

April 1974



TRAPLINE...



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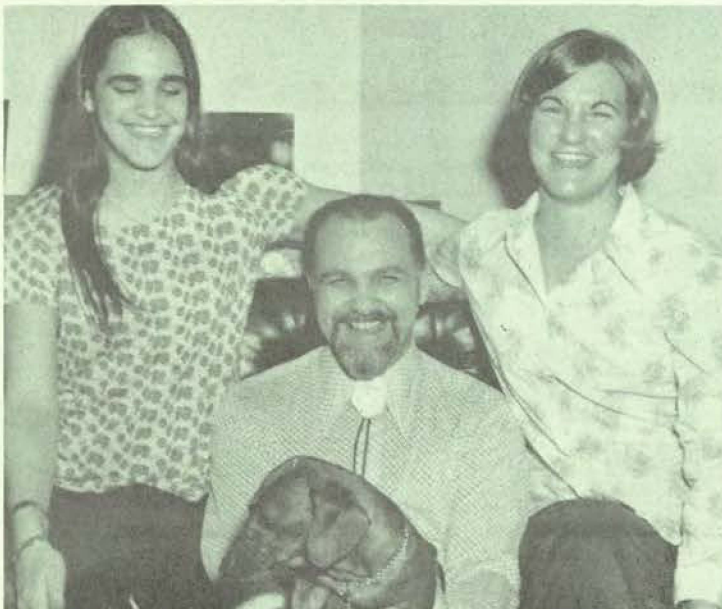
APRIL 1974 - No. 4



ATCS Steve Phillips and his wife, Jane, at McGrath, prepare spaghetti dinner and other goodies.



Audrey Forsgren and Dick, FSS Chief at McGrath, and Bobbie Flowers, right, ATCS.



Renee, left, and Sharon, daughters of Bob Major, AT Chief at Juneau, and their dog Nui.



Rex Boyette and his wife, Marcia, who departed Juneau AF for Puerto Rico assignment, hold "going away" gift.

LEVEL ISLAND

GREETINGS FROM LEVEL ISLAND, down here in Southeast Alaska, where it rains cats and dogs most of the time. This winter has been an exception. We've had more cold over a month, and our well is a little on the low side at the moment. Our warmer weather has just about melted all our snow. The 40 degree weather we have been having in the afternoon, feels like summer, compared to what we were having this winter.

Not much has changed here since we were in the Trapline last. Bill and Gail Lewis and their dog Pretzel have been here for over two years now. The same goes for Mel, Renate and 1 1/2 year old Melissa, except Melissa has only been here about 1 1/2 of course. I think we're all becoming permanent fixtures around here.

Our sister station, Indian Point, which lies about 20 miles N.W. of us, was unmanned this year. Bill and Mel will be maintaining it by going there about once a week or so. Henry Sam, (GFET), his wife Virginia, and their two children were transferred to Ketchikan. Stan Issacs, former ET at Indian Point, transferred to Yakutat. We had a few nice visits with them last summer. If it's one thing they didn't need to do, it was removing people from around here. That still leaves the people at Tyler Bros. lumber camp nearby, but across a big stretch of water.

We get our mail and groceries from Petersburg once a week. Soon they will be changing it so that we get it out of Wrangell instead. Either place is about the same distance from here. We didn't move, but we've had fun lately getting our address change cards out to the magazine companies and others.

So far, for visitors, this year, they've been few and far between. Bill Trent, relief tech. out of Juneau, was here for a short but nice visit. Jesse Jones, also from Juneau, was here a couple of times, and he and Mel worked on some of the equipment at Indian Point. Henry Bertuleit, from Sitka, was here for a short routine visit early this month. His visits are always pleasant, since he brings out milk and fruit for homemade ice cream whenever he comes.

Soon we should be getting a visit from someone belonging to the barge company, who's Tug boat went down last month in Summer Strait. Their life boat and life rings washed up on the back side of Level Island, and Mel recovered them at the Coast Guards request. Three men perished in the incident, but one was rescued by the Coast Guard. That happened on one of our rough water and windy days, when such things usually happen.

