

## KENNECOTT KIDS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During the weekend of June 15-17, 1990, a reunion was held at Kennicott Glacier Lodge, Kennecott, Alaska. The "Kennecott Kids Reunion" brought together many of the people who were school-age children when the mines and mill operated and a few who worked for the Kennecott Copper Corporation during the 1920s and '30s. Inger Jensen Ricci and Eleanor Tjosevig Eidemiller, two "Kennecott Kids," organized the reunion with Rich and Jody Kirkwood, owners of the Kennecott Glacier Lodge.

The Kennecott Mines are a National Historic Landmark administered by the National Park Service for the Secretary of the Interior. In cooperation with the reunion hosts, a team of historians from the Alaska Regional Office of the National Park Service conducted interviews with the Kennecott Kids. Under the direction of Regional Historian Kate Lidfors, historians Sandra Faulkner, Logan Hovis, and Ann Kain interviewed the "kids" while Linda Cook took copy-stand pictures of the historical photographs brought to the reunion. The interviews provide the historical community with a collection of primary source material on the social history of Kennecott and McCarthy. Opportunities such as this do not occur often. The mining and industrial history of Kennecott is well-known, but through the interviews we were able to know Kennecott as a living community rather than a mining ghost town. The photographs, now housed at the McCarthy Museum, also provide valuable information for research.

Twenty-one "kids" attended the reunion, twelve of whom were interviewed. Several others were reached by mail and participated using a "mail out" interview.

Note: Information found in brackets ( [ ] ) indicates information changed or added by the informant during the editing process.

Regarding the spelling of "Kennecott"-the town is usually spelled "Kennicott" and the mines and company are spelled "Kennecott." For consistency and preference of the informants the spelling used in the interview project is "Kennecott."

Inconsistencies appear in the spelling of individuals' names and place names. Spelling is based on the information provided by those interviewed.