

Matanuska Valley Pioneer

61° 30' N. Latitude

149° 15' W. Longitude

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No. 15

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM NOW WELL ADVANCED

If labor is available and the weather man continues to be as kind to us as he has been, the construction phase of the project will be completed without much further delay.

Only fifteen barns remain to be completed. The estimated number to be built has been added to time and again which accounts for the extension of the completion date as set by Mr. F. L. Biggs last fall.

At the Community Center the big school is sheeted in and the roof shingled. The community hall frame is up and the heavy roof trusses are about ready to be hoisted into place.

The hospital is sixty per cent finished inside, the south wing being already occupied by a number of patients.

The dormitory and staff houses are well along and the Trading Post, Women's shop, Barber shop and Cobbler's shop were occupied last week. The radio building has been staked out and is ready for clearing.

At the power house the new steam generator is on its base and will soon be furnishing additional electric energy for lights and power.

The space under the big warehouse is being utilized as a shop for turning out concrete chimney tile. The woodcraft and feed storage building has the first floor and walls roughed in and will soon be completed as it does not require the time consuming work of interior finish.

ITALY AND GREAT BRITAIN NOW ON BETTER TERMS

London and Rome have quit snarling at each other over the fleet situation in the Mediterranean Sea.

France perhaps brought about the better understanding by declaring her intention of standing by Great Britain in the event that Mussolini took it into his head to try and run the British warships away from the vicinity of the Suez Canal.

Indications are that Italy intends to push her advances into Ethiopian territory in an effort to bring about a swift conclusion of the war.

The Italian Cabinet has approved plans for strengthening her defense council, enlarging its membership to include many new officers.

Dagah, an important Ethiopian city on the southern front, was the recent target for a raid.

BISHOP ROWE CELEBRATES FORTIETH YEAR AS AN ALASKAN MISSIONARY

On November the thirtieth, Bishop Peter Trimble Rowe will celebrate communion at St. George's church in New York City where just forty years ago he was consecrated to his post as a missionary. Just a week ago he celebrated his 79th birthday.

In 1896 Bishop Rowe made his first visit to the then little known Territory of Alaska. He cut his own trails into the far districts and chopped his missions out of the woods.

Frontier life was not new to him even then as he was the son of an Episcopal missionary to the Indians of eastern Canada. He had learned the use of rifle and canoe paddle as a lad and his knowledge of trail travel across great uninhabited districts was as valuable to him as his understanding of the natives to whom he brought the message of his church.

It is a question if anyone knows the trails and rivers of Alaska better than he does. He has been on them all. He has rafted down the streams, and poled and paddled up against their currents. He has mushed the winter trails with dogs and measured them afoot in summer with a heavy pack on his back.

Teaching the word of God was not his only duty. He has nursed whole tribes of natives through epidemics and he has saved a scurvy-ridden camp of whites by his timely arrival with part of a sack of fresh potatoes.

He has shared his tent with a madman whose greatest need was human companionship, and he has been trail mate to a bad Indian who bore the weight of murder guilt on his conscience.

Bishop Rowe's camp was open to any man on the trail, and he was welcome in any tent or cabin he ran into on his travels; and he was always traveling. During the early day gold stampedes he was often sought out for information about routes. This he gladly gave, but the reports of rich stream gravels never interested him. If he took in a stampede it was because he knew the men there needed spiritual guidance, needed someone to remind them that there was a right and a wrong way to live. Being in on the ground floor he had many opportunities to stake rich claims, but he wasn't interested in gold. He considered a man's soul of more value.

THE MATANUSKA VALLEY PIONEER
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Already there seems to be something in the air that smacks of the holidays soon to arrive. We are planning to get presents off for our friends in the states, and arranging for our own festal activities....but how much thought are we giving to the problem of making others happy? How many of us realize that the few cents spent for Christmas seals make possible a fund that will purchase health for someone, a fund that will finance a campaign of prevention against tuberculosis?

The following excerpt from a letter by Dr. W. W. Council, Chairman of the Alaska Tuberculosis Committee, tells you what your money will be used for this year.

"The seal sale is being put on by the Alaska Committee of the National Tuberculosis Association and 95% of the receipts will remain in Alaska.

"The Alaska Committee is trying to build a fund large enough to put through a survey of all children, both white and native, up to the age of twenty, or through the susceptible age of tuberculosis.

"At the present time our records show that we have among the natives ten or twelve times as much tuberculosis as we have in other localities. The instance of tuberculosis among the whites is about on a par with similar locations in the states.

"When we have a complete survey of the actual conditions we hope to be able to convince the authorities in Washington that the Territory of Alaska needs and should have at least two modern tuberculosis sanitoriums.

"We hope every citizen in the Territory will get behind this Christmas Seal Sale and help us in the fight against tuberculosis in the Territory of Alaska."

There has been a rumor making the rounds that M. D. Snodgrass did not sell the land upon which the Community Center is built, but that he leased it to the corporation for a term of twenty years, and that at the end of that time the property, together with all improvements, would revert to him.

Where do such rumors start? The corporation purchased that land and paid for it. It will remain theirs until the Co-op is a going organization, and then it will become a part of the community holdings.

VALLEY VEGETABLES TO BE SERVED AT CLUB DINNER

Matanuska grown vegetables are to be served at a dinner scheduled for the Arctic Club in Seattle.