Gail Lewis and I became weather observers last summer. We take turns doing the observations, switching once a week. For us it's been a long winter. Our first two observations and our last two, are taken when it's

dark, so we can't wait for the longer days, and more daylight. At least it got us out of the house more often this winter. It let us get more of that good Alaska fresh air into our lungs and clean rain on our brow while we gazed into the sky.

Well so much for this month. I probably used up all the news we'll be having for a long time. Happy Spring to all. --- Renate Suko, Level Island.



Len Canter, ATCS at McGrath, and his wife, Linda

Denise Forsgren, daughter of McGrath FSS Chief Dick Forsgren.



YAKUTAT

IT HAS BEEN QUITE AWHILE since you have heard from us, so we thought it was time to clue you in on what's been happening. FAA employees now in Yakutat are:

Airway Facilities

Ronald Forsyth, AF Chief
 Jim Leslie
 Harvey Rogers
 Stan Isaacs
 GFET Foreman Dolph Hensley
 Ron Long
 Melvin Rener
 Howard Bremner
 Secretary Barbara Cokeley

Air Traffic

Chief, Roy E. Hoyt Jr.
 Frank Moser
 Robert Zothner
 Jack Smeltz

Welcome to Stan Isaacs and his wife Mary, the new ET family in Yakutat, their last station was Indian Island.

Our traveling carpenter John Chambers from Juneau is here on some work projects.

News Highlight!!! Harvey Rogers is going to be a pilot! More about this drama next month.

Jim Leslie left for Galena and flew his plane back to Anchorage with weather permitting he will go to Anchorage and fly it to Yakutat.

Molli Hensley took a trip to Cordova with her husband in their plane. She is getting some dental work done. When she returns we hope she can say: "The ship sailed into the sunset!"

The Brownies and Girl Scouts were busy, they sold around 250 boxes of their cookies, next year they hope to double their sales!

Janice Smeltz is leaving for Medford, Oregon where she will visit her parents and her father-in-law who is in the hospital. Jack will join her later.

Roy Hoyt, Frank Moser, Jack Smeltz and Barbara Cokeley went on a fam. trip to Sitka, and comments heard -- the trip was beautiful!

"The yakety yaker" II, -- Yakutat.

FIRE ISLAND

SPRING HAS SPRUNG,
The grass is riz,
I wonder where the birdies is?

St. Patrick's Day has come and gone. It was celebrated by Warren Mitchell and Ed Corey. Warren wore a green shirt and Ed a green tie. Dee Dee Unruh came home for a visit during a school break. Dee Dee is a second grader at Salcha School near Fairbanks. Everyone was glad to see her. Jim Deason and Warren Mitchell attended schools at Merrill Field. Jim took a course in Digital Logic. Warren's subject was Solid State Principles.

We welcome David Minge, our new ET. David comes from the Anchorage Center and has been on Fire Island before. Visitors this past month have been Doyle Bushman, Miles and Barbara Folks, Bill Smith, Cliff Angell, and Carl Westfall. Welcome all!! Gale McNitt has finished an oil painting of "our" view of Cook Inlet. I hear it is very beautiful. Now she is looking for the right frame for it. Jim "Fuzzy" McDonald was seen on his snowmobile last week with the snow melting right behind him.

Virginia McMolin has some beautiful ceramic pieces that she has done in the past. The Firing Islanders Ceramics Club has been hard at work. Anne Mitchell has been "roasting pigs" -- that is firing piggy banks for sons, Sean and Kevin. Karol Deason's beer mugs are toastable. Georgia Corey is making a "special" ashtray for Ed. Pam Unruh's chess pieces are very attractive. She is doing one side in silver and the opposing side in gold, then antiquing them. She plans several sets for gifts. Also, she intends to needlepoint chess boards. Good luck, Pam!

