

The Last Frontier

by Alaska Laureate Eta, Matsu Valley member Savannah Hargraves

Our country heard about Wasilla, Alaska during the recent election. The small town is in the news again as one of our local Beta Sigma Phi sisters was featured in a national cooking magazine.

“The Beta Sigma Phi who makes her home near Wasilla was interviewed by the noted cooking magazine, *Penzeys One*. Along with a number of other Alaskan cooks, Jean Hamilton of *Alaska Laureate Eta, Matsu Valley* was invited to tell her story of living in Alaska and to share some favorite recipes.

Jean and her husband Barry “pioneered” to Wasilla after falling in love with Alaska when visiting friends in the area. They sold their property in Arizona and moved to Wasilla. They purchased a home and opened a Bed & Breakfast they named Wayside Bed & Breakfast.

In the *Penzeys One* article, Jean says, “I love all of the nature here. Alaska has beautiful trees, mountains, lakes and rivers. Moose come up to your door and cross the highways at a rapid speed. Hunting wild game and fishing are two huge sports and the main subsistence for families up here....”

Jean continues, “People in Wasilla are so friendly and helpful. There’s a feeling of total peace and tranquility, as if we’ve lived here forever. I have reconnected with my sorority, Beta Sigma Phi, and met wonderful new sisters who are so supportive. Together we participate in community projects and learn more about our gorgeous state and its history.”

One of the recipes Jean shared in the magazine is “Crispy Baked Cajun Potatoes,” made from Alaska-grown Matanuska Valley potatoes. Another recipe is “Goose Gumbo,” utilizing our plentiful geese.

Reflecting on our recent political season, Editor Bill Penzeys says, “To us at *Penzeys One*, cooking is not about one side being right or wrong—it is about bringing sides together. Cooking is that act of kindness that heals us after a busy day.”

Our Beta Sigma Phi sister is a positive emissary for Alaska and for our sorority as she operates her B & B and responds when a national magazine comes calling.

