



# Mutanuska Valley Pioneer

61° 30' N. Latitude

149° 15' W. Longitude

Vol. I

PALMER, ALASKA. SEPTEMBER 23, 1935

No. 6

## CONSTRUCTION OF LAST HOUSE GETS UNDER WAY

On Tuesday the sills for Lloyd Bell's house were laid, marking the beginning of the end of the huge home building program which the Colony faced last June.

A hundred and one houses have been roofed and all others are in various degrees of construction, many almost completed.

Work on the barns is going ahead and fifteen, some to hold as many as twelve head of stock, are completely finished.

Things still hum at the Community Center. The excavation for the school basement is more than half dug and the interior finishing of the hospital has been started. The bakery shop is up, as is the cobbler's shop, but there is work yet to be done on both. The concrete floor of the big garage has been poured and trenches to carry the steam and water pipes network the entire area.

"A city grows where once a wilderness has stood,

"As Nature humbly bows her head to will of man."

## POWER PLANT GETS TEST

About eight o'clock Wednesday evening a small group of men shouldered into the windy darkness along the road to the Center. Inside the power house a gasoline lantern was lighted, throwing into weird shadows the many pieces of machinery.

Bill Bordine stood beside the big red Diesel, turned a valve. Two hundred pounds of compressed air slugged into the cylinder. Slowly the big wheels turned. The huge engine barked, then purred to her full speed while the whine of the generator grew into a steady hum.

Lieutenant H. V. Martin, in charge of engineering, stood before a black panel covered with gadgets. He threw in a switch.

Above his head three electric bulbs glowed; at first they were only a dull orange in color, then brighter, brighter.

Electricity, with all its manifold uses in the life of man, has come to Palmer.

## LEGION DELEGATION + DRUM CORPS PAYS VALLEY A HURRIED VISIT

Because they had only four hours from arrival until the departure of their train, there were some expressions of disappointment among the forty odd legionnaires, ladies of the Auxiliary and Cordova Legion Drum and Bugle Corps members who paid the project a visit Thursday.

Everything possible was arranged for them by Mr. R. A. C. Atwood. Fusses met them at the train and they were taken for a tour around the loop, but as some of them said: "We saw just what is visible from the road; enough to whet our appetites and make us want to prowl back into the woods and see more of those beautiful homes."

After the ride luncheon was served and then the drum and bugle corps, snappy in silver helmets, white shirts and blue trousers, marched the length of the camp, playing snappy tunes that were familiar to the many ex-service men who stood on the sidelines.

Stanley J. Nichols, 2nd Vice Commander of the Department of Alaska, reports a fine turn-out at the Seward convention. After hearing the plans of the members for an organization here he said Palmer would have a post the whole Territory would be proud of.

## WAR CLOUDS GATHER OVER BLACK EMPIRE

Ethiopia has closed to commerce her frontier with Eritrea and Haile Selassie has massed all his troops in the northern provinces along the border.

Italy's government spokesman has stated that Rome has adopted a policy of patience and that the next move is up to the league.

If funds can be obtained from the Works Progress Administration Alaska will be included in the proposed census of vocations and businesses, according to a report from Delegate Dimond.

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year. Single copies 5 cents  
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ATTENTION YOUNG COLONISTS

Perhaps there is some boy in  
the Colonist group who would be  
good enough to answer either one,  
or both, of the two lads who have  
written in asking that someone  
here enter into regular corres-  
pondence with them.

One letter, addressed to Mr.  
"Stew" Campbell, Government Man,  
is from M. F. Croman, R.F.D. #2,  
Quakertown, Pennsylvania. Croman  
is 20 years old and works on his  
father's 8 acre truck farm forty  
miles north of Philadelphia. He  
will send magazines and photos to  
any boy who will trade regular  
letters. He also knows some girls  
who want to correspond.

Another letter comes from  
Walter Ketch, 43E South Hancock  
St., Colorado Springs, Colorado.  
He, too, is interested in the  
making of this colony and wants  
someone to write. He is the son  
of an orthodox minister and a  
high school graduate. He is soon  
to join the U. S. Navy and will  
be able to send interesting pic-  
tures along with his letters.  
Walter is 21.

A TRAITOROUS TIRADE

"Like other relief measures the  
Matanuska colony is the product of  
idealism steeped in the sordid  
slime of rapacious commercialism,  
where political favoritism and a  
desire to grab while the grabbing  
is good have taken all but a tithe  
of the billions appropriated in a  
worthy cause."

