

The DPS Quarterly

A Department of Public Safety publication bringing professionalism and humanity together. Spring 2005

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In Recognition Of 50 Years Of Service



The Department of Public Safety is pleased to recognize the service and dedication of the men and women of the Division of Fire Prevention, in celebration of their 50th Anniversary.

As with the progression and development of many of the Divisions within the Department, Fire Prevention developed gradually to meet the needs of the citizens of Alaska and to face the challenges of the changing world.

Prompted by an arson fire, the Division was organized in 1955. Today the Division's mission is to prevent the loss of life and property from fire and explo-

sion. Three Bureaus have been established within the Division to meet this mission: Life Safety and Inspections, Plan Review, and Training and Education.

Special events are scheduled throughout the year to celebrate this anniversary. The first will be a reception on Marsh 23, 2005, for all current and former Fire Prevention employees.

The Office of the Alaska Fire Marshal has protected Alaskans from fire for fifty years. ■

A Brief History Of The Division Of Fire Prevention

BY DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL II - RETIRED WALTER WINSTON AND
PUBLIC EDUCATION COORDINATOR JODIE HETTRICK

An arson fire in a building next door to the Territorial Police offices in Anchorage sparked the creation of the Office of the Fire Marshal. The Legislature of the Territory of Alaska Twenty-Second Session established the Office of Fire Marshal within the Department of Territorial Police with Senate Bill 24. The bill was signed into law by **Territorial Governor B. Frank Heintzleman** on March 23, 1955.

The first Fire Marshal was **C.V. Daily**, a retired Detective from the Seattle Police Department. He served from July to December 1955. The position remained vacant until April 15, 1956, when **Fredrick C. Roberts**, a retired Fire Officer from Los

Angeles, and former Fire Chief from Eielson Air Force Base was appointed. The primary function of the first Fire Marshal was to develop a Territorial Fire Safety Code and investigate suspected arson fires.

Fire Marshal Roberts drafted the first Territorial Fire Safety Code which was adopted December 5, 1956. He resigned in June of 1957, and the position was vacant for nearly a year until it was filled by **Hilton A. Dearing** in May 1958.

Alaska officially became the forty-ninth State January 3, 1959, while Dearing was the Fire Marshal. He resigned in April (**History**, continued on page 2)

History, continued from page 1

1959, to become a special agent for the American Insurance Association and **Robert F. Crouse** was appointed the Alaska State Fire Marshal on September 15, 1959. The State Fire Marshal's Office remained a one person operation, responsible for life safety code enforcement and fire investigations as well as training of State Police and volunteer firefighters throughout the State until the mid 1960s. State Fire Marshal Crouse accepted an award from the National Association of Fire Investigators for National Fire Marshal of the Year in 1965. The award was presented to Alaska for their great strides in fighting arson fires.

In 1965, due to the devastating and alarming number of fire related fatalities (averaging 35 per year), the State Firefighters Association convinced the legislature to authorize a statewide fire training position within the Department of Vocational Education.

William A. Hagevig, from the Ketchikan Fire Department, was appointed and given the task of organizing a statewide fire-training program aimed primarily toward the smaller volunteer departments throughout the state. Even though Fire Service Training was not a part of Public Safety directly under the Supervision of the State Fire Marshal at this time, a strong co-operative effort was developed



Village Public Safety Officers trained in Anchorage in the late 1990s.

and maintained between the two organizations.

In 1967, State Fire Marshal Robert F. Crouse began publication of the Fire Marshal's Newsletter. The newsletter began as a service to communicate with the fire service and the rest of Public Safety about the workings of the State Fire Marshal's Office.

By 1967, the Division of Fire Prevention had seven full-time employees. The Division was organized into three program areas: fire and arson investigation, fire prevention, and training and code enforcement.

In October 1967, after serving as the State Fire Marshal for eight years, Robert Crouse resigned. **Wallace Dawson** was ap-

pointed the State Fire Marshal and continued to expand the Divisions responsibilities.

By 1969, Legislation was adopted that allowed local Fire Chiefs and/or heads of local governments authority to function as Deputy Fire Marshals for the State of Alaska. This "Deputy Fire Marshal" designation was repealed sometime in the early 1970s (it was felt that there were too many unqualified individuals in elected or appointed positions to properly enforce the life safety code requirements); however, AS 18.70.090 still allows the local Fire Chief the power to enforce the regulations adopted by the Department of Public Safety for the prevention of fire or for the protection of life and property against fire, panic, and explosion.

Also in '69, **Gary R. Crouse** was selected as the new Chief Inspector. This position was added due to the increasing responsibilities of plan reviews, more in-depth inspections, investigations and training.

In the early 1970s, an inspector was added to the Northern and South Central regions and the Chief Inspector became the Deputy Director. Regional Fire Marshal **Ronald Hendrie** was appointed State Fire Marshal in 1972.

The Division reorganized in the mid 1970s. A Fire Protection Engineer's position was created and retired State Fire Marshal Robert Crouse was selected to fill the position. The Assistant Fire Marshals were reclassified as Deputy Fire Marshal IIIs and the Inspectors became Deputy



The Juneau Regional Fire Training Center was one of five constructed in the 1970s to provide "hands-on" training to volunteers and firefighters.

(History, continued on page 3)

History, continued from page 2

Fire Marshal Is. A Data Control Clerk was also authorized at this time.

The mid to late 1970s brought about the construction of five regional fire training centers to centralized locations in Anchorage, Juneau, Fairbanks, Kotzebue, and Bethel. The training centers were built to provide more “hands-on” training to volunteer firefighters around the State.



Juneau firefighter Teresa Ross-Smith, trained in Juneau and later became a Deputy Fire Marshal in Fairbanks.

Commissioner Richard Burton mandated that all Deputy Fire Marshals became commissioned officers and on March 31, 1977, Deputy Fire Marshals **Lee Davis** and **Roy “Ike” Isenberg** graduated from the 28th State Trooper recruit academy becoming the first commissioned peace officers within the Division.

By 1981-82, the State Fire Marshal had an Assistant State Fire Marshal, three Deputy Fire Marshal III/Supervisors, a Fire Protection Engineer, and a Public Education Specialist I to oversee federal grants and provide public fire education programs such as “Learn Not To Burn” to the public schools. In addition to the regional supervisors, Southeast region had a Deputy Fire Marshal I, South Central had three Deputy Fire Marshal Is, and the Northern Region had two Deputy Fire Marshal Is.



The first Marine Shipboard Firefighting Class was taught for the State ferry system. Former Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer assisted Mark Barker in presenting the certificates of completion to the class.



Sam Neal (left) was appointed Director of the Division in 1983, and Alaska State Trooper Lt. Jay Yakopatz (right) was temporarily assigned as Assistant State Fire Marshal in 1988.

In 1983, the Assistant Fire Marshal position was abolished and an additional Deputy Fire Marshal I was added to the Northern Region. The Deputy Fire Marshal III position was reclassified as a supervisor. Gary Crouse and **Gordon Brunton** filled the Director’s position until October 1983, when **Sylvester “Sam” Neal** was appointed.

The Fire Marshal’s Office recognized the growing need for more aggressive arson fire investigations and was very instrumental in providing instructors and funding seminars leading to the formation of the Alaska Association of Fire and Arson Investigators.

September 1984 brought the first female Deputy Fire Marshal into the Division

when **Edith Curry** joined the Northern Region Office.

In September 1985, Fire Service Training was transferred from the Department of Education to the Division of Fire Prevention under the direct supervision of the State Fire Marshal. By this time, Fire Service Training had grown to a supervisor and two Fire Training Specialists, with one stationed in Juneau with the supervisor and one in Anchorage.

By the end of 1986, budget considerations started to take their toll on the Division. The Public Education Specialist, a Fire Training Specialist, and two Deputy Fire Marshal positions were eliminated.

State Fire Marshal Neal, however, negoti-

(History, continued on page 4)

History, continued from page 3



A federal grant provided funds for the purchase of a mobile trailer equipped with a built in residential sprinkler system. The trailer was transported across the state for demonstrations. Former Governor Bill Sheffield toured the exhibit.

ated a grant from the federal government to promote residential sprinkler systems that gave a real boost to the Public Education Program and provided a mobile trailer equipped with a built in residential sprinkler that could be hooked up with a domestic water hose. The demonstration trailer toured the state from late 1986 through 1987.

In 1987, the Deputy Fire Marshal II (supervisor) position was eliminated from the Northern Region. The economic climate began to improve in 1988, bringing back two Deputy Fire Marshals, and two Fire Training Specialist positions. A plea for additional help in the Director's Office late in 1988 resulted in the temporary assignment of **Lt. Jay Yakopatz**, from the Alaska State Troopers, as Assistant State Fire Marshal.



Lt. Yakopatz also served as acting State Fire Marshal from November 1990, until **Jack McGary's** appointment in August 1991. The re-allocation of priorities throughout the early 1990s drastically reduced the Division's overall ability to participate in fire investigations and public fire education programs leaving our focus solely on targeted building inspections and plan reviews. A single Anchorage Deputy Fire Marshal was assigned the investigation of all fatal fires and all suspected arson fires along with various other special assignments such as public fire education/prevention.

In 1992, the Assistant State Fire Marshal's position was re-instated to focus on inspecting all hospitals in the state.

In 1994, the Data Control Clerk's position was converted to an Administrative Assistant on the Director's staff. The Fire Protection Engineer was reclassified as the Plans Examiner, concentrating on larger projects.

Craig Goodrich was appointed the State Fire Marshal in 1995. In 1996, there



Deputy Fire Marshal Jack Oxford explained fire safety to a child during an education program.



Deputy Fire Marshal Bill Davis participated in public education programs.



Jack McGary was appointed State Fire Marshal in 1991.



Craig Goodrich was appointed State Fire Marshal in 1995. His buddy was a new remote controlled Sparky robot.

was a renewed effort to get the Division back into public fire education by resurrecting the "Learn Not To Burn" school curriculum. Additional time was allotted to school inspection trips to allow fire prevention presentations. Fire investigations once again became the responsibility of all Deputy Fire Marshals, working in a coop-
(History, continued on page 5)



Jodie Hettrick (left) and Christy Paddock used puppets in fire safety education in the schools.

History, continued from page 4

erative effort with local fire departments and the Alaska State Troopers.

The current Alaska State Fire Marshal, **Gary Powell**, was appointed in June of 1999. He successfully lobbied to bring back the Public Education Specialist position and the Northern Fire Training Specialist position by 2002. In 2003, the Division began a complete reorganization into three Bureaus: Life Safety and Inspection Bureau, Plan Review Bureau and the Training and Education Bureau.

Alaska has grown tremendously since 1955 and the Division of Fire Prevention has grown to provide more services to Alaskan citizens.

In 1955, the fire death rate in Alaska was 10 deaths for every 100,000 people. It has improved to 1 death per 100,000 per-



Gary Powell was appointed State Fire Marshal in 1999.

sons in 2003. We are saving at least 67 people from dying from fire each year. The Division of Fire Prevention is working toward the elimination of fire deaths in Alaska. ■



Fire Training Supervisor Tom Take provided training on use of the new fire engines at Port Heiden.



