

## BOARD ACTS ON VITAL ISSUES

Back time, title to land, the hiring of colonists, and the manner in which house values will be determined were among the problems discussed at the Board of Directors meeting held here last Tuesday according to Mr. William Bouwens, colonist member of the governing body.

"Due to the necessity of awaiting Washington approval on most suggested policies, it will take time to iron everything out," said Mr. Bouwens. He is confident, however, that eventually each problem will be met and solved in a manner satisfactory to all.

Back credit, something of vital importance to most colonists, is the first issue Mr. Bouwens put before the board.

After some discussion it was decided that credit would be given for all time of work on sawmills, logging and so forth, but credit for work done by a colonist on his own home would be automatically taken care of by the house appraisal plan adopted at the meeting.

This means that each house will be appraised by an official qualified in this work, and each colonist will be charged only with the material that went into his house and other buildings, plus the hired labor hours against them.

By this system it is readily seen that those who did the most work on their homes will pay the least, their labor being an actual saving in cost, rather than a credit. It amounts to the same thing as 'back time,' but the board feels it a much fairer and more simple method of reimbursing a man for work on his own place.

The board also feels that the improvement of the land is of first importance to the success of this whole undertaking and there will be no hiring of colonists except where skilled labor is required, and then it will be at the going wage scale, the colonist receiving 25% in cash and the balance in credit against his account.

This doesn't mean that the colonist who isn't skilled, and who doesn't get a job, won't be able to earn a few dollars, though. He has just as good a chance as the other fellow.

There is a market for wood here and any colonist can cut mine props or fuel from his own forty, sell it, and retain all cash. Wood purchased by the corporation, however, will be paid for on a 50% cash, 50% credit basis.

The matter of clearing land has been taken up with Washington and a reply is expected shortly.

As regards the title rights of a colonist in the land he is improving, Mr. Sheely states that a committee of colonists is to be formed with the view of having them draw up, and submit, a contract which will give the individual colonist assurance that he has a legal claim to the land as long as he fulfills his end of the existing contract with the corporation.

## CHRISTMAS PLANS UNDER WAY

Palmer is to have a real Christmas treat if plans being made by the Alaska Steamship Company and the Alaska Railroad work out satisfactorily.

Everything depends upon schedules, but if it is at all possible the entertainers from the "Christmas Ship" Victoria will be here on December 21st under the direction of Old St. Nick himself.

There will be a good show for all, and Santa Claus in person to distribute presents of fruit and candy to the kiddies.

There will be more detailed announcements later.

## GAME ASSOCIATION FORMED

At a meeting last Monday evening The Matanuska Game Conservation Association was formed with Ray Wilkes as chairman; Nicholas Weiler, Clarence Sjodin and Lester Ellsworth as district committeemen, and Jack Allman as secretary and treasurer. Committeemen at large are Howard Lyng and Tom O'Dal, deputy game warden stationed in the valley.

Ray Wilkes gave a short talk on the advantages of game conservation as he had observed the effects of it in his home state of Minnesota. Mr. Jack O'Conner, Game warden from the Anchorage district who was a guest at the meeting, gave some very carefully thought out advice on the best manner to proceed with a project of this kind.

It is the aim of the organization to see that existing game is protected and to make every possible effort to persuade the Alaska Game Commission to stock the valley with deer from the South-eastern section of the Territory.

Anchorage residents interested  
(continued on page 5)

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OUT OF WONDER LAND

"The time has come," the Walrus said, "To speak of many things; of shoes and ships and sealing wax, of cabbages and kings."

That quote from "Alice in Wonderland" may not be absolutely correct, but the thought has its counterpart in the mind of Mr. John Colonist who has been living in Wonder Land for the past six months; wondering about this, and wondering about that.

He has been talked to about amortized debts and cooperative plans, about wells and wood slashing, about barns and budgets. Now he feels it about time to discuss some really vital issues. How is he to be assessed for his house? Or how and when will he have any legal assurance that the land will ever be his?