Ed Corey had a birthday. How many Ed? Fred Chukwak is scheduled for school in OK City. Ernest Jr. and Mary Mack are expected from King Salmon to fill the position vacated by Carter Ross. Sharon and Carter Ross are at Northway, now. Confucius say, "Don't go to town with Pam Unruh". Everytime Pam flies to Anchorage the weather closes in and all are stranded.

HELLO TO ALL THE PEOPLE WE KNOW ON OTHER STATIONS.

Bye for now! --- Anne Mitchell, Fire Island.

BETHEL

GREETINGS, CITY AND BUSH FAAERS.

Instead of Spring fever, we have an epidemic of trunkitis going around. Monte Mastic, NWS, has accepted a position at Annette Island. Doyle Werner, AT, is transferring to North Platte, Nebraska. Both families are busy packing for departure by the middle of April. Olaf Smith, AT, will be moving to Dillingham later on. Clarence Bradley, AT, is on extended sick leave pending a medical retirement. James Nicori, ET at Aniak, has resigned and will be going back to Kwethluk to live.

Visitors to our station have been few this month. Sector Manager, Carl Fundeen, James Eskridge, and Joe Curlott arrived on the 5th of March; stayed two nights. Recently, James Dow, Lyle K. Brown, and party stopped for a quick tour of the station and housing.

A preconstruction survey was just completed and work on our six new living units will start soon. A second story will be built on each of the three existing duplexes with separate outside entranceways.

Ralph Underwood, Matspec, traveled to ANC to take part in a 3-day Logistics seminar at the Hill Bldg. Mary and children went in too for medical, shopping, and to visit.

Eve Bartholomew just returned from ANC, but it was a week of hard work for her. She painted, cleaned and furnished their duplex so it could be rented.

Conrad Hill, AT, recently traveled to Seattle and spent a week in the Mason Clinic undergoing tests. He feels better just getting back with his family.

Roy Deal is back on duty after ILS schooling in OKC. Sandra was with him most of the time, but took the opportunity to visit her family in Texas before returning to BET.

Downtown news: Bethel Middle School recently hosted a basketball tournament. Girls and boys teams competed from Bethel, Kwethluk, and Akiachak. The Middle School band played during one session and the kids nearly lost their voices cheering, but had a great time. The gym was overflowing with spectators. The Bethel Council of the Arts sponsored an Eskimo Dance Festival the same weekend. Dance groups came from several different villages for the presentation at the Regional High School gym. I didn't attend this event but heard it was enjoyed by a large audience.

No more news, so cheerio until next month. --- Jan Baird, Bethel.

ANCHORAGE

WHAL OUR GYROS DONE GOT TOPPLED....an they air a still a spinnin. Hit seems that our Trapline ed-di-tor done up an got cee-lek-ted fur a job down air at th' HEEL BILTIN---ya no---down air at th' ARE OH. Anyhow she done up an lef us 'thout nobody to rite fur this a here col-e-ume. What, Winston (alias Lucky) Hall and Wallace (alias Wally) Bedford done 'greed to co-edit this a here entry from the IFSS. An' jus a cause ya mite be a askin why to ed-di-tors....whal thet way nobody can a git all a blame fur what a gits into this a here col-e-ume. Sides Lucky an Wally done got a few thangs in common---They both air a from the BLU RIGE. Wally, he's a from the TIN-E-CEE an Lucky is a from OL VURGINNY. Yep--we both done up an got transplanted to ALASKER quite a spell back when we 'as a both inna Air Force an we a done liked what we seen roun here an done up an got outta the Air Force and stayed up a here. An sides alla they we a both work on Mista Danny's crew. Whal Wally is th good writer an Lucky is th good speller ---- ??? or is hit t'other way roun????

Afore we a forgit hit we wanna say W E L C O M E to th visitors we done had roun here th past thuty days or so. Mr. Dalton and Mr. Zaber from down air atta HEEL BILTIN wuz aroun a talkin to many of us---meetin those of us He ---oops--- they haddent met afore and a talkin to them what they new afore. Now y'all come back---ye heer!