The Alaska Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial is located at the Anchorage Regional Fire Training Center on Airport Heights Road in Anchorage, Alaska.

Excerpts from the Fire Marshal's Newsletter:

January 1968 –

Fire Marshal's Newsletter

Uniform Fire and Police Reporting Numbers – We read in the weekly newsletter from the Office of **Senator Ernest Gruening** that he had introduced a concurrent resolution, which would make it possible for a citizen to dial one uniform nationwide fire reporting telephone number and one uniform nationwide police reporting telephone number.

He said on the floor of the Senate, “Uniform nationwide fire reporting and police reporting telephone numbers will not end riots, eradicate criminals, nor prevent fires, but they would provide two sensible tools which could make it possible for strangers passing through town to save a burning home or apartment house or let local police authorities know that a store front has been broken.”

March 1968 –

Fire Marshal's Newsletter

The news this morning, on this first day of Spring, carried the announcement of the signing by **Governor Hickel** of the Workmen's Compensation Bill for volunteer firemen.

On February 11, **Pamela Onnolee Macy**, age 16, noticed smoke coming from a house just outside of Valdez proper. She went in and found a young man, **Earl Bangle**, asleep and partly overcome by smoke.

The girl attempted to awaken Bangle without success and was forced to go outside again for air due to the extremely
(**History**, continued on page 6)



A village fire 'truck'. Where most travel is by waterway, a boat equipped with hose and pump is ideal.

History, continued from page 5

smoky conditions. She went back inside again and found Bangle's clothing and hair on fire. This time she was able to wake him and help him out. She attempted to put the fire out, but it was too far advanced.

September 1968 –

Fire Marshal's Newsletter

Chief Boddy answered a call for help from the State Fire Marshal's Office in 1966, in order to assist in training volunteer firefighters at the Pribilofs.

Following a tragic fire earlier that year, in which eight children and one adult lost



Assistant Fire Marshal Andre Schalk

their lives, the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries requested training for the two existing volunteer companies at the Pribilofs. Besides Chief Boddy, **Lieutenant William Hagevig** of the Ketchikan Volunteer Fire Department and Assistant Fire Marshal **Andre Schalk** went on this expedition.

As a result, to date, there are two very active and well-trained departments in the St. Paul and St. George. At least, during a large warehouse fire, shortly after the team of instructors left, part of the building and all of the cases of beer were saved... ■

Division of Alaska State Troopers Successful Bids And Appointments

Colonel Julia Grimes announced the following successful bidders:

Trp. Jeremy Rupe, Homer, E Detachment, is the successful bidder for Fairbanks, ABI; **Trp. Eric Spitzer**, St. Marys, C Detachment, is the successful bidder for Anchorage, ABADE Major Offenders Unit; **Trp. Jack Ransom**, Palmer, B Detachment, is the successful bidder for Iliamna, C Detachment; and **Trp.**

Cornelius Sims, Soldotna, ABI, is the successful bidder for Dillingham, C Detachment.

Trp. Thad Hamilton, Bethel, ABADE, is the successful bidder for Soldotna, E Detachment; **Trp. David Sherbahn**, Northway, D Detachment, is the successful bidder for Ninilchik, E Detachment; **Trp. Dugger Cook**, Palmer, B Detachment, is the successful bidder for Tok, D De-

tachment; and **Trp. Garrett Willis**, Fairbanks, D Detachment, is the successful bidder for St. Marys, C Detachment.

Col. Grimes announced the following Court Services Officer appointments effective January 3, 2005:

August Bergman, **James Gillum**, and **Taras Lapka**, Anchorage, Judicial Services; and **Jason Wick**, Ketchikan, Judicial Services. ■

Salute To Those In The Field

A salute to those who strive and attain success, and thank you to those in the field who have proven they are willing to provide the highest degree of professionalism each and every day.

Trp. Howard Peterson, Palmer Patrol, received a memo of appreciation for his professionalism and community involvement with Butte Elementary School.

Trp. Mike Burkmire, Palmer Post, received a memo of appreciation for his ongoing efforts to problem solve and volunteer assistance to the Detachment during both on-and off-duty time.

Trp. Jason Fieser, Palmer Post, received a memo of appreciation for his positive contributions to the core mission of the Alaska State Troopers.

A salute and thanks to those who have been mentioned, and to those not described, who continue to provide outstanding public safety services, and strive to maintain a proud and professional image.

A salute and thanks from the each of the Divisions and the Office of the Commissioner. ■

Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement And The Winner Is...

On February 4, 2005, **Trp. Todd Machacek**, was awarded the Shikar-Safari Wildlife Officer of the Year award for Alaska. Trp. Machacek is assigned to the Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement, Southeast Region, Juneau Post. The Sa-

fari Club International presents the award each year in recognition of outstanding work accomplished in protecting and conserving wildlife resources. Trp. Machacek is a 10-year veteran of the Alaska State Troopers and has served in the communi-

ties of Fairbanks, Kodiak, Nome, Anchorage, McGrath, and Juneau. Trp. Machacek has distinguished himself, specifically by his all around outstanding efforts protecting fish and wildlife resources of the State of Alaska. ■

Welcome Aboard

By SERGEANT MATT DOBSON
ABWE – BETHEL

On December 31, 2004, I called the Bethel AST post and spoke with the answering Trooper. “Call Cresswell,” I said, “and tell him to grab his gear and get on the next Hageland flight to St. Marys. I think it leaves in about an hour.” Cresswell is actually **Trp. Mike Cresswell** who had arrived the evening before to report for duty as the new ABWE Trooper in Bethel.

Coming from Soldotna, his arrival in Bethel marked his first trip to western Alaska. The rest of the regional ABWE Troopers and I were working out of St. Marys during a winter moose hunt on the lower Yukon River so I had not been able to meet him at the Bethel airport. About two hours later, Cresswell arrived in St. Marys and we headed back to post. I explained that the rest of the guys were out patrolling on snow machines and that after getting a bite to eat, we would be headed out too. With just the slightest hint of hesitation he informed me that he had never been on a snowmachine before. “No problem,” I said. “This is the gas, this is the brake and keep me in sight.”

We got our cold weather gear on and headed up the Yukon River for Pilot Station. Without too much excitement, we arrived and made contact with the VPSO

and local VPOs. We then started making the rounds through the village to let everyone know that Troopers would be in town for New Years’ Eve. This included attending the Eskimo dance, the fiddle dance, and making contact with as many young folks as we could. While making the rounds, we got wind of some possible hunting violations and eventually tracked down a few culprits.

At about 2230, **Trps. Brett Gibbens** and **Jon Simeon** arrived in town. They had been following up on a case that included the poaching and wasting of two cow moose near the village of Marshall. With grins from ear to ear, they reported that not only had they solved the original case, but they had discovered where two additional cow moose had been poached and solved those cases as well. Having issued several hefty citations in Marshall, they felt it might be better to spend the night elsewhere. They also hoped to get an early morning start on returning to one of the original kills sites in hopes of recovering a bullet. While in Marshall, Gibbens and Simeon had seized some of the moose meat and needed to distribute it in Pilot Station. With the help of the VPSO, we were able to quickly find some elders more than willing to accept the fresh meat.

Agreeing with Trp. Gibbens’ idea about getting back to the kill site as early as possible, I decided that all of us should make one more trip through the dance halls and then slink out of town and back to St. Marys. The New Year arrived with the four of us riding hard on the trail headed down river. **Investigators Joe Hazelaar** and **Jerry Evan** had just returned from working some ABADE cases in Mt. Village while **Trp. Jim Pagel** and **Inv. Mike Wooten** worked the swing shift in St. Marys itself. After some dinner and a quick recap of the day’s events we hit the rack.



Sgt. Matt Dobson and Trp. Mike Cresswell on Cresswell’s first official day on the job.

New Years’ day was Cresswell’s first official day as an ABWE Trooper and we decided to treat him right. He piled into the back of a Super cub and, along with Gibbens and Simeon in another Cub, we took off for the kill sites. With the weather deteriorating, we wanted to get there and get back as soon as possible. The other guys headed out on snow machine to do some follow-up investigations. After arriving, we hiked to the location where the adult cow moose had died. Trp. Gibbens asked Cresswell if he had ever skinned or butchered a moose? “No”, he said. Had he ever skinned or butchered any animals? (Welcome, continued on page 8)



Trps. Mick Cresswell, Jon Simeon, and Brett Gibbens did a field expedient necropsy in search of a bullet.

Welcome, continued from page 7

“A rabbit once”, he replied. “OK”, we told him, “we’ll just proceed as if this was a big rabbit!”

With instructions from the three of us, Cresswell dove right in. “Cut here, chop that, pull that way, skin this, that looks promising, I think we found it, grab the metal detector, ALL RIGHT!” It was an almost perfect .223 round. It would match the mini-14 we seized last night. The bullet had made its entry in what is sometimes referred to as a “Texas Heart Shot” and traveled through the stomach region before lodging against the hide. The moose had run about 75 yards before she lay down and died. The very negligent shooter had not even gotten off his snow machine to look for her! After finding the bullet, we gave Cresswell a quick moose anatomy class and pointed out some interesting parts, such as the fetus. We then had a quick lunch (nothing like a sandwich next to a 4 and a half day old dead moose). As we headed for home, we began to comment that the wind had picked up. A short time later Cresswell, who has a goodly amount of time flying Beavers in southeast, summed it up when he stated. “OK, it is officially rough out here”. It must have been the third time his head banged off the ceiling that convinced him! With the wind up, both Gibbens and I

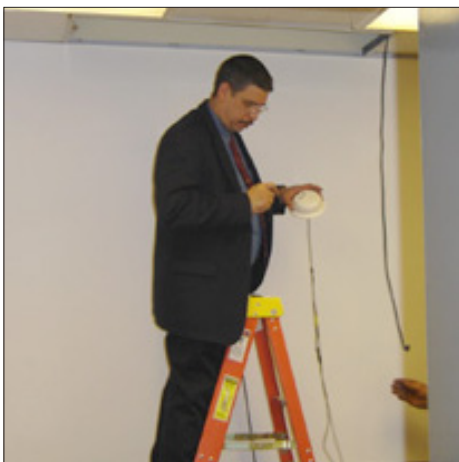
made very short landings at the St. Marys airport. However, both Super cubs had a hard time staying on the ground. I think I caught Cresswell off guard when I told him to get out and hold the wing, as I wasn’t sure the plane would stay put if I just shut the engine off. After an exciting 30 minutes of getting both planes securely anchored to the ground, we headed back to the post. The other guys arrived as well

and told of their harrowing snow machine rides on glare ice and high winds. After a good steak dinner and several diet Dr. Peppers, Cresswell finally couldn’t contain himself any longer. He had to ask, “Was this a fairly routine day?” He was answered with a unanimous, “Yes!” “Good. I think I’m going to like this job.” We think you will too Mike. Welcome aboard! ■



Trp. Kim Babcock listened as Hmong teacher and translator Yatoua Yang related her fishing advice to a group of recent Hmong immigrants to Alaska. The Hmong have lived for years on refugee camps in Thailand and have just recently begun relocating to various cities throughout the United States.

