

# MATANUSKA VALLEY

61 30' N. Lat.  
149 15' W. Long.

## PIONEER

BUY  
"MATANUSKA MAID"  
PRODUCTS

Vol. I

Palmer, Alaska - January 2, 1936

Nos. 19-20

### HOLIDAYS A PLEASANT INTERLUDE AT END OF BUSY SUMMER AND FALL

The Christmas holidays formed a welcome break in the monotony of six months of steady work for the colonists, project laborers and old settlers. The arrival of Santa Claus and his entourage from the Alaska Steamship Company's Christmas ship started the season off when they put on their show and distributed presents at the big new Community Hall.

Everyone enjoyed the songs and musical numbers, but the big time came for the youngsters when their old friend, Santa, Patron Saint of Childhood, started distributing his huge load of 688 presents. Shouts and happy laughter filled the roughly housed-in hall.

After the entertainers left to fill their engagements at Eklutna and Anchorage more gifts were distributed; gifts from the Junior Red Cross of Seattle and San Francisco, from Sears and Roebuck, and those purchased with the local fund donated for the purpose. Altogether there must have been in the neighborhood of two thousand packages handed out to the happy children.

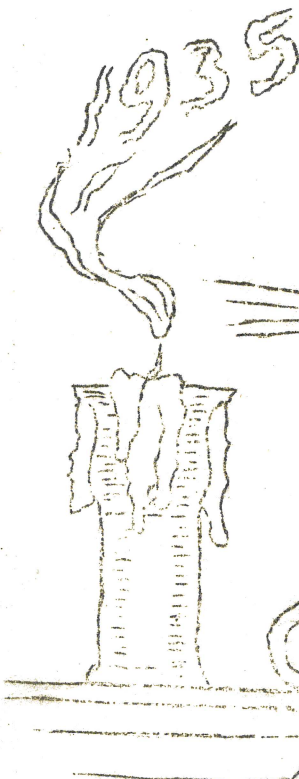
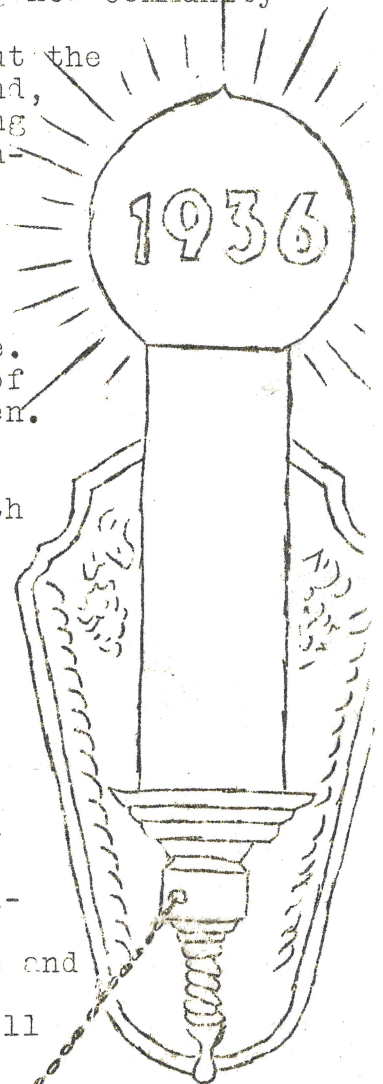
Christmas day passed quietly with many neighborly gatherings for the usual feast. New Years, too, was quiet in Palmer, many having gone into Anchorage, with those remaining hieing off to Wasilla for the big Dance Carnival.

What changes have taken place in the Matanuska Valley during the last seven months of 1935!

Where moose and bear roamed undisturbed last May there are now comfortable homes. Where Indian and prospector trails meandered through stands of lace-like birch and sturdy spruce, gravelled roads now carry the traffic of a busy community.

Felton's store, his log home, and the box car railroad station have lost themselves on the fringe of a bustling town that can boast of over thirty buildings and tents too numerous to count.

