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### James Hecks - "You will be missed"

by Mary Glover



Seldovia's James Scott Hecks, 38 died on April 28, 2006, from pancreatic cancer at South Peninsula Hospital in Homer. A memorial service was Saturday at the Seldovia Bible Chapel. Pastor Jonathan Horde officiated. The memorial service was one of the largest gatherings of people in the church that this member has seen in sometime. The cars were parked everywhere there was a space -- the parking lot, both sides of the street and even in the boat haul out area. Pastor Horde stated that the first time he met James was at the hospital in Homer and at that time James left a legacy in asking, "Can I be forgiven?"

The following is an article written by James' daughter and was one of the articles chosen at the school for publication in this year's *The Seldovia Visitor*.

#### Katrina Hecks, 8th Grade

It was mid-July, the air was moist, the sun was out, but you could hardly feel the heat from it because of the harsh wind. My parents had been planning a small little picnic for quite awhile now, but they were thinking of canceling due to the

A large gathering of many friends of James occurred on Friday evening at the Linwood Bar. Many people even came from out-of-town to attend. James was a good friend to of the "old" families in Seldovia, many of which are the commercial fishermen.

James was born to Jim Hecks and Beverly Hecks in Seldovia's former hospital, which is now the personal residence of Gerry and Alberta Willard. The doctor who delivered him was Dr. Whitehead. James' mother, Bev, told me that her labor was induced because the doctor was going to be out-of-town and the doctor did not want to have her deliver while he was gone. James weighed in at 5 lbs. Bev said that "James was a good little boy. He loved to go fishing and camping. He was always concerned about me and helped me in any way he could. He brought me flowers on Mother's Day and cards. He was a good son. I really miss him."

Debbie and James were married at their home on September 26, 1990 when their daughter, Katrina, was one year old. However, all Seldovians know they were childhood sweethearts. Debbie said they started dating in the 10th grade while attending the Susan B. English School. Debbie said "He was a very loving and caring husband and father."

James "worked as a laborer for Jay Brant Construction at the Kasitna Bay Lab Project. He also fished for halibut and black cod with Curtis Cameron on the *Joann Marie* and for Olie Jackson on the *Deliverance*. He enjoyed camping, fishing, hunting, snow machine riding and clam digging. Family wrote: 'James enjoyed the summers and loved to fish for king salmon and dig clams. He also loved to take his family camping and on vacation to California. Every year, he went moose and bear hunting with his buddies. He loved to holler at this daughter's basketball games. He was a great cook and loved to barbecue in his backyard. He was always working hard to do special things for his family. He also had a lot of special times with his friend in Seldovia. In the winter months, he loved to go snow machining, ice fishing, snowshoeing and sledding. He was a very loving, handsome and caring man. We love him a lot, and he will be greatly missed. He had many, many friends.'" Obit. Anchorage Daily News May 11, 2006

During the final days of his illness, James wife, Debbie, his mother, his father and his brother were by his side, helping in anyway they could. With a kind spirit, James fought the good fight.

Upon James' request his ashes will be scattered at Seldovia Lake, where in former years he loved to hike and hunt.

James is survived by his wife, Deborah Hecks; daughter, Katrina Hecks; father James Hecks; mother, Beverly Hecks;

weather. Jackie, Tyler and I disagreed; we already had our hopes up and didn't really care about the weather.

When we arrived, Jackie and I immediately noticed the ocean's waves slamming hard against the sandy shore. She and I pondered for awhile, trying to decide whether or not it would be a good idea to go for a quick swim. Finally, we came to the conclusion that we would go for a swim and that it would be very enjoyable.

Immediately, after all that hard thinking, Jackie and I quickly stripped off our shoes and rushed down the sandy but rocky shore. We carefully placed our pale toes in the frightfully cold ocean. The first rush of water that climbed up our legs made us gasp for air. We thought of canceling the whole plan, but yet were obviously still so determined to set forward.

Each of us gradually gained the courage to enter this enormous pool of what seemed to be freezing cold water. The waves kept climbing as Jackie and I went deeper. I could feel the sharp pebbles picking and poking hard against my feet and my skin beginning to grow red and numb. I could also taste the cool and salty mist of the ocean. We soon got deep enough to where our feet didn't touch the ground and to where our legs and hands had to do all the work to keep our heads afloat. The waves kept on tossing us backwards, bouncing us up and down.

As soon as my skin seemed adjusted to such an extreme temperature change, I began to feel like a fish; I felt free. The cooling temperature that was traveling through my body made my blood pump more; I felt a sudden flash of high-powered energy. That's about when Jackie and I screamed to my father the water was great and he needed to come in.

After several minutes of begging, my father entered the water...with a huge grin on his face.

He seemed to enjoy himself, but just couldn't admit it at that very moment. Indeed, he made Jackie and me very happy by joining us. Minutes later, we all got out, wrapped towels around us, and headed up the beach. I know none of us will ever forget that special day when we decided to go swimming in the monstrous waves.

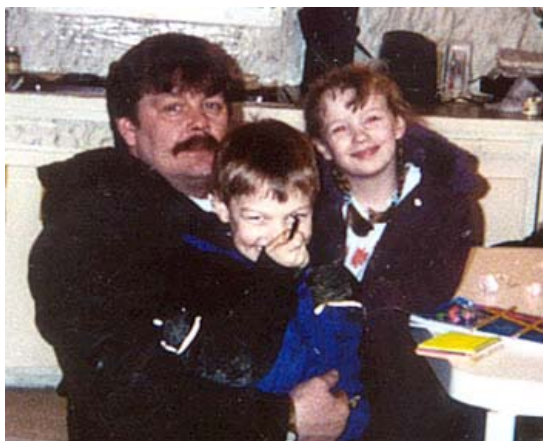
brother; Fred Hecks; niece, Kaitlyn; and nephew, Tyler, all of Seldovia.



James, Debbie and Katrina



James and Bev, 2004



Brother Fred, Kaitlyn and Tyler, 2002



James, Debbie, Katrina and Debbie's mother, Gladys -  
photo by Darlene Crawford



James at age 11



Dad Jim Hecks and James



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