AST Detachment News



Sgt. Sonny Sabala assisted with remodeling of an interview room in Soldotna. He demonstrates what well-dressed ABI people wear for such work.



ABI Soldotna hosted a going away party for Cornelius "Moose" Sims prior to his transfer to Dillingham. Lt. John Papasodora presented Sims with special going away gifts.

A Detachment News



On January 29, 2005, Governor Frank Murkowski met with Captain Kurt Ludwig at the new A Detachment Headquarters/Ketchikan Post building. Construction is progressing nicely and should be ready by the expected move in date the first week in March. Governor Murkowski was accompanied by Mrs. Murkowski, Chief of Staff Jim Clark, and Ketchikan Borough Mayor Mike Salazar, from whom the building was purchased.



Marianne Thomson and Cindy Stone were among the Ketchikan Post employees, spouses, and significant others who gathered for the annual holiday dinner and party held January 8 in the Fireside Room at Jeremiah's, in The Landing. A scrumptious dinner of prime rib and halibut with all the trimmings was finished off with a delectable selection of cheesecake. The annual Chinese auction was held after dinner with many fine gifts grabbed, and then of course, re-grabbed. The evening continued with cocktails and socializing. All in all, those who attended shared holiday cheer and enjoyed good food, good drink, and of course, good company.



On February 1, 2005, Sgt. Lonny Piscoya was honored by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) during an event at their District Headquarters in Ketchikan. The USFS thanked Sgt. Piscoya and presented him and the Ketchikan Post, with a plaque for his efforts in a SAR involving USFS Employee Ricardo Sainz. Sainz was lost in the Bakewell Arm area of the Misty Fiords National Monument late last year. Sgt. Piscoya worked with USFS on the SAR and was immensely helpful with next of kin issues. The award was presented by Forrest Cole, Supervisor of the USFS Tongass National Forest.

(A Detachment, continued on page 10)



Michele Dunn, Sgt. Lonny Piscoya, and Linda Deal enjoyed the annual Ketchikan Post holiday dinner and party in January.

A Detachment, continued from page 9



Youth in Action/MADD Honors POW Troopers: On January 13, 2005, the Craig High School Youth in Action group honored local Troopers and other local law enforcement by hosting a community potluck supper, reading short tributes to each trooper, and presenting local troopers with a plaque. Youth in Action is a group of approximately 20 Craig High School students associated with Mothers Against Drunk Driving dedicated to educating youth and using positive peer pressure to reduce teen drinking, and drinking and driving in general. The dinner was attended by a diverse group of community members who were entertained by short speeches about each of the troopers and officers. Each of the troopers received a round of applause for their efforts to combat youth drinking in the community. Troopers and community members were treated to a wild fish and game meal prepared by some of the best cooks in town. Trps. Bob Claus, Walter Blajeski, Herv Ibarra, Glenn Taylor, and Thomas Lowy of Klawock Post were presented with a plaque thanking them for "...all of your dedication and support helping with issues of underage drinking and drinking and driving on our island. We appreciate your dedication to our youth and the people of Prince of Wales Island."



ACIII Linda Deal and her husband David spent the entire month of December in Australia visiting their daughter Nicole, who is attending veterinary school there. One of the highlights was this photo of the Australian police cars. Linda couldn't figure out where they would put a prisoner if an arrest had to be made.



Trp. Bryan Barlow and his wife Ophelia arrived in Ketchikan in December from Ninilchik. The Barlows love the rain, so they are fitting in quite well. They are expecting their first child in July. Welcome from all in A Detachment to the Barlows!



Warm wishes and congratulations to Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement Trp. Jeremy Baum and Kristi Prentice, both of Ketchikan, on the couples' recently announced engagement. The couple became engaged on Christmas Day and plan to be married on April 16, 2005, at the Clover Pass Church in Ketchikan. Everyone in A Detachment extends best wishes to Jeremy and Kristi for a wonderful future together.

New CSO Attends Training:

Jason Wick, of Ketchikan, was recently hired as a second Court Service Officer for the Ketchikan area. Wick is currently attending training in the Anchorage area before joining CSO Ron Whitton to begin his new duties. Wick worked for Fish and Wildlife Protection in the mid 1990s. He and his wife Andrea have two sons, Evan, age 8, and Alex, age 6. Welcome back Jason! ■

(A Detachment, continued on page 11)

A Detachment, continued from page 10



You may notice the huge smile on Linda Deal's face, which means she is thinking, "In a few short weeks I will no longer have to dress for the weather, hope that the snow isn't too high to open the gate, and walk a half a block to the evidence storage facility to store my evidence". The evidence room will actually be located inside the new A Detachment/Ketchikan Post building, scheduled for a move in date of early March.



If you look real close, and you can almost make out someone in a blue uniform in the front end loader.



Aha! It is none other than Capt. Kurt Ludwig performing his annual snow removal duties, at Ketchikan Post after a moderate snowstorm blanketed Ketchikan.

B Detachment News

WRITTEN BY JULIE KIRN, AST PALMER

Additions/Subtractions:

We have one new arrival in B Detachment. **Trp. David Herrell**, and family welcomed a baby girl, **Danielle Paige**, into the family. She was born on December 6, 2004, and weighed 5 pounds and 4 ounces. Danielle joins a brother and sister.

Palmer has 5 new recruits. They are **Shannon Fore**, **Timothy Hall**, **Scott Ide**, **Benjamin Mank**, and **Robert Nunley**. Welcome!

Sgt. Rick Terry retired on January 15, 2005. He will be sorely missed. Best wishes Rick!



Sgt. Rick Terry received his retirement plaque from Major Joe Masters.

Sgt. Patrick Davis transferred from Mat-Su Narcotics to Palmer Judicial Services effective January 1, 2005. Good luck in your new assignment.

Trp. Scott Briggs and **Trp. Mike Burkmire** moved over to the Alaska Bureau of Investigations in Palmer. We still get to see them, but they will be missed in Patrol.

Congratulations:

Several people were honored and surprised during our Christmas potluck on December 23, 2004. Those honored were **Trp. Michael Burkmire**, ABI, who received the award for 2003 B Detachment Trooper of the year award. Burkmire is a nine-year member of the Department and assigned as an FTO, Accident Reconstructionist, Total Station operator, shift OIC, and instructor both at the field
(B Detachment, continued on page 12)

B Detachment, continued from page 11



Major Joe Masters presented Sgt. Duane Stone with a Commendation for Honorable Service. Capt. Dennis Casanovas is B Detachment Commander.



Trp. Michael Burkmire was selected as 2003 B Detachment Trooper of the Year. Julie Kirn was recognized as 2003 B Detachment Civilian Employee of the Year.



Julie Kirn and Lisa Bucher won first prize for their door decorations in the annual competition. They also had the *only* entry in the event.

level and at the Public Safety Academy. **Sgt. Duane Stone** received a Commendation for Honorable Service. Sgt. Stone has served as the Glennallen Post Supervisor since his promotion and transfer there in October 2002.

Trp. Eric Lorring received a Commendation for Honorable Service for his undercover work in Juneau. He was part of the investigation of the March 2003 murder of Tenakee Springs resident, **Maggie Wigen**.

Trp. Vance Peronto received a Letter of Commendation. He was assigned a "Welfare Check" on June 5, 2003, at a residence in the Williwaw Subdivision in Wasilla. A 39-year old male was reported to have been recently distraught. Trp. Peronto contacted several elderly people at the residence who appeared to be unconcerned and unaware of the situation. Upon further investigation he observed a gentleman pointing a weapon at his head. He calmed the gentleman down and convinced him to put his weapon in a safe location.

Julie Kirn was recognized as the 2003 B Detachment Civilian Employee of the year. Kirn's position was transferred to Palmer from Anchorage in November 2002. Since then she has made a tremendous difference in the evidence room getting the backlog of evidence caught up and reorganizing the files and evidence. Her dedication is shown in her daily performance. Great job Julie.

The holidays have come and gone and the evidence custodian elves have been busy again this year. They won first prize for their door decorations. The competition was fierce but our hard work paid off. **Capt. Dennis Casanovas** recognized their hard work and dedication and made a suitable 1st place trophy. Due to lack of participation, (Julie and Lisa omitted to let anyone else know of the contest) no second or third place trophies were needed.

Palmer's evidence facility is slated to increase somewhat in the near future. ABI has moved out of the evidence area and has made the old ABWE area their permanent home. The evidence room will be increased by approximately 145 square feet. The DUI team will share office space with the two evidence custodians.

(B Detachment, continued on page 13)

B Detachment, continued from page 12

November 14, 2004, marked one year that the AST DUI Team based in B Detachment in Palmer has been operational. With one Sergeant and three Troopers, they have consistently dedicated their efforts to locating and arresting suspects under the influence of intoxicating liquor and/or drugs throughout Central Alaska. From November 16, 2003 to November 15, 2004, members of the DUI Team have worked weekends and holidays and in conjunction with special events. They have made 392 arrests; this is 32 arrests per month. Kudos to the DUI Team, keep up the good work.

Talkeetna Post has a new Sergeant. After three years as an Academy Instructor, **Cpl. James Helgoe** was promoted to Talkeetna's new Sergeant. On December 15, 2004, Sgt. Helgoe reported for duty early, but didn't have much time to settle in as he responded to non-stop calls. Sgt. Helgoe states, "I am excited and my first day I definitely hit the ground running. I



Trp. Ronny Simmons taught the DARE Program to the Kenny Lake School.

had Warrant Arrests, DV Assaults, and finally ended the day with a SAR...it was definitely a "Welcome back to the road".

Trp. Ronny Simmons is currently teaching the DARE Program to the Kenny Lake School and will be going to the

Glennallen Elementary next. He is currently on week six and has five more weeks of instruction before graduation. The DARE instruction is being received well both by the kids and the schools. Good job Trp. Simmons. ■

C Detachment News

Bristol Bay Region

BY SGT. JEFF LAUGHLIN

There's been a lot of activity in the Bristol Bay Region during the past several months. Everything really started back in July when **Trp. Mike Brandenburger** and Clerk **Trish Conlan** retired and moved to warmer climates. Next came **Sgt. Rick Quinn's** transfer to Fairbanks. **Trp. Jeff Laughlin** was promoted in place and took over as the Bristol Bay Area Supervisor. **Trp. Andy Evarts** was promoted to Corporal and transferred to the Academy in Sitka.

Trp. John Holm and Sgt. Jeff Laughlin stayed behind and held down the fort in Dillingham and in King Salmon until reinforcements arrived.

