

SATURDAY BE THE BIG DAY
IF XMAS SHIP HOLDS SHOW

NO MARKETING PROBLEMS AT
FAIRBANKS EXPERIMENT FARM

Unless something unforeseen delays the Alaska Steamship Company's Christmas Ship Santa and his entourage of entertainers will arrive at Palmer about four-thirty Saturday afternoon.

In an article appearing in the December issue of the "Farthest-North Collegian," President Chas. E. Bunnell of the University of Alaska compiles some very convincing figures on the sale of produce from the U.S. Agricultural Experiment Station to the College Kitchen.

True to his word, Hank Colisch, foreman of construction at the Community Center, has the big hall all housed in and the heat on. As soon as possible after arrival, Santa and his gang will put their show on there. There is need of making it early as they are scheduled to give another show that same evening over Station KFQD at Anchorage.

After itemizing the quantities and values of the dairy products raised at the farm and sold to the school, President Bunnell says:

In the matter of transportation so that every one in the valley can come, Mr. Irwin has drawn up the following route schedule for busses and trucks.

"If today the unit had twice as many acres under cultivation, a barn twice as large, silos, and twenty cows instead of ten, the record would be so outstanding that no one could or would say that agriculture in interior Alaska is not one of our most valuable assets.

A bus will leave Wasilla at 2:15 and will come past Camp 4, the Kindergarten place, and to Palmer by Fingerlake Road.

"In this small dairy, producing and selling to the University Club 810 gallons of whole milk at 60¢ per gallon, \$486.00 for the month of October, is unable to meet the requirements of whole milk for a group of scarcely more than 100, what is inevitably bound to be the result when agriculture produces and furnishes the farm products for a community as large as Fairbanks?

Another one leaves Ray Wilkes' place at the same time, coming to Palmer by way of Camp 2 and Matanuska. This same bus will return to Camp 2 for another load as soon as the first is discharged.

"If I am correctly informed there were shipped into this section during the year ending June 30, 1934, dairy products to the value of over \$125,000.

Still another bus will leave Camp 7 at 2:15 and come in by the way of Camp 5. It will return from Palmer, turning north around the loop at the Henry Roughan corner and coming in by the way of Camp 6.

"When the President of the United States finally decided upon an agricultural project for Alaska, it was because he could see the importance of developing a basic industry in Alaska capable of furnishing food for its people. No failure will be recorded because the plan for it is fundamentally sound. If there is a failure, it will be because of the human equation, lack of transportation facilities, lack of coordination between production and distribution or the failure of some other major factor to function efficiently... and I believe the people of the United States generally and of Alaska particularly ought to take advantage of the opportunities Alaska has to offer with the avowed objective of making this Northland a land of homes and using the wealth the Territory possesses to make increasingly better homes.

A bus will be at Jack Hermon's place at 3:45 and will come to Palmer along the school route taken in the evening when returning from the Matanuska school.

"The agricultural industry ought to receive the serious consideration of every industry in the Territory...."

Trucks with tarpaulin covers will augment this fleet and will make special trips wherever necessary. One will go to the George Venne home, passing along the road by Walter Huntley's place, and returning by the F.S. Lee corner.

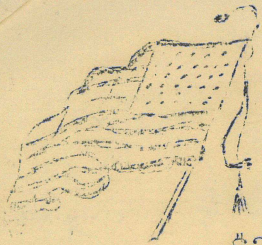
Trucks will leave the Camp 10 area beginning at 2:30.

After the show and the distribution of candy, nuts and fruit by the Xmas Ship Santa and his aides there will be a drawing for the 50 sleds and wagons held by the commissary. Names of every child will be put into a hat, from which Bill Bouwens will pick the lucky ones.

That, it is considered, will be the fairest way of distributing the sleds. It is too bad that there are not enough on hand to go around, but eventually every child will be able to get one.

Understand, boys, these are not
(continued on page 4)

THE MATANUSKA VALLEY PIONEER



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Jack Allman, editor
and publisher

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\$2.50 per year. If by
mail add fifty cents for postage.
Single copies 5¢ locally, 10¢ else-
where. For sale at Bert's Drug
Store, Anchorage.

Here we are, making our bow a-
gain just as we did when we got out
the first copies of the PIONEER on
August 22nd. But this time we are
standing upon untried legs without
the dependable financial arm of the
corporation to lend support. This
issue of the PIONEER is the first
without the familiar ARRC in the
masthead.

Because it takes nickels to pay
for fuel, lights, paper stock, sten-
cils and the like, we cannot, as did
the corporation, put out hundreds of
copies free of charge throughout the
camp and colony.

We will, however, distribute this
and the next issue without cost to
all who drop into the office. By two
weeks from today we hope to be able
to brag of a fairly complete circu-
lation of the valley through regular
subscriptions.

The new home of the PIONEER is
somewhat different than the little
10x12 tent on Fingerlake Road. It
is now the sixteen by thirty tent
formerly occupied by the timekeeper.

The first section has a table and
benches with late magazines and pa-
pers from various Alaskan cities. It
is a place where you can meet your
friends, or leave your packs. Make
it a habit to drop in. There is a
bulletin board listing truck or any
other transportation going out to
the different camps. Come in and get
the dope. No need wearing out your
thumb along the road.