And the mounting sun rays of the vernal equinox will fall on a completed school and hospital that will be the envy of every city in Alaska.



The night sun of summer will warm the earth and coax from our fertile soil such produce as will convince a skeptical world that we are living in one of the garden spots of the world.

THE MATANUSKA VALLEY  
COMES INTO ITS OWN IN  
1936

THE "PIONEER" WISHES YOU A

# Happy New Year =

JANUARY 2, 1936

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## THE MATANUSKA VALLEY PIONEER



Published Thursdays  
at Palmer, Alaska

Jack Allman, Publi-  
sher and Editor

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

That historic document, The Con-  
stitution of the United States,  
guarantees to its citizens religious  
freedom, freedom of speech, and  
freedom of the press.

Since the writer has just become  
sole proprietor, publisher and edi-  
tor of the PIONEER, it is with the  
last of this trilogy of 'freedoms'  
that he principally is concerned.

He approaches the task of con-  
ducting the paper humbly, realizing  
full well what the task entails.

A newspaper is a great many  
things in a community, a city, or a  
town. It is a medium by which its  
readers are made cognizant of the  
topics of the day - a trite phrase -  
but your newspaper's duty is to col-  
lect and disseminate the things of  
interest that occur thousands of  
miles away, as well as those events  
which take place on your very door-  
steps.

Your newspaper, if it is to be a  
normal entity in the life of this  
community, must maintain the highest  
standards of the guild. It must at  
all times endeavor to give its read-  
ers up-to-the-minute news with all  
the accuracy possible. It must not  
be partisan in its editorials, and  
it must be scrupulously careful in  
all the advertising it carries. In  
a word, it must adhere strictly to  
the initial principles that endowed  
this great country of ours with the  
'freedom of the press,' and must  
ever zealously guard and protect  
this important constitutional right,  
given us by the founders of our Re-  
public.

A new year is now at hand and the  
paramount issue before the people of  
the United States proper and its  
Territory of Alaska is whether or  
not Mr. Roosevelt and the New Deal  
are going to survive as the deter-  
mining factor in our National and  
Territorial government, or whether  
some other political organization  
with different ideals and a more ef-  
ficacious cure-all for our economic  
and social ills is to prevail.

It is with this thought in mind,  
aware as we are of the fact that the  
Matanuska Valley has now become the  
abiding place of hundreds of new  
citizens, all of whom will be eligi-  
ble to vote in the fall elections,

that we, believing it one of the  
essential functions of a newspaper  
to present for readers the high-  
lights of both National and Terri-  
torial politics, run elsewhere in  
this issue an article by Howard  
Lyng, member of the Alaska Legis-  
lature.

The project is still news out-  
side. This last issue of the Sat-  
urday Evening Post carries the  
somewhat innuendo-laden article by  
Arthur Stringer which we have a-  
waited since his brief visit here  
last summer.

Arville Schaleben, who came up  
with the second contingent of colo-  
nists, lived with them three busy  
months and carried away a clear-  
cut mind picture of what it is all  
about, has a piece in this month's  
issue of the American Magazine.

Mr. Schaleben tells in a quite  
readable manner just what happened  
during that first trying period of  
getting things started. He talks  
of persons and circumstances with  
which he is familiar....a bit of  
a novelty after wading through a  
lot of this other stuff that has  
been written by overnight visitors.

And in the Anchorage Times for  
December 28 is a long article by  
an Anchorage attorney who minces  
no words as he takes issue with  
some of the things said by Repre-  
sentative Zioncheck of Washington  
State. It expresses a comprehen-  
sive viewpoint on the Colony and  
should be read by every person in-  
terested in the project.

As you will see by page 1,  
this issue of the PIONEER embraces  
numbers 19 and 20. Reason:- Ink  
ordered in November has for some  
reason failed to arrive or been  
mislaidd with other freight. We mis-  
sed out on the issue of the 26th,  
but try to make up by giving you  
increased size in this number.

