

# Colonists Sign New Petition

## Settlers' Favorite Weapon Turned This Time to Aid Irwin

BY ARVILLE SCHALEBEN OF THE JOURNAL STAFF

Palmer, Alaska (By Radio)—Don Irwin, first director of the Matanuska valley colony, stifled rumors Tuesday that he might resign as colony general manager and return to the Matanuska experimental farm, which he formerly managed. "I want to stay with the project and I am going to stay," he said.

The colonists, noting that for the formative period of the colony he had been replaced in top command by Col. L. P. Hunt, who came here with the Fuller commission, had circulated a petition that if Irwin quit they would demand return to the states. About 75 per cent of the colonists signed it.

### Had Tiffs With Carr

Irwin has been dissatisfied with certain changes in the administrative set-up made first by Eugene Carr, FERA co-ordinator, and later by S. R. Fuller, Hopkins investigator. Irwin had had several tiffs with Carr, who is now called business manager, and from time to time had expressed to the colonists that he felt like resigning and taking the position open in the agricultural experiment work.

Loyal to him as always, the colonists drew on their old standby, a petition, to express themselves. Incidentally this now provides Irwin with a substantial club in colony administrative politics that still come occasionally into the open.

"Some colonists told Irwin they were planning the petition and he said it would be all right, that it would show these new 'tinhats' that the colonists were with him, and he could kind of hold it over their heads," one colonist confided.

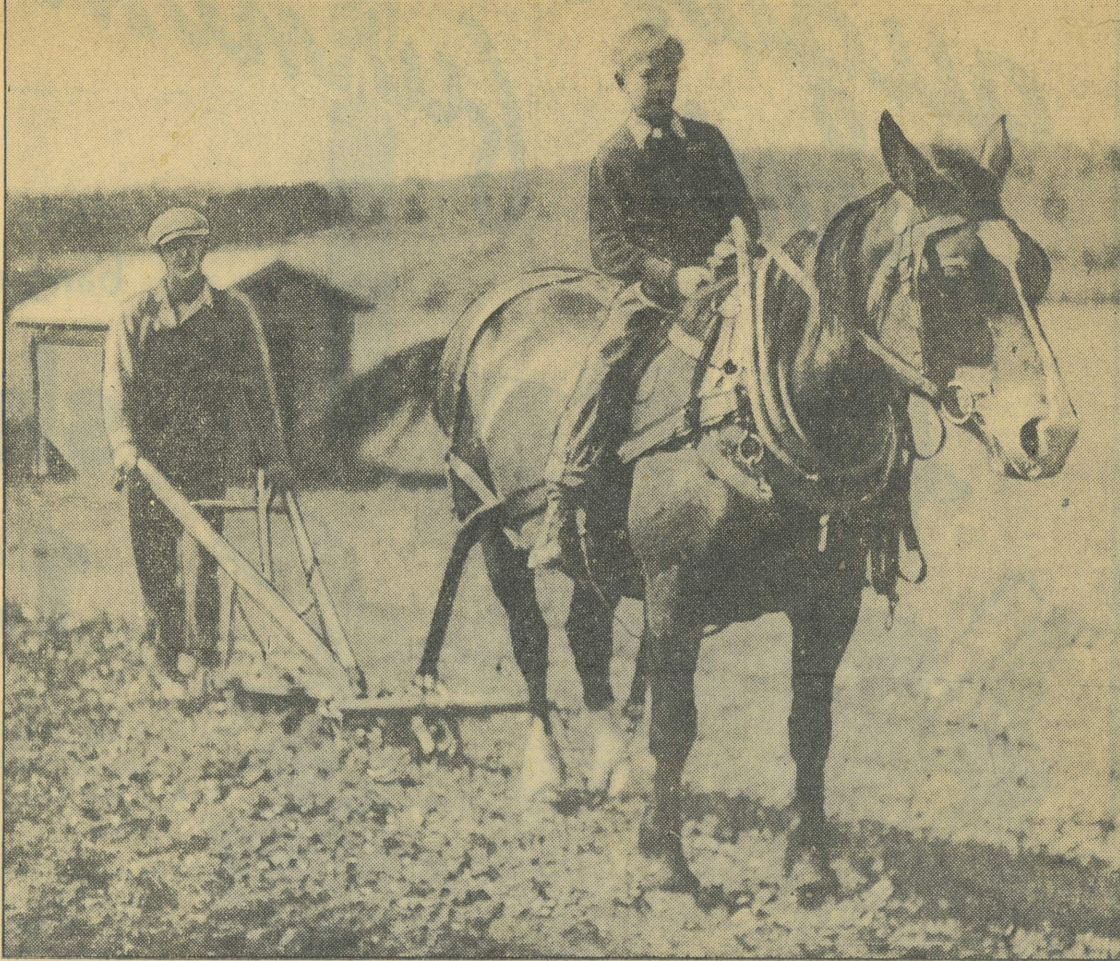
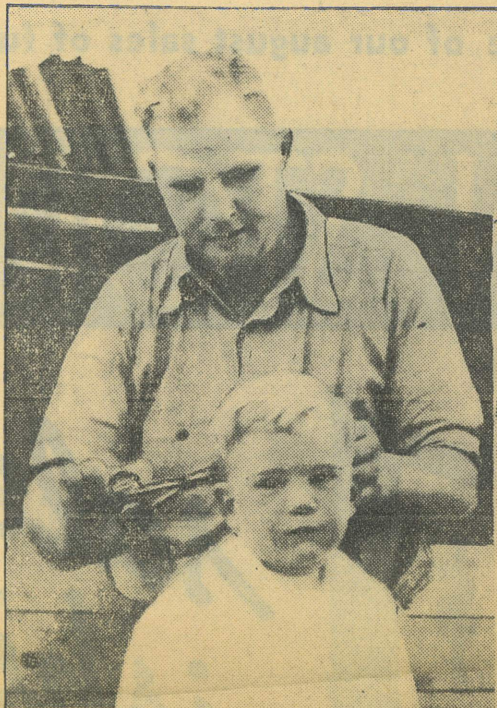
The petition also demanded that Irwin be restored to full authority on the project immediately. Under the arrangement set up by Fuller, he will again become general director in fact only after the main construction is completed. Irwin has pigeonholed the petition, but has displayed it to various officials.

### Rainy Season Begins

Intermittent rains, some of them heavy, have interfered somewhat with construction lately. The recently graveled main roads have stood up, but the minor roads into many tracts have aggravated the transportation problem. It is difficult now when there's a great rush, to get materials to homesites.

"It looks like the start of the rainy season," said Ross Sheely, an Alaska native. Hardly a day has gone past in a week in which some rain has not fallen, usually at night. The heavens have been dull, with low clouds, and daylight has shortened until it is necessary now to use automobile lights at 10 p. m.

# Hair Grows in Alaska; Colonists Hope Crops Will, Too



THE family washing is hanging out in Walter Anderson's front yard in the Matanuska valley, Alaska, and little Shirley Nichols, daughter of Harry Nichols of Luck, Wis., is just "hangin' around." "Heavy," a transient who headquarters at the colonists' settlement, is giving Harry Jacobs, 4, a haircut in the Jacobs' tent at Palmer. Harry's dad is Leo Jacobs, a Washington (D. C.) architect. The lower picture shows Lawrence Larson from International Falls, Minn., and Henry Jensen from Little Fork, Minn., cultivating a community garden at Camp 2, with young Larson on the horse.

[Photos by Arville Schaleben of The Journal Staff]