Prior to getting some much-needed "permanent" help in Bristol Bay, **Trp. Terry Shepherd** from the Anchorage Service Unit was a weekly visitor to Dillingham, helping out with the court and "other duties as assigned." As a matter of fact, Trp. Shepherd spent approximately 16 "fun filled weeks" in

Dillingham since April of 2004. Thanks for your help Terry!

Trp. Dave Bump and his wife **Jennifer** moved from Fairbanks to Dillingham in December but quickly left the area on scheduled leave to check in with their families in Iowa and New York. They returned to Bristol Bay near the end of January and wasted no time getting settled in. Trp. Bump has been spending a lot of time in the villages but he keeps complaining that it's too cold in Dillingham. It must be the cool ocean breeze.

Trp. "Moose" Sims left the Soldotna office of A.B.I. and began his tour in Dillingham as of the 1st of February. We intend on putting his investigative experience to work in Bristol Bay. He's looking forward to his first ride in a Super Cub.

Trp. Jack Ransom and his wife **Jennifer** moved from Palmer to Iliamna for his first day of work on February 1. The report is that the housing is great but the

office needs a little TLC. Trp. Ransom has become quite the expert repairing phone and fax lines, as well as the Internet. Next on the list is the plumbing.

AnEva Murphy came over to the Dillingham Post from the Dillingham Police Department as our new Clerk II. She worked hard for four months and got the Post squared away but unfortunately, she resigned and rumor has it she's back at the Police Department working evenings. The search is on for another applicant.

A sigh of relief can be heard in the Bay but don't forget there are still some vacancies in the Region. Keep watch for a bid in King Salmon and another in Dillingham. Those of you looking for a great place to live and work should keep your eyes open for announcements in the near future. We'd be happy to have you join our team Bristol Bay! Ask around and we're confident you'll find this Region is one of the better assignments and locales in the State. ■

C Detachment Awards



On December 17, ABADE and C Detachment had a joint Christmas pot luck and gift exchange. Colonel Julia Grimes and Major Joe Masters presented awards to several members. Trooper of the Year for ABADE was Dave Jones. Shown here are: (left) Col. Grimes, Trp. Jones, Capt. Ed Harrington, and Major Masters are shown.



C Detachment Civilian Employee of the Year was Kari Wheeler. Shown here are: (left) Col. Julia Grimes, Ms. Wheeler, Capt. John Glick, and Major Joe Masters.



ABADE Civilian Employee of the Year was Traci Trent from Intel. Shown here are: (left) Col. Julia Grimes, Ms. Trent, Capt. Ed Harrington, and Major Joe Masters.

The Ins And Outs Of The Yukon Kuskokwin Delta

By SGT. ROBERT BATY

As with all the post and outpost, things have been busy as usual. Or shall I say business as usual. At least the days are getting longer and winter is almost over. With a rash of cold weather it seems like it will never end. It seems that it is that time of year again and we have a new bunch of troopers in the Y/ K Delta.

RPSO Graves resigned from the department in October 2004 to attend to his family. He made a valuable contribution to the McGrath area and we miss him. Good luck

Trp. Eric Spritzer has recently transferred to the Major Crimes unit and will join a fine bunch of personnel there. He will be sorely missed in this area, for his eager willing attitude and ability to get the job done in a timely efficient manner. A recent bid award went to **Trp. Garret Willis** of Fairbanks. We look forward to his arrival, as the lower Yukon sees a lot of activity.

With the departure of **Danny Scott**, Aniak post has been short-handed for several months. It is with some gratitude that we have recently learned that position has been put out for bid.

For those of you thinking about bush duty, it can be one of the most rewarding assignments in your career. The types and activities of calls are far different than what the average Trooper will see in an urban area. In general, I would encourage each and every one of you to look into it further.

Often when we talk to other Troopers and they tell us what a "pit" this or that post is, they often have never been there. You really can't make that judgment based on someone else's skewed or misinformed perspective. If you really want to know about an area, call the Troopers that are stationed there. I am not trying to paint a rosy picture, but I will point out some of the good and bad points of the bush. You will do more complex investigations, have

(Y/K Delta, continued on page 15)

Y/K Delta, continued from page 14
 a lot more leeway in you investigations, and generally have a more rewarding experience that will allow your professional growth.

Some of the other pluses as I see them are, you are right in the mix when it come to outdoor activities, hunting, fishing, snow machining, boating, etc. It is a slower life style and you will make some of the closest friends you have ever had while living in a rural setting.

Some of the negatives that I can think of are some school districts have poor

reputations, high cost of living, and high rent in some areas. Those shortcomings can be overcome by choosing when to go to the bush. Often while we are young in our career, our families are young. In most cases the level of education is not a factor until your child's high school years. The high price of food is often overcome by those multiple trips to the big city. The State is currently looking into housing issues in most of the high rent areas.

This is just my opinion, but we all signed the dotted line promising that we would transfer anywhere in the State. We

have had a long list of people leave the Department when their time came. They may have had their reasons, but they all seem to fall short when reviewed by those of us who have done our bush time.

In short, bid out early. Our attitude often dictates the outcome of events. Come to the bush with an open mind and I will bet the majority of you leave with good memories. Who knows, some of you may even come back.

On a final note, for those of you who are still wavering, you may want to consider doing a TDY at an outpost. ■

Nome News

By GLORIA KARMUN, AST NOME

Terry Miller, Administrative Clerk II resigned effective December 29, 2004. The position will hopefully be filled in mid to late February.

The next time you have occasion to speak with **Sgt. Rodney Johnson** ask him about his first official on-duty day in Nome. He'll attest to the local saying "There's No Place Like Nome." October 18, 2004 is definitely one for the books. Nome, as well as the outskirts of town, was hit with a major storm that caused extensive damage. Front street businesses, including the trooper post and apartments were evacuated, due to a broken gas line, high winds, and ocean debris washing ashore. Sgt. Johnson was introduced to and worked with several local and state agencies and their personnel to combat the storm. Rodney, his wife **Dorie**, and their children **Melissa** and **Tyler** transferred in from Talkeetna and have comfortably settled in Nome.

The Nome post continues to transport prisoners between Nome and Kotzebue via state aircraft.

Trp. Eugene Fowler participated in the Nome Beltz High School Job Fair on February 9.



The scene is looking east toward the Fort Davis Roadhouse. The storm was so fierce it wiped out a portion of the road a short distance east of the Safety Bridge. It was described as "quite the storm".

Gloria Karmun, Administrative Clerk II, celebrated 11 years with the department on November 29, 2004.

The **Matt Owens** murder trial started in Nome on January 18, 2005 with several troopers and ABI personnel returning to Nome to testify on behalf of the state.

Post personnel were envious of **Trp. Ed Halbert** and his family as they vacationed

in Hawaii in mid-January. Of course no one pitied Halbert as he caught a cold upon his return. Soaking up the sun sure beats a walk in Nome's own "National Forest" located on the Bering Sea.

Howling dogs can be heard in the distance! Nomeites are gearing up for Iditarod, a fun time of year for all. Come join the fun! ■

Quotes from Alaska State Troopers:

"The investigation revealed that an 81 year old woman from Wasilla passed away with her daughter."

"The investigation revealed a male, age 13, tried to light a female, age 11, hair and polar fleece vest on fire and damaged her

polar fleece vest by marking on it with a permanent marker worth \$24.99."

Think about it. ■

D Detachment News

By SUE ROGERS, AST FAIRBANKS

Here we are in the frozen interior. Winter started with a bang; or rather make that an avalanche. On December 23, after lots of snow and high winds creating impassable road conditions near Cantwell on the Parks Highway, the avalanche occurred. Due to the severity of the weather there was no attempt to clear the road until the next day. This left numerous motorists stranded trying to reach their holiday destination. **Sgt. Dave DeCoeur** arranged for the Cantwell School to be opened to provide housing for the travelers until the weather cleared and the road could be re-opened.

Sgt. Decoeur and **Trp. Odean Hall** spent many hours assisting stranded motorists and directing them to the school. When **Heidi Decoeur** and **Suz Hall** heard that there were over 100 people at the school with no idea of when they could continue their travels, they took it upon themselves to arrange cooking group meals in the school cafeteria. They also arranged activities for the children and made sure families could contact relatives to advise them of the situation. Many of these travelers have called and sent letters expressing their appreciation for the generosity that they were shown. Due to the efforts of Sgt. DeCoeur and Trp. Hall, all travelers were found, kept safe, warm and were able to continue their travels the next day, making it to their destination in time for Christmas.

Lt. Lee Farmer Retired:

On January 7, 2005, we gathered at AST to say goodbye to **Lt. Lee Farmer**



Sgt. Dave DeCoeur and one of his rescued vehicles following the avalanche on the Parks Highway on December 23.

who retired after 23 years of service with the Alaska State Troopers. Lt. Farmer started his career with the troopers in January of 1981, in Sitka and worked various assignments all over the state during his career. **Col. Julia Grimes, Major Joe Masters, Ed Torres and Katie TePas, retirees Greg Tanner, Mike Stickler and Charles Tressler** were among those present for the good-byes. **Capt. Steve Garrett** presented Lt. Farmer's wife, **Joy**, with a dozen roses to thank her for her support to Lee during his career. He also presented Lee with a gold pan from D Detachment to thank him for his efforts and commitment to Fairbanks from December 1, 2000, until January 7, 2005. Col. Grimes presented Lee with his badge set while Major Masters presented him with his badge plaque. Ed Torres presented a plaque with an AST license plate attached as a remembrance of Lt. Farmer's time with the Troopers. Lt. Farmer is planing to stay in Fairbanks for now and I'm sure we'll see him riding around on his Harley whenever weather permits.

Moves:

Trp. Adam Benson and family have transferred back to Fairbanks from Ketchikan. New trooper recruits in Fairbanks include **Ryan Tennis, Edward Nichols, Joseph Harris, Sherry Ferno and Junior Anthony.**

Tok Happenings By Diane Kendall

We would like to welcome a new addition to the Trooper family. **Charity Elizabeth Wells** was born to **Sgt. Freddie Wells** and his wife **Hope** on December 7th in Fairbanks. Tok and Northway State Troopers had a farewell dinner at Fast Eddy's Restaurant for **Trp. Chuck Miller** who retired after 23 years of service with AST. Sixteen of those years were spent in Tok. Capt. Garrett attended and presented Trp. Miller with his FOAST award. Major Masters came all the way up from Anchorage at 50 below zero and presented Trooper Miller's badge plaque.

Lt. Gary Folger along with retired **Sgt. James Gallen** was there to wish Chuck farewell. Sgt. Wells was there and presented Trp. Miller with a traveling cooler



Trp. Chuck Miller and wife Cindy enjoyed his retirement party held at Fast Eddy's.

for his traveling journeys throughout the state this summer. **Trp. Nasruk Nay, Trp. Tim Tuckwood,** and **Trp. Rick Swanson** attended the dinner from Delta Junction. They traveled in 50 below zero temperatures from Delta Junction to wish Chuck farewell. Stories were shared and a great time was had by all. Trp. Miller plans to reside in Tok and travel throughout the state. He will be missed dearly by his fellow workers and the community.

