

# Matanuska Valley Pioneer

61° 30' N. Latitude

149° 15' W. Longitude

Vol. 1

Palmer, Alaska. October 3, 1935

No. 7

## GOVERNOR TROY IS PLEASED WITH PROGRESS OF PROJECT

Governor John. W. Troy, who was here Wednesday and made a tour of the valley, expressed himself as being well pleased with the progress made in the construction end of the project.

"This development is a much bigger proposition than most people realize," the governor said. "One has to see it to appreciate the tremendous amount of work that has been accomplished in the few short months you have been here."

The governor said he would like to have met every colonist individually. That being impossible, due to the shortage of time, he extends to them his best wishes for success and happiness.

Harry Watson, secretary to Governor Troy, said that the long automobile ride over the project with Colonel Hunt and Don Irwin was a little tiring after a recent illness, but that his chief wouldn't have missed it for anything.

M. D. Williams, chief of the Bureau of Federal Roads, was one of the governor's party, and he praised highly the work done by the Alaska Road Commission in the valley this summer.

The party caught the afternoon Brill back to Anchorage, but just before he left the governor received, and had his picture taken with, six of our school teachers who formed a delegation to apologize for a rainy day and invite him back for another visit.

## NEW UNITS STARTED NOW THAT HOME BUILDING PROGRAM LICKED

With every house under construction and families moving daily into new homes, it is quite apparent no one is going to suffer from lack of proper shelter and the construction division has again turned its attention to scheduled buildings for the Community Center.

Excavation for the teachers' dormitory basement is well along and the foundation for the manager's house is going in.

Inside finishing is occupying the time of the carpenters left on the trading post, the hospital, the bakery and the cobbler's shop, while rough work mechanics are throwing up the big machinery and material shed.

The big Diesel generating unit is on the job steadily and lights are being supplied to the main office.

## COL. WESTBROOK INSISTS UPON BUDGETS BEING ADHERED TO

The following telegram under the date of October 1st will be of interest to all colonists.

LT COL HUNT  
PALMER, ALS

FAMILIES OF MATANUSKA PROJECT ARE REHABILITATION CLIENTS AND MUST ADHERE STRICTLY TO BUDGETS ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED. POSITIVELY NO FURTHER PURCHASES WILL BE ALLOWED EXCEPT FOR ITEMS THAT ARE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. EACH CLIENT IS REQUIRED TO REPAY ALASKA RURAL REHABILITATION CORPORATION FULL AMOUNT OF ALL ADVANCES MADE TO HIM. THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PROJECT IS CHARGED WITH THE SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY OF SEEING TO IT THAT NO CLIENT IS PERMITTED TO CONTRACT OBLIGATIONS BEYOND HIS BUDGETARY LIMIT.

LAWRENCE WESTBROOK

## MUSSOLINI DEFIANT -- MOVES OVER BORDER

According to Paris reports Mussolini has hurled his defiance into the faces of all League-member nations by throwing Italian troops over Ethiopia's borders.

From Addis Abbaba comes word that Emperor Haile Selassie would answer this move with an order for general mobilization of all troops and supporting organizations at his command.

Mussolini said: "War will be met with war. The solemn hour is about to break in history. We will not pretend. Not only our army marches toward its goal, but 44,000,000 Italians are marching with the army. The League instead of recognizing Italy's right talks sanctions.

"I refuse to believe genuine Britons will associate themselves with sanctions to protect a barbarous people."

## BULGARIA ALSO STEWING

The Bulgarian government has placed the country under martial law. A plot to overthrow the throne was discovered.



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 year. Single copies 5 cents  
 locally, 10 cents by mail.  
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CHURCH NOTICES

Transportation has been ar-  
 ranged for all church goers for  
 Sunday, filling a long-felt  
 need.

Bus #1 will leave Camp #2 at  
 8:45 A.M., and will arrive at  
 Palmer at 10, coming in by the  
 school route and stopping at  
 Camps 8 and 9.

