

**Kasilof
Community
Church**

**Volume 1,
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KCC Newsletter

Fall 2000

Welcome to the KCC Newsletter

Like many middle of the night dreams, or perhaps an idea on the way to work, the concept of providing an outlet for stories, poems, testimonies, etc., for the congregation of KCC began as just a notion. Now that it is actually on paper, it will undoubtedly undergo numerous changes. But, every story must have a beginning and this is ours.

The editors want to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to all of you to be contributors to the KCC Newsletter. We welcome serious stories, or tales of humor; poems and artistry would also be great, as would recipe's and pictures. Our vision actually is to be kind of a *Reader's Digest*, *Guideposts*, and *Peninsula Clarion* all in one. Recounting events of how God has worked in your life or witnessed to you in other's lives would really be cool. We don't intend to limit contributions to age either. This publication is

intended for the young and not so young. In fact, other than tastelessness, we pretty much want to throw this thing wide open.

There will be some printing limitations though that you should be aware of. First of all, at this time we plan to publish the newsletter in a black and white format. Color paper may be used, but pictures that are submitted will be scanned and printed in black and white. Moreover, like our friends at *Reader's Digest*, we probably aren't the avenue for you to publish your entire novel. But, we don't want to discourage longer submissions, which means we will work hard to find a way to get them published. Finally, as time goes on, we will have to establish more precise guidelines for publication. We'll keep you posted.

Welcome to the first edition of the KCC Newsletter.

In the News

A Brief Look at the News from a Christian Perspective

Franklin Graham to head BGEA

Franklin Graham is replacing his father Billy as head of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association . The BGEA board of directors voted unanimously to appoint the younger Graham as chief executive officer at a meeting Nov. 17, the ministry announced. Billy Graham will remain chairman of the board of the organization that he founded 50 years ago to preach the gospel.

...Graham, 82, said he will not retire from preaching but wished to relinquish oversight of the operations of the organization. The ministry announced several years ago that Franklin, 48, eventually would be named his successor.

...The younger Graham has served on the BGEA board for 20 years. He also is chief executive officer of Samaritan's Purse and will continue to run the Christian relief and development organization. BGEA President John Corts will oversee daily operations at ministry headquarters in Minneapolis.

Stem Cell Bank To Open

A Catholic university in Italy is opening a stem cell bank. Starting Jan. 12, donors will be able to contribute blood from umbilical cords. The blood contains stem cells which, when developed, can become tissue, cartilage, or blood vessels, even regenerating human organs.

...Use of umbilical cord blood avoids the ethical problems posed by using cloned human embryos as spare parts, according to [Zenit](#) news service. The bank, the first of its kind in Italy and a pioneer in Europe, will be housed at the Catholic University of Rome.

...A university spokesman said the school hopes to demonstrate that it is possible to do research without resorting to cloning or using embryos created solely for research. "Research rewards the use of stem cells extracted from the umbilical cord and proves that it is not necessary to sacrifice embryos," Elio Sgreccia, director of the Bioethics Institute at the university, told the Italian newspaper *Il Giornale* .

Americans Are Still Upbeat

Despite the election mess, Americans still are thankful this Thanksgiving.

...Nearly two out of three say God has specially blessed the United States, a Scripps Howard poll last month found. An overwhelming majority (83 percent) plan to bow in prayer before digging into their Thanksgiving meal.

...It may surprise political partisans, but Americans think well of both the presidential candidates, a Gallup poll last week found. The images of both George W. Bush and Al Gore have tarnished, but only a little, since the weekend before the election.

...About three-quarters of Americans are "very proud" to be living in this country, while most of the rest are "quite proud," Gallup found. That love of country has not changed much in several years, suggesting that "nothing about the current situation has significantly damaged the public's pride in its country," according to Gallup. More than 70 percent consider the economy "excellent" or "good."

...More Americans say they'll vote in the future, since they have seen that a few votes can make a big difference, Gallup said. About four in 10 Americans say the controversy has made them more likely to vote in future elections.

...Nearly two in three Americans say they believe that God helped the United States

become "a free and secure nation," according to the Scripps Howard poll. Thousands of people from countries such as Iran and Vietnam still are coming to the United States for freedom, since the United States remains a relatively rare sanctuary for religious tolerance. Only one-quarter of the world's people enjoy broad religious freedom, while the rest face some constraints or fundamental violations of their religious freedoms, according to a survey by Freedom House, a religious rights group.

...Christians continue to be thankful for God's grace and mercy, church leaders say. "We need to lift up our eyes from our troubles and recognize, once again, the truth of the words of the traditional hymn 'Now Thank We All Our God,'" A.L. Barry, president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, said in a Thanksgiving message. "We have received from our God the greatest gift of all - the forgiveness of all our sins and the assurance that we will have life with Him forever in heaven. We remember all the daily blessings He showers upon us, without any merit or worthiness in us."

...Christians are thankful that God will "through all our life be near us" with "blessed peace to cheer us" and will "keep us in His grace and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all harm in this world and the next," Barry said, continuing the hymn's lyrics.

From Lynn Nelson's Kitchen

CRUSTY MEXICAN BEAN BAKE

CRUST- COMBINE:

- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 2 T. shortening or margarine
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 egg, beaten

Stir together. May be slightly lumpy. Spread thinly with back of spoon on bottom and sides of shallow greased 2-qt. casserole. Fill with bean mixture. (Crust may be stirred together in advance. Refrigerate until ready to use.)

FILLING- BROWN IN SKILLET:

- 3/4 lb. ground beef
- 1/2 cup onion

ADD:

- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. chili powder
- 1/2 tsp. Tabasco sauce
- 1 can un-drained kidney beans
- 1 6-ounce can tomato paste

Spoon into crust and bake at 350 for 30 minutes. Remove from oven. Sprinkle over or serve alongside:

- grated cheese
- shredded lettuce
- chopped tomatoes



How to Make a Taco

Seasoning Blend

1. Spoon 1 table-
spoon of minced
dried onions in a
small bowl or
cup.
2. Add 2 tea-
spoons of chili
powder.
3. Add 1 1/2 tea-
spoons of salt.
4. Add 1 tea-
spoon of garlic
powder.
5. Add 1 tea-
spoon of corn-



Top Ramen Goulash

(aka college kid fillet mignon)



1 package of your favorite blend of Ramen Noodles
 1/2 pound ground beef, moose, deer, muskox, or shrew
 1/2 cup of cheese

Prepare ramen noodles according to instructions on package.
 Then stir in the ground meat and cheese and pretend you are eating at a five-star restaurant. If you're really hungry, and the noodles were on sale that week, you can double the recipe. Guaranteed to get 19 out of 20 kids through their college years.

Fat Pat's Mashed Potatoes

Boil Potatoes
 Mash
 Add 2 cubes butter per pound of potatoes



Eat with 5 parts gravy to 1 part potatoes
 Buy larger levis every 6 months

APPROXIMATE COOKING TIMES FOR TURKEYS

UNSTUFFED

4 to 6 lb breast.....1 1/2 to 2 1/4 hrs
 6 to 8 lb breast...2 1/4 to 3 1/4 hrs
 8 to 12 lbs.....2 3/4 to 3 hrs
 12 to 14 lbs.....3 to 3 3/4 hrs
 14 to 18 lbs.....3 3/4 to 4 1/4 hrs
 18 to 20 lbs.....4 1/4 to 4 1/2 hrs
 20 to 24 lbs.....4 1/2 to 5 hrs



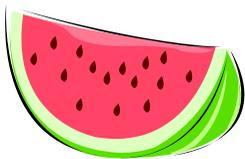
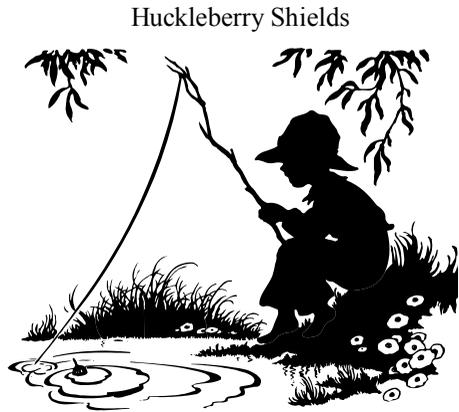
STUFFED

8 to 12 lbs.....3 to 3 1/2 hrs
 12 to 14 lbs.....3 1/2 to 4 hrs
 14 to 18 lbs.....4 to 4 1/4 hrs
 18 to 20 lbs.....4 1/4 to 4 3/4 hrs
 20 to 24 lbs.....4 3/4 to 5 1/4 hrs

The Silver Barrel

Growing up in northern Idaho provided a young boy with numerous opportunities to fill his day with adventure, especially in light of the abundance of wildlife such as frogs, snakes, robins, cows, and a very unusual kind of wild beast that got the better of two young boys one summer long ago.

The fourth of July was a very significant event in my little town. In fact, next to Christmas, the 4th was the day where many folks scheduled their vacations to come back home to visit. It wasn't unusual for people you hadn't seen for years to come up and grab you by the face and remark about how much you had grown or how much you looked like your older brother. Their considerate remarks were most often met with looks of fury, you see, my brother had as much hair as a cue-ball and I had become prone to having nightmares about growing up and looking like him.



One of the highlights of the 4th of July celebration was the annual parade, followed by various forms of competition involving kids and adults alike. I was the reigning champion in the watermelon eating contest, something people would line up to observe. It was rather remarkable to see a young lad swallow half a watermelon without chewing, all the while discarding the seeds out his nose like an automatic rifle disposes of its used brass.

Another important celebration event was the huge feed my family hosted for the whole town. My mother had quite the reputation for being one of the best cooks in the county and the 4th of July was the perfect occasion for her to share her talents. She would start cooking days before and it had become a holiday custom that our home would be open to anyone and everyone in the whole town to drop in at anytime to sample the fixings.