Corn-grachu-lashuns air a in order fer a cuppla a peepol. Fust we wanna corn-grachu-late Miz Marilyn Maines on her cee-lek-shun to the new job down yonder at the HEEL BILTIN. Shore air a hopin ya lik yer new job. Nex we wanna x-tend some a them corn-grachu-lashuns to Mista Jack Teffeteller in his cee-lek-shun as the fa-sil-i-ty Far Marshal. Ya no thet in case of a far everbody cept e-sin-shul personnel evak-u-ate the biltin. Wal the "Far Marshal" is pretty (?) e-sin-shul an we unnerstan that his cee-lek-shun was unan-i-mus. WE thank He was a pullin our leg when He cried, skreemed and kicked an tol us He didn't seek the job, wouldn't do it if named an was a gonna complain to the ARE-OH. These days Mista Jack jus sits roun with a sorta sullen x-preshun, an won' talk to us. We no he'sa kiddin tho'. Las---but no lease---we wanna say corn-gratu-lashuns to Miz Donna McArthur seein as how her new-old house is bout ready to move in. As many of you probably remember her house done burnt down jus afore Christmas but now is about completely rebuilt and she an her famby will a probly be moved in by the time this paper comes out. Donna Did ya really have them walls painted RED an shar-trues???

An we got a questin fer Mista HS down air in SITKER. Did ya really put a hex on Mista Wally when he done de-part-ed? Hit a seems they air a thankin ya did as thair truk done caught far an burned plumb up---wel almos. Wonner whar our "Far-Marshal" wuz then?

At this time we wanna give a speshul injuneerin award to Mista Wally fur his rapid corn-struk-shun of his homesite---Jus three weeks. He calls hit home an boy is hit a site. Why he jus up an built hit on top of the snow an on the side of one of them thar mountins.????????? Wally is it really true that you built hit acrost a crick...so you could have runnin water come sprang-brake-up?????????

What weed lik to do now is tol y'all bout alla office re-no-va-shun goin on roun heer. Yep, hit seems to be pro-gress-in rite well. We heer tell that Mista Carl wuz a mite re-luk-tant to leave his den of many yeers an had to be lured out. Hit seems that He done re-mark't that he ain't seed th' other end of the biltin in quite a spell. I rekon that when all this re-no-vatin is bout done Mista Bob---hees our deppity cheef---and Mista Lamb---hees our cheef---and Miz Marilyn will all have their offices on th' same floor as the rest of us stead of bein separated away from us an bein down on the groun floor. Oh, nearly fergot---Miz Marilyn is our sek-re-tary. Wonner iffing we cud git her to type this heer paper nex time?????????

Hit seems that Miz Rusty done tooked a trip over yonder to Tokyo. Y'all no that That is in Japan. Whal she did an we heered that She really had a stu-pen-dus time of hit too. She done tole us that the "hi-lite" of her lil ol trip wuz a spe-shul invite to attend a Japanese Weddin at Narita. An hit seems that she wuz also vited to visit a Japanese fambly in their home in Kyota---or Kyoto. (Can't read this a heer ritin that one of our spies done rit down) Personal I ain't much on weddins as I done tended one an bin hitched up ever sinst but I rekon I wuld tak rite much proud of bein vited to attend a Japanese weddin bein a stranger an all. Miz Rusty--y'all shore musta em-press-ed the Japanese rite much fer them to honer you that way---Wees shore proud of you all fer that. While She wuz over yonder Miz Rusty done spent a bunch a money and brung her husbind a bran spankin new fancy Nikon F2 Pitchur Box. Sinst Her trip She is studin Japanese History down at ACC this cee-mes-ter.

Ah rekon we better shet this thang off fer thist time an maybe y'all will look fer another lil bit of gossip from us nex time and if'in ye do then maybe we kin keep up with what we started this time and if we kin then we plan to have some type of "spe-shul" or "souper" award to put into each issue and also weed kinda lik to continue with our corn-gra-tu-lashuns awareness sekshun an sinst we done said alla that we agonna stop. Lucky an Wally.---or is it Wally fust?, Anchorage IFSS.