Bus #2 will leave Camp#4 at  
 the same time and will also fol-  
 low the school route, stopping  
 at Camps 5, 6 and 7. Both will  
 leave after services at 11:30.

Catholic: Fr. Sulzman. Services  
 of Low Mass at 8:30 and ten A.M.  
 upstairs in the trading post at  
 the Community Center.

Community Church: Rev. Bingle.  
 Morning Worship at ten o'clock  
 in the Library Tent on 'C' St.  
 Also Sunday School at same hour.

Lutheran: Rev. Frieling. Service  
 at ten o'clock in Reverend Frie-  
 ling's tent on 'A' Street.

Udenominational Service: Rev.  
 Patterson or Rev. Crabb. In tent  
 of Mrs. Perkins on 'E' Street at  
 2 P.M. Mid-week prayer is held  
 on Wednesday evenings at 7:30  
 and all are cordially invited.

Seventh Day Adventist: Rev. Mr.  
 Jackson. Services Saturday morn-  
 ing at 11:30 in their new church  
 one block West on Finger Lake  
 Road.

PLAY SAFE

There is no question but what a  
 healthy body is the biggest asset  
 any person can have. It is neces-  
 sary to success in life save only  
 in exceptional cases, and it is up-  
 on a foundation of health that hap-  
 piness is built.

Modern science makes it possible  
 to play safe with certain contag-  
 ious diseases and only a fool will  
 gamble with anything so precious as  
 his health.

The value of immunization against  
 typhoid fever approaches vaccination  
 against smallpox in its effective-  
 ness. Evidence shows that immuniza-  
 tion against typhoid in the U. S.  
 Army and Navy practically eliminated  
 this dread disease as a cause of  
 death during the World War. The in-  
 cidence of typhoid fever in the  
 A.E.F. was less than 0.1% -- a tru-  
 ly remarkable record when compared  
 with the annual admission rate dur-  
 ing the Civil War of 70.69 per 1000  
 and of 91.22 per 1000 during the  
 Spanish-American War.

Rather convincing, those figures.

For the purpose of having a per-  
 manent pictorial record of the es-  
 tablishment and building of this  
 project for the school, it is asked  
 that anyone with good representative  
 pictures call at the PIONEER office.

The right to reproduce (from the  
 films so that all pictures will be  
 of uniform size) will be greatly ap-  
 preciated, and the editor assumes  
 the responsibility of seeing that  
 all negatives so loaned are return-  
 ed to their owners.

And now how about coming in and  
 getting some books and magazines?  
 With the last big box, brought out  
 from Anchorage by Miss Rachel Hunt,  
 we find that we are being crowded  
 out of house and home. Come in and  
 stock up on reading matter.

It seems a shame, but it is never-  
 the-less true, that the thought-  
 less action of one of the rehabil-  
 itated families will reflect upon  
 the earnestness and integrity of  
 the entire colony.

The eyes of the world are on us,  
 and the future of many families may  
 be influenced by the degree of suc-  
 cess the project attains.

HOSPITAL NOTES

Mrs. Harold Zook who was re-  
 cently operated upon at Anchor-  
 age is rapidly improving and will  
 be home within a few days.

Mrs. H. Smith is convalescing  
 at the hospital at Palmer and ex-  
 pects to be back with her family  
 this coming week.

It seems that we were misin-  
 formed about Miss Rita Revelle's  
 condition last week. Her injury  
 is worse, rather than better,  
 than at first supposed. She will  
 be confined to a fracture bed  
 for at least sixty days.

Governor Troy visited her at  
 the Anchorage Hospital on Wed-  
 nesday.

We regret that we didn't have  
 the news last week of the arrival  
 of an 8½ pound daughter to Mrs.  
 William Bennett on the 25th of  
 September. Both are doing splen-  
 didly, and Mrs. Bennett has al-  
 ready given her daughter the eu-  
 phoneous name of Patricia Ann.