Only in Alaska:

On November 19, 2004, a male called AST in Fairbanks complaining because D.O.T. was removing all of the snow off the sidewalks and he would be unable to ski which will ruin his health since he doesn't have time to go up to ski trails. ■



Recruits seem to be getting younger all the time. This potential trooper is Elondre Johnson II, 5 years old son of Trp. Elondre Johnson in Fairbanks. Dispatcher Kitty Lancaster decided to try her hand at making a trooper shirt after her success at making chicken costumes.

A Cantwell Christmas -- December 30, 2004

I am writing this letter to notify the Alaska State Troopers of an incident of great importance to my family and me.

On December 23 the **Taylor-Belcher** family packed up and headed north for Christmas, we were heading for Salcha. While passing Talkeetna, the weather started to change. No more clear sky and a light snow was falling. I was thinking this was nothing out of the ordinary at Christmas for Alaska.

It was about 45 minutes after passing Trapper Creek when I started getting very nervous. The wind was blowing quite hard and snowdrifts were gathering on the sides of the road. That's when I noticed that we hadn't passed another vehicle in miles. Something just wasn't right. We were now at the beginning of the Cantwell flats and I was just down right scared.

I was just down right scared.

Born and raised in Alaska, I had never seen this. The snowdrifts had cut off the entire right hand lane and about every mile; we would pass cars pulled over. They were being buried by snowdrifts some you could barely see. This was when I started to take video clips with the digital camera. The thoughts running through my brain were becoming very upsetting - are we going to make it, we have a 4-wheel drive, are we going to freeze to death.... You know the basic panic type of thinking.

We made it to Cantwell and you couldn't see but 5 to 10 feet in front of you and sometimes you couldn't see the hood of the truck at all. In the left lane we saw a line of about 10 semi trucks just stopped and the Chevron Station was packed. You couldn't even see the drive-ways to pull in if you wanted to, so we kept going.

After driving about a mile or two, the road opened back up, you could see both lanes again. My adrenalin rush was beginning to subside and the tension easing when all of a sudden the road came to a

very abrupt end. There in front of us was the end of our trip. An avalanche and a truck in it were blocking the road. I thought, 'Oh my god what are we going to do now?' We turned around and headed back only to find out that the troopers had closed the road going south and we were stuck.

The time was 5 p.m. when we made it back to the Chevron station. Fifteen minutes passed and someone came in and told everyone there that the troopers had opened up the Cantwell School and they would be caravanning people to the school every half hour, so we waited our turn.

We arrived at the school and there was an awesome sight. Forty some odd vehicles were in the parking lot with drifts starting to cover them. It was packed. We walked into the school and there must have been at least 60 to 70 people there. My eight-year-old son asked "Mamma, how is Santa going to find me here?" That is when it became very clear to me that we might be there for a while.

My family and I were there for about an hour when the troopers entered with their wives and gave the announcement about the avalanche and that we were going to be there for quite awhile. The fire department arrived later and left mats and blankets for everyone.

Now I never did get their names, but the wives of the two troopers went into overdrive tending to as many peoples' needs as possible, requests of comfort, phone, and food. These two women set up the kitchen, which was directly off the gym, and put out two tables with crackers, chips, juice, mac & cheese, and mandarin.

I was quite impressed with the timely response that these people had put together. It was very chaotic. In the next couple of hours it seemed the population of the school had doubled. People looking for a place to sit and settle in for a rough night. My family had found a piece of floor to call home for the night and we settled in.

The morning had come and another announcement. It would be at least 24 more

hours before the road going north would be cleared, that the road south had freezing rain, and that the Richardson Highway had had an avalanche. Now all we could do was chuckle "This is where we will be spending Christmas." The wives of the troopers had outdone themselves. We had a breakfast of kings, scrambled eggs, pancakes, oatmeal, milk, juice, and fruit. It was incredible how these two women catered to everyone.

"Mamma, how is Santa going to find me here?"

About 10 a.m. about half the people there were leaving to try the road south. My family was not going to leave with a group like that; all in a hurry to get somewhere and all we could think about was the freezing rain.

The children were getting restless and the trooper wives opened up the ballroom of the gym. The kids had balls and floor scooters to play with and it kept them entertained for a good amount of time. Then they got the school's TV and DVD player and entertained them for the rest of the day. Meanwhile the troopers and the men folk were very busy outside with stuck cars and dead batteries. They were pulling cars from the snowdrifts on the flats and jumping cars left and right. The community was now getting involved and helping the troopers. About every hour someone's car was freed and that person and or family would leave.

Now our car was dead, dead, dead! The starter had frozen up and it wasn't going to start without warming up the entire truck. The one of the two troopers was helping my boyfriend. They were freezing out there in 30 - 40 mile an hour winds; the chill factor must have been at least 40 below plus, and the trooper just told him to get into his vehicle and he would take over. Still the truck wouldn't start so my boyfriend jokingly suggested a weed burner would do the trick. The trooper said "awww, I have one, go inside and I (Cantwell, continued on page 18)

Cantwell, continued from page 17

will be right back.” This man went home and brought back his weed burner and got our truck started.

The time was about 2 p.m. now and the wives inside were back at it again. They were making everyone lunch now of home made chicken noodle soup, tuna and P & J sandwiches, juice, and chocolate cake. All I can say is WOW.

At 4 p.m. the wives had told us that due to the circumstances, they were lining

up a Santa to arrive on Christmas morning with a bag of toys for the children. I was very moved that they were pulling out all the stops to make this stay over the holidays as painless as possible.

At 5 p.m. there was another announcement. The D.O.T. had punched a one lane hole through the avalanche and we would be able to head north again in 30 minute intervals. The adventure had finally come to an end. This was 24 hours I will never forget. The compassion and dedication of

the troopers, their wives and the community of Cantwell will remain with me forever.

My family had made our destination, Christmas Eve at 10 p.m. thanks to all the hard work of the Alaska State Troopers.

Please let these people know how thankful my family and I are for all they did, for I have no way to let them know myself.

Sincerely yours, **Brenda Belcher, Mark Taylor, and Caleb Belcher** ■

My Encounter With The Cantwell Trooper Post

BY TURNER PIPPIN

Two days before Christmas, I left Eagle River for Fairbanks to visit my mother and sisters. As I passed the Mile 101 Roadhouse, I began to notice the weather was deteriorating. My old truck has no radio so I was not hearing any highway advisories or weather reports.

Thirty miles south of the Igloo, I noticed the temperature had dropped and the wind had increased considerably. The snow was drifting over the highway and was turning into whiteout conditions with one travel lane only. It was very difficult to drive, even with my four-wheel drive rig. A quarter mile after the Igloo, my engine died. I now had no heat in my vehicle and I was stuck on the roadside.

I immediately pulled out all my cold weather gear and put them all on. This consisted of Air Force flight pants, my regular coat, a parka and bunny boots. My long johns were in the cab of the truck, but I didn't think I would need them too.

I had my cell phone with me and I attempted to call for a wrecker from Cantwell. I was informed that they had no wrecker service. I then called Trapper Creek where I learned that the wrecker driver was too busy to respond. By this time my cell phone battery was running low, so I called my wife in Anchorage to have her do the calling.

After about a 45-minute wait in the cold, **Sgt. Dave DeCoeur** called my cell phone from Cantwell. He advised me that the road was closed off due to an avalanche north of Cantwell and that

wreckers and snowplows could not get through at this time. He stated that he would attempt to get to my position as soon as he could. I told him there was no hurry as I had all my cold weather gear on and although I was cold, I would be OK.

Shortly after that conversation both my cell phone battery and my truck battery went dead.

Three hours later I was shivering cold. I had taken my bunny boots off and was trying to keep my toes from freezing by cupping them in my hands. I was shocked that my bunny boots were failing me! I had the parka hood fully extended out past my face so that only a tiny hole was opened for breathing. I was sitting sideways in the front seat leaning up against the driver's door.

I realized I was in serious trouble. I wondered if I could make it to a container in the bed of my truck that I believed held packets of chemical hand warmers. I wasn't even sure they were actually back there, and if they were there, I wasn't sure they would still work. I was shivering uncontrollably and trying to decide if I should go for the hand warmers or stay where I was. I would have to put my icy cold bunny boots back onto my freezing feet to make the trip. I knew that if the hand warmers were not there or did not work that my toes would definitely be frozen before I could get back into the cab of the truck.

I was praying that the Trooper would hurry and get to my location. Suddenly I
(My Encounter, continued on page 19)



Sgt. Dave DeCoeur assisted a stranded motorist with some mechanical repairs.

My Encounter,

continued from page 18

heard a tapping on the driver's door window at my back. For a second I thought it was just the wind but it became louder. I pulled the parka off my face and saw a trooper peering through the window at me. Was I ever relieved. I quickly put my frozen shoes on my fast-freezing feet and somehow made it to the trooper vehicle as fast as I could move. The heat of the vehicle surrounded me. It was heaven.

Sgt. DeCoeur said there were at least 80 people from the highway who were staying at the school building in Cantwell. He said I was the last stranded person to be pulled off the highway that night. He had to do some amazing driving to get us through the huge drifts which had almost choked the road closed.

A warm gymnasium sounded very good to me even without my sleeping bag, but upon arriving in Cantwell, Sgt. DeCoeur said he and his family would be honored to have me stay at their residence in a spare guest bedroom. I later learned that his son, **James** had given up his bedroom to me while he slept on the couch in the living room.

For two full days and one night, I was treated like a long-time friend and a welcomed guest. During this time I got to observe Sgt. DeCoeur, his wife **Heidi**, a Cantwell School teacher, their sons **Steven** (a 4th grader), and **James** (a 3rd grader) in their normal activities. I even got to know

the dogs **Skeeter** and **Rosie**, and the cat, **T-Bird**. Sgt. DeCoeur began his days at 6 A.M. while his wife and sons left the house at 8 A.M. to help cook breakfast, lunch, and dinner for the stranded travelers who were staying at the Cantwell schoolhouse. They didn't return home until after 7 P.M.

I also met **Trp. Odean Hall** and his wife, **Suz** and their son **Jonathan** who were working as a team with Sgt. DeCoeur and his family. I observed both troopers pushing citizens frozen, stalled vehicles into their own heated garages to thaw them out and do necessary repairs. They even provided toilet paper and food from their own homes and a Cantwell church.

Investigator Todd Summey and his wife were also stranded in Cantwell. The third Trooper family stationed in Cantwell was in Anchorage for that weekend. I'm sure they would have been the third participants in this great team.

I would like to publicly thank the DeCoeur and Hall families for their generous hospitality and their steadfast dedication to the old police slogan – "To Protect and Serve". I will always have fond memories as I drive through Cantwell in the future and I have great pride that the Cantwell Troopers and their families truly represent Alaska's best.

