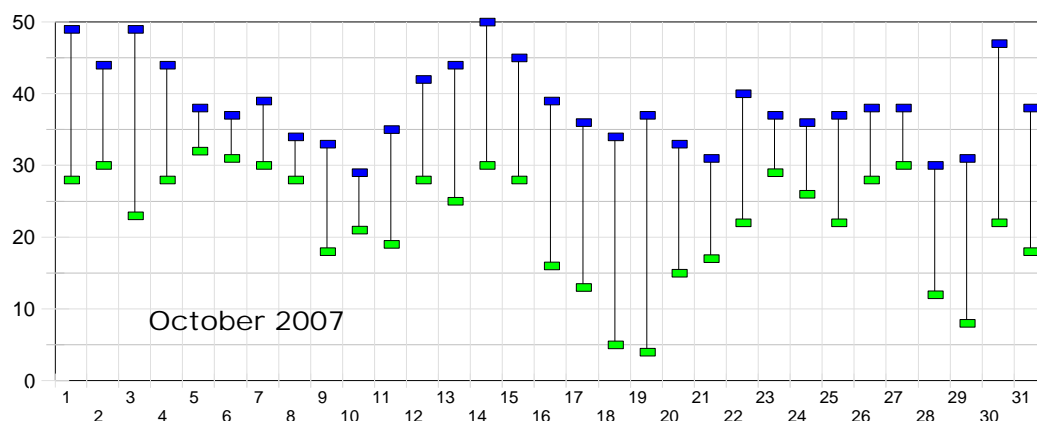
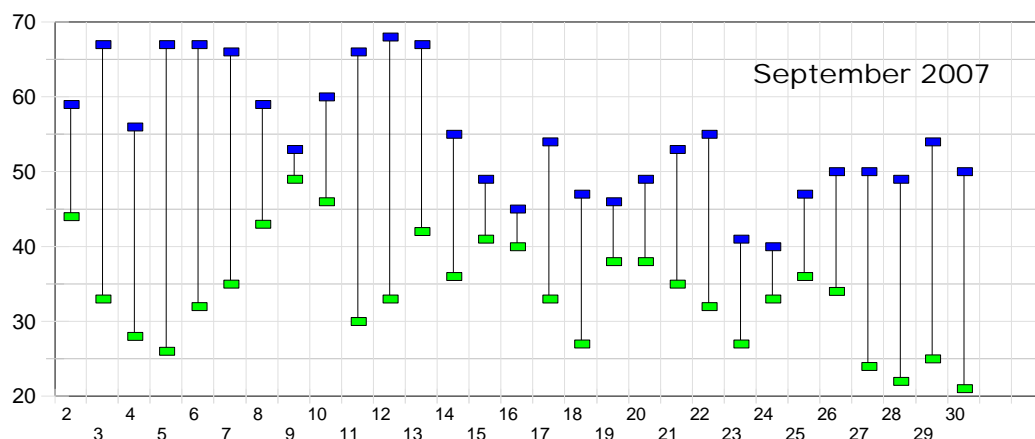
I am really glad that I was able to introduce the Super DC-3 crew to Ken Smith, as after trading stories about veering off a runway (WSEN -

March/April *First crash on the new McCarthy Airstrip—1965*), they probably realized the significance of this flight.

Many thanks for the C. L. Siebert articles on railroad operations in the 1940s... I have to wonder where the Navy F4-F Wildcats were headed, but it makes sense that they were flown to Alaska in 1944, as the F6F Hellcat and F4U Corsair had replaced them in frontline service.

Thanks again,
Charlie D. Branch
Cordova, AK

P. S. We bought out the current (July/August) issue at the Mercantile.



Wrangell St. Elias News



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