TIPS FOR THE LADIES

Nurse Madeleine de Foras says she has seen a number of cracked floor coverings in her house to house travelers and suggests that the linoleum be well warmed before it is unrolled. This will soften it so that it will lay flat without cracking. Papers, any old kind as long as they don't overlap in ridges, will add to the wearing quality and act as insulation if placed under the linoleum.

And here's another thing, ladies, that might be very important sometime. Have your husband put up a sign with your name and tract number where the road turns off into your house. The other evening Dr. Albrecht went out on an emergency call and lost valuable time trying to locate the tract.

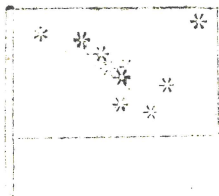
If your house paint is on the job use it; if not use a blue pencil until the paint comes, but be sure and get some kind of a sign up at once.

BOOKS FOR KIDLIES ARRIVE

Again we thank Miss Eleanor F. Cohen for reading matter; this time a big bundle of Animal Alphabet, Cut-out and picture books for the little ones. Drop in at the office of the PIONEER and get one.

Miss Cohen also sent as a gift to the last born baby a knitted outfit with a knitted blanket to match. Mrs. William Bennett was the lucky mother.

Among the picture books was a small silk flag of Alaska, together with the following poem which some of you children may want to memorize.



ALASKA'S FLAG

Eight stars of gold on a field of blue -  
 Alaska's flag - May it mean to you  
 The blue of the sea, the evening sky,  
 The mountain lakes and the flow'rs nearby;  
 The gold of the early sourdough's dreams  
 The precious gold of the hills and streams;  
 The brilliant stars in the northern sky,  
 The "Bear"--the "Dipper"--and shining high  
 The great North Star with its steady light,  
 Over land and sea a beacon bright,  
 Alaska's flag--to Alaskans dear,  
 The simple flag of a last frontier.

-- Marie Drake --

--oOo--

ALASKA: One fifth the size of the United States with 590,000 square miles, and a population of sixty thousand almost equally divided between whites and natives.

RETURNED COLONIST WRITES IRWIN

Mr. Don Irwin has just received a letter from Mrs. Roy Hopkins who with her husband drew tract 111 while here, but later returned to the States because Mr. Hopkins couldn't find the type of employment he wanted.

They are still interested in the project, however, and Mrs. Hopkins writes from Arcadia, Michigan, that things do not look so well out there. Apples, she says, are too cheap to even bother picking, and that late potatoes will be very scarce.

She reports having received a letter from the Zooks and is grateful for any news from the colony.

The Porterfields, who were also here but returned, have purchased twenty acres of land, says Mrs. Hopkins, and Mrs. Porterfield gets her log cabin anyway for they are building one on their newly acquired property.

FIRE NOTICE

No brush burning without notifying your Deputy Warden in advance. Deputy Wardens will issue Indian Back Pumps, and if used please return them filled. Violations of this burning order will receive our immediate and effective attention.

And now, with colder weather coming on, watch the hot fires you are building in your stoves.

Many of you haven't yet received the hoods for your pipe safties and others have made changes in outlet positions that are dangerous. This will be corrected by the time inspections are completed, but in the meantime be careful. We have had no serious house fires yet -- let's not press our luck.

(signed) Fr. Sulzman  
 Fire Warden

CAMPBELL PREPARES TO RECEIVE ROYALTY

"Stow" Campbell increased the four-horse roll on the cuffs of his overalls to six-horse dimensions and proudly displayed the letter. Royalty was coming to Palmer, and by crackey, he was to be the reception committee.

When the train pulls in Stew will be there - now Stetson and all - for three grand-daughters of an imperial grand-mother will be aboard...three grand-daughters of Molly of Ayersdale, and if that isn't bovine royalty what is? Molly is the highest Officially tested Guernsey in Montana.



