

H C R

32

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(9)

Date Referred: April 19, 1989

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 5-3-89

The RESOURCES Committee considered:

HCR 32

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 32

[NAMING A MOUNTAIN AFTER BRUCE MCGHAN]

Requesting the State Geographic Board to name a mountain on the Kenai Peninsula after Bruce McGhan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- [] be replaced with _____ [] the same title
[] have attached amendment(s) [] a new title
[X] do pass
[] do not pass
[] no recommendation
[] individual recommendations
[] additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s):
(Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS:

(Date/Dept)

- [] fiscal impact _____
[X] zero fiscal note _____
[] zero with analysis _____

- [] fiscal note(s) _____
[] zero fiscal note(s) _____
[] zero fn/analysis _____

SIGNING DO PASS:

[Signature]
Richard Dosey
Mike Savane
[Signature]
Scott [Signature]
Bill Hudson
Mike [Signature]

SIGNING:

(Check approp. column)

	Do Not Pass	No Rec	Amend
<u>[Signature]</u>			

[Signature]
Chairman's Signature

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____ Agency Affected: _____
 Title: Naming a Mountain after Bruce McGhan BRU: _____
 Sponsor: Rep. Menard & Donley Components: _____
 Requestor: House Resources Committee

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TRAVEL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CONTRACTUAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
SUPPLIES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
EQUIPMENT	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
LAND & STRUCTURES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
GRANTS, CLAIMS	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
MISCELLANEOUS	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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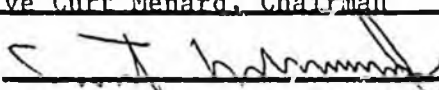
FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
OTHER	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TEMPORARY	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: House Resources Committee Phone: 465-4944
 Division: Representative Curt Menard, Chairman Date: 5/3/89
 Approved by Commissioner:  Date: _____
 Agency: _____

Distribution (by preparer):

Legislative Finance
 Legislative Sponsor
 Requestor
 Office of Management and Budget
 Impacted Agency(ies)

BRUCE ALLEN MCGHAN

By: Debra McGhan

On November 26, 1986 Bruce McGhan was killed in an industrial accident while upgrading a septic system in the Wasilla area. Bruce is gone, but his memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him; and in the many landmarks of work he left behind to the state of Alaska, his home.

The family and friends of Bruce now call on Alaska to help leave a landmark for him; a memorial for Bruce. Born and raised in Alaska, Bruce explored much of the state. In his travels he discovered Crescent Lake on the Kenai Peninsula. When Bruce and his wife Debra needed a change from the fast pace of city life, they hiked to Crescent Lake. Here, in this special place, they spent many hours sharing their love and enjoying the beauty of Alaska's backcountry.

Located approximately three miles north of Kenai Lake in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Crescent Lake is bordered by several mountains. One mountain, which lies on the north shore of Kenai Lake and the south shore of Crescent Lake, is currently unnamed. We would like to have this mountain named Mt. McGhan in memory of Bruce Allen McGhan and his love for the state of Alaska.

Bruce was born on August 14, 1953 in Anchorage Alaska. He was the oldest of four children born to Terry Smith and Marilyn Cox McGhan.

His father, Terry McGhan, owned an Anchorage based construction company which specialized in water and sewer excavation. His company installed the first public water and sewer systems used in Spenard. He was a bush pilot and son of pioneer Alaska parents who operated one of the early airlines between Alaska and Seattle. Terry's father, Clifford D. "MAC" McGhan drove one of the first cars over the Alcan Highway after it opened in the 1940's.

In 1961 Bruce's parents divorced and Bruce, along with his sister and brothers: Mike, Colleen, and Pat, remained in Anchorage living with their mother. Terry continued to work in Alaska in the construction field for many years. He owned and operated Mentasta Lodge on the Tok Cutoff from 1966 to 1969. In 1973 he left the state and currently owns a construction company in Warrenton, Oregon.

Marilyn, Bruce's mother, began working for Business Service Bureau in 1961 as a receptionist and executive secretary. In 1967 she was offered an executive position with a newly formed company, Labor Trust Services, as administrator for many large health, welfare, and pension trust funds. She is now a corporate owner of Labor Trust Services in Anchorage.

