

Helmericks Family

At Colville Village

Teena with Sons and mother Bonnie in July 2015



Teena's travels included Fairbanks for a reunion with many family members at Harding Lake for July.

Jim & Ruby home on Colville



Aurora Borealis over Colville



Life on the homestead along the Colville River continues among both peace and upheaval.

Despite noisy summers full of raucous bird voices filling the air continually, and winds often buffeting the house, we still live with relatively quiet and peacefulness from human intrusions.



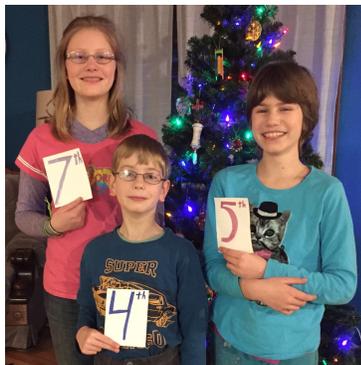
Yes, more lights and rumbling equipment noises from the encroaching oilfield continue to increase, but our island of serenity remains a buffer to this invasion. We benefit from the oilfield with jobs, increased transportation opportunities, and

Grandkids

Jay and Amy's children:



Natasha, Elisha, Melody



Isaac & Crystal's children: Danian & Rhianna



many wonderful social contacts, but can always retreat to our private resort to recover the peace and tranquility that is so often hard to obtain in the "outside world" of hustle and bustle.

Trials and hardships do exist such as when one of us needs to be away, leaving the other alone (other than our faithful dogs). Although both Jim and Teena (for a short time), can maintain the place alone, it is never pleasant to be separated for long...we are a team and function best together!

This year's biggest event was a dramatic and unique spring break-up in late May, which included extreme flooding across the whole island plus an unprecedented ice ride-up event that destroyed several of our buildings near the river's edge. (Read more details on Teena's blog at "teena-arcticalaska.blogspot.com".)

We had help rebuilding in July, when Derek and Aaron, with transportation support from Caelus Energy, arrived to quickly put up a new structure. We were surely blessed with help from family and neighbor's, and now have a new shop-garage-generator building to support us through the days ahead.



How much longer can we remain living at the homestead on the Colville while riding this train of advancing age? Time will tell.

Love,
Jim & Teena

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