The foregoing, appearing in the  
"Cordova Times," prompts us to ask  
a few pertinent questions. First,  
has the writer ever visited this  
project? Does he speak with author-  
ity or does he know only what he has  
heard in the biased reports of the  
disgruntled few who have quit the  
Colony because the jaundiced streaks  
down their backs couldn't be hidden,  
and as a result found themselves os-  
tracized by those with guts enough  
to take a few disappointments and  
still carry on?

To whom does he refer when he  
speaks of "grabbing while the grab-  
bing is good?" Has he seen the rec-  
ords of the money spent and the work  
accomplished?

And why is the successful rehab-  
ilitation of 175 families called:

"...idealism steeped in the sordid  
slime of rapacious commercial-  
ism."?...as he so sophomorically  
puts it?

By what stretch of even a polit-  
ically distorted imagination does  
he place the following on the door  
steps of the colonists?

"The reports from Matanuska of a  
hold-up, attempted burglary and of  
hoodlums attempting to manhandle of-  
ficers at Palmer, the center of the  
Colonization enterprise, serve to  
clarify the reason why Alaska as a  
whole has not warmed to the influx  
of a large number of people at one  
time."

Does he not know that the only  
arrests in the valley have been  
those of transient workers, brought  
to the Territory because there was  
not enough man power available; that  
the men who manhandled a colonial  
policeman were of this group and  
were sentenced to six months each  
after pleading guilty?

The answer is: Apparently not!

Due to the change in steam-  
ship schedules the Alaska Rail-  
road will maintain a weekly ser-  
vice all winter over the branch  
line to Fairbanks. There will be  
a daily train over the main line  
to Palmer, as usual.

BOR'S TAXI	
ANYWHERE	ANY TIME
SIX PASSENGER CLOSED COMFORT	
Office	
KOSLOSKY'S RECREATION HALL	
FOR SALE	
TWO DUROC-JERSEY SOWS	
BOTH ELIGIBLE TO REGISTRY	
THE PRICE IS RIGHT	
See Felton Palmer Post Office	

Advertise in the PIONEER and get  
results. One hundred per cent  
circulation of the valley.

Take a subscription...send it to  
a friend outside...they will be  
glad to know what is going on.



"GET-TOGETHER" OUTING PLANNED  
FOR LOCAL SCOUT TROOP

Weather permitting, Jack Lund, Scoutmaster of Troop 654 of the Boy Scouts of America, will take all the boys on a woodcraft outing to Lake Lucille on Saturday, the 28th.

Busses will be at the camps to the south of Palmer at 9 o'clock sharp. Those living to the north will be picked up as the caravan rolls on to Wasilla.

The Scoutmaster wants to see a hundred per cent turn-out, and he suggests that unless it is raining at the time be there to meet the bus. Cludy weather won't stop this meeting where you are scheduled to learn a few tricks about camping out that will come in mighty handy some day. Remember, Saturday, 9 A.M.

PALMER IS POPULAR  
WITH PICTURE PEOPLE

With harvesting and construction activity at the peak, the three outfits of movie makers here in the valley are in their glory. Scenes of every description are going "into the can" as the camera men put it.

Fred Fordham, official photographer from Washington, has covered the project quite thoroughly during the past week, but will remain another six or eight days getting every possible of the development.

Fred Mayer, who with Arthur Ramsey, is making a commercial short subject film of the Colony. He says he got some wonderful air views of the valley when he flew in Monday.

Mr. Ramsey is gathering much statistical material for use in the descriptive sound track which will be put on the film after they take it back to the States. Paramount, who was here earlier in the season, has been negotiating with them for the exclusive use of all shots to be taken.

W. O. Field, with his assistant, Russell Dow, arrived in Palmer Wednesday and is also an independent commercial movie photographer. He is out for such scenes as will give a clear idea of what is doing and what has been done.

Evidently people in the States are still interested in the Matanuska Valley, and, being tired of reading so many garbled reports, want to see for themselves what is going on up here.

DON'T FORGET THE BIG  
LEGION DANCE SATURDAY

The Matanuska hall has been reserved for another Colonist dance for Saturday evening, to be sponsored by the proposed Legion Post.

There will be no fee to the members of the Colonist group, but tickets will be one dollar to outsiders. Women will be admitted free.

It is at this dance that it is hoped to organize the permanent orchestra from among the many Colonist musicians. So be there, fellows, and bring your instruments.