As the oldest child many responsibilities fell to Bruce and he took this position seriously. He realized at an early age that the only way to get ahead was hard work; and Bruce was determined to thrive. He kept his brother's, who were both rapidly growing taller than himself, in line with brute strength. There was a constant challenge among the brothers but they each respected one another recognizing the individual talents that

emerged as they grew.

At eight years old Bruce became the youngest paper boy hired by the Anchorage Daily News. Conscientious and hard working, he succeeded in establishing one of the largest paper routes in the Spenard area, winning dozens of awards for his efforts. He kept up with the deliveries for many years, getting up at 4:00 a.m. seven days a week.

When Bruce was 12 his father bought Mentasta Lodge on the Tok Cutoff. For three summers the kids worked in the lodge making beds, cutting wood, stocking shelves, and even building an aircraft runway. Bruce learned to run his first piece of heavy equipment on that runway. It took all summer because when the dozer broke down he had to repair it; this was quite a task for a 13 year old who didn't know much about fixing dozer's. But with a bock, some tools, and a sense of challenge, Bruce fixed the dozer and finished the runway a week before summer ended.

The McGhan family faced many hard years as Marilyn struggled to raise four children alone in Anchorage. It was a challenge keeping food on the table, and extra money was unheard of. In spite of the odds Bruce saved enough money to buy a brand new Datsun pickup by his seventeenth birthday.

Once Bruce had wheels and could drive he began to thirst for more; he wanted to fly. Along with his school work he took on two jobs (appliance repair and gas station attendant) to earn the money needed for flying lessons. He soloed after just eight hours of formal instruction. At 18 he earned his private pilot license and began saving for an airplane.

In 1971, during his senior year of high school, Bruce landed a job with A.A.A. Rental company as a yard hand. Within a week, Bob Holt the owner, discovered Bruce had a knack for mechanic work and running equipment. He was promoted, given a raise, and put to delivering loaders, backhoes, and dozers around Anchorage, Girdwood, and the Mat-Su Valley. He became known as "the kid who could get anything unstuck." Occasionally arriving to pick up a piece of equipment buried in the mud, he would jump down from his truck, a huge grin lighting his boyish face, and proceed to do what seemed impossible; get a multi ton piece of equipment out of the mud and onto dry ground. But somehow he always succeeded.

Bruce continued his education with engineering and math courses at Mount Hood Community College in Portland, Oregon. But he missed Alaska, and after a short time, returned home.

In November 1973 Bruce married a former classmate, Debra McDaniel, the daughter of Alaskan artist Scott McDaniel, and settled down to raise a family.

Taking his new wife, Bruce moved to Seward and worked in the lumber mill for several months. In the spring of 1974 he was accepted into the operating engineers union so the couple returned to Anchorage. 1975 brought more changes with the start of McGhan Construction company, owned by Bruce's uncle, Tim McGhan. Bruce went to work for Tim's company as the foreman and operator. And for the next five years he worked with Tim, helping to build a strong, successful business.

In 1976, shortly before the birth of their first child, Bruce made the decision to move his family to the Mat-Su valley.

He spent the winter designing house plans, then began construction of his first home in Wasilla during the summer of 1977. He continued to work for Tim, commuting into Anchorage daily, and working on the house at night, and days off. He finished the construction in June 1978.

By 1980 the drive to Anchorage became too hard, and after buying his first airplane, Bruce went to work for a remote bush company; Jansen Construction. He flew to Illiamna and worked on the construction of several village schools around the lake.

When the schools were finished Bruce went to work for the State of Alaska, Department of Parks under the supervision of Jim Hoag. Headquartered in Willow, he worked as part of a 4 member maintenance and building crew in the state campgrounds throughout the Mat-Su Valley. Accompanied by his family, he spent the summer of 1982 traveling around south central Alaska making repairs, and building new, better devices to be used in the campgrounds. (He aided in the design and building of the currently used bear proof garbage cans.)

In the fall of 1982 Bruce bought his first backhoe and started his own construction company, B.A.M. Construction. For the next five years Bruce worked hard to build up his business. He earned the reputation of being hard working, honest, and dependable. He built seven homes in the Wasilla and Big Lake area, each one with pride and quality construction. He installed hundred's of water and sewer systems, did landscaping, home improvements, and additions; all of which were done with the same high standards Bruce lived by.