It was on one of these 4th of July celebrations that a friend and I succumbed to the enticement of the silver barrel. It wasn't until later in life that I really began to understand the powerful consequences of this powerful allure. On this day, we had returned from an expedition to Mosqui-Creek, where we had been tossing firecrackers at unsuspecting bullfrogs resting on a local variety of skunkweed. After loading our pockets up with garter snakes to place in my younger sister's bed (which we always knew she found by her screams of terror), we decided it was

Sitting right next to one of the picnic tables, unattended, was a silver barrel resting in a tub of ice.



time to head back home for some nourishment. There was nothing better than eating fried chicken with hands that smelled of snake. By the time we made it to my house, after watching how far grasshoppers could jump with only one leg, we had developed a mighty thirst. On our way to the front door, though, we encountered a situation that was too much of a temptation for us to resist. Sitting right next to one of the picnic tables, unattended, was a silver barrel resting in a tub of ice. After a few “double-dare-yas,” we each grabbed a plastic cup, pulled the handle down on the silver barrel, and filled our cups about half full (we were playing it smart - we didn't want anyone to figure out that any of the liquid was missing from the silver barrel). It was at this time that we experienced a minor problem. We couldn't get the machine to shut off, and watching the yellow drink pour out on the ground caused a near panic. In the heat of the battle, we came up with what we thought was the perfect solution to our problem. The liquid was coming out pretty slowly and we figured it probably wouldn't last too long, so we took turns filling our cups (only half way mind you) until the barrel finally quit its release of liquid gold. To our way of thinking, it was a pretty good decision because it only took about 10 cups each before the burrow, I mean barrel, had slowed to not much more than a trickle. Feeling much better now (in more ways than one) about our dilemma perhaps having passed unnoticed, my friend and I set out on our next adventure. The only problem was that things that were once stationary had taken to moving. This must have been how Einstein came up with his theory about force, because everything we stumbled into had an equal and opposite reaction. All I know is that riding our bikes was out of the question. Walking wasn't much of an option either. So, we sat down on the front porch steps and watched the house move and made all kinds of statements about who had the best fastball.

It was about this time that one of the local town folk stopped by to test some of my mom's world famous fried chicken and potato salad, when he noticed the silver barrel was leaking. I guess the fact that two young boys were kind of giggling about cherry trees flying into robins gave away the fact that we more likely than not had something to do with the seeping barrel. "You boys doing OK?" came the question. "Why sure mister, but can you stand still for a minute?"

Most of the rest of this day no longer resides in my memory banks, short of my recollection of watching my friend weave from one side of the street to the other as he headed for home. I also remember hiding under my covers all night long so that the light fixture above my head would stop spinning and spinning and spinning.

More than 30 years have passed since that inauspicious day. After high school, I went off to college where the allure of the silver barrel remained a part of my life. However, there was another encounter from my youth that also had even more significant impacts on my future. The same boy who tortured turtles and shot bumble-bees with his BB-gun, had also been introduced to someone named Jesus. One of the images of Jesus that never left my mind came from a picture that hung on the wall of the small church located just across the street from my house. The irony of this is not lost on me, that is, if you turned your head while looking at this picture of Jesus, you would be able to look out of one of the side windows of the church. This "window" of opportunity would provide you with a view of young boys catching brooktrout from Mosquito Creek or throwing green apples at passing trains. But, it was this image of Jesus holding a young lamb in his arms, with the rest of the flock all circling around, that I could never get out of my mind. In fact, it was this very simple, yet powerful image, that caused a young boy to wonder what it felt like to be that little lamb.



After graduating from college, I got married and moved to Alaska, where I started a family and found employment in a profession that relied on the vast amount of experience I had amassed during my early years of wildlife management. As I meditate upon some of the poor decisions I made as a young man, I am reminded of how fortunate I am to even be alive today. You see, there was another young boy, a neighbor, who I

grew up with, played together with, fought with, and tortured the same frogs and snakes with, and together, we even started a forest fire. He had access to the same little church that I did, where he would have stared intently at the same picture of Jesus I did. Yet, this young friend of mine never felt drawn to the kind Shepherd, and his life followed a significantly different path than mine. The course he pursued became one that led him in a drunken stupor to drive out onto a frozen lake in the middle of the night, just a few short miles from the very spot where that picture of Jesus hung on the wall. They found him in the front seat of his vehicle; he apparently never even made an effort to escape.

Our lives are full of questions that often don't have the answers we seek. I do a lot of thinking about those days, the days of my youth, days filled with endless hours spent chasing butterflies, catching fish in a stream named after mosquitoes, and lassoing cows so they could drag me all over the pasture through piles of stuff most people would not desire to have in their nose and ears. I am left to ponder why my life and my neighbor's life turned out so differently. I am left to wonder what I saw in the eyes of a Shepherd in a picture hanging on the wall in the small church next to our homes (a church that I would one day be married in) that drew me to Him, but not my neighbor. And, I am left to speculate about what role that silver barrel played in the choices we both made.



Luke 15:1-7 (NLT).¹Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. ²This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such despicable people—even eating with them! ³So Jesus used this illustration: ⁴“If you had one hundred sheep, and one of them strayed away and was lost in the wilderness, wouldn't you leave the ninety-nine others to go and search for the lost one until you found it? ⁵And then you would joyfully carry it home on your shoulders. ⁶When you arrived, you would call together your friends and neighbors to rejoice with you because your lost sheep was found. ⁷In the same way, heaven will be happier over one lost sinner who returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!

After the Eatin'

We don't dare dine, but you can tell we wish.
For we've the spine, of a jellyfish!

Too much chutney, that stuff is stubborn!
And we've the gluttony, of a grub worm.

Thanksgiving was sweet, oh bastion of grub!
Had to overeat, and that's the rub!

I'm laying here gorged, completely wasted.
Oh that porridge, how it tasted!

Waxen woes, the world is spinning!
My face is froze, just sickly grinning!

That last big helping, in a surge I ate?
My innards are yelping, they'll regurgitate!

It's horrid humiliation, but don't all fuss.
I'm the reincarnation, of a walrus!

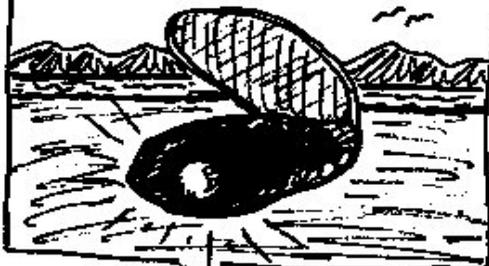
Help I've fallen, and can't get up!
Never mind, chutney's callin', I think I'll sup!

BJ

"AGAIN, THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE UNTO A MERCHANT MAN, SEEKING GOODLY PEARLS."



"WHO, WHEN HE HAD FOUND ONE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE..."



"WENT AND SOLD ALL THAT HE HAD..."



"AND BOUGHT IT."

AT LAST I HAVE FOUND THE TREASURE THAT SURPASSES ALL OTHERS!



MATTHEW 13:45,46
KJV

*Beauty is only skin deep
Unless you allow yourself to be beautiful on the inside.*

*You may wonder how to be beautiful on the inside,
Let your love for God show and don't make it hide.*

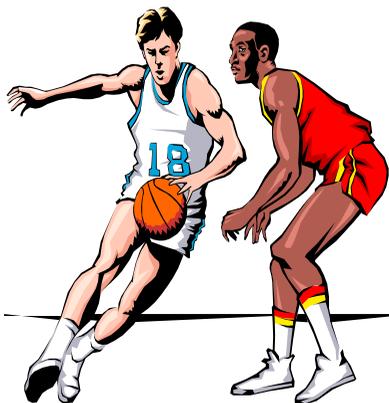
*Your inner beauty can be shown in many different ways,
Help people out, give them a smile, care for them and make their
day.*

If your inner beauty ever experiences pains,

Brothers Blossom to Lead Boys' Skyview High School Roundball Program

Dave and Doug Blossom will be heading up the Skyview High School (SVHS) boys' basketball program this coming season. Both were actively involved last year, with Dave coaching the JV's and Doug helping out at all three levels (C, JV, and Varsity).

This will be Dave's first year as a high school varsity coach and he is excited to get the season started. About five players will be returning from last year's varsity squad, which means there will be quite a few positions to be filled by last year's JV players. A couple of guys vying for these varsity positions are Mark McGarry and Tony Lewis. The team will not have an abundance of height, after graduating



the likes of Dan Davis, but this is nothing new for SVHS. Therefore, coach Blossom is thinking of playing an upbeat tempo. He feels the best chance they have to win the open court game is to run, run, and run.

Starting in November, the SVHS gym has been open 4 days/week, but official practices will not begin until December 4. Tryouts for the different squads takes place on December 4th-6th, with coaches picking kids for the teams after tryouts on the 6th. Once regular practices get started, Coach Blossom plans on devoting a lot of time to conditioning and defense. He would like to see this year's team play tenacious, "in your face" defense.

The first official game for the varsity is not until Jan 4, at the So-Hi tip-off tourney. This tournament always promises some great competition between the local schools right at the beginning of the year. Coach Blossom is looking forward to a fun year, “we have a great group of kids, and hopefully we’ll be very competitive,” he said.



Heading up the JV program is Dave’s little, but older brother, Doug. Doug got a lot of experience at the high school level last year when he helped wherever needed, which meant all three squads, C-team, JV’s and varsity. Furthermore, Doug and Dave have both spent several years coaching Boys’ and Girls’ club basketball. Coach Doug has a big challenge ahead of him, but one that is a little different than some of

those who preceded him at SVHS.

The difference this year is that at least six of the players hoping to play at the JV level are more than six feet tall.

This group includes a solid core of players coming in from the Junior High level, as well as some excellent prospects from last year. A couple of players hoping to make the JV squad include Matt Matarrese and Kaleb Shields.

Both Dave and Doug would like to encourage everyone to come out and support SVHS basketball. Their goal for the program is that all the kids will have a lot of fun while learning the game of basketball, but Dave adds, “We are going to work hard, really hard.”

God's Creation

I have seen the beauty of God's creation, His Mountains I did seek.

I've trod pristine snowfields and stood upon many a lofty peak.

My eyes beheld valleys below with ribbons of blue wandering to and fro.

The hillsides awash in autumn's glow.

I have sat upon rivers gently flowing lulling me to sleep and

Been tossed up on the ocean with waters raging wild and deep.

I've seen color splashed across the sky as if thrown from the artist's brush,

My feet have walked the forest floor with carpets green and lush.

I've felt the scorching sand of the deserts silver sheen and

Had the wind wrap around me as its voice began to keen.

I've caught the morning sounds as they bid me to awake,

Heard the eagle in the sky and the loon upon the lake.

My ears beheld the mournful sound of a buoy in the night and

Heard the soft swooshing sound of wings taking flight.

With the entire splendor and the beauty I've been blessed to see

The greatest gift I've been given is eternity with thee.