SISTERS ISLAND

I DO BELIEVE SIGNS of spring are coming to our area and it's about time. The weather caused last month's Trapline contribution to arrive late and miss publication. Unless Winter tries for a last stand, this one should make it in time.

February was a busy month. First, Dean Stewart, electrician (Jnu), finished his projects here. One was to tie together our fire alarm system. Surely hope it never alarms as we'd all be terrified and deafened -- it is mighty. We enjoyed having him and Nancy out here. They brought "Monopoly" and we all played the game. Nels & Nina especially like it. Also Nancy let Nina make cookies - her first time for such endeavor. They left the island as Red Tomlinson's relief, Rex Boyette & wife Marcia came in. The next day Red, ET, left for Ok. City and five weeks of school.

Guests in February were Larry & Carol Schmidt, Bob & Margaret's son and daughter-in-law, who brought with them Iva and Anna Mahoney for the weekend.

It was necessary for me to make a rather sudden trip into town with Nels & Nina because Nels needed to have a tooth extracted. Perhaps this will be the last baby tooth to require help. Can't complain though--he has had no other dental problems.

A crew came out in late February to construct a new water storage tank for us. During that time we had some pretty low temperatures and plenty of wind -- some sunny days, too. J. B. Waterson, Elliot Staples and Bob Krall, all of Anchorage, managed to get the job done, though.

Billy Trent, ET (Jnu), came out for a few days. Also Bob Mell was Out.

The CG "Sweetbrier" arrived early one morning with fuel and things. They will be coming back before long.

Several days ago George Fiehler, GFET (Jnu), flew out so Bob Schmidt could go into town to attend a school. Margaret went, too. They will be there for three weeks, but may come out on nice weekends.

By the time this goes out, Red will be back from Ok. City, and Boyettes will shortly be on their way south to their new assignment - Puerto Rico. We wish them a good journey and an interesting stay in the tropics.

If the weather continues to improve, Margaret Schmidt will be able to plant her garden. She has lots of seeds ordered and is getting anxious to get going. I'm looking forward to the blossoming of the wild flowers and the changing-of-the-birds -- winter for the summer ones. I let Nature do most of my gardening.

Now to get my children back to their lessons. --- Virginia Tomlinson, Sisters Island.

KODIAK

AFTER A TWO-MONTH SILENCE, we thought we'd better let everyone know that our "Island Terrific in the North Pacific" hasn't sunk (though during this writing, we had an earth tremor of 5.3 on the RS), but things have been pretty quiet in our little community and the reporting aptitudes among us seem to be dormant, if not nonexistent. However, we will give it the old college try.

Kodiak's first swimming pool has been open for a few months now, and Denny Laughlin and Bill Schwaab have been the early-birds, getting up and being at the pool at 0600 for the adult swim. Seems they might not have been too wide awake one morning, when they misplaced their keys and the SET was requested to rescue them from a long walk home. Denny is also enjoying swimming in the surrounding ocean, with SCUBA gear of course. He has also acquired a boat and we're all looking forward to "our" first outing. Bill Schwaab is currently on a month's leave in the Western States, and Holly Robbins just returned after a week of basking in the sun in Florida.

After an uneasy and extended trip aboard the "Tusty", our new tower chief, Red Brooks, and his wife Corky, arrived in Kodiak in the wee morning hours of the 19th. They are now settled on base within "streaking" distance of the tower.

ET Ric Hileman and his wife, Nina, left the end of March for schooling in OKC. Another of our ET's, Ken Lester, is there also, so those poor remaining ET's are being kept mighty busy.

The snowmobilers are crying their woes, as after 10 days of rain and temperatures in the low 40's, our lovely, beautiful, and much more adored snow has gone to the great beyond. Looks like we'll have to get out the trailers and head for the mountains, where we can still frolic. We did have a couple of very ambitious snow-storms these past two months, resulting in enforced road closure. Had lovely huge drifts to burrow through, etc., etc.