Thanks to the Alaska Railroad  
we have been able to borrow enough  
ink to get her out.

Ted Giblin strays far from the  
truth in trying to justify his vol-  
untary return to the States, and  
no doubt there are those who will  
believe him. Would they if they  
had the following slant on his in-  
tegrity?

St. Louis county, Minn., gave  
each resident who became a colonist  
a new range, mattresses, bedding  
and other household effects.

Giblin sold his new stove to an  
old settler for \$25.00, a trifle  
more than freight cost, saying that  
he didn't dare sell the mattresses  
as they bore markings which prohib-  
ited their sale. One St. Louis Co.  
stove we know of was tagged \$59.50.

## HOCKEY TEAM STRUTS STUFF

The Palmer hockey team scored a 5 to 2 win over Anchorage organization in a fast game Christmas day.

Action was the key-note of the match from start to finish, with the Palmer Pioneers standing the gaif well despite the fact that the boys have had little opportunity to practice.

Andy Anderson and Elmer Quam -- who stepped into the fracas as if the reputation of "Dear Old Scandihoovia" depended upon them -- kept the puck between them in enemy territory most of the time, with fine support from the other Pioneers.

Quam scored in the first few minutes of the game, then Andy hip-ped in three. Anchorage managed to whangle in a couple and then, just before the final whistle Les Wernberg slammed through another. All the boys worked hard for goals, and Roland Pasco worked just as hard to keep Anchorage drives out of the net.

The Pioneer line-up: Pasco-Goalie; Jack Davidson-L.D.; Robert Barnett-R.D.; Elmer Quam-L.W.; Les Wernberg-R.W.; Andy Anderson-C.

Substitutions were: Dave Moody for Davidson; Carlovitch for Barnett; Louis Ossetter for Quam and Franz Eildonen for Wernberg. James De Cicco did a splendid job of coaching and the merit of some of his tricky plays was apparent.

Ye Ed, manager of the team, has secured a rink site in the oat field of Mr. Snodgrass that lies just below Bert's Drug Store, and plans for flooding the area are under way, then the boys can get some real practice. They won't need much to make them eligible for competition in the Fairbanks Ice Carnival if they can keep up that Xmas speed. Our Plans: Fairbanks, Dawson and...well, either Toronto or the Chicago Black Hawks.

A letter from Helen Junes, Secretary of the Fairbanks Ice Carnival and Dog Derby Association, suggests that Palmer hold a contest to choose a Beauty Queen. Excerpts from her letter: "Beauty contests held in the States receive entrants from every state in the Union; so far there has been no entrant from Alaska....a contest is being sponsored by the Fairbanks Ice Carnival Association through which an Alaskan representative will be selected.

"The contest starts Jan 15 and ends Feb. 8...each city to have votes printed and sold at one cent apiece."

It is proposed to use the money so received to pay the expenses of the winner to Fairbanks where she will be the guest of the Association, and be entered in a final contest in which "Miss Alaska" will be chosen from entrants from other cities.

## 328 ELIGIBLE -- 112 VOTE

Of the 328 adult colonists who were entitled to vote for representatives of their several districts in the Colonist Council; only 112 cast for their choice, and some of the votes came in too late to be counted. For instance, 4 votes, all for Robert Higgenbotham, came in after the polls were closed. Had they been cast in time Mr. Higgenbotham would have been elected.

The results of the election:

District No. 1.

Ray Wilkes.....10

Emil Larsh..... 4

Arnold Carson..... 2

District No. 2.

Jack Lund.....26

Mrs. Neal Miller..... 6

George Conners.....12

District No. 3.

Walter Huntley..... 6

William Bennett..... 8

R. Higgenbotham..... 6

District No. 4.

Lawrence Dregghorn.....24

Mrs. I. M. Sandvik..... 2

Loren McKechnie..... 6

## NOTICE

Dr. C. A. Pollard, ARRC dentist, is now established in his new office at the hospital entrance.