The work Bruce did around the state over the years stretches from Fairbanks to Valdez, Kenai to Palmer, Illiamna to Girdwood, and all around South Central Alaska. Bruce took great pride in his home state and that pride went into every job, and every landmark he left behind.

Now, as the one year anniversary of Bruce's death approaches, his family and friends have joined together to make a request to the state of Alaska; that the mountain near Crescent Lake be officially named Mt McGhan as a memorial for this most deserving man.

Bruce was cremated and his remains have been spread on the slopes of this mountain in the place he loved so much. What better monument could be dedicated to this true Alaskan?

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

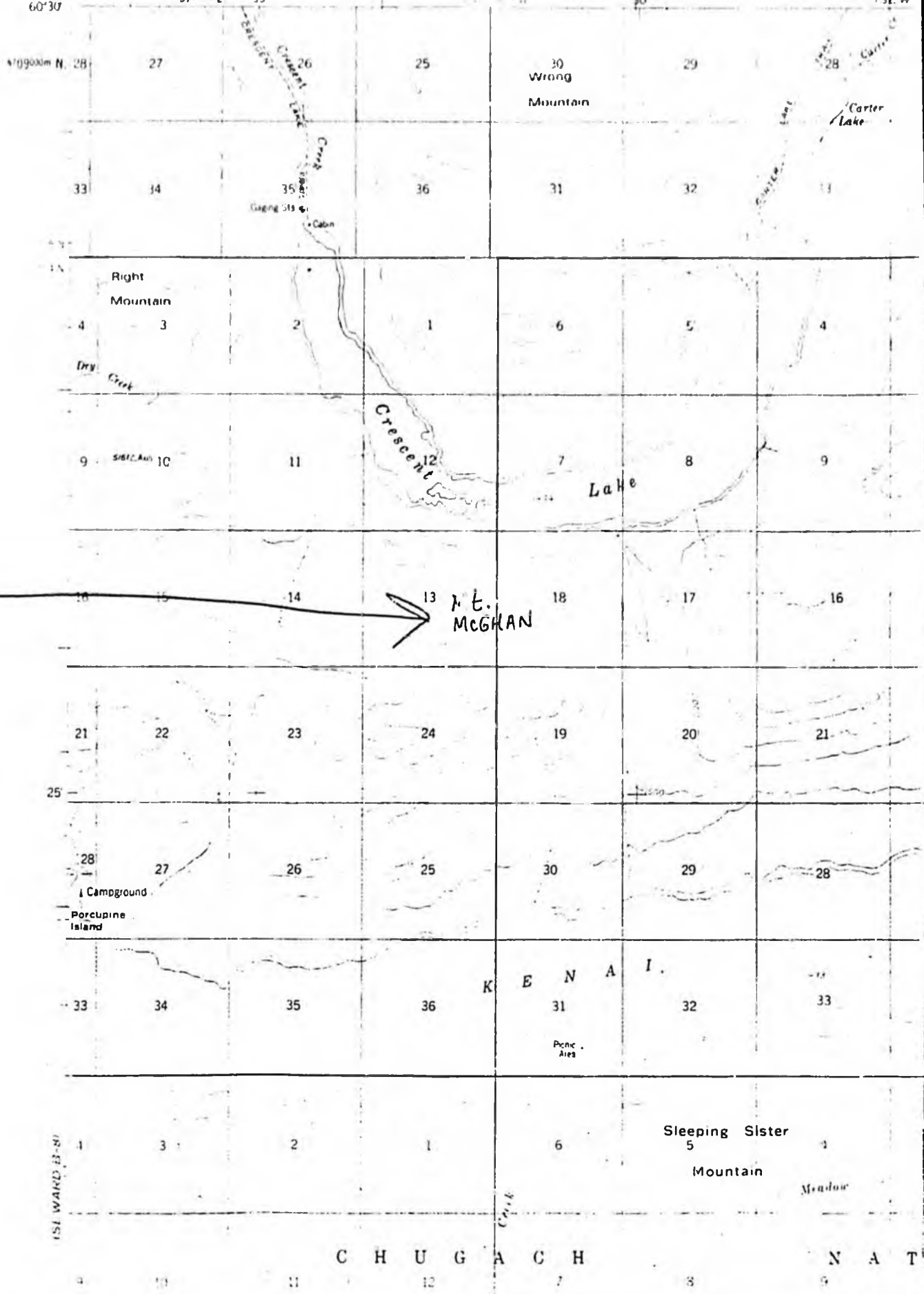
SEWARD C-81

149° 37' 30"
60° 30'

