

# Alaska Perils Have Altered

## Men Get Their Guns to Bring Down — of All Things — an Aviator

BY ARVILLE SCHALEBEN  
OF THE JOURNAL STAFF

Palmer, Alaska (By Radio) — Scattered by families in eight tent camps, located near the 40-acre farm tracts drawn by lottery, the Wisconsin and Michigan colonists in the Matanuska valley spent Saturday tramping through the brush and timber of their frontier possessions and getting ready to pitch in and start clearing their land as soon as they get the word to go.

The ambitious settlers are almost unanimous in declaring themselves satisfied with the property which has been allotted to them. A heavy black soil, uniform throughout the 8,000 acres, is most pleasing to the farmers after close examination.

Find My Like Garden  
"This is the kind of soil you dream about," said Henry Larose, jr., of Phillips, Wis. "They say there is not a bad piece in the valley. Give us a couple of years and we'll make a garden out of this territory."

Most of the settlers figure that they will not get more than a few acres cleared this season, but hope to have cabins up within a few weeks and cozy and complete by winter. Carpenter settlers are to be given two or three men each to help build their homes.

road cuts show a black sand dam 10 feet deep. In other places it is only a few inches, but all appears capable of producing bumper crops. Oldtimers here declare that what is needed to make this land pay is "Work; damn hard work!"

### Plane Thrills Campers

The newly arrived tenters had a thrilling time with the boom town's first airplane crack-up when Pilot Jack Waterworth of the North Star Line of Anchorage stunted dangerously over the tents, zooming low, then nosed over in a mudhole of an old peat field after landing.

Waterworth first sped low just as the train bringing the women and children from Seward stopped at the frontier station. The flier made steep turns, nose dives, landed and tipped on his nose in taking off, but righted the ship and got away.

Returning two hours later the plane dived low over the tents, making people throw themselves to the ground with fright. The settlers were angered at his antics.

"Get out your guns and shoot that fellow down," some cried. A few actually got out guns, fearing for the women and children.

### Pilot Gets "Razzberry"

As the pilot landed in the same place and the plane went over flat

metal strut and the loss of half his oil drained out while the plane lay on its back, Waterworth righted the crippled plane and took off.

"That's Alaska," said veterans impressively. "You take chances; and sometimes you make it—sometimes you don't!"

Director Irwin was especially angered for he had ordered Waterworth not to leave the ground. He will demand that the reckless pilot be grounded for endangering the pioneers.

Earlier, the settlers had an exciting time when the Wisconsin and Michigan women and children arrived and found the tents not yet ready for their occupancy.

"Where can we go? Where can we go with the children!" some wailed. "No one can live outside in this wilderness!"

Minnesota colonists, already well settled and imbued with the free hearted hospitality of the frontier, made room, and with hasty dinner preparations, saved the day.

Saturday all moved to the various camps where they will live until the individual cabins are ready, and life took on a rosier hue.

"This is more like it," they said, as their ambitious spirits speedily revived. "Now we're ready to make a couple more pages of history!"

# Colonists Voice Thanks for New Chance in North

## Led by Minister, Pioneers Hold Memorial Day Rites in New Commu- nity Building

BY ARVILLE SCHALEBEN  
OF THE JOURNAL STAFF

Palmer, Alaska (By Radio) — By the light of the soft midnight sun the Matanuska colonist Thursday remembered the brothers and fathers who died for them in the World War.

They met in the tiny temporary recreation hall hammered together out of spruce logs and finished boards hauled into the valley by the railroad which runs one regular train a week.

Under the sheltering canvas roof they bowed their heads and prayed and thanked God for the "new chance" He had given them.

### Flag at Front of Hall

Presiding was the Rev. E. J. Bingle, stumpy Presbyterian pastor who came with the first of the colonists and has tramped about in boots through the forest helping them with the many pioneering troubles that beset them.

switched the pests away with a spruce bough.

Then there came still other disturbers to mar the pastor's triumph. Midway of the services he had to yell out the open side of the hall and say: "Somebody tell those kids out there that if they have to play baseball they should keep their mouths shut."

### Hall Is Dedicated

The booming voiced strawboss from the transient laborers' camp did—and the kids did.

Lester N. Troast, the Alaskan architect on the project, spoke briefly in dedicating the building.

"I dedicate this hall to no religion, to no social group, but to you pioneers of Alaska," he said. "Let's call it Memorial hall. Let's dedicate it to those brothers and sisters and fathers who are not here. May it be of service to us in making this project succeed."

### 30 Seconds of Silence

Now came the wandering preacher's turn to lead the flock in song.

"We are going to sing together," he explained. "Those of you who have books lead—those of you who haven't can hum the tune. We're going to sing 'Taps' and then have 30 seconds of silence. This program is being sponsored by the colonists who were World war veterans—there

# One Alaska Just an Old

BY ARVILLE SCHALEBEN  
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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

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