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Karen McPherson, reporter

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10/5/79 Karen McPherson talked about the gold coin from South Africa which is worth four hundred and eleven dollars depending on the gold market. She said twelve of the coins equal one pound of gold since there are twelve troy ounces in one pound of gold. In Fairbanks Kruggerands are sold in units of twenty by Allan Johnston, a broker. He also sells Mexican pesos in units of twenty worth five hundred five dollars depending on the gold market. She described the Mexican coins. McPherson asked Johnston why people would buy gold coins. Johnston said the most common reason people buy gold coins is for insurance in case the economy collapses. He said the coins could be bought and sold on the same day. McPherson asked what kind of people buy gold coins. Johnston said the people are buying the coins for the longer term. They are the smaller money people looking for the insurance. Some people are doing it for speculation also. He said the average consumer is much more emotional to fluctuations to the market. Johnston cautioned people that buying gold isn't the path to wealth. He suggested other ways to riches such as buying real estate and fixing it up. Other investments do appreciate or you can add value yourself. Johnston said Fairbanks is a very active gold buying community.

10/5/79 Karen McPherson said the Fairbanks Women in Crisis and Counseling and Assistance Center or WICCA is a state and federally funded organization that started in September 1975 primarily as a rape crisis program. Since then the organization has expanded its services to include a program for abused wives and a rural education program. Barrow already has a center and facilities are being planned for Minto and Tok. Most of the cases handled in Fairbanks relate to instances of domestic violence. Executive director, Carla Slaughter, explains what falls under that category - spousal abuse or between partners. McPherson asked if she feels they get a very large percentage of people actually reporting instances. Slaughter said they get lots of people reporting instances to them. Reporting to police happens less. McPherson asked what happens when someone reports being beaten. Slaughter said they have them come down to talk to a counselor if they can. If not they will talk to them over the phone. They are asked if they would like to stay for a while to leave the violent situation. Often a woman can't do that because it creates more anger and hostility. Slaughter said they will go to someone who can't come in. If the husband or partner is being very violent they prefer not to do that and prefer to ask the woman to leave the house and they will meet her somewhere and pick her up. They are not policemen and are not trained to deal with extremely violent situations. If the woman wants to report it they will take them. McPherson said it is required to subsequently go to the police. Slaughter said not at all. McPherson asked if rape is a category of domestic violence. Slaughter said it is not included in domestic violence it is not illegal for a husband to rape his wife. McPherson asked about the percentages of rape to other types of domestic violence. Slaughter said they receive three to one domestic violence to rape. They get many more calls of domestic violence. McPherson said in the past Fairbanks had the highest rate of rape in the nation. Slaughter said Fairbanks had the largest per population rape rates. She said

she would like to believe the rates have dropped because of programs like theirs. There are ten organized programs throughout the state. McPherson said the center has also received calls from children about domestic violence in their families and the center has 11 male clients. WICCA hopes to expand its services and house more people. Slaughter has been with the organization through previous growth periods. Slaughter talks about how she feels personally about her work. She said it is close to her heart, but trying work. She said anyone working in human services feels that way.

10/4/79 Karen McPherson said according to Fred Anderson, Upper Yukon Area Management Biologist with the Alaska Fish and Game, the commercial fishing season in the Interior was exceptionally good. Anderson said they had an exceptionally strong king run. The chum run was mediocre. The silver salmon fall run was strong with a possible record number of fish caught by the 190 and 200 commercial gill netters and fish wheel operators. That is from Anvik on upstream to the Canadian border including the Tanana drainage. That figure includes about 45 people in the Tanana drainage, about 100 between Anvik and Ruby and that balance primarily in the villages of Rampart and Tanana. People fishing must have a limited entry permit. In Fairbanks there were 250 permits issued this year compared to 170 last year. Anderson said some non-commercially caught fish found their way into the commercial market. Anderson talked about limited entry permit system being studied.

10/3/79 Karen McPherson said less than 22 percent of registered voters voted yesterday. It was a low turn-out in spite of the advertisements for the election. McPherson talked about the different types of ads including the statement of length of residency in Alaska. The theory worked for borough mayor, John Carlson, re-elected to a third term. She talked about the other candidates. The borough assembly election was much tighter including the need for a run-off. The school board elections, city council elections and city bond propositions are discussed.

10/2/79 Karen McPherson talks about the election and restrictions on voting on the day of the election. She asks various people if they are going to vote and asks if they think their vote will make a difference.

10/2/79 Karen McPherson said conflict between individuals and agencies of the government are no uncommon. Right now there is considerable disagreement between a mountain climber named Doug Bucannon, president of the Alaskan Alpine Club and the National Park Service. She said there is a third party in the dispute and that is the Alaska Alpine Club. The Alaskan Alpine Club has received a lot of attention because of signs they plan to put on Alaskan summits. The signs have "park service go home" on them. Bucannon claims the park service places excessive requirements on climbers that interferes with their basic freedom to climb when, where, how and with whom they wish. The Alaska Alpine Club on the contrary disavows any involvement with the signs and is supportive of the National Park Service. The National Park Service says they have good relations with the nationally respected Alaska group, but are peeved with Bucannon's misrepresentation of Park Service regulations of climbers. Bob Ellis with the National Park Service in Anchorage clarifies current regulations for climbers. Ellis said there are only two peaks in Alaska that require backcountry use permits, registrations or radios, those are McKinley and Foraker. They have a requirement on these two peaks of registration of the climbing party both in and out, a signed medical statement for fitness, and radios for communication. He pointed out that his office has already gone on record as wanting to wave the last two requirements for those two peaks.

Bucannon comments about Ellis' comments. Bucannon said John Cook wants to bring Alaska climbing regulations in line with the climbing regulations in Kluane Park in Canada. Ellis said the regulations that Canada has for that park are more stringent than what they operate within McKinley (Denali) or elsewhere in the state. He said there is not more at this time to adopt their regulations, but Cook said they are trying to explore ways of coordinating between their management system and the NPS in Alaska in the Kluane/Wrangell-St. Elias area. This would mainly apply to people entering the park on the U.S. side for a climb on the Canadian side. Bucannon talked about why he plans to use his signs. Ellis said placing that kind of item on top of a mountain is out of place and an insult to other climbers. Dan Osborne with the Alaska Alpine Club said their club has not participated in any of those activities.

10/1/79 McPherson said like many Alaskans she has a log cabin and talked about preparing for winter. The Alaska Federation for Community Self Reliance has a service for people like her. They provide a home energy audit service. Jim Olney and Ellen Brown conducted an audit in her cabin. Olney said they check a house from roof to foundation and identify heat loss and make suggestions where needed to cut the heat loss and save fuel. The auditors charge between 25 and 50 dollars depending on the size of the dwelling. Brown talked about starting by doing a round the house measurement to see how tightly the house is constructed. Ellen Brown said the biggest cause of heat loss, infiltration. The air coming into the house has to be warmed up to room temperature. She recommended stuffing and caulking around a window. Jim inspected the vapor barrier in the roof and its ventilation. Brown said a lot of things that people can do to their house don't involve expensive items such as caulk and shuttering their windows with foam. Brown talked about two houses that were built by contractors and one was well built and one not. She said a major part of their program is making people aware of what they are buying or living in.