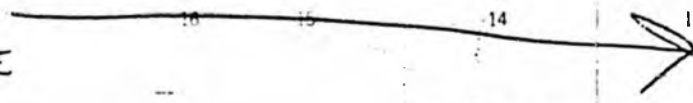
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POSED
FEATURE



M.E.
MCGHAN

C H U G A C H

N A T



Debra McGhan

He wasn't a politician

State rejects widow's plea to name mountain

By SUSAN MORGAN HOWK

Frontiersman staff

Mount McGhan.

Wasilla resident Debra McGhan had hoped by now that a mountain near Cooper Landing would bear that name in honor of her late husband. This month, however, she says she was told that Bruce McGhan just wasn't important enough to the state of Alaska to warrant naming a mountain after him.

Soon after Bruce, a life-long Alaskan, was killed in a construction accident Nov. 26, 1986, Debra realized she wanted a permanent reminder of her husband of 13 years.

Someone suggested naming a star for him, but she decided on one of the unnamed mountains on the Kenai Peninsula instead. "A star just seemed too far away," she says. "I wanted something more tangible."

Debra began plowing through all the required paperwork and regulations the state told her she needed.

She collected signatures on peti-

tions, talked about her dream with politicians in the Kenai Peninsula Borough and traveled with her two young children to meetings in the area. She never doubted that her husband was worthy of a mountain.

"Bruce lived and breathed Alaska. This was home," she says. "I just always saw him go out of his way to help the state as a private citizen."

Bruce and Debra married shortly after both graduated from Diamond High School in 1972. Bruce owned his own construction business in Wasilla. He was killed when the walls of a sewer ditch collapsed on him.

Debra says her husband was an adventurer and recalls the time they spent camping and hiking on "their mountain" fondly. "Just to be in the heart of that beautiful country was great," she says. "It was our favorite place."

After collecting 1,200 signatures of support, Debra's application to name Mount McGhan was finally approved by the Kenai

Borough last June.

She then packaged up all the information and supporting data and mailed it to the Commissioner of Regional Affairs in Juneau for final approval. A phone call from someone in the office in August told her the application looked "really good" and said approval would probably be just a formality.

On Feb. 9, however, she was told the state had refused her request.

"They said they didn't feel that Bruce had given the state of Alaska a substantial enough contribution," Debra says. "I said, 'What exactly are you looking for' and she said, 'Well, like somebody who held a political office or something.'"

Debra said Bruce made more than his share of contributions to Alaska. He designed a bear-proof trashcan still in use in state parks and took pride in installing sewer systems that wouldn't pollute the environment.

"His whole thing was, 'I'm going to be here forever and my

children are going to be here forever,' so he wanted to take care of the state," she says. "But they didn't think that was enough."

She admits to feeling bitter. "Do they think that somebody who puts on a white shirt and lobbies in Juneau makes more of a contribution than Bruce did?" she asks. "This is what Alaska is all about, we're the people who live here and work here."