GFET Bill Cordry made an emergency trip to Anchorage with his daughter, Mary Ann, via CG-130 on March 7. Mary Ann had a ruptured appendix and is now back and doing fine.

We recently welcomed Milo Rousculp who was here from Anchorage to discuss with local pilots the recent closure of the FSS, and we're all looking forward to having him visit us again.

With our notorious unpredictable weather now at hand, Wien has had a hard time getting people and supplies on and off the island, and both commodities are backed up to the wall. The old saying goes that once you get to Kodiak, you never know when you'll be able to leave. So if you don't hear from us next month, send CARE packages (by boat).---Kodiak.

NORTHWAY

WE MISSED LAST MONTH'S COPY, so will try to catch up on both February and March in this one.

We bade the Bill Clark's farewell, with a nice evening of dining and dancing on the 8th of February. They were presented with a very lovely plaque featuring an engraved gold plate and a totem pole with all their friends at Northway. Judging by the correspondence we have received from Samoa, they are finding Samoa most enjoyable.

Our new Plant Man, Carter Ross, and wife Sharon arrived on the 10th of February, and were welcomed with a pleasant afternoon "tea". We're glad to have them with us and hope that they will like it here.

The Homemakers were delighted to talk J.R. Welch into coming down to the February meeting to give the members instruction in cake decorating. He was very good and was able to show us many techniques that we hadn't learned. This month's Homemakers workshop was a good follow-up, on making view sugar Easter eggs, which was a fun evening.

We're all enjoying the warmer temps, watching the grass, trees, and road emerge from the heavy winter coats of snow. All are earnestly hoping that this is the beginning of our spring.

The families have all started their seedlings for the greenhouse and are hoping for a good gardening summer. It will be so nice to be able to supply ourselves with fresh garden produce, particularly in view of the continuing rises in prices for everything.

Charlie Williams left us this month for the Great North Country; we hope that he'll find it much to his liking in Nome.

A pretty good indication that spring had best be soon in coming was the evening that we were invited over to Barbara Scrivner's home for cake and coffee to honor Al & Sharron Eggebroten on their Anniversary. One of the "Highlights" of the evening was when Barbara brought out an assortment of felt-tip markers for us to smell. (No, really, it was amusing, for each color had a different scent ranging from chocolate to mint.) Someone made the comment to the effect that, "People would really wonder about this, wondering if these were what we do for "entertainment".

John Scrivner spent three weeks in FAI attending classes on RCO, other than that, the various trips to town for us have been on Medical and our occasional "stocking up" trips.

That's about it from this end; we look forward to hearing from all of you. Best wishes from "Our House" to "Your House".---Betty Ruks, Northway.

BETTLES

HI THAR!, from the fun capitol of the Arctic Circle. All is well in Bettles and in essence it has been a good month.

RON COSTELLO is in Oklahoma City attending Engine Generator School, and DENNIS LACHANCE and his lovely wife CHERI are here on relief for the duration of Ron's school. HAROLD and MARY ANDERSON are also in Oklahoma City for Electronics School, and BUD BARBER is screaming (as usual) for a relief technician to help with his work load. LEE and TRILBY BARBER just watch Bud run around and rave for a relief technician during the day, and then work on his PA-14 at night. He has completely gone through the air frame - had the engine "chrome majored" and is in the process of recovering it with Stitts fabric. It's the only "eleventy seven thousand dollar" airplane I have ever seen.

NORM and PAULINE MURRAY are just waiting for break-up, spring, summer, anything, except more winter.

C.T. and LESLIE RIGGINS are enjoying their new Sno-Jet snow mobile as a regular twosome on these warm sunny days. Even MARY HILL was seen for the first time ever behind the controls of a hot rod Skedaddler. What is this world coming to? Next thing you know wimmen will be able to vote!

The increased activity with charters for the pipeline work have kept JOHN MUSSER and DAN SAILORS hopping, and RHODA and RITA running extra big lunches to the FSS to keep up the boys strength.