Lynda Wandler

On the Internet - Some recommended sites for you to visit

<http://www.crosswalk.com>—a web page filled with excellent links to Christian living



<http://www.gospelcom.net/rhm/yours/yours4a.htm> - Ron Hutchcraft Ministries

<http://www.fotf.org> - Focus on the Family

<http://www.lightsource.com> - An excellent link to Christian radio broadcasts

<http://guideposts.org> - Guideposts magazine on-line

http://wmbi.mbn.org/cgi-bin/radio/print_schedule.pl?Time=Weekday&Band=AM&Station=WMBI - Moody Radio Broadcast Schedule

<http://www.christianmusic.org/cmp/cmrh> - Christian music reviews

<http://www.familylife.com> - Family Life

<http://users.itsnet.com/~highland/clipart.html> - Clip Art

<http://www.magicnet.net/~orchid> - More Clip Art

[Http://www.google.com](http://www.google.com) - A very good search engine

These are just a few of the vast number of websites that provide Christians with an opportunity to gather helpful information on the Internet. If you have a favorite website, won't you please share it with us.



The Atheist and the Bear



An atheist was taking a walk through the woods, admiring all that the "accident of evolution" had created. "What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!" he said to himself. While he was walking alongside the river he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. As he turned to look, he saw a 7-foot grizzly charging towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. He looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing in on him. He tried to run even faster, so scared that tears were coming to his eyes. He looked over his shoulder again and the bear was even closer. His heart was pumping frantically as he tried to run even faster, but he tripped and fell on the ground. He rolled over and picked himself up and saw the bear right on top of him raising his paw to kill him. At that instant he cried out "Oh, my God! " Just then, time stopped, the bear froze, the forest went silent, and the river even stopped moving. A bright light shown upon the man, and a voice came out of the sky saying, "You deny my existence all of these years, teach others I don't exist and even credit my creation to a cosmic accident and now do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you a believer?" The atheist, ever so proud, looked into the light and said, "It would be rather hypocritical to ask me to be a Christian after all these years, but could you make the bear a Christian?" "Very well," said the voice. As the lights went down, the river ran, the sounds of the forest continued, and the bear put his paw down. The bear then brought both paws together, bowed his head and said: "Lord, I thank you for this food which I am about to receive!"

Makes Sense!

See the sky, 'O Heaven's sash,
me oh my, the lights that flash!
Stars that burned at Jesus birth,
yet send their light to modern earth!

Hear the wind, 'O Spirit's voice,
the world is dinned, by Holy choice!
In murmuring stillness what's that whisper?
But a message surer, calling crisper!

Feel the rain, 'O Drink of God,
floral fain, and fauna laud!
Luscious life from Heaven's hand,
poured upon Beulah Land!

Smell the rose, 'O Eden's praise,
for it grows, on earth these days!
Fragrant flowers of ornate air,
offer odors of creation's flare!

Taste the Bread, CEO Manna food,
with which He fed, the multitude!
Keep Communion with the Son He raises,
and let your lungs loose with His praises!

BJ

The Early Years

by Dale Dolifka

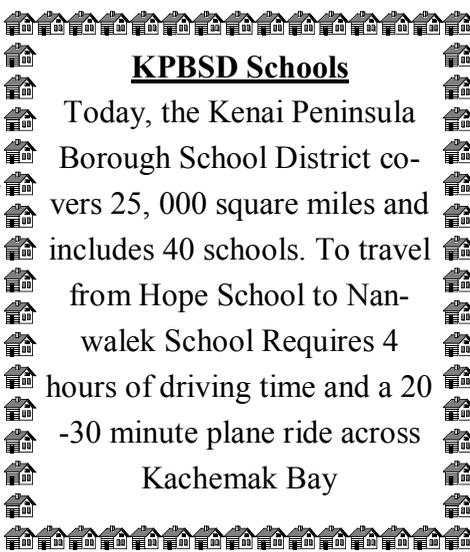
In 1963, the Alaska Legislature passed the borough act which created nine boroughs state-wide. All local districts located within the newly created boroughs were merged into Borough School Districts. The first school board for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District consisted of Edward Hollier, Robert Cousart, Wade Jackinsky, Edward Rehder, and Jesse Robinson. The early years from 1964-1967 constituted great change on the Peninsula as seventeen different communities were about to become a single entity. Given the Alaska spirit of independence, this project was a major undertaking. But since the Legislature had created the boroughs there was no choice but to consolidate. On June 30, 1965, the Kenai City School District conducted its last official meeting and its final act consisted of Ed Hollier moving, Clarice Kipps seconding "that the Kenai City School District be adjourned for the last time, leaving its important education responsibilities and opportunities to the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District with good wishes." Motion carried.

Conrad Potter was the acting superintendent during the initial transition to the new School District. The consolidation effort continued and on November 11, 1966, the State Board of Education assigned Port Graham, English Bay, and Tyonek Schools to the Borough School District. At that point, the Bureau of Indian Affairs funding ceased on the Peninsula.

As the Kenai Peninsula population began to boom in 1967, the need for school facilities increased significantly, the School District was continually planning for

new schools to accommodate the new growth. In January of 1967, the "FIVE YEAR CONSTRUCTION PLAN" was enacted by the board of education. Ernie Presher became superintendent in January of 1968. The significant contribution made to the School District by Sterling Sears resulted in a new elementary school in Kenai which was named the Sterling Sears Elementary School. Another important citizen was remembered by her community when Seldovia School was renamed Susan B. English School. In August of 1969, the new Kenai Jr. High and Homer High School were approved to be built.

In the fall of 1969, the southern end of the Peninsula was giving birth to a new community. The name of that community was Nikolaevsk and it had 22 students. At the time, it was stated that education at Nikolaevsk consisted of "reading the Bible in Russian". In February of 1970, the Board approved moving a trailer to Nikolaevsk for it's school building. Access to this new village was by foot or snow machine. John Jones and Bob Moore were the first teachers at this new school.

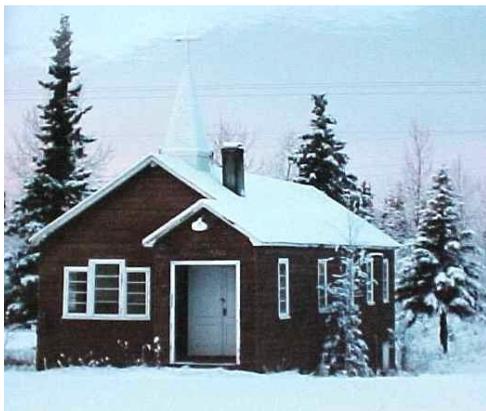


KPBSD Schools

In 1969, the base salary of a teacher on the Peninsula was between \$8,000 and \$8,400. There were 238 teachers district wide. The enrolment in the high schools were as follows: Homer High School -152, Kenai Central -730. Ninilchik- 81. Seward- 158.

BRIEF HISTORY OF KASILOF COMMUNITY CHURCH

Many of us have a keen desire to know as much as we can about our “roots,” i.e., where we came from and how we got to where we are today. These feelings of curiosity should be the same for the church we worship in. Most of the following article was drafted by Trudy Webb and was read at the 1979 dedication of the building we now worship in. Anne and Dave Letzring along with George and Jean Jackinsky also shared some of their memories of how we got to where we are today at KCC.



In the fall of 1947, there existed a group in the Kasilof Community, meeting in homes for the purpose of common worship. Gladys Erdman and Florence Dalbow, who at the time were sponsored by Slavic Gospel Missions, led the services. In 1948, the services were being held in the old Sandvik log home which by that time was Wayne Feller's home.

In 1949, Art Grover and family came into the area with plans to begin a children's home work. From 1949 through 1951 there were several couples and individuals who helped in this effort. During this time, the home of Tom and Martha Schultz was also used for Sunday services. After the missionary women left, the services continued under Mr. Grover in the two homes. Mrs. Elizabeth "Grandma" Fellers, as she was called by the community, was a strong factor in the continuity of the church services.

In 1951, William and Issabella Harris arrived and resided in the Slim Crocker log residence which was situated below what is now Irv Evenson's home. The Grover's left about this time and turned the work over to the Harris's, and from then on, Bill Harris led the Sunday service in his home.

In 1953, it was decided by the group to build a church. That summer, Dr. C. A. Pollard brought his Ford tractor with a scoop on the back and did the excavating for the basement. By late fall, the basement walls were poured and the floor finished. The windows and door were in. In December, they had the first Christmas program in the basement. There was no electricity, but gas lamps were sufficient; Martha Schultz donated her piano. Mrs. Lucy Pollard was the pianist. Harlie Fellers volunteered his services as fireman for the pot belly stove.

In the summer and fall of 1957, construction of the main auditorium began. The local school was bursting at the seams so classes were held during the week in the basement. When the auditorium was finished, a high school correspondence was given under the supervision of a teacher. At this time, a portable pump organ was loaned to the church, and along with faithful Harlie Fellers' violin accompaniment, the congregational singing was enhanced.

Bill Harris was anxious to get going on the children's home work, having built a home to house them. So in 1957, after some correspondence, Rev. Ray Mainwaring and his wife, Irene, answered the called to fill our pulpit. For nine years the congregation grew in numbers and in the Word, as he faithfully preached it. The Mainwarings left in the fall of 1966, and while we waited for another pastor, Bert Schultz of Solid Rock Bible Camp filled in. In the summer of 1967, Joel and Betty Poe arrived to assume the pastorate. Rev. Poe left early in 1971 for another calling. From the years of 1971 to 1974, Village Missions, with headquarters in Kansas City, supplied us with two pastors, successively, Bill Noonkesser and Jim Schlagle. From the spring of 1974, the pulpit was filled from Sunday to Sunday by faithful and willing friends, Rev. Ray Minor, Kenai, Raoul Amundsen, and Raoul Davis to name a few.

In 1974, pastor Floyd Seekins was contacted in Homer and he graciously agreed to preach in the church whenever needed. Before long, the church realized it had a pastor on a regular basis. He served the congregation faithfully for five years - making the trip from Homer twice a week.