Realizing the importance of these questions, Mr. Ross Sheely has set out to answer them. The first is taken care of elsewhere in this issue of the PIONEER. What he intends to do about the second is also outlined.

At first it was supposed that each colonist would be charged with the material he had requisitioned plus the hired labor hours spent in building his home. Then construction foremen, well crews and others started picking up material from one homesite for use on another tract. In some instances record of these switches were never kept, or if they were they were never turned in.

Obviously, another method of arriving at the cost had to be found, and it was stated in open council meeting that the cost of all homes would be computed and the result divided by the number of houses built, this giving the figure each colonist was to pay.

Mr. Sheely points out that this would by no means be fair. Why should the man with a small house upon which he has done most of the work himself be charged the same as one with a big house constructed by hired labor?

It is quite plain that the manner now advocated for figuring the cost of a home is about the fairest that can be devised.

Some colonist may kick because he had carpenters working on his house who were slower than those helping a neighbor, and others will no doubt say that the high priced men on their job didn't do any better work than the cheaper labor on another's home. There are al-

ways some grounds for a squawk if you look for them, but who can suggest a fairer plan than this one which Mr. Sheely has had passed by the board of directors?

After all, there is a certain element of gambling in a proposition of this size. There was in the land drawing, yet today it appears that all are satisfied.

Isn't it possible to enter upon this house appraisal business with the same spirit of good sportsmanship?

TURKEY SHOOT!!

A turkey shoot is to be held near the first bend in Finger Lake Road at 11 A.M. on Thanksgiving Day.

Harry Sears, who will be in charge, says that you all have a chance. There will be a hundred yard range for large caliber guns and a fifty yard range for .22s.

There will also be a pistol range if enough who use this small arm show up. Each shooter will have five shots, costing him a dollar, and there will be judges to pass on the scores.

Koslosky's

Time to Think of

XMAS!

FULL LINE OF

GIFTS

CARDS

ETC.

AT OUTSIDE

PRICES

## PALMER BIDS FOR AIRPORT

Anton Anderson, locating engineer for the ARRC, has finished surveying the proposed air field to be located on corporation property on the East and South of the Community center, and now nothing remains but to wait for action on the application now on Governor Troy's desk.

The site has been approved by aeronautics inspector Hugh Brewster and Mr. Whitehead, aviation representative for the WPA.

The application for WPA funds embraces two projects. (1) Construction of a landing field having two runways each 3000 feet long and 500 feet wide. Runways to have 200 foot strip with bitumen surface with 150 foot strips of grass on either side. Estimated cost \$47,000.

(2) Construction of a five place hangar, 50x80 feet, with auxiliary repair equipment. Estimated cost \$40,000.

The first section of the project also includes the installation of lighting facilities for night flying.

If Palmer can get this grant out of the \$2,700,000 allotted to Alaska it is estimated that 85 men would be given employment for 100 days.

## NOTICE TO COLONISTS

No more unclaimed or returned furniture will be issued until further notice due to the fact that it is to be placed in the old commissary building.

Mrs. and Mr. Arvid Johnson of Tract 169 wish to extend their thanks to all who helped them during Arvid's recent illness. They feel that it was mighty decent of the boys to get in the wood and the hay and take this way of expressing their gratitude.

Mrs. Lepak reports the finding of a Triangle Arithmetic school book on the road. The owner may have same by identifying at the PIONEER office.

Joe Puhl of Tract 99 is suffering from a severe saw cut on his knee, sustained in an accident while cutting wood at Clarence Sjodin's place.

Mrs. Nellie Osborne of Matanuska calls our attention to the fact that there are a number of half starved dogs hanging around the town. Unless they had better arrangements to

THAT Cleopatra made  
them upon slaves and  
that the bite of these

## LEGION DANCE A BIG SUCCESS

A crowd that taxed the capacity of the Matanuska hall witnessed the installation of officers for the newly formed Matanuska Valley Post No. 15 of the American Legion, and saw many of the new members initiated last Saturday evening.

