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

By Avril Schalen

Palmer, Alaska—(By Radio)—Two families in eight tent camps located near the 60-acre farm in the Matanuska valley spent Saturday trapping through the brush and timber of their front territories, 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 scraping with land.

Bud McNutt Garden

Bud McNutt, who had the kind of soil you dream about, said Henry Lomas, Jr., of Phillips, Ala., "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 to be ready for winter. Carpenter settlers are to be given two or three men each to help build homes.

Red Gums show a black correct altitude 10 feet fast. In other places, it is only a few inches, but all feel confident of producing good crops. One settler declares that what is needed to make this land pay is "Work. Damn hard work!"

Plane Thrills Campers

The newly arrived settlers had a thrilling time with the boom town's first airplane crash-up when Pilot Jack Waterworth of the North Star Line, took off in motionless dangerously on the tent, noon-time, and had to land in a ditch 4 miles south of the old field after landing. Waterworth first spent 1000 hours just as the tent was being rushed by children from the front. The pilot had the tent dropped and the tent line, then took the children back to the field and turned the tent over to the kids. They met the airplane temporarily on the field. They had to pay for the damage.

The light of the last night of the Matanuska colonists of the boom town, 10 days ago, was a white light in a dark sky. The colonists are now getting ready for the long winter, which runs one regular train a week.

Another two hours later the plane dived low over the tent, making all the children throw themselves to the ground with fright. The settlers who were looking at them.

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

John Deere "Daddy"

As the pilot landed in the tent, he said to the colonists, "We're going to leave this land now that we've turned it into something useful."

Colonists Voice Thanks for New Chance in North

Led by Minister, Pioneers Hold Memorial Day Rites in New Community Building

By Avril Schalen

Palmer, Alaska—(By Radio)—By the light of the soft, midnight sun the Matanuska colonists held their memorial service on Monday. The colonists remembered the brave pioneers of 1885.

The service was held in the new building at the center of the valley.

Hall is Dedicated

The booming voice of strawberries from the tent town's boom town camp did—and the kids did.

Lester T. Truett, the Alaskan who first thought of the project, spoke briefly in dedicating the building.

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

Now the country through the forest, helping them through their many pioneer troubles. Thatasant, that is how he has given them.

Flag at Front of Hall

Presiding was the Rev. E. J. Bischoff, who came with the first of the colonists and has trumped about in his car through the forest helping them with the many pioneer troubles that beset them.

Alaska Peril Just an Old One

By Avril Schalen

Palmer, Alaska—Coming to Alaska with the 1913 pioneers was home-comer to Harold Dow, a 20-year-old traveler from Langley, Mich. Leaving it came to Alaska with a telephone construction crew. Now he's here on a farm 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 choice of Alaska than Danny. He's sold on the country and he's sold on adventure. The colonists have given him a chance to indulge in both.

Missed Along Yukon

"This is great country through here," the strapping youth says. "They're giving on 20 years to pay switched the peace away with a groan bough. Then there came still other disasters to mar the pioneer's triumph. Of the services he had to roll out the open side of the hall and say, "Somebody tell those kids out there that if they have to play base- ball they should keep their mouths shut."

28 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, lend them to you, who haven't can hum the tune. We're going to sing 'Taps' and then there is 28 seconds of silence. This program is being sponsored by the colonists who were World war veterans—then