Sincerely and respectfully, Turner Pipin, State Crime Lab

P.S. – I later learned that the pressure relief valves on my bunny boots were both opened. I was informed that these

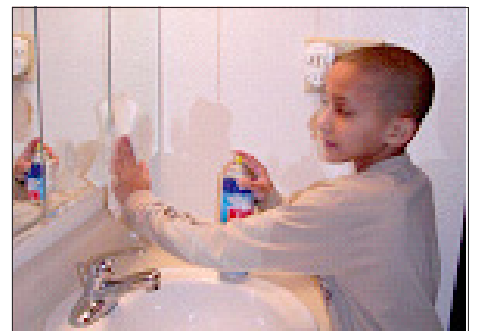


Suz Hall and Heidi DeCoeur are the guardian angels who made a bad situation tolerable for hundreds of travelers.

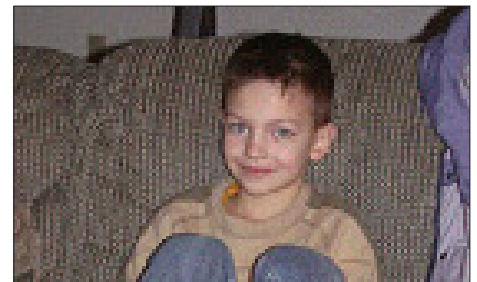
valves must be closed to keep your feet warm. Also, I now have felt pads in the bottoms of my boots to help with insulation. Last, but not least, I'll have my long johns on instead of just *with* me in the cab of the truck. ■



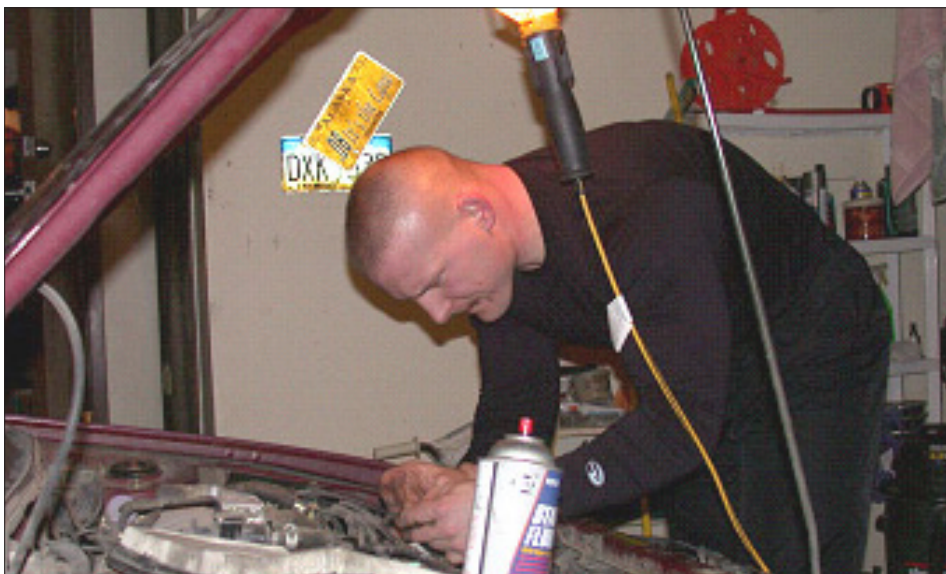
Steven DeCoeur



James DeCoeur



Jonathan DeCoeur



Trp. Odean Hall assisted a stranded motorist.

E Detachment News

On The Move:

On January 8, the Tactical Dive Unit conducted a training dive in Seward. Afterward, they provided assistance for the Polar Bear Jump. **Sgt. Glenn Godfrey** and **Inv. Gary Pacolt** were in the chilly 40-degree water and **Sgt. Jim Hibpshman** and **Trp. Todd VanLiere** assisted from the dock. Chickens!

Sgt. Keith Mallard was promoted from his Sergeant position in Girdwood to a Lieutenant position in Anchorage. We're sure he's loving having his nights and weekends free after years of having neither.



Capt. Tom Bowman presents Sgt. Keith Mallard with his going-away plaque.

Trp. Darrel Christensen of the Soldotna post, moved over to Soldotna ABWE where he will get to put his piloting skills to use. Christensen is quite the practical joker, so those ABWE guys had better watch their backs!



During a Polar Bear Jump on January 8, Sgt. Glenn Godfrey and Inv. Gary Pacolt were in the water, Sgt. Jim Hibpshman and Trp. Todd VanLiere assisted from the dock.



Trp. Mike Cresswell receives his plaque from Capt. Tom Bowman.

Trp. Michael Cresswell has transferred to Bethel ABWE, where he, too, will be able to use his pilot's license. Trp. Cresswell and his wife, **Karin**, are expecting their first child in February, so we hope to hear what the stork brought in the next Quarterly.

Trp. Curtis Vik transferred to Mat-Su ABI. The clerical staff in Soldotna will breath a sigh of relief at no longer having to deal with the mountains of traffic citations for which he's famous!

Our sweet-talking southern gentleman, **Trp. Harold Miller**, has transferred to

Kotzebue. We wonder how the local ladies will react to being called ma'am...

(E Detachment, continued on page 21)



Trp. Katrina Malm from Girdwood receives her going-away plaque from (former) Sgt. Keith Mallard. Malm is now a Wildlife Investigator for ABI in Anchorage.



Trp. Barlow and his wife Ophelia received some nice gifts at his going-away party. Even their expected baby got a gift!

E Detachment, continued from page 20

Trp. Bryan Barlow traded the sunny southern Kenai Peninsula for the relentless rain of Ketchikan. Trp. Barlow had a hugely positive impact on community relations in Ninilchik, and undoubtedly will do the same in his new community.

E Detachment and the Alaska State Troopers said good-bye to former **Trp. Jim Johnson**.

Due to family obligations that required him to remain in the area, Trp. Johnson was unable to transfer and instead took a position with the Kenai Police Department. We wish him all the best in his new career.

New additions:

Ronald Hayes is our new addition to the Girdwood post. Hayes spent the last few years at the Palmer Post, and before that, he worked for the Sand Point Police Department and the Sitka Police Department.

Hayes brings quite a bit of experience, a sharp wit, and a strong drive to “combat evil (and the occasional speeder) wherever he can find it.” We’re sure he’ll find it all right there in Girdwood (or Gigglyweed as some call it).

Trp. Recruit Terrence Shanigan is looking forward to summer on the Kenai.



Evidence custodian Cathy Clark’s new and improved evidence room is finally finished!

Before joining the Troopers, Shanigan ran a fishing guide business, so it’s unlikely he will be at a loss for things to do in his spare time this summer. Oh, wait...summer on the Kenai...what were we thinking? He won’t even HAVE any spare time!

Trp. Recruit Tim Powell and his family drove cross-country from their home in Georgia to relocate to Soldotna. We hope they find the temperatures here refreshing.

The Soldotna Communications Center welcomes four new Dispatchers: **Marie Kent, Gretta Besse, Stacey Day, and Rebecca Foot**.

Shrew-ed Investigators Bill Gifford and Jim Stogsdill live-captured a shrew that made its way into the Soldotna Post. In an effort to impress the clerical staff with their hunting/trapping prowess, they tipped the coffee can containing the shrew a tad too far, dumping it on a clerk’s desk. In the melee that then ensued, the shrew left a little present on her desk. Fortunately, the brave Investigators cleaned up the mess, recaptured the shrew and humanely freed it outdoors. By lunchtime, however, it had made its way back into the building and was last seen streaking down the hallway. ■

Not A K-9 Unit

BY SGT. BRANDON ANDERSON

It was a dark and stormy night. New Year’s Eve, in fact, minutes before midnight. It was another wild night in a Trooper’s life, alone, on patrol, family at home putting off another holiday.

The Seward Highway near Seward was icy, slushy, and dark in the blowing sleet. I was working late on DUI patrol. Traffic was almost non-existent coming down the Mile 12 canyon when I saw it—a black shadowy figure, eyes reflecting in my headlights, trotting right up the centerline. As my vehicle approached, two desperate, pleading brown eyes looked hopefully at my Ford Expedition. I stopped in the black of the night, rolled down my window and spoke, “Are you lost, boy?”

The snow-covered back of the Black Lab wriggled as the tail wagged wildly and

lips pulled tight along the teeth into a sheepish smile of sorts. Not a car was in sight, so I put my vehicle into park, got out, and opened the back door so he could jump in the back seat for a ride into town. Before I could scream “No, Boy!” or even react, he was past me in a flash and up into the driver’s seat and center console. In an instant I was hit with a confusing array of overhead lights, blasting air horn, and a loud mechanized voice providing a weather forecast. I didn’t even know I had that feature.

I usually try to organize the seat next to me so that I can grab things in the dark. Within a sweep of a hand are located a gear bag, gloves, hat, ticket book, CPR mask, Roloids, and tonight a stack of paperwork perched on top of it all. Normally

this works fine, unless I roll over. Tonight, in an instant, this pile of stuff was suddenly bedding for a wet, spastic 40-pound dog. And he was *so* happy about it. Because of my excellent training and experience with DPS, I instantly recognized that attempting to correct this problem at this time was futile. I even got a chuckle out of the weather briefing, now shut off, but with the wig-wags now activated. “How can these paws find all these buttons so effectively?” I thought. Soon I had advised Dispatch about my 10-86 to the animal shelter, and started into town. “How can I make this into a DUI “stat” to help justify this overtime?” I wondered, as the manual “wail” siren was pushed, waking up a few squirrels.

(**Not a K-9**, continued on page 22)

Not A K-9, continued from page 21

Rolling into the city limits, I heard Seward Dispatch broadcast the ominous call: a neighbor had just reported three young men climbing over the chain link fence to the D.O.T. yard. This is bad, I thought, as the two Seward P.D. units on duty with their reserve officers sped toward the scene. I was closer, however, and decided to jump into it. As I approached the backside of the yard, my rider seemed somehow subdued, or possibly stuck.

This must be explained. In the Ford Expedition patrol vehicles, the center console is stacked with radios and emergency lights and siren controls. Aft of that is a one-foot square gap vertical to the floor. Two long guns stand vertical in their racks against the screen behind the gap. Tonight, the gap contained the wedged hind end of a stinking wet black Labrador Retriever. But he didn't mind, because his front paws were on the controls of a light and sound show.

As the Seward P.D. units crept around the D.O.T. compound conducting building

searches for the threesome, I prepared to intercept them if they fled in my direction. Suddenly, my siren screamed into the night and two strobe lights announced my position. As I scrambled to stop the unwanted display that might draw enemy fire, I noticed the Seward P.D. Officers looking in my direction. I waved and smiled. "Bad Dog!" I yelled, as I ushered in 2005.

The officers continued their search, anxiously expecting any moment to spring the bandits from some dark corner. Suddenly, a shrill "BBBRAAAAAPPP", "WeeOOO, WeeOOO, WeeOOO" sounded loudly in the still of the night as the rotating beacons of the light bar lit up the darkness, just in case the bandits didn't *know* the POLICE were on scene. The neighbors sure did, though, and the Seward officers knew the Trooper back-up was there to help. However, their shocked glares betrayed their gratitude, and I had to wonder if they questioned my patrol strategy.