An enthusiastic delegation of Legionnaires and Legion Auxiliary members came up by special train from Anchorage, Maurice Sharp even bringing his private mascot, a small but very busy little panther.

Sidney C. Raynor, first vice commander of the Department of Alaska, officiated in the ceremonies replacing Leonard Hopkins who was confined to his home with illness.

Other officers who helped initiate new members were Ivan Hunt, commander; L.I. Strickland, first vice commander; John Belgard, 2nd vice commander; Fred Belgard, adjutant; L. W. Scanland, chaplain; Gus Olsen, sergeant-at-arms and R. George, color bearer.

Visiting officers who conducted the installation were Sidney Raynor; Hugh Savage, 1st vice commander; Fred Belgard, 2nd vice commander; Maurice Sharp, adjutant and finance officer; L. W. Scanland, chaplain; and John Belgard as sergeant-at-arms.

Officers of the Matanuska Valley Post #15 are: Neil S. Miller, commander; Lawrence P. Rorrison, first vice commander; Finer Huseby, second vice commander; Emil A. La Walters, acting adjutant in the absence of Rex A. C. Atwood; Lawrence F. Arndt, finance officer; Rev. B. J. Bingle, chaplain; Geo. I. Conners, sergeant-at-arms; and Jack Allman, historian.

Mr. Raynor presented Commander Miller with the charter for the new post and after Mr. Miller's short speech of acceptance Mr. Raynor welcomed the Matanuska Post to the Department of Alaska.

Following the ceremonies there was excellent dance music by Mrs. Nellie Osborne and her orchestra and everyone danced. During an intermission hot coffee and sandwiches were served under the capable direction of Comrade Rorrison with the aid of Auxiliary members.

Transportation schedules broke down and a number found themselves unable to attend. The new post asks the visiting legionnaires to accept their apology for being unavoidably delayed and unable to meet the train with a fitting delegation.

Thanks, folks, for coming up and helping us put it over. Next time we invite you it will be to step from the train at our own depot, and to dance in our new community hall. Miscalculations such as marred this last visit will not occur again.

POT LUCK LUNCH WELL ATTENDED

Twenty-five women attended the pot luck luncheon in the new Extension Service office Wednesday.

Following the lunch there was a short business meeting at which a committee was appointed to take charge of the sale of Christmas seals, the proceeds of which are used to further the cause of the prevention of tuberculosis. The treasurer reported a balance of \$4.91 from the sale of purses.

The program after the business meeting consisted of a talk on the prevention of colds by Madeleine Sedille, Red Cross nurse, and a demonstration by Lydia Fohn-Hansen showing how to prepare rags for making various kinds of rugs. Mrs. Fohn-Hansen announces that those who wish rags may get them at the extension office.

It was decided to hold bake sales once a week. Women may bring in cookies, cakes, rolls, etc., for sale on Saturday. It was also decided to continue the pot luck lunches on the once-a-month plan, the next to be held Dec. 18th, to which all are invited.

C. E. Rudell of Tract 17 is looking for a girl. \$10 a week.

CHURCH NOTICES

Reverend Bingle asks that all who wish to avail themselves of bus service for church, please put out the red flag so that the driver may know whether or not to stop.

Father Sulzmen has sent word that he will be back for Sunday services. No notice of change has been received from the other churches.

Patches, Quarnstrom's black and white, half terrier, half beagle, dog has disappeared. Clarence asks that anyone finding him please notify Tract 121.

Through the courtesy of John Bugge we now have good skating right close to camp. As soon as it snows a hockey rink will be squared off on the surface of the lake in Mr. Bugge's oat field and the boys will start practice with a view of challenging Anchorage.