The center section is where the
weekly accident occurs, and the for-
mer Atwood office is our living
quarters...just twenty feet from the
mess house door. This has its ad-
vantages. It is a cinch we will al-
ways be up no matter how early you
call in the morning. Not even a
deaf man could sleep through the
wild clanging of that beaten rail-
road iron, the imperious summons to
a six o'clock breakfast that the
crews refer to as the 'gut hammer.'

Like the Lion's Mouth of Addison's
"Spectator," we, too, will have a
box beside the door. We call it the
Pioneer's Powder Horn and into the
slot you may drop any point of in-
formation you wish to query, or any
legitimate kick you wish to regis-
ter. Through the Powder Horn we
hope to settle misunderstandings be-

fore they grow into something more
dangerous.

For instance, a colonist came
into the office the other day and
got a load off his chest. His dan-
der was up. He had been refused
permission to service his Guernsey
cow with a fine Brown Swiss bull.
He thought that was carrying corp-
oration authority a little too far.
After all, it was his cow.

The mistake was that no one had
taken the trouble to give a reason
for the ruling. He was most sen-
sible about it and soon over his
anger when it was pointed out that
all the stock brought in by the
corporation was of fairly pure
strain, if not a real thoroughbred,
and that these lines would soon
disappear with uncontrolled cross
breeding.

Use the Powder Horn. We will
do our darndest to get the answer
to any complaint. A better under-
standing between the busy official
and the colonist with an individ-
ual problem will do much to make
the going easier for both.

Wonder what the folks back in
Wintery Wisconsin and the neigh-
boring states will say when they
learn that we are having spring
weather with the mercury at forty
above all day?

To determine the exact moment
when it becomes dark on the day
when nightfall ends the long fast
of Ramadan practised by the Moham-
medans, an official of their
church pulls a hair from his head.
If, at arm's length, he cannot
tell whether it is black or white,
he announces that darkness has
fallen.

By this unique method we have
determined that daylight arrives
at 8:25 and that it is dark at
3:25.

Sourdough Sam laughs at such
foolishness as pulling out hairs.
He clings to the old Alaskan man-
ner of determining this point.

"If you can see to swing an
axe, it's daylight."

"Stampede Red" Robinson suggests
the hockey team throw their skates
away and go in for water polo.

F. S. Lee, one time settler in
the valley who returned when he
learned of all the activity around
here, discovered some old straw-
berry plants when the rain melted
away their protective covering of
snow. He brought some into the
office and they look like they
just came out of a greenhouse...
not even burned on the edges with
frost. Nature sure plays some
funny tricks up here in the "Fro-
zen Arctic."

Acting upon word sent in by a member of the Matanuska Conservation Association, Jack O'Connor, Game Warden of the Anchorage district, is in the valley investigating the killing of a cow moose and calf a week ago Sunday.

There is no doubt about the brazen defiance of the law, for a member of the association stumbled upon the kill while it was being cut up by two men who were strangers to him. It is well established, however, that they were not colonists.

Many of the colony group took exception to something we wrote about newcomers shooting ducks off the nest last spring. A little inquiring around discloses that this not only happened, but that those who did it admitted as much to Warden O'Connor. They also proved that every man from that county back east had been told that he could shoot anything at any time, the case worker saying that he didn't think there were any game laws in Alaska, but if there were they would be set aside for their benefit.

Colonists, it seems are not the only ones to make mistakes when it comes to bagging game. Last spring just Haller, an old settler, killed a nice fat goose. It turned out to be one that Arnold Carson of Tract #13 had just bought from Mr. Felton.

Miss Pearl Williams, our new Red Cross nurse, has received from a bed-ridden invalid in the States 45 presents for children in the age group of 14 or over.

With Mrs. Geddie, our former R.C.N. who is visiting with her, Miss Williams has been busy putting into boxes all the presents sent to the colony children from the Junior Red Cross organizations of San Francisco and Seattle, and she suggests that in-as-much as the donors have gone to the trouble of putting their names on the gifts, it would be very nice if each child here wrote a little note of thanks.

LOST, STRAYED: Guernsey cow from McRoy Hamann's place at Tract #108.

Bessy is dragging a 5 foot lead rope from her halter and her ear number is 021.

An official order, effective yesterday, made Howard Lyng manager of Transportation and puts him in charge of all trucks, tractors and machine engines.

LOST: A tire chain by Fitz Bloorn who has just started the Colony Transfer which will make a specialty of work hauling, and whose headquarters will be at the Valley City Cafe.

Patients of the men's ward at the hospital decided that things were a little too quiet and got their heads together. Result -- a Christmas and convalescence party that started off with a real swanky supper prepared and served by Ruth Cook and Margaret Mangold.

Then 'Doc' Albrecht ran a bunch of still picture projections and gave a first class tourist agency spiel about his trip from Philly to Palmer.