Judging from the amount of work he has on hand he will be here until Saturday, Jan. 4, when he will leave for Anchorage and Seward, returning about the 23rd.

The touch of Charles Settlementier, now editor of the Fairbanks News-Miner, is seen in a headline of a recent issue:

HEAT WAVE OF 33 BELOW SOON FADES

The piece mentions that the "...moderated temperature was not expected to be of long duration."

A prognostication that was borne out by an immediate fall of the mercury to 57 below zero.

And here we are enjoying the tropical weather of Alaska's garden spot. A whole day last week of forty above, then up and down for an average well above zero.

The lack of snow is a disappointment to many. It is easier to haul wood on sleds, and Dave Onkka's boy hasn't yet had a chance to use the fine pair of skis he made last summer. The toboggan that Ray Wilkes brought with him still stands unused in the barn.

Les Ellsworth just received a letter from his sister in Ontonagon County, Mich. saying that they are snowbound back there.

Les calls this weather 'summer' compared with what he is used to back home. Many colonists from other parts have dropped into the office to tell us the same thing.

## FIRST CAR THROUGH FROM ANCHORAGE TO PALMER

In a four and one half hour trip that was not without its thrills, Reverend H. J. Jackson drove from Anchorage Tuesday with Mrs. Jackson and two companions.

Four small glaciers that the party encountered had to be crossed with the aid of ropes, and more than once the blocks and falls kept them from sliding down into deep gulches. The Knik River was crossed on the ice just beneath the bridge now under construction.

Mr. Jackson, who is here to put up a church for his following of Seventh Day Adventists, doesn't recommend the twisting dogteam trails he had to follow as a highway to Anchorage, but, like many others, considers forty dollars for the transportation of a light automobile a distance of 45 miles just a little too rich for his blood.

Mrs. Jackson, who was here for the big Christmas party at the Community Hall, announces that she lost a small gift which she had been entrusted to deliver. It was in a shopping bag together with some groceries she had purchased.

Would the person who found anything answering this description please leave the gift at the PIONEER office. They may keep the other things that were in the bag.

Mrs. Walter Poppel of Tract 106 received a gift from her mother that bore \$5.22 in stamps. Ed Coffey, Master of the Mass, remarks that it looks to him like Uncle Sam was the one who got the present.

Two women of the camp saved the day on Tuesday. Mrs. Leo Jacobs, wife of the ARRC architect, saved the tent of Mr. Wells, a neighbor, when the roof caught afire.

Martha Irwin, of Sally's, put out a blaze unassisted at the former tent residence of the Phil O' Neills.

Fire warden Sulzman missed out on all the excitement as he was in the camp 10 area inspecting chimneys.

The alarm for all fires will be successive short blasts of the powerhouse whistle, he said, and asks that all who can, come running when it is sounded.

A meeting of the Palmer Precinct Democratic Club will be held Sunday Jan. 12 at 2:30 P. M. in the little red schoolhouse on wheels. A large turn-out is requested as there are some important matters to be taken up.

It's easier to mail a PIONEER than to write the letter you owe.

## CHANCES MADE IN ACCOUNTING AND DISBURSING DEPTS.

It has been determined to administer the Matanuska Project as a division of the FERA of Alaska and to facilitate matters the U. S. Treasury Department is establishing its own accounting and disbursing office here.

This means, in effect, that the project will henceforth be conducted in accordance with Federal procedure and regulations.

The disbursing office will be in charge of Mr. S. D. Putnam and the Treasury Accounts office under Mr. J. G. Wenzel. Both will be branches under respective offices in Juneau.

Mr. Don Irwin announces that 115 rifles, the first shipment for members of the American Rifle Association, have arrived and that they will be distributed at the general warehouse on Saturday, Jan. 4th.

The Palmer Motor Service has added another car to its fleet, the new Buick manager Kling is to be seen sailing around the icy corners.