In 1977, it was decided by the congregation to build a larger church. The land that both churches sit on was donated by Harley Fellers. He had donated this land along with a parcel situated behind the Kasilof Tesoro gas station, with the stipulation that it be split 50/50 between KCC and Solid Rock Bible Camp. Mac Chesney ended up purchasing some of the land, and he paid Solid Rock cash for their share and paid KCC by becoming the building contractor for the new church. George Jackinsky approached a banker about a loan to help finance the new building and the banker came out to George's house to take a look at the plans. He agreed to a \$50,000 note, but he would not loan the money to the church, because it's kind of hard to repossess a church, but he would make the loan to members of the church. Jim Galloway, Jim Lawler, and George Jackinsky agreed to cosign the loan, and the church would make the \$700 monthly payment. Everyone around the community participated in the building of the new church, donating their time, building materials, or whatever else was needed. It was a real community effort. The ground breaking took place in July and the structure that took shape is the one in which we are presently using and was dedicated November 15th, 1979. There were other land deals involving the church too. Abutting the property that Harley Fellers donated was a small triangular piece of land about 1/2 acre in size. The owner wanted \$7,500 for the property, but the church contacted local realtor, Betty Warren, and after the property was surveyed and was found to have less square footage than required for any development (water and septic), a counter offer of \$3,500 was accepted by the owner. The KPB planning commission also waived the 33' easement on either side of the property boundary between the two parcels as the church now owned them both. Then, a few years later, a member of KCC purchased the property where the ball-field sits, about 4.5 acres, and donated it to the church.

Pastor Seekins led the flock until he resigned on September 2, 1984. The search for a new pastor began. For the interim, several people filled the pulpit on Sunday morning; Bert Schultz, Chuck Crapuchettes and Raoul Davis. In June of 1985, Pastor Joe Knox answered the call. He arrived with his family to begin his ministry in October of 1985. Joe Knox led the flock until August 1997 when he resigned and moved to Texas. The Deacons and various guest speakers filled the pulpit until an interim pastor arrived.

Pastor Jack Smith arrived in September of 1997 to fill the pulpit while the search for a new pastor continued. Pastor Smith left Kasilof on September 13, 1998. Again, the men of the Church and guest speakers filled the pulpit. The Search continued until Pastor Paul Kupferschmid arrived on December 31, 1998.

In a recent conversation, Trudy Webb recalled a lot of good memories from the early days of the church, as well as a few difficult times. When asked to explain more in detail about what a church fireman was, Trudy just laughed. “Well,” she said, “when Harlie Fellers volunteered to be the fireman, this meant he had to get up early and come to the church to start a fire in the stove so the building could be warm by the time services started.” Trudy also remembers teaching Sunday School when her son, Steve,

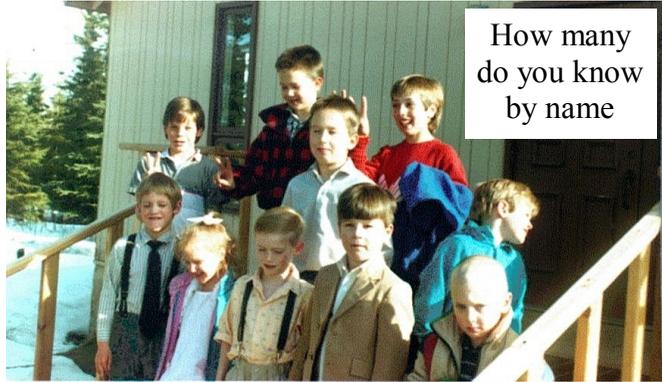


was just a baby (Steve was born in 1950). She said she kept him in a basket while she taught. What many of you might not know is that Trudy just kept on teaching Sunday school and children’s church, and has been at it now for over 50 years. In addition, for years she also played organ while Jean Jackinsky played the piano.

Trudy remembers some difficult days at KCC too, but these “growing pains” were not the things that seemed to matter. Just listening to her recall names and dates left you with an impression that KCC has been her home, and it is apparent that she has contributed in a significant way to help make it that way for others too.

Dave and Ann Letzring also recalled a lot of fond memories of the church, as they began attending around 1972. At the time, they both were working at Ann’s father’s store in Kenai, but it wasn’t long before Ann was involved in teaching Sunday school and later children’s church. The Letzrings kind of chuckled as they remembered the day the new church was dedicated. “Everyone assembled in the old church,” Ann recalled, “and then we all picked up a chair or piece of furniture and carried it across the way to the new church for the dedication.” One other thing that Dave and Ann had really fond memories of was the annual church picnic they used to host at their home. Dave said they would have raft races on Pollard Lake as well as baptisms. In fact, it was these

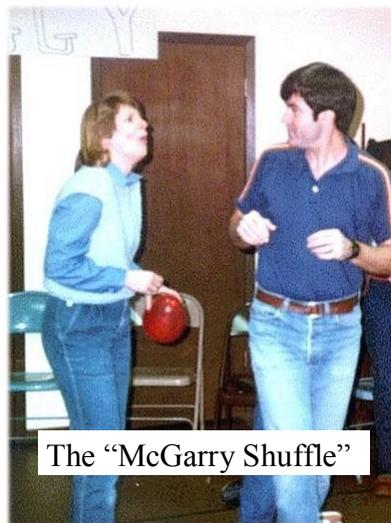
type of gatherings that the Letzrings believe were one of the strengths of KCC, and they hope always will be. But, the most important thing that has always impressed them about the KCC, i.e., the people, is that needs have always been met. Dave remarked, “great things have happened over the years and you could always count on money or other needs being provided for.”



There were also some humorous events of the early church. Dave and Ann both broke out into laughter as they recall the time when one of the church members stumbled across a good sale on red stain at a local store. “Before you knew it, the new church was painted red and took on the appearance of a barn,” Dave said. Apparently this new color lasted all of about a month. As a side note, any of you reading this might want to ask Dave about how we got our wooden cross that hangs on the wall behind our baptismal. Behind every good story is a moral, so be prepared.

Other long time members of KCC, George and Jean Jackinsky, had a lot of memories to share too. One particular story that has received a lot of interest, but has not always been retold with the most accurate facts, is the involvement of Billy Graham’s son, Ned, in the building of our current church structure. George Jackinsky recalls that KSRM (Kenai Solid Rock Missions) radio station needed an FCC engineer and had acquired the services of Loren Bridges, an employee of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA). During this time, BGEA was also interested in building a radio station in Alaska so they could reach out to the people of Russia. In checking out

possible places to build this radio station, BGEA sent two representatives, TW Wilson from the Minneapolis office, and George Wilson (not related) from the Montreal office to check on possible sites. These two gentlemen got the name of George Jackinsky from Loren Bridges, who had contacted Rev. Mainwaring for help. George J. met the BGEA reps. in Anchorage and arranged for a plane ride to view two possible radio station sites, (1) the Wildwood military facility, which was up for sale, and (2) Olson Mountain military tracking station, located near Homer. Meanwhile, Ned Graham, recently out of high school, had an yearning to come visit Alaska, but this caused his parents some trepidation as they were worried about him traveling all the way up here with no contacts. Rev. Graham knew Walter Hickel, who at the time was secretary of state under President Nixon. He asked secretary Hickel if he knew of anyone in Alaska, specifically on the Kenai peninsula, because that is where Ned wanted to go once he got here. Mr. Hickel didn't know the Jackinsky's, but he knew of the name, and provided it to Rev. Graham. George remembers getting the call from Billy Graham. George said, "I knew that voice right away, he didn't even need to introduce himself." Rev. Graham did introduce himself and went on to ask George if he could help Ned and one of his friends get situated upon their arrival. A plan was laid out to house them and have them work on George's fishing boat. Moreover, when not fishing, Ned and his friend would help work on the church building that summer. After Ned and his friend arrived in Alaska, there was one minor change, they had picked up a buddy in Montana on the way. Now there were three young men for George to watch over. Jean recalls that these young



men were very polite and eager to help out. “Those boys were so neat, just fun to have around, real polite,” she said. George would rotate them one at a time on the boat for a day of fishing, while the other two stayed behind and worked on the church, doing much of the hand digging that needed done. George said he didn’t take it easy on them just because one of them was named Ned Graham. “When the fish hold needed cleaning,” George said, “I told them to get down there and clean it. And they did.” Like typical parents, Mr. and Mrs. Graham would call the Jackinsky’s about once a week to see how Ned was faring, but they didn’t want him to know. Jean recalls a few years later that she and George got to meet Rev. and Mrs. Graham at a retreat in Anchorage. They seemed almost apologetic for how they thought their teenage son must have acted while under the Jackinsky’s care. Jean had to ensure them that the boys had behaved while in Alaska. To this day, George and Jean keep in touch with BGEA’s George Wilson.

Jean Jackinsky also remembers playing piano upstairs in the old church in the late 1950’s and early 1960’s, while Trudy Webb played an organ which had been donated to the church by the Pollard family in honor of George Pollard’s father, Doctor Pollard. Jean said that neither her or Trudy had played an organ, so they had fun learning how. Jean also remembers the day the new church was dedicated. She was playing the organ when everyone came across from the old church carrying chairs and other pieces of furniture. “It was an atmosphere of celebration,” she said. In was in the old church though, not long after it was built (~1957 or 1958), that George Jackinsky remembers walking the aisle to accept the Lord into his life. “It wasn’t long after that,” he said, “that I was put on the trustee committee where I became actively involved with the building of the new church.

view. That is what time does for us. Dave Letzring remembers "Whiskey Gate," and the story of how we believe Joe Knox was chosen by prayer to lead (he's still trying to get Joe to write up the real story). Dave also recalls the McGarry dunking, Christmas tree burning on the lake, the day Miss Dancy arrived, the strong missionay support (for a church our size, we sure sent the word out world wide), Mike Boyce's teaching, and KSRM's airing of KCC's sermons.

The church building we worship in today has a lot of history, a history that can't begin to be covered in this article, but hopefully this has helped some of you have a better understanding of how your church began. People like George Pollard, George and Jean Jackinsky, Trudy Webb, and Dave and Ann Letzring have helped pave the way, but we also have many members who grew up in the church and are now raising their kids here. I won't attempt to name them all for fear of missing some, but let us all be

reminded of this. We all constitute the "church." It is not the building or buildings we worship in, but the people that make up the body, with Christ as head. Take a minute won't you and thank God for how he has worked in this community and that those of us in His church



Kasilof Community Church, 2000

will continue to share and model His love with our neighbors and friends in Kasilof.