Determined to regain my dignity, I jumped out for leverage and reached for my K-9 unit's top half so that I might yank him out of his hole. He snapped at me! Wedged into a hole between the seats, the console, and the long guns, the very animal I was trying to help was biting the hand that frees him! And the paws continued to play the buttons like a piano. It was with no pleasure that I got on the radio and asked for assistance. No, not 10-69, not even 10-68. Just a meek, "Could one of your officers assist me at this location for a moment?" Three pairs of gloved hands finally pulled this wet mass from the trench. My organized-by-Braille mound of stuff was a mess. Neighbors peer out their windows no doubt wondering how, exactly, law enforcement does their job, given the oddities of what they saw.

The bandits got away, tipped off somehow. My K-9 friend was reunited with his owner in the morning, and the weather forecast for the first day of the year called for freezing rain.

I didn't even know I had that feature. ■

Division of Statewide Services

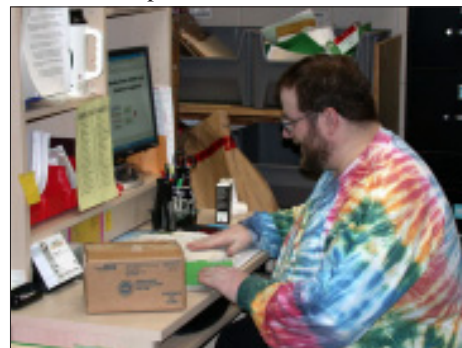
News From The Crime Laboratory

BY JOHN GIACALONE

On November 15, 2004, **Brian Dittman** began employment with the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory (SCDL) as a Forensic Technician within the Evidence Room. His duties include the daily receiving and shipping of evidence, its storage, and chain of custody documentation. Dittman will be closely involved in the implementation of the Laboratory's new computerized local information management system that is in its initial phases of installation. He is a Wisconsin native and has lived in Alaska for 15 years.

While in Wisconsin, he earned a four-year degree from the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh in biology with a minor in chemistry. It is from these roots that he is a dedicated 'Cheese Head' Packers fan. He has worked previously with the State Food Laboratory in Palmer as a laboratory technician. Dittman has also worked with the Alaska Department of En-

vironmental Conservation where he was employed as an inorganic laboratory technician and sample custodian in Juneau. It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome him to our operations.

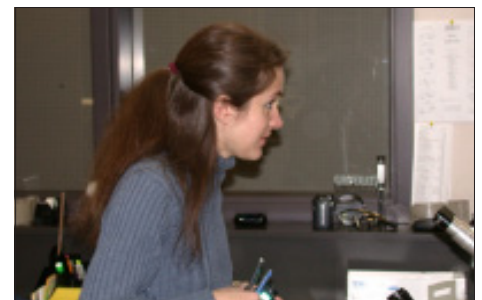


Brian Dittman is a new Forensic Technician at the Crime Lab.

On November 15, 2004, **Anna Cheney** began employment with the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory (SCDL) as a Criminalist I. Cheney has her Master's de-

gree in Chemistry. She has previously taught high school science and most recently was an adjunct professor with UAA's Chemistry Department. She has already been qualified to analyze marijuana cases and continues to complete her training with the other controlled substances that the Laboratory receives. She will contribute immensely to tackling the large caseload this section experienced.

(**Crime Lab**, continued on page 23)



Anna Cheney is a new Criminalist I at the Crime Lab.

Crime Lab, continued from page 22

On November 15, 2004, **Brandi Barnett** began employment with the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory (SCDL) as a Criminalist I. Barnett is a native of Alaska, a graduate of Chugiak High School, and has a Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from Colorado College. She will complete a Master's degree in Biochemistry this year from UAF. Barnett has previously worked in a local environmental laboratory as a microbiologist. She has completed her training in the analysis of marijuana and continues on the remaining portion of training that covers other controlled substances. She will contribute immensely to tackling the large caseload this section experienced.

Renée Donaho began working with the SCDL as a Forensic Technician in November 2004. She is a native of Oklahoma and moved to Alaska in July. She is now assisting with the Combined DNA Indexing System (CODIS). Donaho earned her Master's Degree in Forensic Science from



Brandi Barnett is a new Criminalist I at the Crime Lab.

the University of Central Oklahoma with a concentration in Technical Investigations. Her previous employment included generating an autopsy database of aircraft accident victims for the FAA and conducting child abuse investigations with the State of Oklahoma.

SCDL is glad to welcome aboard these new employees and we look forward to bright careers with them as they support our mission.



Renae Donaho is a new Forensic Technician at the Crime Lab.

Dale Bivins, an eight-year employee of the SCDL, has been recently promoted to the Technical Supervisor of the Latent Section of Criminalistics Unit II. **Jill Booth** has taken over as Supervisor of the Criminalistics Unit I section. **Jack Hurd** is in charge of the Drug Section and the Evidence Room. **John Giacalone** has completed a course in Basic Fire Debris (Arson) Analysis and is currently training in this discipline. ■



Joe Mannion resigned from the Department of Public Safety. Colonel Julia Grimes extended good wishes during a brief get-together.

"No worries, Joe"

In a brief note to his co-workers as he said farewell to the Department of Public Safety, **Joe Mannion**, Data Processing Manager III, Statewide Information Services, Division of Statewide Services, wrote, "Thank you all for allowing me to be part of this great organization.

I will miss you all tremendously. I will be moving to the Alaska Court system starting Monday 14th February. If anyone needs to contact me there my new email is JMannion@courts.state.ak.us Bye for now. Good luck in all you do." ■

Reasons to Smile:

- ◆ How come we choose from just two people to run for president and 50 for Miss America?
- ◆ I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose-fitting clothing. If I HAD any loose-fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up in the first place!
- ◆ When I was young we used to go "skinny dipping," now I just "chunky dunk."
- ◆ Wouldn't it be nice if whenever we messed up our life we could simply press 'Ctrl Alt Delete' and start all over?
- ◆ Wouldn't you know it...Brain cells come and go, but FAT cells live forever.
- ◆ Why do I have to swear on the Bible in court when the Ten Commandments cannot be displayed in a federal building?
- ◆ Bumper sticker of the year:
"If you can read this, thank a teacher, and since it's in English, thank a soldier!" ■

In Other News

With Regret:

Retired Major Roger Iversen passed away December 20, 2004, at his home in Anchorage following a battle with kidney cancer.

Mr. Iversen was born on January 30, 1939, in Ketchikan. He graduated from Ketchikan High School and the FBI National Academy. He became an Alaska State Trooper in July 1962 and attended Academy #6. He retired as a major in April 1981. During his career, he lived in Haines, Juneau, Fairbanks, and Anchorage. He traveled extensively throughout Alaska during his career.

Following his retirement from the Troopers, he worked at Alyeska Pipeline Service Company in corporate security for 14 years. He also worked for the U.S. Mar-

shals at the Federal Courthouse in Anchorage.

Major Iversen was a member of the Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers, International Police Association, Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy Associates, Alaska Peace Officers Association, Pioneers of Alaska, Elks, and Moose.

He experienced statehood, the 1964 earthquake and was stationed in Fairbanks during the 1967 flood. In 1971, as a sergeant in Juneau, he and a neighbor, a pilot for Alaska Airlines, discovered the wreckage of the inbound 727 Alaska Airlines Flight 1866. Putting the helicopter down and climbing up to the crash site, they were first on the scene and reported

back no possibility of survivors — 111 casualties, the worst commercial airline crash in Alaska's history.

His family wrote: "Roger was a generous, softhearted and gentle man. He was an unpretentious man who was comfortable with himself and accepting of others. He laughed often. Roger and Fran enjoyed a loving partnership. He will be greatly missed."

A memorial service was held in Anchorage. **Police Chaplain Bert McQueen** officiated. Mr. Iversen's cremated remains will be interred at Anchorage Memorial Park Cemetery in the spring. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Alaska Police Chaplains Ministries, P.O. Box 200654, Anchorage 99520. ■

Comments From An Old Friend

BY CAPT. JAY YAKOPATZ, RETIRED

Roger had many arrests in his long and colorful career, but one stands out in my mind in the hot summer of 1967 just before the Fairbanks flood.

A local criminal long since murdered, **Jack Paul Martin** (AKA Red Martin) was a local Fairbanks tough guy and gambler in the mid 60s. He was a very obstinate man who liked to challenge the police and State Troopers every contact we had with him.

While Roger was breaking in Trooper recruit **Arthur Thomas Trott**, they responded to a man down call near the old Steak Pit on the Steese Highway. It seems a motorcyclist had been struck by a big Olds driven by Red Martin who, after the accident, spun a "broadie" and tried to run over the kid all over again. When Roger and the new Trp. Trott arrived on

the scene, Red became combative and abusive, (that means he tried to fight and swore alot at the two really nice Troopers). Roger was kind of frosty in those days and you should not abuse the nice Fairbanks Troopers like that so they arrested Red and carted him off to 1616 Cushman, the AST office in those days.

An equally new and impressionable **Trooper (Jay Yakopatz, me)** from swing shift was finishing reports on his own time (hey oldies, remember those days?) and heard a heck of a commotion as Roger and Art brought Red into the building to try to get a BA on him.

Red would not cooperate at all and the next thing I saw was Red hack a big ball of spit right into Rogers face. In the blink of an eye Roger put him against the wall, however it was \$1.98 paneling next to a

full-length mirror, between studs and Red's face went into the wall all the way up to his ears. Needless to say Art had a shocked look on his face and I was really impressed.

So I guess we now have to fess up to **Don McQueen** that we moved the mirror that night to cover the new hole in the paneling. Red never complained about the wall thing so no-foul.

Roger could not make it 2 minutes from the office without making his first stop of the shift; he must have gone through a ticket book per night. He was always there with a kind word, or to back you up, and always treated new Troopers with respect and offered great training. He was my friend even before the Troopers, and I will miss him terribly. Rest easy old friend. ■

A Native American Prayer

ANONYMOUS

Do not stand at my grave and weep; I am not there. I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond glints on snow. I am the sunlight on ripened grain. I am the gentle autumn's rain. When you awaken in the morning's hush, I am the swift uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight. I am the soft stars that shine at night. Do not stand at my grave and cry. I am not there. I did not die. ■

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund Mourns Death Of Johnny Carson

BY BRUCE MENDELSON, NLEOMF

The Board of Directors and Staff of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) join the nation in mourning the death of the incomparable **Johnny Carson**. He was one of the first nationally recognized celebrities to support the campaign to build the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in the late 1980s.

Mr. Carson, like most Americans, was shocked to learn the number of officers

who die in the line of duty each year. Once he realized the enormity of the sacrifice that these officers and their families make, he became dedicated to making the dream of building a Memorial to honor fallen officers a reality. In addition to his enormous financial contribution, Mr. Carson gave his time to produce a public service announcement on behalf of the Memorial Fund and became a National Sponsor of the NLEOMF. His active participation led

to a number of important corporate sponsorships.

