



MATANUSKA VALLEY PIONEER

Vol. I

Palmer, Alaska

Aug. 6, 1936

No. 53

WASHINGTON MAN SURVEYS PROJECT FOR HOPKINS

After having spent several days making a survey of conditions in the colony, Dr. and Mrs. John A. Kingsberry, Washington, D.C. will leave Friday for McKinley Park. Dr. Kingsberry is here as a personal representative of Administrator Harry L. Hopkins.

"Even though I had read everything I could regarding the project, I wasn't prepared to see things as advanced as they are," he observed, "The clearing job is a much greater one than I had any idea."

He paid complimentary tribute to the highway commission on the many miles of road.

In interviewing 40 colonists Dr. and Mrs. Kingsberry tried to secure a fair sampling of the present situation. "If we have a true cross section, there is a higher average type of family here than you would find in almost any county in the States. I believe this community will be one of the finest in the country."

Dr. Kingsberry holds an LL.D. degree from Syracuse University, N.Y. and makes his home at Yonkers.

FIFTY MILES OF LINE TO POWER INTO VALLEY

Residents of Matanuska Valley are rejoiced to know that \$115,000 has been granted to run an extension power line 80 miles from the Elkutna hydraulic plant into the Valley and Willow Creek Mining districts. (continued on page)

ALASKA BUREAU MAN VISITS VALLEY

"I'm astounded at the progress that has been made since I flew over this valley a year ago!" Foster McGovern, "Terry" to those who know him, said Friday after visiting the Matanuska Valley project. Mr. McGovern, head of the Alaska Bureau of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, took many pictures and interviewed colonists while here and has since left for Fairbanks.

"I was surprised to find 14 different kinds of vegetables in the Trading Post. Progress in land clearing, home building, roads, is almost unbelievable. It looks good though. I asked one chap if he were lappy here. He replied by saying 'If the colony blew up tomorrow, I'd stay here.' That shows that he has accepted Alaska as his home."

*** **

ARRC BOARD MEETS

A meeting of the officers and directors of the ARRC was held here Monday, with all members present except Governor Troy and Dr. Gruening. William Fouwens, colonist member, was elected to the Executive Board where he will serve with Ross Sheely, Col. O.F. Olson, E.R. Tarwater and H. McDonald.

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LOANS SOON READY

As soon as abstracts of title are cleared, loans to old settlers who will become clients of the colony, will be acted upon.

August 15, 1936

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THE MATANUSKA VALLEY PIONEER

Published weekly at
Palmer, Alaska

Jack Allman, Editor and Publisher

Subscription rates \$2.50 per year

If by mail add 75¢ for postage

Advertising rates upon request.

THE LAST MIMMO

This issue will mark the end of the MATANUSKA VALLEY PIONEER as a mimeographed sheet. Because the office is completely torn up with the installation of our new press and other equipment, we will not have another paper out until about the 28th, at which time the PIONEER will appear as a press printed newspaper. Subscribers will receive the PIONEER until their termination dates without any extra cost, and papers for local distribution will be placed in the post office.

SIGN UP!

Let us call your attention once more to that petition for seven miles of road from Knik down to the deep water of Coose Bay. If enough sign up Juneau will listen to our argument, and if the road goes in we will be able to land our freight here at a worthwhile saving. Come in and sign up.

HUNTING LICENSES HERE

Hunting and trapping licenses for the season of 1936-7 may now be procured from Miss Kay Kennedy at the PIONEER office.

For the information of those not familiar with Alaska Game Laws, Jack O'Connor, Warden, submits this condensed resume.

Open Aug. 20: For sheep, two rams; goats, two (not kids); Caribou, five.

Open Sept. 1: For moose, one bull, brown or grizzly bear, two; grouse, fifteen and ptarmigan twenty-five,

with 25 as a mixed bird bag limit in any one day.

Dec. 31 is the last day of the season on big game and Feb. 28 for birds.

Tex Cobb, who has been prospecting in the Metal Creek region in the V between the Matanuska and Fork Rivers, reports goats on the increase, more moose sign, but fewer sheep. Tex should know. He's been in this same district every fall for the past 15 or 20 years.

Jack O'Connor wishes to call the attention of all to the purpose of our game laws and the reason for their rigid enforcement. "We are trying to conserve Alaska game for ourselves and posterity," he said. "Alaska is the greatest game country under the American flag. It should and must be preserved, not slaughtered off as in certain sections of the States.

There will be a meeting of the Matanuska Valley Conservation Association at the PIONEER office Wednesday evening at 7:30 on the 19th.

All members are asked to try and be present as some matters of importance are to be discussed. Miss Kennedy will be there to issue licenses at that time.