Three potatoes grown by Alex Bolam of the Kenai Lake Experimental Farm won the \$100 cash prize offered annually by the Burgess Seed and Plant Co., of Galesburg, Mo.

Agriculturists declare that the award settles for once and all the question of quality as regards Alaskan grown potatoes, for these won in competition with tubers grown in all parts of the United States. The variety was White Gold.

Jack Lund of Tract 203 is looking for a fish peddler's horn. He has the job of distributing all the salmon canned last summer by the colonists at the Experimental Farm. The quota is three small and one large can to each member of all families.

L. J. Ubert says to bring your shoes in if you want them fixed.

If he gets caught up on the work the shop may be closed down for a while, to open again when there is sufficient repairing to warrant it.

Give the high sign early if you want a truck to pick you up along the road. Don't wait until it is right up on you. It is hard to stop quickly on these icy roads.

Hold up your hand and give the driver a break.

## TAKE YOUR CORNERS

With the passing of the old year and the advent of the new, the political gong is about to ring throughout the Territory, announcing to its citizenry that the epic struggle for political supremacy during the next four years is at hand.

Old war horses of both major parties are about to fire the opening salvos, calling upon the faithful through conventions and political gatherings to rally to the cause of the party.

Political opponents of long standing and candidates for various Territorial offices are about to bounce out of their corners prepared to deliver their best mental punches in the fast moving and intensive fight that will be waged right up to the forthcoming primary election next April.

Party oracles and orators have already stepped into the arena and are sending out their usual propaganda consisting mostly of criticism, mainly destructive, and aimed at the other party, via radio, the press and the lowly soap box. Some, as usual, are relying upon the good old handshake, the beaming smile, and the same old promises.

A considerable amount of this propaganda will be devoted to the National political scene, for while the citizens of the Territory have no Presidential vote, nevertheless the politicians of the Territory realize that as long as Alaska is a Territory and subjected to the Bureaucratic rule from the National Capitol, just so long is it incumbent upon the voters of Alaska to elect those candidates to office who are in step and in accord with the national administration.

It is therefore of primary importance to the propaganda boys of both parties to disseminate to the voters large gobs of information and misinformation depending upon where you sit, regarding the National political aims of both major parties, the qualifications of their candidates for high office, and the manner in which the social, monetary, financial, business and agricultural structure of the country should be handled if our great nation is to survive.

One of the major political parties that suffered near oblivion at the last general election is again rearing its somewhat battered elephantine head, trumpeting a challenge to its ancient foe. And don't think this challenge won't be heard the length and breadth of the land!

Backed by the banking interests, by so-called big business, by the United States Chamber of Commerce and all the little chambers, by the large property owners and the over-

(continued on page 6)

## HOSPITAL NOTES

A seven-and-one-half pound baby boy arrived for the Walter Mangions of Tract 151 at 5 o'clock on the last day of the year. Doctor Albrecht reports both mother and infant doing splendidly.

Severt Jacobson, employed by the Alaska Road Commission at Camp 'E', received a painful burn over his entire back when a thawing hose broke loose, whipped around, and darted like a snake down the collar of his shirt. He is now in the "covered wagon" at the hospital, shedding his skin like a rattler.

Fortunately, the burn was not deep and he will soon be out and around again.

Phil O'Neill, who is in the hospital with stomach flu, and Ray Ferrin, who ripped some ligaments loose in his knee, are both getting along in fine shape.

"Tykio," as the nurses call the infant son of the Raymond Griesses, Tract 77, is picking up a little weight. Tykio has had a rather hard time of it because of a condition that makes it difficult for him to feed.

Word from outside tells us that Otis Brown, returned colonist from Pelican Lake, Wis., who had to leave because of a lung condition, is improving under hospital care at his home. He has gained 25 pounds.

Sadder news comes from Henry Roughan, of Monico, Wis. Henry, too, is in the hospital back home, but his condition does not seem to improve. Friends here are still pulling for him, however.

