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 all 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 666 presents. Shouts and happy laughter filled the roughly housed-in hall.

After the entertainers left to fill their engagements at Skilak 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 hiking 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 strands of larch 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 ten to twenty new buildings.

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.

T HE M A T A N U S K A V A L L E Y COMES INTO ITS O W N IN 1936.

THE "PIO NEER" I SHES Y O U .

Since the writer has just become sole proprietor, publisher and editor of the PIONEER, it is with the least of this liberty that he principally is concerned. He approaches the task of conducting the paper humbly, realizing fully 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 top of the world - a daily newspaper but your newspaper's duty is to collect and disseminate the things of interest that occur thousands of miles away, as well as those events which take place on your very doorstep.

Your newspaper, if it is to be a normal entity in the life of this community, must maintain the highest standards of the press. It must at all times endeavor to give its readers 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 short, it must act strictly in the principles that endowed this great country of ours with the "freedom of the press," and must over scrupulously guard and protect this important constitutional right, given us by the founders of our Republic.

A new year is now at hand and the foremost 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 determining factor in our National and Territorial government, or whether some other political organization which is a much more efficient and economic cure-all for our economic and social ills is to prevail.

It is with this thought in mind that we, as we are of the fact that the Matanuska Valley has now become the voting place of hundreds of new citizens, all of whom will be eligible to vote in the fall elections, that we, ballying it one of the essential functions of a newspaper to present for readers the highlights of both National and Territorial politics, run elsewhere in this issue an article by Howard Lynne, member of the Alaska Legislature.

The project is still news outside. This last issue of the Saturday Evening Post carries the somewhat innumero-iden article by Arthur Stringer which we have awaited since his brief visit here last summer. Arvilla Schlabben, who came up with the second contingent of colonists, lived with them three busy months and carried away a clear-cut mind picture of what it is all about, has a place in this month's issue of the American Magazine.

Anchorage has been a quite remarkable manner just what happens during that first trying period of getting things started. He talks of persons and circumstances with which he is familiar... a bit of novelty after waiting through a lot of this other stuff that has been written by outsiders. And in the Anchorage Press for December 28 is a long article by an Anchorage attorney which minces no words as he takes issue with some of the things said by Representative Zioncheck of Washington State. It expresses a comprehensive viewpoint on the Colony and should be read by everyone interested in the project.

As you will see by page 1, this issue of the PIONEER embraces numbers 19 and 20. Business entered in November has for some reason failed to arrive or been mixed with other freight. We missed out on the issue of the 9th, 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.
HOCKEY TEAM STRUGGLES STUFF

The Palmer hockey team scored a 5 to 2 win over Anchorage organization in a first game Christmas day. The basis was the key-note of the match from start to finish, with the Palmer Pioneers maintaining the gaff well despite the fact that the boys had little opportunity to practice.

Andy Anderson and Elmor Quam -- who stepped into the frames as if the reputation of "Our Old Seniors" 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 hopped in three. Anchorage managed to Whangle in a couple and then, just before the final whistle, Les Wernberg slammed through to score. All the boys worked hard for goals, and Roland Piaso worked just as hard to keep Anchorage Pioneers out of the net.

The Pioneer line-up: Piaso-Garlie; Jack Davidson-I.J.; Robert Barnett-A.M.; Elmor Quam-J.C.; Les Wernberg-R.W.; Andy Anderson-C. Substitutions were made Woody for Davidson; Carllovich for Barnett; Louis Oester for Quam and Franz Widman for Wernberg. James DeCicco did a splendid job of coaching and the miasms of some of his tricks plays was apparent.

Ye Ed., manager of the team, has scored a first rate in the field of Mr. Ardouglass that lies just below Bear'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 Zmes speed. Our Pioneers, Fairbanks, Dawson and White River, either Toronto or the Chicago Black Hawks.

A letter from Helen June, Secretary of the Fairbanks Ice Carnival and Dog Derby Association, suggests that Palmer hold a contest to choose the fairest representative for 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. From the contest 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 district in the Oligonist 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. Higgenbothom would have been elected.

The results of the election:
District No. 1.
Rey Illes..................10
Emil Lash..................4
Arnold Carson..............2
District No. 2.
Jack Lund...................6
Mrs. Noel Miller............6
George Sonnerg.............12
District No. 3.
William Huntley............6
William Bennett.............8
R. Higgenbothom............8
District No. 4.
Lawrence Drachorn..........64
Mrs. I. M. Steinvik.........2
Loran McKeebach.............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 is on hand he will be here until January 4, when he will leave for Anchorage and Seward, returning about the 23rd.

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

HOT WAVE AT 53 BELOW SOON FADES

The picture mentions that the "...coldest temperature was not expected to be of long duration."

And here we are enjoying the.tropical weather of Alaska's garden spot. A whole 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 sledge, and Dave Onn's boy hasn't yet had a chance to use the fine pair of skis he made last summer. What interested Ray Wilkes brought with him still stands unused in the barn.

Les Elsworth 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 "ALLIER"

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

Four small glaciers that the men 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, announced that she lost a small gift which she had been entrusted to deliver. It was in a showing 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 Pimbal of Tract 106 received a gift from her mother that bore 5¢.22 in stamps. Ed Coffee, Master of the Mess, 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. Lee Jacobs, wife of the AEHC architect, saved the pont of Mr. Wells, a neighbor, when the roof caught fire.

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

Fire wardens Sulzmans missed out on all the excitement as he was in the camp 10 hour inspecting chimneys.

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

A meeting of the Palmer Pioneers 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 NAIVE IN ACCOUNTING AND DISBURSING DEPTS.