COACH K LEADS SKYVIEW'S LADY PANTHERS TO STATE

The Skyview Panthers girls' volleyball recently finished their second season under the tutelage of Coach Sheila Kupferschmid. Coach "K" has helped take a volleyball program that had never advanced beyond the first round of the region tournament to a team that competed very competitively at the recent state tournament. In fact, the opposing coach of their first round tournament opponent said that he felt Skyview was easily the most under-rated team in the tournament.

Although not many of us knew much about coach K prior to her arrival at Skyview, she is hardly a novice in the coaching world. In fact, Sheila came to us with a wealth of coaching experience in the sports of volleyball and basketball. After a very successful career as an athlete in high school and college, coach K accepted a position as the girls' volleyball and basketball coach and physical education instructor at Vines High School (9th and 10th grade) in Plano, Texas. Vines had a student



population of 2,500 – 3,000 kids and was an important “feeder” school to one of the large senior high schools (11th-12th grade) in the area. Sheila coached for ten years at the Plano school, but the activity she was most eager to talk about was her involvement with Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). FCA provides an avenue for Christian athletes to meet together for fellowship through Bible studies, devotions, watching videos, and group sharing. Coach K was actively involved with this organization, and remarkably, FCA was run on the campus of Vines High School with the approval of the school administration. Prior to every game, Coach K was able to open her Bible and lead her team in devotions and team prayer and even present the Gospel message. FCA consistently drew 35-45 athletes.

There was one other minor event that happened to coach K while at Vines High School. She met some guy named Paul and realized right from the start that this guy was going to need some serious refinement before making the cut. She must be a good coach!

After her ten years at Plano, Paul and Sheila moved to Kearney, Nebraska where Coach K became the head varsity volleyball coach at Kearney High school, home of the Bearcats. This school had a student body of approximately 1,300 kids (4A school) and Sheila led the volleyball program there for five years. She admitted that this was a challenging position because there were no volleyball clubs in the immediate area and they often had to compete against schools that were volleyball powerhouses. Once again, Coach K became actively involved with FCA, this time helping to lead a co-ed group that she ran along with a male sponsor. At Kearney, the FCA club met at the high school before classes began in the morning (7:00 – 8:15 am). Again, the group was well attended by Christian student athletes.

After five years at Kearney, the Kupferschmid's received a call from the far north, a call that was to initiate a dramatic change in their lives. But first, let's take a step back in time to the days of Sheila's youth. Coach K does not talk much about her days as an athlete because she does not like to draw attention to herself. But, there are a few important details about her life as a student athlete that will help all of us understand a little bit more about our Coach K.

“These are the most important things....not the win-loss record, but learning to relate to each other, because that is what causes us to develop as people.”

Sheila went to high school in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where she played basketball and softball. Cedar Rapids played a game known as 6-player basketball, which has specific rules about how many players can cross half court. The game focuses on offense and Coach K was up to the challenge. In fact, she scored 68 points in a game twice, and eventually ended up becoming the Cedar Rapids all time scoring leader (a record that still stands to this day).

It was also during Coach K's days in high school that she became affiliated with Kanakuk – a Christian athletic camp where instruction is provided in the sport of choice. The philosophy of Kanakuk is that it takes 26 days to develop a habit, so that is the duration of the camp. Kanakuk doesn't only emphasis sports, but focuses on spiritual development through devotion and quiet times. College athletes are the counselors at these camps, which are attended by more than 5,000 kids annually.

Coach K was a counselor herself at Kanakuk for three summers. Well known author, Joe White, runs the camp, located in Branson, Missouri, in the heart of the Ozark mountains. There are eight different camps to choose from between June 1 and Aug 31. Coach K was extremely happy to announce that three of the girls from her current Skyview volleyball team plan on attending Kanakuk this summer. Those attending are Sherry Isaac, Angel Hollers, and Stacia Pfaffe.

On December 30, 1998 Paul and Sheila Kupferschmid arrived in Alaska. A journey up the Alaska highway, where temps dropped to more than -40°F didn't deter them too much, as Sheila applied for and was hired into the position of Skyview High School's new volleyball coach, beginning in the fall of 1999. This year, her second as head coach, has already shown marked improvement, as evidenced by Skyview's ability to compete on the volleyball court with some of the best teams in the state. However, these were not the only things Coach K wanted to talk about. Most observers would point out things like a record of 60 some wins against 30 some losses, or the fact that Skyview won both the Juneau and Grace Christian invitational tournaments, as all the proof needed to support the contention that the volleyball program at Skyview is on the right track. Although coach K is proud of these accomplishments, the more important part of her involvement with these young ladies is the relationships that are being formed. This past season, Sheila was encouraged to see the team work together and to watch her girls form close bonds. "These are the most important things" she said, "not the win-loss record, but learning to relate to each other, because that is what causes us to develop as people."

We all should be very thankful to have Coach K involved in our local schools, not only because she knows her way around the volleyball court, but because she cares so much for our kids and makes relationship building the key to her coaching style. It really shows too. Just this past week, Sheila traveled to the lower 48 to introduce one of her volleyball players to the same college coach that she had. Moreover, Coach K was thrilled to talk about the girls that plan to go to Kanakuk this summer. In fact, about the only thing I can think would trigger a more excited response from Coach K is for someone to take her and Paul brown bear hunting. I hear from reliable sources that she can hardly wait to get that first bear head on the wall of their new home. Perhaps one of you might just help make that a dream come true.

SKYVIEW GIRL'S JV BASKETBALL TEAM GETS NEW COACH



It's beginning to look like Kasilof Community Church will have as many coaches as players on the basketball floor this coming season. Joining the brothers Blossom will be our very own coach K, fresh off a successful volleyball campaign. Sheila recently accepted the position of girls' junior varsity basketball coach at Skyview High School

Coach K was quite a basketball legend in her younger years and still holds many scoring records at her Cedar Rapids High School. She went on to play collegiate hoops, where unfortunately, an untimely knee injury caused her career on the hard-wood to come to an abrupt end.

Coach K is looking forward to this new challenge and would very much like to approach coaching the game of basketball like she does volleyball, i.e., she wants to concentrate on building relationships with her players. She feels she is ready for the new challenge, but readily admits she can't anticipate all the twists in the road ahead.

Like the boys' program, official practices cannot begin until after December 1. Coach K, we wish you the very best of luck this coming season. We do want to remind you though, that this is the 21st century, and you are only allowed 5, yes that's right, only 5 players on the floor at one time. I hope you don't mind if lots of people approach you so they can talk to someone that is old enough to have played 6-man basketball.

Skyview Volleyball Accomplishments

Amanda Bauer – 1st team all state

Beth Massey and Jessica Truesdell received good sports award at state tourney.

Team won the all academic award, highest accumulative GPA (3.79).

First time Skyview team ever advanced past first round of region tourney.

First time Skyview team ever advanced to state tourney.

SKIVVIEW BOYS BASKETBALL 2000 - 2001 SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Teams</u>	<u>Game</u>	<u>Times</u>
Jan 4-5-6	V only	Soldotna tipoff Tournament	TBA
Jan 4-5-6	JV only	Skivview @ Kodiak Tourney	TBA
Jan 11-12-13	V only	Skyview @ Diamond Prep Shootout	TBA
Thurs Jan 11	JV only	Cook Inlet @ Skyview	7:00
Fri Jan 12	JV only	Grace Christian @ Skyview	7:00
Sat Jan 13	JV only	Nikiski @ Skyview	3:30
Tues Jan 16	V only	Skyview @ Kenai	7:15
Fri Jan 19	JV/V	Soldotna @ Skyview	4:30 & 8:00
Sat Jan 20	JV only	Skyview @ Kenai	1:45
Tues Jan 23	V only	Nikiski @ Skyview	7:00
Tues Jan 23	JV only	Skyview @ Homer Christian	TBA
Fri Jan 26	JV/V	Skyview @ Kodiak Tourney	TBA
Sat Jan 27	JV/V	Skyview @ Kodiak Tourney	TBA
Tues Jan 30	JV/V	Skyview @ Seward	TBA
F/S Feb 2-3	JV only	Skyview @ Seldovia Tournament	TBA
Tues Feb 6	C/JV	Skyview @ Nikolaevsk	5:00 & 6:30
Fri Feb 9	JV/V	Colony @ Skyview	4:30 & 8:00
Sat Feb 10	C/JV/V	Palmer @ Skyview	11:30, 2:30, 6:00
Tues Feb 13	V only	Kenai @ Skyview	7:00
Fri Feb 16	JV only	Kenai @ Skyview	7:00
Sat Feb 17	C/JV/V	Skyview @ Homer	11:45, 3:15, 6:45
Thurs Feb 22	V only	West Valley @ Skyview	7:00
Fri Feb 23	C/JV/V	Skyview @ West Anchorage	TBA
Sat Feb 24	C/JV/V	Skyview @ Wasilla	11:45, 3:15, 6:45
Fri Mar 2	V only	Ninilchik @ Skyview	8:00
Fri Mar 9	JV/V	Homer @ Skyview	TBA
Sat Mar 10	JV/V	Skyview @ Soldotna	2:45 & 6:15
Mar 15-16-17	V only	Regional Tournament @ Kodiak	TBA
Mar 22-23-24	V only	State Tournament @ Anchorage	TBA