Henry Henson, corporation employee, entered the hospital this afternoon suffering from stomach flu.

Mrs. James Smith, suffering from an undiagnosed ailment, is sharing a room at the hospital with Rachel Hunt who has had an abscess on her leg incised.

Three children suffered accidents that were treated at home by Doctor Albrecht. The little daughter of the LeRoy Hamanns fell and lacerated her scalp. A child of the Gust Schiebels had a coasting accident and knocked out a number of teeth. The little son of the George Connors family fell while eating an all-day-sucker and punctured the back of his throat.

Mrs. Walter Ferguson experienced a second attack of an illness yesterday that Doctor Albrecht thinks might be a gall bladder condition.

## ELECTION (cont'd)

lords of all large fortunes, and by all rugged individualists whose style has been cramped by the workings of Mr. Roosevelt's New Deal; all these agencies will see to it that the best brains, hundreds of news organizations, astute political manipulators and, last but not least, millions of dollars will be poured through a golden horn that will blend its symphony with the cacophony of sound that is even now being trumpeted from this battered elephantine head.

On the other side of the picture we find the celebrated long-eared ears of the party at present riding the crest, sticking out into the atmosphere after the fashion of a radio antenna trying to catch the echoes and reverberations from the broadsides that have already been fired as they are wafted here and there on the wings of the political breeze, to the accompaniment of that gentle sound credited to this long eared little animal which has so patiently borne man's burdens down through the ages.

The things that have been accomplished; the political ground that has been gained; the organization that has been so laboriously built up, are not to be blasted from under the present dominant political party without a bitter struggle.

The giants are girding for battle. The war is on. Let's hope that like all good fighters the breaks will be made clean, with no hitting below the belt. Let 'er go!

Howard Lyng.

Results of the mail ballot election by Old Settlers of representatives for the Council were counted at the meeting held in Palmer today, but no returns were yet in from the Butte area at the time of going to press.

Mrs. Clyde King was elected as representative from District #1, Mr. M. D. Snodgrass from #2, and Mr. A. A. Shenbeck from #3.

A meeting of the newly elected members of the Settler's and Colonist councils will meet with the old Colony board at Mr. Irwin's office on Tuesday the 7th.

Found: A Mammoth brand mitt, a leather glove, and a pair of low tan shoes. All are being held at the PIONEER office.

Sourdough Sam says that if you will sprinkle a little salt on the ice at your doorstep you won't be so apt to slip and break your neck.

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY  
IS HERALDED IN SONG

Ancient Christmas carols were sung throughout the community by a group who toured the valley under the direction of Father Sulzman.

In the party were Margaret Pimperton, Mildred Ferguson, Elmer Schakel, Frank Hess, Louis Constantino, Ed Herman, Joe Zanichei, Mrs. Lawrence Ubert and Stanley Troyan.

After the auto tour of the camps Midnight Mass was celebrated in the new Community Hall.

Decorations were in charge of Ed Herman and were beautifully arranged. During the Mass Miss Pimperton and Frank Ring carried out the following musical program.  
Prelude - Little Town of Bethlehem  
Kyrie - Silent Night  
Offertory - Cantique de Noel  
Communion - O Lord, I am not  
Worthy  
Recessional - Come All Ye  
Faithful

Miss Pimperton played the organ which was loaned for the occasion by Reverend Mr. Bingle.

Matanuska lost two school teachers over the holidays. Miss Marie Lyons resigned to marry, and Miss Johnson has gone to accept a better position. It is reported that two teachers are already on their way up from Juneau to fill the vacancies.

Edward D. Coffey, Chairman of the local Democratic Club, has filed for the Territorial House of Representatives on the party ticket.

Mr. Coffey has been endorsed by the Fisherman's Union and the miners of the 3rd Division.

FOR SALE: Woodworking machinery 10 inch rip and cut-off saw 6 .. joiner .... Boring machine Shaper and band saw. Many extras.