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

The plan, 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 Balock manager Maling is to be seen sailing around the icy corners.

Three potatoes grown by Alex Bolan of the Yeso Lake Experimental Farm won the 100 cash prize offered annually by the Burgess Seed and Plant Co., of Calesburg, Ind.

Agriculturists declare that the award settles for one and all the question of quality as regards Alaskan grown potatoes. For these are grown 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 peddlor's horn. He has the job of distributing all the salmon caught 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 requiring 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.
With the passing of the old year and the advent of the new, the political gang is bound to ring through the Territory, announcing its citizenship that the civic 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 the campaign 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 comic box. Somewhat as usual, are relying upon the good old handshaker, the horning 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.

Mrs. E. M. Johnson, of Fairbanks, Mrs. W. C. Foy, of Nome, Mrs. H. L. Underwood, of Wasilla, Mrs. A. J. Keenan, of Sitka, Mrs. W. H. Brown, of Nome, and Mrs. C. A. Fentress, of Anchorage, are the new women of the Territorial legislature.

A seven-and-one-half pound baby boy arrived for the Walter Mangens family at 151 East 38th on the last day of the year. Doctor Albrecht reports both mother and infant doing splendidly.

Sever Jacobson, employed by the Alaska Road Commission at Nome, received a painful burn on his entire back when a throwing 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, shaving 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 Roy Forin, 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 Ray and Grissom, Troct 77, is eating up a little himself.

Mrs. William H. Brown, of Anchorage, was having a 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.

Sad news comes from Henry Bouguian, of Nome, Mrs. Henry, too, is in the hospital back home, but his condition does not seem to improve. Friends here are still pulling for him, however.

Mrs. James Smith, suffering from an undiagnosed ailment, is sharing a room at the hospital with Rachel Kanner in which the social, monetary, and other business dealing of the Sitka Valley inclined.

Three children suffered accidents that were treated at home by Doctor Albrecht. The little daughter of the LeRoy Franum family fell and lacerated her scalp. A child of the East Schlebels had a twisting accident and knocked out a number of teeth. The little son of the George Cusens 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.
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 add up to that the best? era, when, hundreds of news organizations, count political manipulators and, last but not least, millions of dollars will be poured through a golden horn that will blend its harmony with the cacophony of sound that is even now being trumpeted from this battered choiring band.

On the other side of the picture we find the celebrated long-suffering 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 broadcast 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 men'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 ghosts are finding the battle. The war is on. Let's hope that like all good fighters the brakes will be madealom, with no hitting below the belt. Let 'er go!

Edward Lyny.

Results of the recall ballot election by Old Settlers or 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. Schmeiser from #2, and Mr. A. G. Fudge from #3.

A meeting of the newly elected members of the Settlers' and Colonist council 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 top 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 doorknob you won't be so apt to slip and break your neck.
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. "F Ritchie" 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 poler's gift for the Bell 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 end, without being seen by Paul Wilson who sat there reading, he took a twenty-two rifle down from above the bunk of James Wardin, 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 Russell Pakomen have relinquished their rights to Tract #63 and Russell left for his former home in Fremont, Michigan by the last boat. Mrs. Pakomen has expressed her intention of remaining in Palmer.

Mark Ennea, brother of Max out on Tract #49, arrived from the States last week. Joseph Lyers of Williemassort, Jr., who has been working with Mr. Ennea in the Fogut Sound woods, also came up to look the country over.

Mrs. Jim 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 Erin 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 13-A .22 Remington rifle to sell or trade for Kodak or sleeping bag.

Walter Huntley, our new Commissioner from Tract #60, 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 alone 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 Coldwell, was a recent visitor to the valley.

Dave Onkka, Tract #31, offers with true northern hospitality, the use of his fine Finnish bath to anyone coming to drop down on Saturday afternoons or evenings.

LoRoy Hamann of #108 has just received a particularly vicious blast against the colony which appeared in the Eau Claire "Wisconsin Leader". In an editorial 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
CAVES PIES PASTRY & BREAD
BEST IN THE VALLEY - DAILY
HORTON'S
VALLEY CITY CLINE
Though the boxes to be known as the Pioneer Powder Horns are not yet up the idea is 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 to the Anchorage Times by Harry Sears in which he had praised the amount of work done by Mr. Walter Pionel of Tract #100, Mr. E. M. Sandvik of Tract #47 answers.

Butte Camp #10 Dec. 26, 1935


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. Pionel not only has 12 acres cleared but 15, also has it plowed and ready for planting.

Out at the Butte a number of us went asking for a tractor and plow to break with but not until it started to freeze did the owners 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 unbroken land left in the field as 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 nor the plowman showed up. Consequently I have three or four acres yet unbroken which should have been broken.

I'm quite sure that quite a number of us but at the Butte would welcome a demonstration in land clearing whereby we can clear a piece 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. Drogcharn 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. Drogcharn by the way is one of us that used his five dollars recreation money to help get this land into cultivation.

John Osseward, in charge of the machinery, relates the story of a rare article he was able to acquire last week by paying out the cash that so much was purchased there at one time that it left him unable to fill the needs of the colony.

T. M. Osseward, who had charge of the farm machinery and the food mill, is just 5 ft, 71 inches tall, but in December 21, the shortest day in the year, he cast a shadow 63 feet long.

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

FOR SALE: One building lots, just north of Community Center. East of railroad and south of main Anchorage highway. 50 x 125 with 60 foot streets and 35 foot alleys. Three blocks to be surveyed and offered for sale immediately. See Mr. E. M. Sandvik for details.