Now patients who had arrived since the last paper, and were there to enjoy the festivities were: Bill Taylor, who for 24 hours was within a couple of inches of pneumonia; Ray Ferrin, the telephone lineman with a wrenched leg. There was a rumor around the hospital that the day Ray put in the 'phone -- just about the time Nurse Kelly arrived -- he made the remark that he'd manage somehow to get in there as a patient.

The Emberg boys are doing fine and looking forward to the arrival of another brother, Ronald, who is expected to be here on one of the next two boats.

Over in the other part of the hospital Mrs. Leon McNevin of Tract #60 presented her husband with a fine 8 1/2 pound baby girl on the 15th.

Baby Griese has been taken to Anchorage for X-Ray examination.

~~XX~~

VALLEY CITY CAFE

TOYS AND GIFTS
FOR THE LITTLE FELLOWS

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATIONS

BOOKS MECHANICAL TOYS CANDIES

AND

FOR THAT BIG CHRISTMAS DINNER

CAKES PIES PASTRY

FRESH

EVERY DAY IN THE WEEK

TRY OUR EXCELLENT BAKE GOODS

BREAD BREAD BREAD

BEST IN THE VALLEY

HONOLULU

VALLEY CITY CAFE

Big Day -----

presents, but a chance to get first choice at purchase, just as the old man did when the cows arrived.

There will be plenty of presents to go around, not only for the colonist children, but for every little one in the valley. And on Monday Koslosky's store will give out stockings full of goodies to every one who comes in at one o'clock. Better talk dad or mother to bringing you in.

Word from Anchorage tells us the Mukluk Dance last Saturday eve was a huge success. They are going to hold another one on the ice rink Xmas Eve. Part of the ice will be roped off for dancing, while the rest of the space will be open for those who like to skate to music.

The next day, Xmas at 1:30, the Palmer Pioneers will meet the Anchorage Hockey team in a match....so be there Palmerites and give the home town boys a lot of moral support.

Howard Lyng has just received official notification that he has been elected delegate to represent the Second Division at the Democratic Territorial Convention, at which there will be delegates nominated for the National Convention, and a party platform adopted.

Edward Coffey and Einer Huseby will attend as delegates from Palmer.

Through the kindness of your old friend J. P., announcer of KFQD, an appeal for Christmas tree decorations was broadcast. Less than ten hours later Mr. Gust Schiebel and Mrs. Hank LaRose were here at the office with bundles for the Xmas Committee. Thanks, folks.

Wonder what happened to cause all those sparks when two popular members of the valley's younger set met accidentally in the ed's office the other day. Reminds us of when we considered those little spats as mighty serious business.

One way of getting a concrete chimney in a hurry is to have a fire like John Meehan of Tract #56 had the other day.

Unwilling to chance the temporary stack that had caused all the trouble, he went without fire from 7 in the evening until he could get into town the next day. Before dark Bill Taylor had the new concrete chimney all installed.

If too busy to write, send PIONEERS

Mrs. Harvey Buckridge, whose husband is employed at Koslosky's, is a recent arrival from the outside. Until they can get located closer to town, they are living in the small cabin on the Kirsch tract, #64.

John Bradley of 117, who left for the States to get medical attention at a veteran's hospital, is a real booster for the valley according to a clipping sent us by Arv Schaleben.

Bradley, on a visit with relatives at Red Granite, Wisconsin, told a news reporter that we are in the 'garden valley' of the great Alaskan Territory.

"There is no depression in Matanuska," says John. "Many have more to eat and wear than during the good times in the States."

Arv Schaleben has a good article on the project in the January issue of the American Magazine. Don't miss it.

Any of you folks from Hugo, Minn? It was there that a nine foot eagle picked up nine-month-old Darline Lindberg and then electrocuted itself by flying into a high tension wire. It volplaned to earth with the child still in its talons. The baby was only slightly bruised

Joe Ubert of Tract #160 is now all set and ready to go in the new community cobbler shop.

With his place full of the most modern equipment and plenty of stock on hand, Joe says: "Bring 'em in, I'll fix 'em."

SALLY'S

SIX COURSE CHRISTMAS DINNER

WITH WINE

Served From Two Till Eight P. M.

HAAS -- Finest Box Candies

PALMER MOTOR SERVICE

ALL BRAND NEW EQUIPMENT!!!

Snappy taxi service -- Freighting
REASONABLE, RELIABLE & RESPONSIBLE
WHEREVER THERE'S A ROAD & A LOAD

BOB'S TAXI

GETS YOU THERE AND GETS YOU BACK
ANY TIME ANY PLACE
HEATED CAR

Office.....KOSLOSKY'S
At the Toy Store

LET'S FORGET BUSINESS
FOR THE MOMENT WHILE

KOSLOSKY'S

"THE FRIENDLY STORE"

WISHES YOU

CHRISTMAS HAPPINESS

DURING THIS FIRST YULETIDE SEASON
IN YOUR NEW HOMES

BRING THE KIDS IN!

LET THEM MEET SANTA CLAUS
ON PERSON!!!

LET THEM SHAKE HIM BY THE
HAND, AND RECEIVE FROM HIM

A BIG XMAS STOCKING

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF —

KOSLOSKY'S

"THE FRIENDLY STORE"