Used but little and all in excellent shape. For a fraction of the original cost. William Bennett, at the Cabinet Shop at the Center

## PALMER MOTOR SERVICE

ALL BRAND NEW EQUIPMENT USED!!!

REASONABLE, RELIABLE & RESPONSIBLE

WHEREVER THERE'S A ROAD & A LOAD

E. N. KLING

MANAGER

## DESPONDENT TRANSIENT WORKER RESORTS TO SELF DESTRUCTION

Miner Stillwell, 53, destroyed himself in one of the bunk cars by shooting himself through the head with a twenty-two rifle this afternoon.

Stillwell came north with the transient division and after declaring his intention to stay after the termination of the regular contract, moved up to the Palmer camp as butcher for the mess.

"Butch," as he was familiarly called, couldn't leave the bottle alone and eventually was discharged for drunkenness. Transportation back to the States was given him and he went as far as Seward where he disposed of his ticket.

Back at the camp here he picked up an odd job now and again working a relief shift for the bull cooks, sleeping wherever he could find a vacant bed.

Wednesday he took a bunk in the 'Chatanika' car and slept through the night and until about 2:45 this afternoon. He spoke to one of the men who was looking after the fires and, without being seen by Paul Wilson who sat there reading, he took a twenty-two rifle down from above the bunk of James Fordman, a carpenter, loaded it with a shell from his pocket and walking into the wash-room at the end of the car placed the muzzle against his head and pulled the trigger. In his pockets were two more cartridges but no letters or papers. His employment record shows that he has a son, Calvin, living in Los Angeles. He has told friends here that he also had two married daughters living in Seattle.

The son has been notified and unless other instructions arrive interment will be in the Palmer cemetery.

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

Because of domestic difficulties the Pussoll Pakonens have relinquished their rights to Tract #23 and Russell left for his former home in Ironwood, Michigan by the last boat. Mrs. Pakonen has expressed her intention of remaining in Palmer.

Mark Ennes, brother of Max out on Tract #149, arrived from the States last week. Joseph Myers of Williamsport, Pa., who has been working with Mr. Ennes in the Puget Sound woods, also came up to look the country over.

Mrs. Jan Koslosky plans to leave this boat for a trip to the States where she will visit with friends in Seattle and relatives at Caldwell, Idaho.

## THE TRADING POST

James Brain whose cabin stands beside the old PIONEER office has an electric radio which he would like to exchange - for use only - with someone for a battery set.

Bob Rossmore, carpenter under Francis Biggs, has a Model 12-A .22 Remington rifle to sell or trade for Kodak or sleeping bag.

Walter Huntley, our new Commissioner from Tract #80, is in the market for a typewriter, new or second hand.

Miss Pearl Williams, Red Cross Nurse, suggests that as a matter of sanitation it will be well to throw slops and garbage further away from back doors. It won't always remain frozen and odorless.

Miss Williams and Mrs. Sedille wish to extend their thanks to Mrs. Norris Sturdy for making of the Santa Claus suit used in their distribution of gifts Christmas.

Mrs. Nell Scott, wife of the Deputy U. S. Marshal at Seldovia, was a recent visitor to the valley.

Dave Onkka, Tract #61, offers with true northern hospitality, the use of his fine Finnish bath to anyone caring to drop down on Saturday afternoons or evenings.

LeRoy Hamann of #108 has just received a particularly vicious blast against the colony which appeared in the Eau Claire, Wis., Leader. An indication that the writer, who signs himself Mondovi Reader, is like many others who knock without knowledge of their subject, is contained in the declaration that one director gets more in salary than the value of "...all the agricultural products grown in the land of icebergs and Eskimos."