## MEET "SOURDOUGH" SAM

Sooner or later, folks, you are sure to meet Sourdough Sam. Great fellow, Sam. You may have seen him around since he returned to the valley about two weeks ago. Sam is all of seventy, but he's straight as a canoe birch and tough as a piece of Nigaluk whalebone. His hair is snow white and curls a little over his collar.

If he should stop suddenly while talking to you, and look out over the valley with an awed light in his clear blue eyes, pay no attention to it. Sam is still a little bewildered by all this activity. And no wonder.

Sam left here last March to prospect far back in the hills. His sole companion was his dog, Bum, and they didn't see a soul all summer. Then Sam came hiking back over an old Indian trail he knew. Out near Cottonwood Lake he stumbled suddenly upon a gravelled road that shouldn't have been there. He scratched his head.

"This wa'n't here when we went out," he said to Bum. "Maybe I got turned 'round er somethin'. Maybe this ain't the Matanuska Valley."

Just then a big staff sedan bore down on them with horn wide open. Sam jumped about twenty feet.

"Wa'n't nothin' like that here, neither." Bum apparently agreed and kept close to Sam's heels as he left the road for the trail he was sure of. And in less than a half mile he ran into a big Diesel cat clearing land.

Sam shook his head and skirted the growling machine on a branch trail that led him smack into a big frame house all freshly painted.

Old Sam can take a shock, but he staggered under that one. Then, for mile after mile, he wound down past camps four and two; past chugging well drills, big frame and log house building crews, while every few minutes one of the transient cowboys tore past with a truck-load of lumber.

And it was almost too much when he ran into Harry Sears and his gang following a caterpillar-drawn potato digger up those long rows. "And I ain't had a drink in months," he reminded Bum.

At last he came into Matanuska, and the town was the first thing in the valley he could recognize. When he dropped into Phil Allen's place he kept his mouth shut. He knew that the marshal usually takes charge of people who imagine they see things that don't exist, and there was Joe Hofman with his gold badge all a-shine.

It wasn't until after he had studied the problem through a whole pint of Scagrams that he decided to take the bull by the horns. He'd find out whether he'd missed too many boats to the States or not.

"Say," he demanded of Phil, "What in the devil's been going on around here anyway?"

Phil, realizing that Sam had left before there was any talk of a colonization project, and guessing what was in his mind, decided to have some fun.

"Going on?" he said. "Oh, not much right now. Valley has grown a lot though in the ten years you been gone, Sam."

"Ten Years!" You could have heard Sam clear across the Knik flats. He ordered another bottle and, avoiding Joe, strode rapidly off toward his cabin.

"Ten years," he repeated. "It don't seem possible, does it, Bum? Yet I hear'n 'bout a feller once't what slept longer'n that. Yep, feller named Wip van Rinkle."

It was a week before Sam got it all straightened out, and now he's more interested in the project and the colonists themselves than any man I know. He dropped into the tent here the other evening.

"Now look, Jack," he said. "You take these here colynists, they's some reg'lar farmers 'mong 'em, an' they're going to make a big go of this here thing, but they's new to the country an' there's lots of little tricks they don't know.

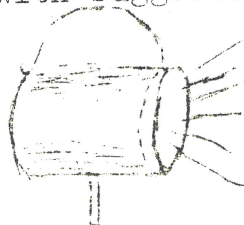
"Now f'rinstance, t'other night I see one of the women folks tryin' to git 'long a muddy road with a box of matches. Said the battery in her flashlight was dead. So I picks up an empty tomato can, gets a piece of wire off'n Shonbeck's fence fer a handle, then cuts a hole, you know, just a cross then bend the corners in, and after I stuck a stub of candle through that I just happened to have in my pocket she had as good a lantern as any man'd want. You know, them bugs is good, Jack, an' you can even put glass in 'em if they's much wind."

Sam bit off a big hunk of Star and then spit against the red spot on the stove. It's a habit of his

"Yep," he continued, "They's a lot of them little wrinkles that make life in this here country a bit easier, and them's the things you don't find in school books."

