

One Alaska Pioneer Just an Old Hand at It

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Palmer, Alaska—Coming to Alaska with the 1935 pioneers was homecoming to Harold Davis, a 26-year-old traveler from Lansing, Mich.

Davis first came to Alaska with a telephone construction crew. Now he's here on a 40-acre farm as one of the colonists brought to the Matanuska valley by the federal emergency relief administration.

No one could be more enthusiastic about his chance in Alaska than Davis. He's sold on the country and he's sold on adventure. The colonization has given him a chance to indulge in both.

Mined Along Yukon

"This is great country through here," the strapping youth says. "They're giving us 30 years to pay

back what it cost to get us here, but it won't take that long. I expect to do it in 10. I made good money in Alaska before and I expect to do it again."

Davis made money in Alaska and in the Yukon territory of Canada as a gold miner. He says that he still owns two claims in the Yukon country.

He Got the Itch

"After I quit the telephone crew I had a few dollars," he said, "and bought myself a mining outfit. Then I hit out and started digging for gold. I did some placer mining and I did some drift mining, too. Sure it was hard work, but I came out of the north with \$3,000.

"I'd have never gone back to Michigan, but a friend in Lansing kept writing how much I could make there as a skilled mechanic. I shouldn't have gone, but the itch to move got in my feet and I sold out

my mining outfit and went back to the States.

"I soon found out that working as a mechanic wasn't my style. Sweatshop stuff, that's what I call it. But I blew my stake and there I was, wanting to move and not having a dime to do it with.

"Well, then along comes this colony business. I knew the Matanuska valley—I'd worked through here—and I knew it was the place for me. I applied to go and they said I couldn't, but then I told them my experience in Alaska and they said, 'Sure, O. K.'"

Visions a Paradise

"Now here I am back in Alaska again. The government has given me the best chance any man ever got. I'm going to pay off to them damn quick, and I know this colony can't fail. All it's going to take is a little work and then we'll be in paradise."

"Expect to do any more prospecting?" he was asked.

"Yes, sir. There's plenty of gold left in Alaska. After I get my farm going good I'm going out to see if I can't find my share of it. I've had my hands on it once and I want to get my hands on it again."