In answer to a request for 500 pounds of mixed vegetables, Harry Sears shipped by the last boat a supply taken from the community gardens this fall.

The Arctic Club is made up mostly of Northerners and Seattle business men interested in Alaskan trade. It is hardly necessary to prove our territory's agricultural potentialities to them, but it is hoped that they will have as guests at their dinner some of the skeptics who need only eat some of our produce to be converted into boosters.

The Turkey Shoot went off with a bang. Many bangs, in fact. For some time the fusillade out there in John Bugge's field sounded like a battle.

Colonists, old settlers and men from the construction corps competed with everything from .45 revolvers to heavy game rifles.

Bruno Jeeck, an old timer with a homestead out between Cottonwood and Finger Lakes, made the best shot of the day. It was during the match with big rifles off-hand at a hundred yards.

Bruno doesn't go in for fancy guns. He uses an old Winchester 30:06 with a battered stock and a baling wire wrap around the forearm. It sure shows a lot of hard service, but he has used it continuously since buying it second hand in Michigan fifteen years ago and he swears by it.

When it came his time to shoot he smoked the front sight over the fire, pulled his home made beaver cap down and squared off with the old blunderbuss against his port shoulder. He threaded a keen blue eye through the sights and squeezed a calloused finger on the trigger. When Arnold Newman brought the target up there was a hole drilled through the very center of the 3 inch bull's eye.

There was no need of Mr. Ross Sheely and Mr. Don Irwin, who acted as judges, to go into a huddle to decide who won that particular turkey.

Harry Sears did a good job of providing many with Thanksgiving turkeys, and many more with an afternoon's fun. He contributed the few dollars profit from the match to the Christmas fund.

Donations with which to purchase Christmas toys for all children in the valley will be accepted by Mr. Sheely, Mr. Irwin, Mr. Lyng and Mr. Cronin.

COUNCIL PRIMARY ELECTION RETURNS

Returns in the form of marked ballots which were mailed to every colonist in the valley have been received and the names of those who will run for representatives in the council for the four voting districts of the valley have been determined.

In district #1 the nominees are: Ray Wilkes, Henry Johnson and a tie vote between Emil Larsh and Arnold Carson. In #2: Jack Lund, and Margaret Miller with Harry Campbell and George Connors tied. In #3: Walter Huntley, William Bennett and Robert Higgenbotham. In #4: Lawrence Dreghorn, Mrs. I. M. Sandvik and Loren McKechnie.

In District #3 Mr. Don Irwin polled a majority, but owing to his connections with the corporation he has refused to accept the nomination.

The old settlers of the valley will soon have their representatives chosen and the organization will go ahead with the view of formulating plans for the Co-op to be established here.

An odd feature of this primary is that every member of the election board was nominated, necessitating the formation of a new body to carry on with the election.

Walter Sandberg, a carpenter at the Community Center, slipped and fell to the concrete basement of the doctor's residence upon which he was working and broke a shoulder blade besides carving in a couple of ribs. No serious complications are expected and he is now resting quietly without much pain.

A cow moose with blood in her nostrils was found dead near his tract by Lester Ellsworth at Camp #10. Realizing that she had died from gunshot wounds, Mr. Ellsworth notified Jack O'Connors, game warden at Anchorage, who came out and made an investigation. The cow bore one belly wound and had had a shoulder badly smashed. Jack says she may have wandered a couple of miles before laying down to die.

A couple of weeks ago we picked a news item from a middle western paper simply because it bore a Wisconsin date line. It was about 74 year old Ezra Warden who boldly stated that he was looking for a wife and ran an ad to that effect.

It is with surprise that we now learn that he is the stepfather of Colonist Frank Wesley Warden of Tract 10.

Ezra, by the way, got his wife, picked her from among the 411 answers to his advertisement. She is Mrs. Maggie Cornwall of Oneida County.

TWO LOSE MONEY

Harry Sears reports that he lost some loose bills from his pocket at the turkey shoot, and Jack Stone of bunk car No. 12, reports the finding of a purse containing money and a slip of paper. There is no name in it, but the loser would have no difficulty in describing what he lost.

You all know the song story of the old "Strawberry Roan," and many of you will remember the one that came in with the colony stock, especially so if you happened to get near her heels or had anything to do with her.

You should see her now. Paul Jahr has a way with horses. That roan mare will gently lift any foot you touch, and last summer it was necessary to swing her in a frame to shoe her. At a word from Paul she will kiss his cheek with the gentleness of a baby.

Her mate is a dandy, too. Paul can throw the lines on the ground and simply by talking to them can get them to lay right down and pull with every ounce that's in them.

Just TRY and get that team away from him.

Elmer Schakel had what some said was a birthday party at Sally's last week. We somehow had the idea that Shake wasn't admitting birthdays anymore, but there was a party at any rate. Someone said that there was one guest and six other people present. Or maybe they were all guests.

Our informant may have misjudged but he did say that practically all Shake's attention was directed to the party on his left, and that he thought perhaps the others were strangers.

FOR SALE

FORDSON TRACTOR
TWO BOTTOM PLOW DOUBLE DISC

Call or see S. B. Cook

U. S. Experimental Farm

AT SALLY'S CAFE

FOUNTAIN BEER WINE
--0--
Christmas Candies Tree Ornaments

Late Magazines and papers
Board by the month -- 35 Dollars

HOTEL ALLEN

Matanuska

Alaska

FOOD FOR MAN AND BEAST