As was stated last week, when the dance was called off because of the numerous house warmings, compensation will be arranged with the musicians chosen.

Saturday evening, the 28th.

Busses will be at the various camps to pick you up at 8:30. They will also be there to see that you get home. Come shake a foot! Have a good time!

KOSLOSKY'S \* PALMER

AGENTS RCA VICTOR RADIOS

BATTERY AND ELECTRIC

LIGHT HARDWARE

GUNS AND AMMUNITION

HIGH CLASS WORK CLOTHING

BOOTS SHOES PACS

BLANKETS QUILTS PILLOWS

DRUGS TOBACCO CANDIES

PAY OFF YOUR PRIZE FIGHT BET

FROM OUR STOCK OF FINE CIGARS

-0-

Starting October 2 there will be posted at noon a daily bulletin of each world series game. A play by play account. Drop in and see how your favorite player is doing.

EVERYTHING AT OUTSIDE PRICES AT

KOSLOSKY'S \* PALMER

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### CONSTRUCTION SET-UP DUE FOR MANY CHANGES SOON

According to present plans of Lt. Col. LeRoy P. Hunt the first contingent of transient workers will return to the States October 11, reservations having been made for them on the "Yukon," sailing that date.

This group will be followed by another within a week, and the third and last shipment of men will be made from Seward on the 25th.

Captain Alan Perkins, who has been in charge of construction, will leave with the last group and it is expected that Colonel Hunt and other members of the administrative staff will be returning about the first of November.

Construction of homes, main buildings, wells and barns will continue with Alaskan labor, but under a different wage scale.

As officials here point out, this is primarily a relief project and with the major construction phase completed the emergency which made it possible to employ Alaskans at wages far in excess of those set by the WFA has been passed. A wage adjustment will go into effect about October 15, but at present it is impossible to state just what the scale will be.

Within the next month Camp Perkins will be leveled to the ground and all hands will be housed at Palmer. Two barracks, each accommodating twenty men, have been built and three more are scheduled for immediate construction.

### SEASON'S FIRST CHINOOK SWEEPS UP THE VALLEY

That balmy, spring-like wind that we have had for two days has caused much comment among those not familiar with climatic conditions in Alaska.

Chinook winds, as they are called, sweep in off the Japanese current and may occur at any season of the year. Even in the dead of winter you may go to bed with everything frozen up tight and awaken to find water dripping from the eaves and the two feet of snow reduced to six inches of slush.

How these winds get across the mountains without being cooled off is a mystery, yet they do. Two or three Chinooks during a winter are not uncommon in the Tanana Valley far in the interior.

The Chinook is invariably from within a few degrees either way of direct South. It comes without warning, and, as far as we can determine, it does not portend any particular climatic condition to follow.

### BIG GAME HUNTERS LUCKY OVER WEEK-END

Last Saturday Emil La Walter, for many years a resident of the valley and famed as a guide and trapper, left in company with Francis Biggs by auto for the Willow Creek district. On Sunday there was a skiff of snow up there in the mountains and they ran across the tracks of moose, causing them to change their minds about climbing after goats.

Just at dusk they got within rifle distance of their quarry and Emil dropped a hog-fat three-year-old bull with two shots behind the shoulder that could be covered with the palm of your hand.

His moose was exceptionally dark, being almost black, and dressed out at around six hundred pounds.

Bill Gynske, of the Road Commission, also got a moose; a big fellow that weighed around eleven hundred pounds and carried huge palmetted antlers with eight point

Eugene Carr bagged a fine specimen of the mountain goat, the head of which he is having mounted. It will be a present to his twelve-year-old son in the States.

LOST: M. Startzman, telephone line foreman, has lost a metal back slip-board with important papers attached. Will anyone finding it please return it to the General Office of the ARRC at Palmer?

### RITA REVELLE RECOVERING RAPIDLY

Friends of Miss Rita Revelle, Secretary to Mr. Carr who suffered a painful accident to her leg last week, will be glad to know that the injury is not as serious as was first suspected.

Miss Revelle is still at the Anchorage Hospital, but it is hoped she will soon be able to return to camp.

### NOTICE TO LEGIONNAIRES

Secretary Rex Atwood asks that all be at the meeting Friday the 27th at the Library tent. And don't forget, the big meeting where permanent officers will be elected is called for the following Friday, October 4, at eight P. M. sharp. Please try and be there, fellows.