SKIVVIEW GIRLS BASKETBALL 2000 - 2001 SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Teams</u>	<u>Game</u>	<u>Times</u>
Sat Dec 16	JV only	Skyview Jamboree	TBA
Jan 4-5-6	V only	Skyview Peninsula Challenge	TBA
Jan 4-5-6	JV only	Skyview @ Kodiak Tourney	TBA
Jan 11-12-13	V only	Skyview and Nome Invitational	TBA
Thurs Jan 11	JV only	Cook Inlet @ Skyview	5:15
Fri Jan 12	JV only	Grace Christian @ Skyview	5:15
Sat Jan 13	JV only	Nikiski @ Skyview	2:00
Tues Jan 16	V only	Skyview @ Kenai	5:30
Fri Jan 19	JV/V	Soldotna @ Skyview	3:00 & 6:15
Sat Jan 20	JV only	Skyview @ Kenai	12:00
Tues Jan 23	V only	Nikiski @ Skyview	5:15
Tues Jan 23	JV only	Skyview @ Homer Christian	TBA
Fri Jan 26	JV/V	Skyview @ Kodiak	TBA
Sat Jan 27	JV/V	Skyview @ Kodiak	TBA
F/S Feb 2-3	JV only	Skyview @ Seldovia Tournament	TBA
Tues Feb 6	JV/V	Skyview @ Seward	TBA
Fri Feb 9	JV/V	Colony @ Skyview	3:00 & 6:15
Sat Feb 10	C/JV/V	Palmer @ Skyview	10:00, 1:00, 4:15
Tues Feb 13	V only	Kenai @ Skyview	5:15
Fri Feb 16	JV only	Kenai @ Skyview	5:15
Sat Feb 17	C/JV/V	Skyview @ Homer	10:00, 1:00, 5:00
Thurs Feb 22	V only	West Valley @ Skyview	5:15
Fri Feb 23	C/JV/V	Skyview @ West Anchorage	TBA
Sat Feb 24	C/JV/V	Skyview @ Wasilla	10:00, 1:00, 5:00
Fri Mar 2	V only	Ninilchik @ Skyview	6:15
Fri Mar 9	JV/V	Homer @ Skyview	3:30 & 7:00
Sat Mar 10	JV/V	Skyview @ Soldotna	1:00 & 4:30
Mar 15-16-17	V only	Regional Tournament @ Kodiak	TBA
Mar 22-23-24	V only	State Tournament @ Anchorage	TBA

SO-HI BOYS BASKETBALL 2000 - 2001 SCHEDULE

Date	Teams	Game	Times
Sat, Dec 16	C only	SoHi @ Homer	3:30
Sat, Dec 16	JV & V	<i>Nikiski @ SoHi</i>	Noon
Dec 18-19-20	V only	SoHi @ Grace Tournament	TBA
Tue, Jan 2	C only	SoHi @ Nikiski	3:30
Jan 4-5-6	V only	<i>SoHi Tournament</i>	TBA
Jan 5-6	JV only	SoHi @ Seldovia Tournament	TBA
Tues, Jan 9	C only	<i>Skyview @ SoHi</i>	4:30
Fri, Jan 12	JV & V	<i>Kenai @ SoHi</i>	3:30
Sat, Jan 13	C/JV/V	<i>Seward @ SoHi</i>	10:00 am
Fri, Jan 19	C only	<i>Nikiski @ SoHi</i>	3:30
Fri, Jan 19	JV & V	SoHi @ Skyview	4:30
Tues, Jan 23	C only	<i>Ninilchik @ SoHi</i>	4:30
Sat, Jan 27	C/JV/V	<i>Homer @ SoHi</i>	10:00 am
Tues, Jan 30	C only	<i>Kenai @ SoHi</i>	4:30
Fri, Feb 2	JV & V	<i>Wasilla @ SoHi</i>	3:30
Sat, Feb 3	JV & V	<i>Kodiak @ SoHi</i>	11:45 am
Feb 8-9-10	V only	SoHi @ Ketchikan Tournament	TBA
Sat, Feb 10	JV only	<i>ACS @ SoHi</i>	1:45
Fri, Feb 16	JV & V	SoHi @ Homer	3:30
Fri, Feb 23	V only	<i>West Valley @ SoHi</i>	6:45
Fri, Mar 2	JV & V	SoHi @ Colony	TBA
Sat, Mar 3	JV & V	SoHi @ Palmer	TBA
Fri, Mar 9	JV & V	SoHi @ Kenai	3:00
Sat, Mar 10	JV & V	<i>Skyview @ SoHi</i>	2:00
Mar 15-16-17	V only	Regional Tournament @ Kodiak	TBA
Mar 22-23-24	V only	State Tournament @ Anchorage	TBA
Thurs April 5		<i>Senior All-Star Game @ Skyview</i>	TBA

SO-HI GIRLS BASKETBALL 2000 - 2001 SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Teams</u>	<u>Game</u>	<u>Times</u>
Sat, Dec 16	C only	SoHi @ Homer	3:30
Sat, Dec 16	JV & V	<i>Nikiski @ SoHi</i>	Noon
Dec 18-19-20-21	V only	SoHi @ Ketchikan Tournament	TBA
Dec 28-29-30	V only	SoHi @ ACS Tournament	TBA
Tue, Jan 2	C only	SoHi @ Nikiski	3:30
Jan 4-5-6	V only	SoHi @ Peninsula Challenge	TBA
Jan 5-6	JV only	SoHi @ Seldovia Tournament	TBA
Tues, Jan 9	C only	<i>Skyview @ SoHi</i>	4:30
Fri, Jan 12	JV & V	<i>Kenai @ SoHi</i>	3:30
Sat, Jan 13	C/JV/V	<i>Seward @ SoHi</i>	10:00 am
Fri, Jan 19	C only	<i>Nikiski @ SoHi</i>	3:30
Fri, Jan 19	JV & V	SoHi @ Skyview	4:30
Tues, Jan 23	C only	<i>Ninilchik @ SoHi</i>	4:30
Sat, Jan 27	C/JV/V	<i>Homer @ SoHi</i>	10:00 am
Tues, Jan 30	C only	<i>Kenai @ SoHi</i>	4:30
Fri, Feb 2	JV & V	<i>Wasilla @ SoHi</i>	3:30
Sat, Feb 3	JV & V	<i>Kodiak @ SoHi</i>	11:45 am
Sat, Feb 10	JV only	<i>ACS @ SoHi</i>	1:45
Fri, Feb 16	JV & V	SoHi @ Homer	3:30
Fri, Feb 23	V only	<i>West Valley @ SoHi</i>	6:45
Fri, Mar 2	JV & V	SoHi @ Colony	TBA
Sat, Mar 3	JV & V	SoHi @ Palmer	TBA
Fri, Mar 9	JV & V	SoHi @ Kenai	3:00
Sat, Mar 10	JV & V	<i>Skyview @ SoHi</i>	2:00
Mar 15-16-17	V only	Regional Tournament @ Kodiak	TBA
Mar 22-23-24	V only	State Tournament @ Anchorage	TBA
Thurs April 5		<i>Senior All-Star Game @ Skyview</i>	TBA

WON'T YOU PRAY!

1 Thess. 5:16 -18 (NASB) Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

For **Dick Blakeslee** who has suffered two heart attacks. Pray that all the decisions and procedures followed will be wise and that healing can take place. Thank God that Dick has been able to receive prompt medical attention.

For Grandpa McGarry, specifically for Grandpa to gain strength daily as he recuperates from his recent surgery to remove a cancerous bladder . Thank God for the tests that found no other cancer in other parts of Grandpa's body.

For **Leon Butler**, who has been experiencing irregular heart rhythms and may need surgery if it doesn't get better. Thank God for his recent positive checkup.

For **Sunny VanZyle**, who is currently In Oregon receiving cancer treatment. Sunny can be reached at 7250 N.W. Oak Creek Dr., Corvallis, OR 97330. It would be a big lift to her spirits to have people write to say they care. Thank God for Sunny, who always is caring for others.

For KCC's search for a **youth/worship leader**. Pray that we will be sensitive to God's leading. Thank God that He has brought our body to this important decision.

For our **presidential election**. By now, many of you may have become either very bored of all this or conversely, perhaps you have become angry. Pray, pray, pray that God will be glorified and that we will be guided as a nation on how to proceed with this difficult situation.

Father, we ask you to bless all who are reading this right now. Lord, show us a new revelation of Your love and power. Holy Spirit, I ask You to minister to our spirit at this very moment . Where there is pain, give us Your peace & mercy. Where there is self doubting, release a renewed confidence in Your ability to work through us. Where there is tiredness, or exhaustion, I ask to give us understanding, patience, & strength as we learn submission to Your leading. Where there is spiritual stagnation, we ask You to renew us by revealing Your nearness, and by drawing us to greater intimacy with You. Where there is fear, reveal Your love, and release to us Your courage. Where there is a sin blocking us, reveal it, and break its hold over our life. Bless our finances, give us greater vision, and raise up leaders, and friends to support, and encourage us. Give each of us discernment to recognize the demonic forces around us, and reveal to us the power we have in You to defeat it. We ask You to do these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

A few suggestions for regular features in the Newsletter

Precepts Highlights

Childrens' articles

Testimonies

Short Stories

Newborn section

Poetry

Recipe Corner (Yum)

Scholastic Reports

Interviews of Seasoned Alaskans

Youth Group Stories/Updates

Hunting/Fishing Tales

“How I got to Alaska” stories

Benevolence & other needs

Pictures

Sports Reports

Activities Reports

31 Biblical Virtues to Pray for Your Kid

by Bob Hostetler

Submitted by Cindy Houser

1. **Salvation.** "Lord, let salvation spring up within my children, that they may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory" (Isaiah 45:8, 2 Timothy 2:10).
2. **Growth in grace.** "I pray that my children may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).
3. **Love.** "Grant, Lord, that my children may learn to live a life of love, through the Spirit who dwells in them" (Galatians 5:25, Ephesians 5:2).
4. **Honesty and integrity.** "May integrity and honesty be their virtue and their protection" (Psalm 25:21).
5. **Self-control.** "Father, help my children not to be like many others around them, but let them be alert and self-controlled in all they do" (1 Thessalonians 5:6).
6. **Love for God's Word.** "May my children grow to find Your Word more precious than much pure gold and sweeter than honey from the comb" (Psalm 19:10).
7. **Justice.** "God, help my children to love justice as You do and act justly in all they do" (Psalm 11:7, Micah 6:8).
8. **Mercy.** "May my children always be merciful, just as their Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36).
9. **Respect** (*for self, others, authority*). "Father, grant that my children may show proper respect to everyone, as Your Word commands" (1 Peter 2:17).
10. **Biblical self-esteem.** "Help my children develop a strong self-esteem that is rooted in the realization that they are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:10).
11. **Faithfulness.** "Let love and faithfulness never leave my children, but bind these twin virtues around their necks and write them on the tablet of their hearts" (Proverbs 3:3).
12. **Courage.** "May my children always be strong and courageous in their character and in their actions" (Deuteronomy 31:6).
13. **Purity.** "Create in them a pure heart, O God, and let that purity of heart be shown in their actions" (Psalm 51:10).
14. **Kindness.** "Lord, may my children always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else" (1 Thessalonians 5:15).
15. **Generosity.** "Grant that my children may be generous and willing to share, and so lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age" (1 Timothy 6:18-19)
16. **Peace-loving.** "Father, let my children make every effort to do what leads to peace" (Romans 14:19).
17. **Joy.** "May my children be filled with the joy given by the Holy Spirit" (1 Thessalonians 1:6).