FIGHT FILMS COMING

Under the auspices of the Colonial Volunteer Fire Department four 4 round bouts of local talent will be followed by the first Alaskan showing of the films of the Joe Louis-Max Baer fight on Saturday evening, August 22 at 8 o'clock in the Community Hall. The same program, but with different local fighters, will be repeated on the 23rd.

On Labor Day pictures of the Joe Louis-Max Schmeling fight will be shown and bouts are scheduled between victors of the elimination contests. This feature will wind up the fair activities.

ALASKAN WRITER TO VISIT MATANUSKA COLONY

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE BY SUPERINTENDENT

Barrett Willoughby, popular Alaskan writer who was born in the Territory and has written numbers of books, short stories, and articles on her homeland, will spend some time in Matanuska Valley beginning about Sept. 2, she said in a letter to Jack Allman this week. She is interested in attending the First Matanuska Valley Fair. *** **

Supt. Harold L. Thuma and family returned last week from Manhattan, Kansas, where Mr. Thuma had been attending summer school. Today he made preliminary announcements relative to the opening of the school year.

School begins, he said, Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 9 a.m. First day children will be returned to their homes by noon. Any child in the district that is now or will be six years of age before Feb. 1, 1937, may enter the first grade.

IT WON'T BE LONG NOW

Water is rising rapidly in the Knik river with occasional ice cake bobbing down to the sea. It looks as though Lake George was working away at the weak spot in the big glacier dam and those who have tickets for any day this week may wake up some morning to find themselves a few dollars richer. Father Sulzman, Kay Kennedy, and Jack Allman worked most of last night getting an automatic clock arranged. *** **

"There will be no kindergarten," Mr. Thuma said, "The length of day that a bus haul necessitates, makes schooling for children under six seem inadvisable."

The Territory will furnish free transportation for school children living in areas more than two miles from school, which possess a school population of six or more. The White Motor company of Ketchikan, Alaska, has contracted to provide this transportation.

MASONIC CLUB BEING ORGANIZED

At a meeting called last week by Dan Dalva and Joe Flakne, 27 Masons foregathered in the community club room in the basement of the dormitory. It was decided that a social club of Masons from the various lodges would be organized and plans are now under way. Some time, perhaps not too far in the future, a regularly appointed lodge may be established here. *** **

The district of 1936-37 will combine the following 1935-36 areas: Matanuska, The Butte, Camp Seven, and Palmer. *** **

REPUBLICANS MEET

Republicans rallied last Saturday night at the Community hall. Following a picture show the following speakers were introduced by M.D. Snodgrass: Harry McCain, Lester Gore, O.C. Gill, and Moritz Andresen. *** **

FOR SALE: Used Minnesota Sewing Machine, drophead style...\$10.00 See Mrs. Otto Peterson Tract 186.

FOR SALE: Twenty-seven young shoats, 10 Hampshire belted and 17 Durocs. Bill Hynek, Tract 91.

POWER LINE (continued)

This grant is from the Rural Electrification Administration and allocated to the Anchorage Power and Light Company, whom, it is understood, will undertake construction work at once.

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EXTENSION CONFERENCE
TO OPEN HERE MONDAY

The first annual conference of the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Alaska will open a three day session at Palmer on Monday, August 17th.

Two days will be devoted to conference work and talks by Lorin T. Oldroyd, Ruth A. Peck, Ross Sheely, Jule E. Loftus, Ruth De Armond, Joe T. Flakne, K. McClarty and W. A. Lloyd, Director of Extension, Western Division.

Wednesday is Experiment Station Day with Joe Flakne and Ruth DeArmond in charge. At the Station a Women's Program and a Farmer's meeting will be held. There will be talks by Miss Pearl Williams, Don L. Irwin, A. A. Shonbeck, Col. O. E. Ohlson and a local minister.

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QUARTERS NEEDED

Anyone who can accomodate a family with rooms and breakfast during the Fair please list your name with M. D. Snodgrass. We should house as many as possible, saving many the daily trips to and from Anchorage.

Please state prices for room and meals when you send in your listing.

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FOR SALE: Fancy .45 Colt Peacemaker. Inquire at PIONEER office.

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FOR SALE: New 'Sagless' springs & New Gallon size oil heater stove, either for \$6.50...Inquire PIONEER

GET READY FOR THE FAIR

If you have something that will interest people -- something you have grown or made -- why not send it in to the Fair where everyone may see and enjoy it?

Look over the premium list and see if you can't make up an exhibit from your field or garden. Or how about poultry, hogs, calves, cows or clots. There must be quality in the exhibits, so always keep fitness for showing in mind.

Any colonist who has a tarp that can be used for covering stock pavilions or sheds, it will be appreciated if he will loan them to the committee so that livestock can be properly housed. Please print your name on any tarpaulin you bring in or leave word with Mr. Snodgrass or at the PIONEER office and they will be sent for.

