

# DEAR READER:

WHAT A REALLY TREMENDOUS PLACE TO BRING UP A FAMILY! SURROUNDED BY NATURE AND LOVE, WE CHILDREN WERE DOUBLY BLESSED. THE SIMPLICITY, THE FREEDOM, AND THE PEACE OF SUCH AN EXISTENCE IS BEYOND IMAGINATION. TO LIVE IN KENNECOTT A LIFETIME WOULD BE PARADISE! BUT ALL GOOD THINGS CANNOT REMAIN STATIC, THEY MUST CHANGE, AND SO IT IS THAT ALL THE WONDERFUL MEMORIES REMAIN AND THE HARD TIMES ARE FOREVER FORGOTTEN.

ALL THESE MEMORIES ARE FROM DEAR FRIENDS OF MY CHILDHOOD AND PART OF MY LIFE. EACH ONE HAS DIFFERENT MEMORIES OF DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES, DIFFERENT FAMILY LIFE, DIFFERENT SCHOOL ACTIVITIES. THEY ARE PART OF US AND HELP US TO UNDERSTAND HOW THEY HAVE SHAPED OUR LIVES.

AS PIONEERS, THE KENNECOTT KIDS HAD A VERY EASY TIME OF IT, AS EVERYONE HAD ELECTRICITY, AND RUNNING WATER, EXCEPT OCCASIONALLY IT DID FREEZE FROM THE WATER HOUSE TO THE HOMES. EACH AREA HAD A WATER HOUSE FROM WHICH SEVERAL HOMES RECEIVED WATER. ALL DID HAVE OUT HOUSES, BUT MANY WERE IN WOOD SHEDS. THE STAFF AND THE UPPER CRUST DID HAVE INSIDE FACILITIES.

LIVING IN KENNECOTT WAS A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE, ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN. THEY WERE CONSIDERED VERY SPECIAL AND MOST PARTICULARLY BY THE SINGLE ADULTS. EVERYONE WAS SO GOOD TO US. THE FREEDOM OF LIVING THERE WAS SPECIAL. THE CHILDREN OF THE "CAMP" HAD THE RUN OF THE TOWN AND IF ANYONE GOT INTO TROUBLE, THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMEONE AROUND TO HELP. OF COURSE, THEY WERE ALL RAISED QUITE STRICTLY AND KNEW WHAT THEY COULD AND COULD NOT DO. HOWEVER, THERE WAS A SORT OF CLASS SYSTEM, AS THE OFFICE WORKERS, NURSES, DOCTORS, TEACHERS AND THOSE WHO WERE "BOSSES," DIDN'T ALWAYS ATTEND THE SAME SOCIAL FUNCTIONS.



*Inger Jensen, Debbie Vickery, Jane Vickery, and Ole Jensen.*



TO UNDERSTAND THE CLOSENESS OF THE KENNECOTT KIDS, IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SCHOOL WAS THE FOCAL POINT, THE CENTER OF THE CHILDREN'S LIFE, APART FROM THE FAMILY. THERE WERE NO CLUBS OR ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES. THE CHILDREN MADE THEIR OWN ENTERTAINMENT. IT WAS TRUE THE "COMPANY" DID PROVIDE MOVIES, A BALL FIELD IN THE SUMMER, THE TENNIS COURT, A HANDBALL COURT IN THE SUMMER ALSO. IN THE WINTER THERE WAS THE ICE RINK, SURROUNDED BY LIGHTS AND FLOODED NOW AND THEN TO REPAIR THE ICE. BASKETBALL, DANCING, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES WERE HELD IN THE COMMUNITY HALL.

IN THE WINTER WE WENT TO SCHOOL IN THE DARK AND CAME HOME IN THE DARK. THERE WERE LIGHTS ALL ALONG THE MAIN STREET, BUT NOT ON THE HILL, SO WE ALL CARRIED FLASHLIGHTS. WE LEFT OUR ICE SKATES AT SCHOOL, AS WE USED THEM DURING RECESS, AFTER SCHOOL, AND OFTEN WERE JOINED BY OUR PARENTS AFTER SUPPER. SEVERAL OF US CROSS-COUNTRY SKIED AND OFTEN SKIED TO ONE OF THE TWO STATIONS ON THE TRAM. HOWEVER, WE ALSO HAD OUR OWN SKI TRAIL STARTING AT THE MILL, TRAVERSING SEVERAL LIGHTLY TREED HILLS, AND THEN A LONG RIDE DOWN TO THE GLACIER AND HOME. CARD PLAYING WAS ANOTHER OF OUR ENTERTAINMENTS DURING THE WINTER. THE CHILDREN AS WELL AS THE ADULTS VERY WELL ATTENDED THE SATURDAY NIGHT DANCES. THERE WAS USUALLY LIVE MUSIC, A PIANO, DRUMS, HORN, OR WHATEVER WAS AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, RECORDS WERE ALSO PLAYED AND WE ALL HAD OUR FAVORITES. FOLLOWING THE DANCING, REFRESHMENTS WERE SERVED. I SHALL ALWAYS REMEMBER THOSE SUMPTUOUS HOMEMADE CAKES!

IN THE SUMMER, THERE WERE HIKES, PICNICS, TENNIS, AND BALL GAMES TO WATCH. THE MINERS HAD THEIR OWN TEAM, AS DID BOTH McCARTHY AND KENNECOTT. ONE OF OUR FAVORITE ACTIVITIES ON WARM DAYS WAS RUNNING THROUGH THE GARDEN HOSE ON OUR LAWN, USUALLY FOLLOWED BY REAL LEMONADE AND COOKIES. A HIKE TO McCARTHY AND BACK FOR ICE CREAM CONES WAS A SPECIAL TREAT. FALL BROUGHT BERRY PICKING, CURRANTS AND CRANBERRIES BEING OUR FAVORITES. OFTEN WE SHARED PATCHES WITH BLACK BEARS, THOUGH THEY WERE MUCH MORE FRIGHTENED THAN WE WERE.

KENNECOTT WAS SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS, GLACIERS, FOREST, SO VERY BEAUTIFUL! IT WAS A REAL WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE. I'M SURE WE TOOK IT ALL FOR GRANTED, BUT NOW ALL THIS BEAUTY AND PEACE IS UNFORGETTABLE.

THE HISTORY OF KENNECOTT AND McCARTHY KIDS MAKES INTERESTING AND UNUSUAL READING. IT WAS A WONDERFUL AND DIFFERENT WORLD. ALL OF US LIVING THERE, ATTENDING SCHOOL, LIVING NORMAL FAMILY LIVES BECAME DEAR FRIENDS. THE EXCITEMENT NOW OF A REUNION NEVER DIMINISHES. MOST OF THOSE GROWING UP IN THE AREA FELT PRIVILEGED TO HAVE HAD THIS TREMENDOUS EXPERIENCE OF LIVING IN SUCH A BEAUTIFUL AND PRISTINE ENVIRONMENT. THEIR LIVES WILL BE FOREVER ENTWINED.

Inger Jensen Ricci