18. **Perseverance.** "Lord, teach my children perseverance in all they do, and help them especially to run with perseverance the race marked out for them" (Hebrews 12:1).
19. **Humility.** "God, please cultivate in my children the ability to show true humility toward all" (Titus 3:2)
20. **Compassion.** "Lord, please clothe my children with the virtue of compassion" (Colossians 3:12).
21. **Responsibility.** "Grant that my children may learn responsibility, for each one should carry his own load" (Galatians 6:5).
22. **Contentment.** "Father, teach my children the secret of being content in any and every situation, through Him who gives them strength" (Philippians 4:12-13).
23. **Faith.** "I pray that faith will find root and grow in my children's hearts, that by faith they may gain what has been promised to them" (Luke 17:5-6; Hebrews 11:1-40).
24. **A servant's heart.** "God, please help my children develop servants' hearts, that they may serve wholeheartedly, as if they were serving the Lord, not men" (Ephesians 6:7).
25. **Hope.** "May the God of hope grant that my children may overflow with hope and hopefulness by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).
26. **Willingness and ability to work.** "Teach my children, Lord, to value work and to work at it with all their heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23).
27. **Passion for God.** "Lord, please instill in my children a soul that follows hard after You" (Psalm 63:8).
28. **Self-discipline.** "Father, I pray that my children may acquire a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair" (Proverbs 1:3).
29. **Prayerfulness.** "Grant, Lord, that my children's lives may be marked by prayerfulness, that they may learn to pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests" (Ephesians 6:18).
30. **Gratitude.** "Help my children to live lives that are always overflowing with thankfulness and always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20; Colossians 2:7).
31. **A heart for missions.** "Lord, please help my children to develop a desire to see Your glory declared among the nations, Your marvelous deeds among all peoples" (Psalm 96:3).

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Stewart Blakeslee Sings and Plays His Way to Honors

Two years ago Soldotna High School's Stewart Bakeslee sent an audition tape to a panel of judges who had the responsibility of choosing members for the Alaska All State High School Choir. Every student in the state who would like

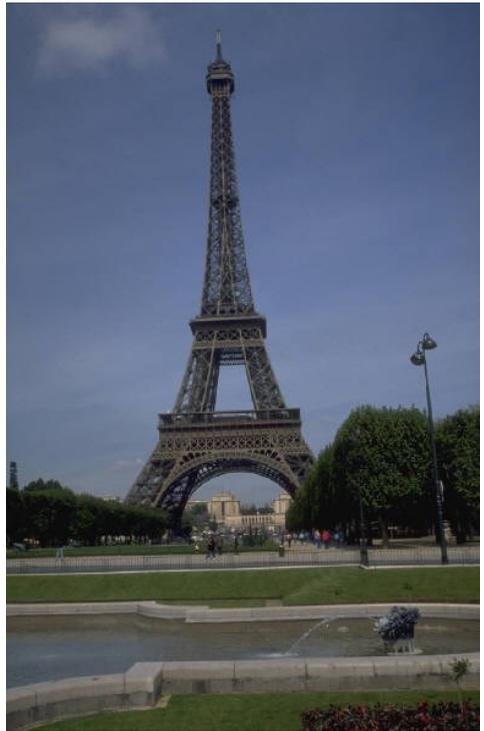


to be considered for this honor makes a recording (the same song for everyone) and sends it in to be evaluated by these judges. In 1998, Stewart was chosen as the third best tenor in the state, that is, he made third chair. When he again auditioned in 1999, he made the position of second chair. It looks like perseverance and lots of practice have paid

off, as this year Stewart was chosen as first chair tenor for the all state choir. Recently he traveled to Anchorage where the 2000 Alaska All State Choir gathered together to perform in the prestigious concert that was also broadcast on a local television station.

For most, making first chair in your state's all state choir would be enough of a feat. But, Stewart already has his eyes on the next challenge. He has sent in an audition tape to be considered for the All Northwest Choir, which consists of singers from Alaska, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. The All Northwest Choir is chosen every other year, and two years ago Stewart made

It seems that Stewart's talents are not confined only to singing, he also plays trumpet for the Soldotna High School band. Every four years this group embarks on a once in a lifetime opportunity, a trip to Europe. This is the rotational year for that trip and next March, Dick and Jane will join Stewart and the So-Hi band (as chaperones) as they all travel to France, Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. When I spoke to the Blakeslees, they were excited about the trip, but the only confirmed details Dick could recall was that the band was going to be performing beneath the Eifel tower in Paris. To be able to take this trip, all students and chaperones must pay their own way. All the best to the Blakeslees and the SoHi band as they travel to Europe representing the Kenai Peninsula.



P.S. Stewart, while in Paris, don't be too shocked if your Dad starts behaving oddly; it has been said that Paris can cause a man to lose his senses, I mean become romantic.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Dennis Bratcher

The **Twelve Days of Christmas** are probably the most misunderstood part of the church year among Christians who are not part of liturgical church traditions. Contrary to much popular belief, these are not the twelve days before Christmas, but in the Western Church are the twelve days from Christmas until the beginning of Epiphany (January 6th; the 12 days count from December 25 until January 5). The origin of the Twelve Days is complicated, and is related to differences in calendars, church traditions, and ways to observe this holy day in various cultures. In the Western church, Epiphany is traditionally celebrated as the time the three Wise Men or Magi arrived to present gifts to the young Jesus (Matt. 2:1-12). In some cultures, especially Hispanic and Latin American culture, January 6th is observed as Three Kings Day, or simply the Day of the Kings (*la Fiesta de Reyes, el Dia de los Tres Reyes, or el Dia de los Reyes Magos*). Even though December 25th is celebrated as Christmas in these cultures, January 6th is the day for giving gifts. In some places it is traditional to give Christmas gifts for each of the Twelve Days of Christmas. In Eastern Orthodox traditions, Christmas is actually celebrated on January 6 and Epiphany is January 19.

The popular song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is often seen as simply a nonsense song for children. Actually, it is a song of Christian instruction with hidden references to the basic teachings of the Faith. Dating to the 16th century religious wars in England, it was a mnemonic device to teach the catechism secretly to youngsters. The "true love" mentioned in the song is not an earthly suitor, but refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every person who is part of the Christian Faith. Each of the "days" represents some aspect of the Christian Faith that was important for children to learn.

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On the 1st day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

A Partridge in a Pear Tree

The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, whose birthday we celebrate on December 25, the first day of Christmas. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge that feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, recalling the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered you under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but you would not have it so" (Luke 13:34)

On the 2nd day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Two Turtle Doves

The Old and New Testaments, which together bear witness to God's self-revelation in history and the creation of a people to tell the Story of God to the world.

On the 3rd day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Three French Hens

The Three Theological Virtues: 1) Faith, 2) Hope, and 3) Love (1 Corinthians 13:13)

On the 4th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Four Calling Birds

The Four Gospels: 1) Matthew, 2) Mark, 3) Luke, and 4) John, which proclaim the Good News of God's reconciliation of the world to Himself in Jesus Christ.

On the 5th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Five Gold Rings

The first Five Books of the Old Testament, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch: 1) Genesis, 2) Exodus, 3) Leviticus, 4) Numbers, and 5) Deuteronomy, which gives the history of humanity's sinful failure and God's response of grace in the creation of a people to be a light to the world.

On the 6th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Six Geese A-laying

The six days of creation that confesses God as Creator and Sustainer of the world (Genesis 1).

On the 7th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Seven Swans A-swimming

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: 1) prophecy, 2) ministry, 3) teaching, 4) exhortation, 5) giving, 6) leading, and 7) compassion (Romans 12:6-8; cf. 1 Corinthians 12:8-11)

On the 8th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Eight Maids A-milking

The eight Beatitudes: 1) Blessed are the poor in spirit, 2) those who mourn, 3) the meek, 4) those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, 5) the merciful, 6) the pure in heart, 7) the peacemakers, 8) those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake. (Matthew 6:3-10)

On the 9th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Nine Ladies Dancing

The nine Fruit of the Holy Spirit: 1) love, 2) joy, 3) peace, 4) patience, 5) kindness, 6) generosity, 7) faithfulness, 8) gentleness, and 9) self-control. (Galatians 5:22)

On the 10th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Ten Lords A-leaping

The ten commandments: 1) You shall have no other gods before me; 2) Do not make an idol; 3) Do not take God's name in vain; 4) Remember the Sabbath Day; 5) Honor your father and mother; 6) Do not murder; 7) Do not commit adultery; 8) Do not steal; 9) Do not bear false witness; 10) Do not covet.

(Exodus 20:1-17)

On the 11th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Eleven Pipers Piping

The eleven Faithful Apostles: 1) Simon Peter, 2) Andrew, 3) James, 4) John, 5) Philip, 6) Bartholomew, 7) Matthew, 8) Thomas, 9) James bar Alphaeus, 10) Simon the Zealot, 11) Judas bar James. (Matthew 6:14-16). The list does not include the twelfth disciple, Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus to the Romans.

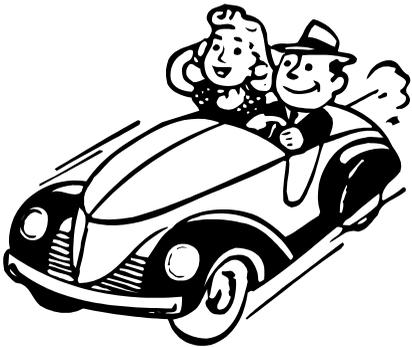
On the 12th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Twelve Drummers Drumming

The twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed: 1) I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. 2) I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. 3) He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. 4) He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell [the grave]. 5) On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 6) He will come again to judge the living and the dead. 7) I believe in the Holy Spirit, 8) the holy catholic Church, 9) the communion of saints, 10)

Dave Letzring Needs Your Help

Many of you may not be aware that we have a resident historian in our midst, well that is, if you can get by the killer dog and cannon; oh, that's right they're gone now. Anyhow, Dave Letzring has been compiling photos, stories, and other bits of church and community history and would one day like to publish a book, something like, "Once Upon The Kenai."



This is where you can help out. Dave would like any and all of you to write a few paragraphs about your family, including when you came to Alaska and when you started attending KCC. I'm sure he wouldn't even mind a fish story or two, but remember, he intends to publish this book, and once your fish story is in print, the fish can't grow anymore.