The road activity here has been fierce, over 80 pieces of heavy equipment have come up over the ice road from Fairbanks to a staging area here in Bettles, and then caravanned up the John River through Anaktuvuk Pass to Prudhoe. Gadzooks Orville! I never knew there were that many new D8's and D9's in Alaska.

We have had a string of visitors this past month. BILL STRIEBY and BILL REMSEN came up from Anchorage on a gravel hunting expedition. RICHARD SPECHT and ART BRAENDEL were here for a couple of days looking at new building sites for our localizer. DR. HEPLER and his brother JERRY blew in last week and x'er our rays, and showed one of the doctor's excellent float and hunting trip movies. A Cessna 410 load of VIP's flew in this week on a pipeline tour. GOVERNOR SAMUELSON, QUENTIN TAYLOR, AL BRUCK, JESS TANNER, JOHN HAYNES, and TOM WARDLIEGH. They landed for about an hour and then on to Deadhorse and lunch.

DARRYL MORRIS, President of Bettles Light and Power, has offered a \$50.00 reward for the first person to "STREAK" through Bettles before April 1st. Do you suppose that has been the reason for our large influx of visitors?

Mary and I are off to the big city of Anchorage where the buildings grow right out of the concrete and traffic flows, and flows, and flows.

Remember, KEEP SMILING! Everyone will wonder what you have been up to.
---Ken Hill, Bettles.

ILIAMNA

IT IS TIME TO ROLL the presses from Iliamna once more. The month of March came roaring in like a lion and kept roaring about the whole month, finally easing off. All I can say is, "Thank goodness March only has 31 days".

Ron Horn, ET, is back from attending school in Fairbanks, The saying is, good to have him back and know that is the reason Sarah once more has that smile back on her face.

Hank Luecke, Relief GFET, came from King Salmon to help Jim Coffey with the unloading of fuel due to come in February, as of this writing still has not arrived. Ended up to be quite a long stay for Hank.

Elliot Staples and Bob Austin out of Anchorage came in to do a plumbing job on some water tanks, turned out to be quite a job, eh fellas?

We had a big storm the first of March and Max did one terrific job trying to keep up with all the snow removal.

Our Airport Manager, Bert, who was in Anchorage, had to cut his trip short to get back and keep things moving. It was a big job and kept Bert and Max going full boar.

Now for the brighter side, Howard, No. 1 Controller took the skis off his plane and put on wheels, now if that isn't a sure sign of good weather ahead, I'm lost.

The last few days of March have given way to letting us see bare ground and think about gardens.

Several additions to the COMSERFAC have been made possible, first of all, new lights have been installed and a ping pong table which has certainly been enjoyed by young and old alike, has been added.

They had the women's sled dog race March 23rd, at Newhalen and our only lady from FAA participating was Tish, putting in a good run.

We are patiently awaiting the new dining sets, box springs and mattresses, that are scheduled to arrive. Wow! We will be able to eat in luxury and sleep in leisure.

The off hours project for the month was a dog sled built for Jimmy Coffey and his dog, Smokey. With all the men working on it one Saturday, it's amazing how well it turned out. Quite a party project!

Jim Coffey and family are excited over their boat Jim purchased. It is a real beaut, can hardly wait to try it out. They call Jim Capt. now, and guess Jeanne will have to settle for 1st mate.

That's how it has been in ILI the past month and leave with this thought. Go-Go Girls with buttons and bows and false teeth don't mix.---Jeanne Coffey, Iliamna.

McGRATH

GREETINGS FROM McGRATH your paradise on the Kuskokwim.

Well to start things off I suppose we should identify ourselves since it has been so long between letters. MCG AT--- Dick Forsgren-FACF, Dave Brown, Len Canter, Mike George, Pete Pederson, Bobbie Flowers. Our trainees are Steve Phillips and Harry Allain. AF--- Dave Smith-SET, Al Abrams, Bob Craven and Mike Kowchee. PLANTS--- George Bryson-Foreman, Red Vanborg, Bill Mattas, Pete Snow and Arnold (BO-BO) Dimienteiff. Our facility secretary is Irene Norcross and last but not least our sanitation specialist Miss Maggie Messpelt.