It may not make Palmer's only street look like 42nd and Broadway, but the brightly shining gas lantern in front of Bert's Drug Store sure helps these dark nights.



THAT "Cupping" was used to cure Headaches about 80 years ago... a cup would be placed on the forehead and a piece of paper ignited to heat the cup and raise a blister...the blister would then be cut, and the headache was cured?  
THAT we have in stock Alaska Christmas cards...actual photographs of of Alaskan scenes ...and they sell for only 10¢ with envelopes?  
THAT our stocks of Christmas gifts, toys, sets etc. are arriving on every freight...and our invitation to "Stop and shop at Bert's" will be well worth your while?



THAT Cleopatra made an intensive study of poisonous drugs...She tried them upon slaves and...and so came to the conclusion that the bite of these...the most gentle and...?

## GAME CONSERVATION ---

in this movement will be invited to join, as will those from all towns in the valley.

Petitions are now being circulated as a means of proof to the Alaska Game Commission that the majority of the people affected are heartily in favor of strict control and reserve observance so that they may be guaranteed good hunting in the future.

Don't fail to sign one of these petitions should it be presented to you. The petition carries no obligation to become a member of the association, but should you wish to join you may do so by signing up with Mr. Lyng at his office at the Trading Post, or with Mr. Allman at the PIONEER. The dues are fifty cents a year.

The parents of Mrs. Gilbert Lemon are arriving on this next boat and will make their home with their daughter and son-in-law on Tract 128.

Marion Poore of Tract 41 is hobbling around with one flat wheel, having run a nail into his foot.

So that there will be none of the valuable school hours lost, all the travelling teachers will hold the holiday classes of Thursday and Friday on Monday and Tuesday afternoons respectively.

And have you seen the "Little Red School House on wheels?" True to his promise, Col. O. F. Ohlsen sent up a coach to accommodate first and second grade pupils right here in Palmer. The red coach is being newly decorated inside and is parked on the spur just beyond the big warehouse across the track.

Wonder how many there are around here who miss Ben Jordan's great big smile. Valuable asset, a smile.

HAVE YOU TRIED THE NEW

BARBER SHOP?

**NO!**

THEN YOU'VE MISSED SOMETHING

ELECTRICALLY EQUIPPED

OVER NEAR THE TRADING POST

A busy spot that no one seems to realize is in continuous operation is the cabinet shop, over in the big tent behind the warehouse where D. S. Dalva and Al Sliter are turning out cupboards for the whole valley. And Al hasn't got those borrowed tools back, either.

Another place known to few but colonist women is the paint shop back of the old warehouse.

Mrs. Anton Anderson and Mrs. Ralph Horton are both patients at the hospital, but Doctor Albrecht says he's going to shoo them both home pretty soon. He also says that he now has definite office hours and asks that unless for an emergency, it will be to everyone's advantage to try and recognize them. Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday: 9:30 to 12. On Tuesdays and Thursdays: 7 to 9 P.M.

Any fox or mink ranchers wanting horses for feed see Harry Sears. Harry has some good old dobbins that are valueless for work, but in good shape.

Rev. B. J. Bingle announces that the library is now at his home on Finger Lake Boulevard.

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RIDE IN HEATED COMFORT WHILE  
GOING ANYWHERE AT ANY TIME

Office

KOSLOSKY'S RECREATION HALL

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FOR SALE

An eighteen mile trap line. Fine for coyotes. Remember.. \$20 bounty  
Twenty #4 Newhouse traps. Snares.  
A good cabin at end, just three miles from the Butte and Camp #10  
See Victor Morgan, Matanuska

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FOR SALE

MASTER SIX CHEVROLET COUPE - 1934  
Box Trailer Good Tires

A REAL BUY

Inquire at the PIONEER office.

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FOR SALE: White Sewing Machine  
GOOD CONDITION - LATEST STYLE  
Inquire at the PIONEER office