One of the things we hope to do on a regular basis in the KCC Newsletter is to write profiles on selected families. Dave will use these in his book, but it might be a long time before we can get to all of you through the Newsletter. So, why don't you sit down soon and write a few paragraphs about your family, where you came from, when you got here, when you started attending KCC, and things along those lines. It would be a really big help to Dave if you would do this. Then, give him a call or arrange for a visit so you can see what Dave has put together so far. You might be surprised to see some of the incriminating photos he has of you already.

Thanks for your help.

Proud Parent,

Congratulations! Your child is in High School! Unfortunately, the High is a reference to cost. As in the \$letterman's jacket\$ racket. You'll find the fine fetish \$400 frock absolutely necessary for the preservation of peace in your palace. And what cad would wear a perfectly good coat obtained by some devious devise like a garage sale?



Are you ready to be "took"? Here come School Pictures! Any dodo can click a photo and you probably have many. Not good enough! Get in the auto and go to the groto. That's a deal done in the dark that leaves you lighter by 4 or 5 Franklin's.

Now here look at the \$Yearbook\$. Fork out \$50 and remember no 2 kids in the same house can share the same book. The list is endless. Class rings, sport physicals, athletic participation fees (i.e. football \$130), prom tickets, and booster clubs, (where you can buy real junk for gold rush prices or volunteer time through eternity!)

Then there is the teenage transportation transition. A big yellow truck undoubtedly passes your way twice a day. Never mind that the yellow represents a golden investment made by taxpayers; it is free for your child.

But alas ! Arguments such as "I have to stay after school for _____," usually prevail and this leaves the Arabs rubbing their hands together in glee as yet another youngster takes the wheel. Rogaine is \$15 a bottle.

Are you beginning to see Graduation as a light at the end of the tunnel? Sorry! The real pricey parental participation possibilities are post graduate.

A Spent Brent

A TALE OF TWO MONKEYS

By Dale Dolifka

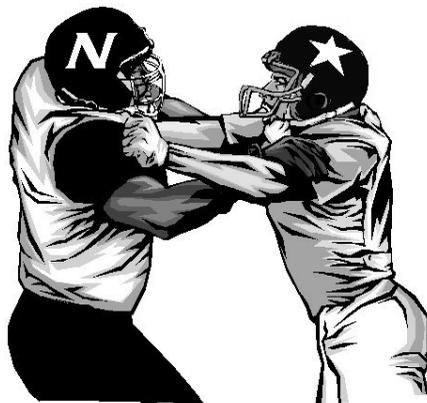
Although Alaska is not the natural environment of monkeys, two of the pesky critters came to stay on the Peninsula during the 1980's. One monkey's name was Dipper and the other's name was Dawg. Dipper arrived in the early 1980's and planted himself squarely on the back of the Soldotna Stars football team. Most of the time Dipper was a good monkey and stayed out of the way as the Stars won nine Northern Lights Conference Football Championships, made a dozen trips to the State playoffs, and had seventeen winning seasons. However, there was ONE event that Dipper faithfully showed up at and at which he was a very naughty monkey indeed. That event was the Alaska State Football Championships played at Anchorage Stadium. Four times the Stars made the "big dance" and four times the Stars were denied the gold trophy. Dipper's most notorious moment was when the Stars led the Chugiak Mustangs in the final seconds of a championship game and Dipper tipped a pass from a Star player to a Mustang player allowing the Mustangs to score a victory in the final seconds.

Now Dawg, a cousin of Dipper, came to Nikiski in 1989 and planted himself squarely on the shoulders of the Nikiski Football team. Through thirteen straight games, Dawg saw to it that Nikiski could not beat Soldotna. Oh, there were plenty of close calls--there was "the drive", "the pass", "the fumble"--you name it and somehow the Stars, with Dawg's help, always won in the end. But, worst of all, there was the infamous 89-0 shellacking that the Stars laid on Nikiski, which to this day remains an Alaska record for most points scored by one team and the widest margin of victory. It also remains a severe thorn in the flesh of Nikiski players and fans. On the other hand, present day Star players and fans have grown weary of hearing about a "motivational" factor that arose when to-

day's players were barely out of diapers. Nevertheless, old yellow clippings of that infamous game remained on the Nikiski locker room wall at the beginning of the 2000 football season.

This fall, in a script that only a "Hoosier" Hollywood writer could have written, Dawg and Dipper were destined to meet at Anchorage Football stadium, where one monkey was going to be knocked off his perch. As a result of a major reshuffle of Alaska Football team alignment, Nikiski and Soldotna did not play each other during the regular season for the first time ever. The only way the two teams were going to play was if each team made the playoffs and came out of the playoff format unscathed. That scenario resulted when Nikiski nailed its bitter rival Kenai 34-14 and the Soldotna Stars won a cliffhanger over the resurgent Houston Hawks 20-13.

On championship Saturday, several hundred faithful Nikiski and Soldotna fans made their way to Anchorage for the grande finale. Finally, the time came for the championship kickoff and Dipper and Dawg tangled in what could only be described as a "classic". Nikiski drew first blood to



take a 7-0 lead and Soldotna soon responded with six of it's own. The first half ended 14-6 in Nikiski's favor after a superb drive by the Bulldogs in the second quarter. At the beginning of the third quarter, Soldotna marched quickly down-field, scored a touchdown, executed a two point conversion and tied the game 14-14. At the end of the third quarter, Nikiski scored a touchdown but failed to convert on its extra point attempt. Thus, the fourth quarter began with the Bulldogs up 20-14, leaving many scenarios for the players and fans to consider. The entire fourth quarter was a nail biter. The Stars did threaten to score. But Dipper, in his devilish way, caused two fumbles and two interceptions ending all of the Star's

fourth quarter last ditch drives. With 26 seconds left and the crowd roaring with gusto, the Stars executed their last play. In a typical Dipper fashioned ending, Dipper tipped a potentially winning pass from a Star receiver's hands into the hands of Nikiski's MVP David Hollaway. Thus, ended another runner up season for the Stars Football team, another long ride home for the Star fans, and another day for Dipper to deliver his dasterdly deeds. The Niskiki football team had finally sent ole Dawg packing and hopefully, for the sake of SoHi fans, he took the yellow clippings with him.

SOLDOTNA HIGH SCHOOL GOES TO STATE IN VOLLEYBALL

No, not THAT Soldotna high school, the other one. You know, the one with the fine new second year coach that has completely turned around a sleeping program. They call her Coach "K" but most of you probably know her as "Miss Sheila". While the SoHi Stars may have won the regular season Southern Division of the Northern Lights volleyball conference, they, along with the Palmer Moose, regular season winners of the Northern division, were dumped in the tournament's semifinals by Wasilla and Skyview. The Stars then lost to the Moose in the third place game which determined the third and final berth for the State tournament. SoHi fans extend a big "job well done" to the Skyview Panthers volleyball team and their now famous coach and wish them all "good luck" in the future.

THE FISH REPEAT AS STATE RUNNER-UPS

The SoHi swimming teams once again came away with banner seasons. The boys team won their 20th regional title and once again came home with a second place state trophy. The Stars came away with



some very special awards at the State tournament. Joshua Gemmel was voted the OUTSTANDING SWIMMER of the meet. Lucas Peterson was voted COACHES SWIMMER of the year. And, the SoHi team had the highest G.P.A. of all of the teams. The SoHi girls took home the 4th place trophy and have a very bright future.

STARS IN A RERUN

On October 1, 2000, the Stars cross-country boys team repeated as Alaska State Champions. The team was led by Andy Lieberman who had the added distinction of being the first non-Anchorage/Valley runner to win an individual title. Lieberman was joined by Brent Knight and Kyle McBride in bringing home the Gold. Lieberman is the only senior on the team which bodes well for the future. The Stars were followed by the Palmer Moose and the Warriors of Wasilla. The event was held on the Skyview course which is hailed as the best in the State. In what will hopefully become a tradition, the Stars team, for the second year in a row, ran from Skyview High School to Soldotna High School bearing the coveted hardware.

Editorial - Final Thoughts From KCC's Archie Bunker

You know what, I don't consider myself cheap (stop laughing). Just because I don't see anything wrong with diving out of the back of my truck into the local dumpster to grab a good 2x4, or just because I have been known to bring home an item that looks very similar to something my wife threw away the day before, some would call me miserly names.

Let's take eating out for example. When was the last time you ventured out of your car and actually sat down inside one of our finer eating establishments? I don't know about you, but if I am not shifting gears with one hand while holding a triple cheeseburger with all the fixings in the other, then it's not any fun at all. Yes, you heard me right, my analysis of a good meal is how much of it remains on my shirt or pants leg when I'm through eating.

Perhaps this aversion to sitting down to a nutritious meal of onion rings, burritos, and 12-hour heat lamp corndogs can be traced to the one event that occasionally results in a marital spat between my lovely wife and I. These disagreements only occur when we bypass the drive-through window and bravely walk inside for a "sit-down" meal.

This just happens to be an aspect of life that my wife and I see a little differently. It can be traced to the fact that she has spent time on the other side of the table, in the role of servant. It's called waitressing, and it often comes in a package that includes poverty hourly wages.

She knows that without tips, a waitress or waiter would not be able to make it. You know what, I agree with her and therefore have no problem with the concept of tipping. But, there is one issue I do stumble over. I sometimes feel like the restaurant owner expects me not only to pay top dollar for the meal I purchased, but also to relieve him/her from his/her responsibility to pay their help. This doesn't seem right. The last time I looked up the word "tip," it meant a gratuity, an act of kindness offered to the waitress or waiter for good service, i.e., it is an optional part of the transaction. No longer is this true. Tipping has now become an obligation, kind of like the tax that is added to your purchases. If you don't leave one, you are viewed in the same light as Ebenezer Scrooge. Ok, Ok, you need to know that I do leave tips, especially when it is deserved, but I have a hard time tipping when it is not warranted. You see, I have come to realize what a waitress must feel like when she gets "stiffed" by a customer. When I visit my local dumpster and the only thing I find there is bagged up garbage, then I feel like I have been robbed of my tip. So listen closely people, it's time to start coughing up the good stuff, not just your empty ice-cream cartons.

By the way, my xtra-tuffs are size 10, so the next time you are dropping off your tips at the dumpster, consider my waving upside down boots as a gesture of friendship.