## BOB'S TAXI

GETS YOU THERE AND GETS YOU BACK

ANY TIME - HEATED CAR - ANY PLACE

SEE BOB IF YOU'RE IN A HURRY

Office..Koslosky's Recreation Hall

## VALLEY CITY CAFE

CAKES PIES PASTRY & BREAD

BEST IN THE VALLEY - - DAILY

HORTON'S

VALLEY

CITY

CAFE

## THE POWDER HORN

Though the boxes to be known as the Pioneer Powder Horns are not yet up the idea has taken hold and we publish herewith the first communication to come under that head.

In case you have missed the interview referred to, it was one given on the Anchorage Times by Harry Sears in which he had praised the amount of work done by Mr. Walter Pippel of Tract #106. Mr. I. M. Sandvik of Tract #47 answers.

Butte Camp #10  
Dec. 26, 1935

Matanuska Valley Pioneer,  
Palmer, Alaska.

Dear Sir:

I see in the "Anchorage Times" that there is at least one man among us colonists that has solved the problem of clearing timber land. Mr. Pippel not only has 12 acres cleared but 15, also has it plowed and ready for planting.

Out at the Butte a number of us kept asking for a tractor and plow to break with but not until it started to freeze did the Powers that be see fit to do so.

When the two men that were sent out to plow had been plowing (or breaking) three and a half days on my place they came to two small stumps, neither of which were over six inches in diameter and they refused to hook on and pull them, informing me that their boss Mr. Harry Sears had given them orders not to pull stumps.

I didn't want a couple of stumps left with a big piece of unplowed land left in the field so I told them to pull off which they did. I asked them to have Mr. Sears out to see for himself if I was asking something unreasonable of them but neither Mr. Sears or the two plowmen showed up. Consequently I have three or four acres yet unplowed which should have been broke.

I'm quite sure that quite a number of us out at the Butte would welcome a demonstration in land clearing whereby we can clear and plow some of our timber land, at least ten or twelve acres.

Perhaps I have the wrong impression about clearing land.

We have one man out our way that has fifteen or more acres broke up and this ground hasn't been cleared before either. Fact is Mr. Dreghorn thinks he has almost twenty acres plowed. Seems Mr. Sears has forgotten that there are quite a number of colonists on this side of the river too, so we will be looking for him.

Mr. Dreghorn by the way is one of us that used his five dollars recreation money to help get this land into cultivation.

I also in co-operation of  
Wolson, Mr. Ste-

Johan and Mr. Bergan besides other help that I paid for to get my piece plowed.

Yours truly,  
I. M. Sandvik

Another communication out of the 'Horn' is a matter of considerable importance to the families out on the tail end of Camp #2. Mortgage Park, as they call it.

"Why not have regular deliveries for such distant points as that area occupied by the tracts of Ray Wilkes, Al Sexton, Arnold Carson, R. Leander, Johan Johnson and Francis Henry?"

The above would more than welcome a plan whereby a regular weekly delivery would be made with feed and would suggest that the day chosen be Wednesday. It is easy enough to get in for the mail but the hike back with packages is a long one.

Under the present system the trucks probably make more trips than they would if every man knew he had to have his orders in for delivery at a certain time, to say nothing of the convenience to those from "Mortgage Park."

Arvid Johnson, who for over 2½ months was confined to his bed, is now out and about in fine shape. He is even able to get a little work done around the place and says that #169 will soon be caught up with the neighbors.

John Osseward, in charge of the commissary, explains the order that no more clothing can be sold to the corporation employees by pointing out the fact that so much was purchased there at one time that it left him unable to fill the needs of the colony.

Ken Corliss, who had charge of the farm machinery and the feed mill, is just 5 ft. 7½ inches tall, but on December 21, the shortest day in the year, he cast a shadow 63 feet long.

FOR SALE: Phonograph and about 100 records, all in good condition. \$10.00. Come to the PIONEER office and see for yourself.

FOR SALE: Choice building lots, just north of Community Center. East of railroad and south of main Anchorage highway. 50x135 with 60 foot streets and 35 foot alleys.

Three blocks to be surveyed and offered for sale immediately. See Mr. M. D. Snodgrass for details.