The committee is looking also for special entertainment talent. There is plenty of it here among the valley residents and a tip from those who know of talent will be appreciated. Suggestions along this line will also be welcome. Pass along any information you have to Mr. Harold Thuma, chairman of the program committee or to M. D. Snodgrass Fair Manager.

An auto car will be stationed at Matanuska prior to Aug. 25, ready to take any livestock on that date for exhibition at the Tanana Valley Fair, arriving at Fairbanks the next day.

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MINNEAPOLIS VISITOR HERE

Mrs. Gertrude Neal Lamm, step-mother of Mrs. Harold Alexander of Tract #9, left her School Supply business in Minneapolis to pay her stepdaughter a visit. Then she went off for a tour of the Interior, but has returned for a stay in the valley...."The most beautiful in Alaska," she says.

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16 FOOT BOAT AND MICKER

FOR RENT \$1.00 HR.

Edlund's Twin Lakes -- Wasilla

FOR SALE: Young mink from the
Caswell Lake Fur Farm, Olson and
Overby -- Largest Fur Ranchers in
Alaska. CASWELL LAKE, Aaa.

HEWITT'S - PALMER

POST CARDS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

36 hour printing and developing

SERVICE

VALLEY CITY CAFE

CAKES....PIES....PASTRY.....BREAD

FRESH DAILY

TRY OUR REGULAR BOARD

VALLEY CITY CAFE

ONLY PUBLIC STENOGRAPHER

in Palmer

Key Kennedy

Pioneer Office

FOR SALE: Miscellaneous House-
hold furniture. See L. Monroe
Tract 185 -- Finger Lake Road.

GOOD FISHING AT WASILLA LAKE

CABINS AND BOATS FOR RENT

\$1.50 per day

Ice 1¢ a pound

Motorboat for rent

Edlund's Place

Wasilla Lake

THE ANCHORAGE STEAM LAUNDRY

&

THE PARIS DRY CLEANERS

ANNOUNCE

A WEEKLY PALMER PICK-UP AND DELIVERY SERVICE AT

NO ADVANCE OVER ANCHORAGE PRICES

TRY US AND BE SATISFIED

PICK-UP FRIDAY

DELIVER FRIDAY

FROM

VALLEY CITY BARBER SHOP

JACK COPE, PALMER AGENT

GLACIER DAM BROKEN

Because we were late in getting to press we are able to report the results of the First Knik Glacier Ice Pool.

With the automatic clock all set and the river rising rapidly there was a lot of excitement on the Knik bridge this evening. For long minutes it was anybody's money on when the clock would trip, and at exactly 5:17 the wire tightened and the first first ice pool was over. Witnesses were Game Warden Jack O'Connor, Miss Kay Kennedy, Doctor Erick Schlaikjer, Deputy Marshal Jack Hermon and Jack Allman.

When the cans were opened under the supervision of Ed Cronin it was found that some close guesses had been made.

A split ticket purchased by Frank Shank and Al Green of Anchorage was marked for 5:30 P.M., only 13 minutes off. They won 50% of the money.

Ernest Valentine was in for 5:02 and took second. Valentine works over at camp 10. Third prize went to Ex-senator O. P. Gausted, now employed by the Road Commission at Mile 146. His ticket was marked for 4:32. Thirteen others were on the 14th, but out of the money.

The total number of tickets sold were only 219 and the expenses for printing of tickets, clock, labor of getting, etc., amounted to \$25.80. The balance of \$193.20 was divided \$96.60, \$57.95 and \$38.65 -- 50, 30 and 20%.

Because of the late start the pool was small and it was decided by the committee not to go to the expense of putting out a book of listings, but if anyone wants to check up on their guesses all tickets are being held at the Pioneer office.

It wasn't a very big affair this year, but next summer the sale will start early, and someday maybe we can catch up with Nenana.

4-H CLUB MEETS

At a meeting of the 4-H Club at the school auditorium on Friday, August 7, it was decided that the members dish towels, not holders and stuffed toys done by the 14th.

Eleven members were present and Duane Lee was elected news reporter because of the absence of Virginia Funt. The meeting was adjourned to meet at Lavonne Erickson's home on August 14.

Jake Spencer broke the sawing record one day this week when he ran 216 logs through the mill in eight hours. The boys out there on the other side of the river are sure getting out lumber.

NELL SCOTT

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR REPRESENTATIVE

"I am deeply interested in the problems of the Fisherman, the Miner and the Farmer of Alaska.

"I have actively supported our Delegate and the Democratic party and subscribe to their efforts to make conditions better in the Territory for all Alaskans.

"My many years experience working in the Third Division qualify me to understand our Legislative needs."

Nell Scott

Democratic Candidate for Representative

JACK'S BARBER SHOP

MAKES A SPECIALTY OF CHILDREN'S

HAIRCUTTING AT 50¢

JACK COPE

VALLEY CITY HOTEL BUILDING