In the National Weather Service we have Woody Mossman- OIC, Ron Linder, Jim Schroder, Steve Miller, Bill Goods and Larry Adkins.

A typical McGrath winter is upon us with temperatures 40 below to 25 above. So far all the snow machine nuts are still alive but with the Iditarod Race around the corner several of them will be out breaking trail. These hard souls are, Dick Forsgren, Steve Miller, Dave Brown, and Mike George. We had some very welcome help from two local citizens in the person of Bill Wollard and Daryl Frank.

Our local Crosswinds Club is starting to come alive again after several quiet months. A Sweetheart Ball was held with a great time had by all. Also on our calendar is a breakfast for all with the kitchen being manned by Dave Brown and Larry Adkins.

Steve Phillips and wife Jayne were in ANC for a month waiting for the new addition to the family to make his long awaited showing. On the plane to ANC Steve just about had the cabin attendant convinced that the baby was going to be named Rainy Pass in honor of its place of birth, but the trip was uneventful in that respect.

Well the weather gave us a break last week and the trail breaking team departed from McGrath on a Friday and was really ready for the chore. Well from what we here at MCG heard the trail was great from McGrath to Ophir but the bottom fell out after that. Around thirty miles out of Ophir Dick Forsgren and Steve Miller had a problem and ended up spending the night on the trail with no supplies and temperatures below minus forty. The thing that put the icing on the cake was during the night Steve Miller discovered that his snow suit was on fire and ended up with a nasty burn on his leg. The reason they had to R.O.N. was Dick's machine got tired. Also helping on the trail was the one and only Len (Body Print) Canter.

One more little item. Our local "Spy in the Sky" at Tatalina Radar Station called McGrath recently and advised us that they were sending out two jet fighters to intercept an unknown aircraft in the vicinity of Nome. Well the "unknown" turned out to be a large well fed stork. I wonder what happened.

Well that is about it for this time.---McGrath.

FORT YUKON

WELL I REALLY DON'T KNOW how to start this, perhaps few introductions are in order and little bit about the station.

The last time anybody had written anything from this station was couple years back.

First, TIC Paul Williams and his wife Freida and two children, are at OKC for TACAN Principles course. They will be down there till first part of June. Heard from them last week and all indication are that they are ready to come back. They miss all the good snow machine trips.

ET Bruce James and family, and here we get to know him as The T-Crafter. When the temperature gets up to zero degrees it is "T-Craft time". He should be getting his privates license pretty soon. Got his solo cross country out of the way. Matter of fact he made it all the way to Fairbanks over the weekend in two hours.

GFET Kermit Ivanoff and his family recently moved from FAI-North where he was a relief GFET. He is still looking for a good used airplane. C-180??

And we have a plant trainee Robert Cadzow. He is kept busy with most all of the routine maintenance. He plans to enter in dog races here at Ft. Yukon at the spring carnival which will begin the first of April. "Lotsa Luck".

We had couple of visitors during the past month. First, ET relief from Galena, Walt T. Daigle, and Robert M. Denninger with his family. He will be ET relief for couple of months. He hails from the big town of Fairbanks.

Rehap crew will be coming in from Anchorage the first of April and they have three houses to rehap.

We been busy moving household goods to another building and the warehouse is getting full. Looks like the three man station will have a busy summer. (Packing & Moving, "Yuk".)

About the station we have three houses, one transient quarters, a garage and storage building. The compound itself is away from the village of Ft. Yukon and it is fairly quiet out this way. Also there is State Trooper that lives in the compound. He is busy packing. They are moving to Fairbanks. The Trooper Gene Kalis and his wife Carol. We have two ETs and GFET which we already mentioned above.

For the month of January, February, and first two weeks of March the average temperature in Ft. Yukon unofficially has been -45 degrees. At one time it was -65 with no wind.

Till next time from Ft. Yuk Yuk you all have a good spring.---Fort Yukon.