For more than three decades this funny, private man entertained America. However, he leaves behind a second legacy. Because of his contribution to the Memorial Fund in its early day, our nation's fallen law enforcement heroes have hallowed ground in our nation's capital where their loved ones and colleagues can come to remember and heal. ■



Cliff Stone is shown with Little Brother James, his wife Denise, her Little Sister Kathleen, and First Lady Nancy Murkowski.



Cliff Stone Named Big Brother Of The Year

Cliff Stone, a recent addition to the staff of the DPS Commissioner's Office as Legislative Liaison (Special Assistant) was named Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska (BBBS) "2004 School Big Brother of the Year."

Stone first got involved with BBBS when Downtown Rotary renovated their office in late 2001. "Everyone on staff hoped that Stone would become a Big Brother," says **Marc Wheeler**, Executive Director. In December 2002, Stone was matched with **James** at Gastineau Elementary. James said Stone is kind, caring, and has a good sense of humor. He credits the A+ on his wolverine project to Stone's guidance.

Stone has been instrumental in helping BBBS find other wonderful volunteers, most recently his wife, **Denise**. His Little Brother James put it best, "Cliff is a great guy and everyone should become a Big Brother or Big Sister because it's so much fun and they really do a lot for kids." ■

(Photo at left) Nancy West, Administrative Clerk II, retired from State service on January 31, 2005. She had worked for AST Director's Office from December 1997 to October 1998, in AST Division Operations November 1998 to September 2002, and Alaska Bureau of Investigation October 2002 to January 2005. Capt. Matt Leveque commented, "her cheerful, can-do attitude made her a joy to work with!"

REMINDER— CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS



CHANGE YOUR SMOKE
DETECTOR BATTERY
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
BEGINS
APRIL 3, 2005.



In 1973, there were 6 Troopers, a Corporal and a Sergeant for the entire Kenai Peninsula. On December 26, 2004, three of this group got together in Lander, Wyoming. (From left) Roy Sagraves, Soldotna 1973; Lew Rieth, Soldotna 1973; and Mike Radisch, Cooper Landing 1973.

The Year is 1904

The year is 1904. One hundred years ago. What a difference a century makes! Here are some of the US statistics for 1904:

- The average life expectancy in the U.S. was 47 years.
- Only 14 percent of the homes in the U.S. had a bathtub.
- Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.
- A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost \$11.00
- There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S., and only 144 miles of paved roads.
- The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
- Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California. With a mere 1.4 million residents, California was only the 21st most populous state in the Union.
- The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.
- The average wage in the U.S. was 22 cents an hour.
- The average U.S. worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.
- A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year.
- A mechanical engineer earned about \$5,000 per year.
- More than 95 percent of all births in the U.S. took place at home.
- Ninety percent of all U.S. physicians had no college education. Instead, they attended medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as “substandard.”
- Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.
- Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.
- Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.
- Canada passed a law prohibiting poor people from entering the country for any reason. ■

This just in...

VPSO Named Rural Big Brother of the Year

VPSO Tim Pavlick, of Huslia, Alaska, was named as the Rural Big Brother of the year. His ‘little brother’ is Alex, and they’ve been brothers for over a year.

Alex seems to enjoy his time with his brother. He said, “My most favorite time with Tim is when we went snow going and hunting for spruce chickens. We really had a fun time. And, Tim

showed me how to shoot arrows and we practiced shooting arrows at boxes...Tim helped me with the aim on my gun and showed me how to figure out how to fix the aim on the gun.

And another thing that we did but we didn’t have any luck at the snare hunting. We saw tracks but never got anything”. He said what he likes most about Tim is “the way he makes me laugh all the time.

He is really funny and we have a good time”.

Alex’ mother, Joyce commented she feels that Tim shows good judgment and she sees how excited her son is when he comes back after a visit with Tim.

Tim commented, “being a big brother has taught me a lot...it has taught me how to be a better father”. ■

Is Heaven in Cyberspace?©

By: KEITH J. BETTINGER

Don Granger was an active and happy street cop. He and his partner **Bill Wade** patrolled a busy sector in the city. They were the true example of opposite's attract. Bill was the sports fanatic. He talked sports all day long. Don was the technocrat. He liked computers. He liked gadgets. Bill talked to people, and got them to confess. Don was the one who made it all come together in the reports. They always had fun. They each had a great sense of humor, and played off of one another. Even in times of crisis, other cops broke out in nervous giggles as these two bantered back and forth. They were able to keep people calm, when others were becoming unglued.

Yet, no matter how much fun they had, they took their jobs seriously. They never missed a chance to practice tactics when responding on alarm calls. Each false alarm was a training exercise for the time, when someday it would be real. They always played the what - if game while working. They made up scenarios, deciding what they would do if something happened.

Don and Bill were working a sunny, summer, Tuesday morning. They just finished their morning coffee. They were driving down Boundary Road, the boulevard of financial institutions in their city.

As they were on patrol, **Daniel "Eightball" Donato** was trying to become a success at his new chosen trade. Eightball picked up his moniker while doing his first stint in jail. The nickname was hung on him for two reasons; one, he screwed up whatever he started, — hence, he was an "eightball". The other was that he also had a penchant for large amounts of cocaine. Before entering jail, he used to purchase an "eightball", an eighth of an ounce of cocaine at a time. Eightball was inside Constellation Savings and Loan. He was making a withdrawal with his gun. While the teller was putting money in his brown paper bag, she pressed the silent alarm. She included two exploding dyepacks of money in his paper bag. As

Eightball was exiting the bank, the dyepacks exploded and covered him in red dye. This all happened while Don and Bill were responding to the call. They could not believe what happened right before their eyes. A robber, on his knees, crying, covered in red dye.

Bill pulled the car in at angle, giving him and his partner good defensive positions. They had done this so many times before in their minds. They sprung from the car, guns drawn, and crouched behind their doors. Before Don could yell for the robber to get down on the ground and lock his hands behind his head, Bill was advancing towards the robber. He was chuckling as he said, "I'll chain'em up!"

As Bill advanced, Eightball knew what was next. He did not want to go back to jail. He wanted to get away. He would do anything not to go back to jail. He raised himself to one knee, and brought his gun up in a two handed grip. He and Don both screamed "No!!!!" as they both fired their guns.

Eightball's bullet struck Bill in the neck. Don's shots punctured Eightball's chest. Eightball was dead before he fell to the sidewalk. Don screamed into the radio that his partner was shot and he needed more cops and ambulances. He begged them to hurry. His partner needed help. The help never arrived in time. Bill died in Don's arms covered in tears, as the sirens sang their sad song in the distance.

The department's crime scene unit processed the crime scene. Information was gathered and reduced to written reports. The district attorney and the grand jury said Don's response was a justified shooting. People told Don he did a great job. Don was proclaimed a hero by the department and the press. The problem was he did not feel like one. He would not wear his medals. He threw the plaques from police organizations and community groups in his closet. He withdrew from people. He retreated into himself. His partner, his best friend was gone. A piece of him had died as well, on the sidewalk, in front of the bank.

When things returned to normal for the rest of the department, Don returned to patrol. He tried to work with new partners, but he could not bond. He then tried working alone. That did not seem to work either. Sometimes, he was hyper-vigilant and overreacted. Other times, it seemed he had a death wish, and took foolish chances. People wondered what was wrong with him. He wasn't the old Don anymore. Cops and friends started to drift away from him.

Since the shooting, Don's former sergeant had been promoted. He searched for a place Don could work without the stress of the street. He found a "safe" place for Don deep inside the department bureaucracy. There was an opening for an officer in the department's administration bureau. The department needed someone who could run the computers. Don, ever the technocrat, fit right in.

Don threw himself into the job with everything he had to offer. He hid his heavy soul behind his keyboard and monitor. He no longer had to think and make decisions that could make a difference on the street. Decisions that might cost someone his life. Sometimes, he even forgot to remember his friend, Bill.

Don had computer e-mail service for interoffice memos. It was also used to send jokes and chat with friends. Often, Don would be in the office, late into the night, "chatting" with cyber-friends. Sometimes the messages were aimless chatter. Other times, he would tell cops from different departments about Bill. He didn't know what kind of a response he was looking for, but he knew most of the answers he received, did not answer the questions in his heart.

The anniversary date of Bill's death arrived. It was six years since Bill had been killed. Don was in his basement office. He didn't want to go home to an empty apartment. He didn't want to go out and drink. He wanted to die. He wanted peace. He wanted to be free of his burden.

(Is Heaven, continued on page 28)



During a fire drill held in Anchorage, at Headquarters, Safety Bear joined the other workers and promptly left the building. See a Brief History on the Division of Fire Prevention and other photos in this edition.

Is Heaven, continued from page 27

Don started typing an e-mail. He poured out his heart and soul. He typed away with no idea to whom he was going to send his message. When he finished typing his message, it ended with; "I have to be free. The pain of surviving is worse than dying. I wish it had been me that died that day. Bill's gone, the bad guy's gone, and I'm trapped. I want to be free."

In a flourish of anger he typed in an e-mail address. He typed anyone@whereever.com. He knew it would not go anywhere, but, he had to get it off his chest, and no one at work would listen. As he sent the message, he put his head down next to the keyboard. He was exhausted. He wanted to be free of the stress and pain. Just a little nap, and then he'd go home to bed....

When Don awoke, it was morning. He had slept the sleep of the exhausted. He had slept at his desk. The computer was still on. He rubbed his eyes and clicked the mouse on the icon telling him he had e-mail. When he checked, there was a message without a return address. He cautiously clicked on, suspecting it might be some type of computer virus.

As he started reading, he began to cry. The message said, "Hey Don,

I got your e-mail last night. I'm sorry I caused you so much heartache. I never

meant to hurt you. You were always my friend and partner. The morning of the robbery, you did nothing wrong. I goofed. I didn't think. You did. I didn't do all the things we talked about and practiced when we were partners. You did everything right that day. I'm sorry I screwed things up. I'm sorry I made a mess of your world.

You can relax. You are the good cop the bosses told you you are. You really do deserve the medals they gave you. You also deserve new partners and friends, on the job and in life.

Oh, by the way, I ran into Eightball the other day. Yeah, he's here too. We're not the best of friends, but it's not like earth. He said to tell you he's not mad at you either. He knows he was wrong, and you were just trying to protect me.

Why don't you get your butt out of the office and back into the patrol car? Do the job you really love. Oh, and by the way, there's an empty seat on the passenger side of my patrol car. The spot is yours, when you're ready, but not too soon - you still have a lot of living to do. Your friend and partner, Bill, Heaven@heaven.com."

(This story is published by permission of the author. Keith Bettinger, 9669 Vista Crest Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89148; 702-795-8616; E-mail: keithbett@cox.net. Editor.) ■

THE DPS QUARTERLY

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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