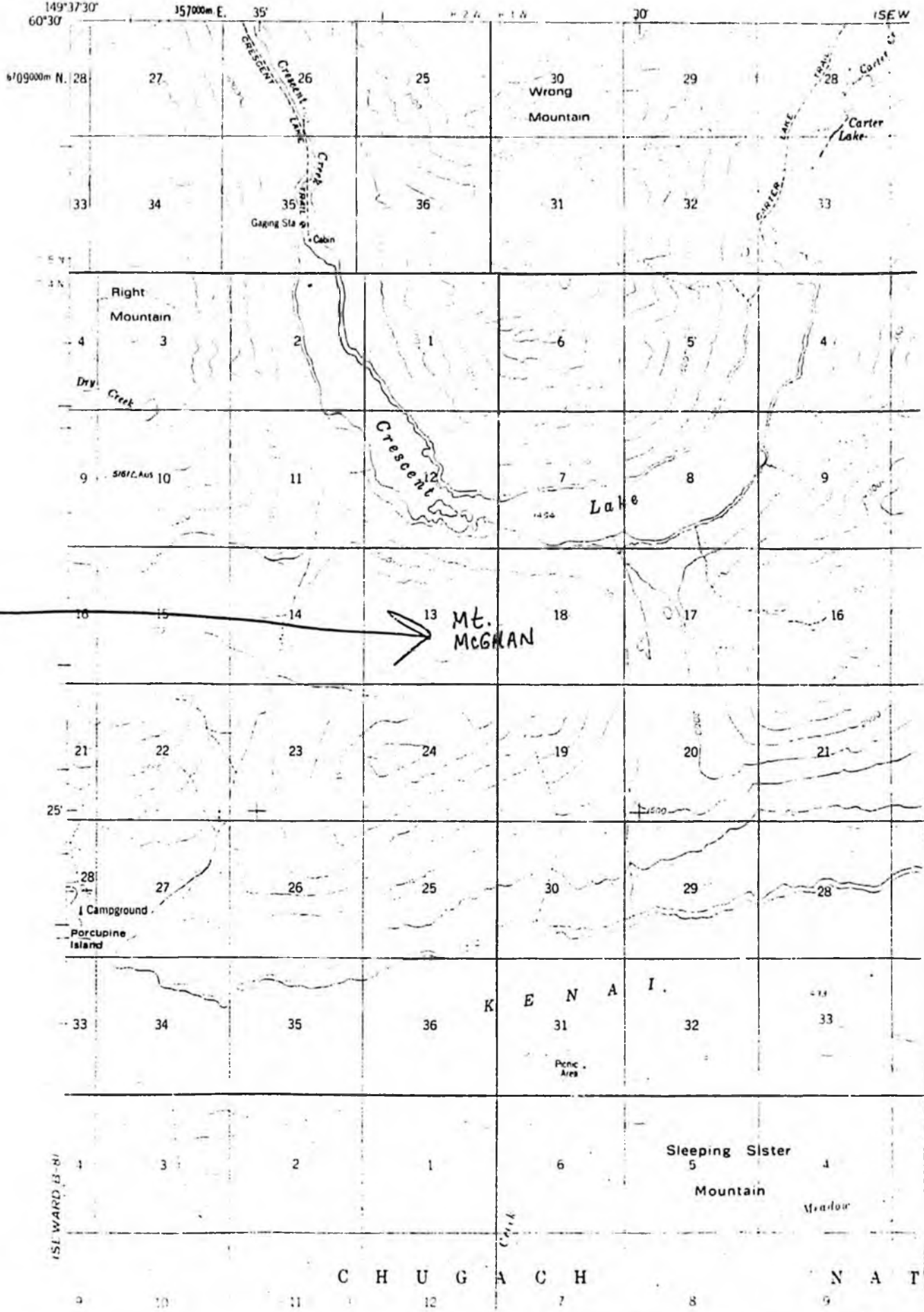
Now, Debra says, she's beginning the appeal process. Juneau will need more supportive information and reasons to consider naming Mount McGhan.

Meanwhile, a bronze plaque, installed by Debra, marks the 4,730-foot-high mountain that her husband loved. After his death, Debra scattered his ashes over the peak and says she and the children can feel his presence when they visit.

"It's like when you get there, he's really there," Debra says. "It's so quiet, it's like being in the middle of a picture. It's like heaven and it feels like he's really happy there."

(SEWARD C-8)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



POSED
FEATURE

Mt. MCGOWAN

CHUGACH NATIONAL PARK



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

144 N. BINKLEY • SOLDOTNA, ALASKA 99669

PHONE (907) 262-4441

DON GILMAN
MAYOR

RECEIVED
JUN 13 1988

June 8, 1988

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Alaska State Geographic
Names Board
P.O. Box B
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Sirs:

On June 7, 1988, the Kenai Peninsula Borough approved a motion to forward a letter of non-objection to the naming of a mountain at Latitude 60°26'0" North; Longitude 149°33'30" East, Section 13, Township 4N, Range 2W, Seward Meridian located on the north shore of Kenai Lake and the south shore of Crescent Lake. The mountain is currently unnamed based on the section map - Seward B-7 quadrangle.

Debra A. McGhan has requested the mountain be named in memory of her deceased husband - Mt. McGhan.

If we may be of further assistance, please contact the Borough Clerk's Office, 262-4441 ext. 220/221.

Very truly yours,

Joanne Brindley, CMC
Kenai Peninsula Borough Clerk