After Sam left I began to wonder if perhaps you might not like to know something about these 'kinks' of his. The 'bug' has been very popular here in Alaska where candles are plentiful and batteries and kerosene sometimes hard to get

Below is a sketch of Sam's bug, and let's hope he drops in again with suggestions on something else



You can cut a slit along the dotted line and drop in a piece of glass.



--COMINGS AND GOINGS--

Mrs. Don Goodman, wife of the well-known aviator, will return to Anchorage Friday after a week here as the guest of Miss Virginia Berg.

Clyde R. Ellis, Anchorage attorney; Miles Price, Internal Revenue Agent of Seattle; J. W. Clawson, General Manager of Cap. A. E. Lathrops various Alaskan enterprises; Perry W. Carson, General Agent of the C.P. & P.P. Railroad and Karl Katz, Alaska Representative of the North-Pacific, were all visitors to Palmer on Wednesday.

Mrs. I. Koslosky was up to see the new store and visit with her sons last week.

FIRST PAIR OF TWINS ARRIVE AT PALMER

The first pair of twins were born to Mrs. Henry Rossiter on Sunday, September 29. Two fine baby girls, they are, and doing splendidly, as is the mother.

Mrs. Rossiter, who lives out on tract 188, has not yet named her little daughters. She did say, though, that they wouldn't be Kate and Duplicate.

BUTTE GROUP TO BUILD OWN HALL

The folks at the Butte are going to have a recreation hall of their own if plans already OK'd by the corporation go through.

Because of their isolation the folks across the river have decided to build a 28X50 log hall for community purposes. The only expense to the corporation will be the roofing, windows and floor.

In some instances Butte colonists are nine miles from Palmer.

FOUND: A lady's white shoe was found in Matanuska. It can be claimed at the store of O.O. Krogh.

BOB'S TAXI	
ANYWHERE	ANY TIME
SIX PASSENGER	CLOSED COMFORT
NO ROAD IS TOO TOUGH	
KOSLOSKY'S RECREATION HALL	
CLYDE R. ELLIS	
ATTORNEY AT LAW	
ANCHORAGE HOTEL BUILDING	
ANCHORAGE	ALASKA

MRS. FOHN-HANSEN RETURNS FROM HOMER

Mrs. Lydia Fohn-Hansen returned Thursday from Homer where she had gone in connection with her work for the Extension Division of the University of Alaska.

Homer is located on the coast in the south-west portion of Kenai Peninsula, and boasts a population of about thirty families. There are two schools and only 12 miles of road in the whole district.

Farmers there piece out by fishing a couple of months of the year and many are making a good living. Some wash gold out of the beach sands instead of fishing, and all gather their fuel by picking up coal along the shore; coal that is washed out of exposed ledges by wave action.

There is also some fox and mink farming, but it is the agricultural possibilities of the area that brought nine new families there this past year. All of them are going in for sheep raising.

There has been considerable talk about a colony similar to this being established at Homer and much interest has been shown in the district quite recently. Six thousand pounds of Homer beef came to Seward on the boat that brought Mrs. Fohn-Hansen.

The yarn arrived during her absence, Mrs. Fohn-Hansen reports, and all interested in knitting are asked to drop in at her tent.

CUBS AND TIGERS EVEN UP

The Chicago Americans took the opener away from the Detroit Nationals to the tune of 3 to 0, but the Tigers came back with a vengeance Thursday and took the session 8 to 3.

FOR SALE: 1931 Essex Coach in excellent condition. Tires practically new. A real bargain. See Rex Atwood, General Office, Palmer
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KOSLOSKY'S - PALMER
A FULL LINE OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES
AND
A STOCK OF LIGHT HARDWARE HAVE JUST ARRIVED
ALSO
VARIETY OF FRUITS IN HANDY EIGHT OUNCE, LUNCHEON SIZE, CANS. 2/25
KOSLOSKY'S - PALMER