

# MATANUSKA VALLEY

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## PIONEER

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Vol. I Palmer, Alaska - January 16, 1936 No. 22

LET'S GO! LET'S PUT PALMER ON THE MAP BY ELECTING A BEAUTY QUEEN TO COMPETE AT THE FAIRBANKS ICE CARNIVAL! LET'S SELECT A "MISS PALMER" WHO, IF SHE CAN WIN OVER CONTESTANTS FROM OTHER CITIES, WILL BE KNOWN AS "MISS ALASKA" AND BE THE TERRITORY'S REPRESENTATIVE IN THE NATION-WIDE BEAUTY CONTEST TO BE HELD OUTSIDE NEXT YEAR. COME ON! LET'S GO!

Under the rules of the Fairbanks Ice Carnival Association votes will be sold for one cent apiece. The money so received, after incidental expenses have been deducted, is to defray the expenses of the winner to and from Fairbanks, where she is to arrive in time for the opening date of the carnival, March 6.

While in Fairbanks all contestants will be guests of the Carnival Association.

Selection of "Miss Alaska" will be made the opening night of the Carnival. Judges will be picked from visitors from the States present in Fairbanks, and to ensure fairness, they will not be chosen until just prior to the time of judging.

Contestants will be judged according to beauty of face, figure and personality. The requirements for an entrant are that she be single, a resident of the Territory for at least six months prior to the opening date of the contest - Jan. 15 - and not to have won any former beauty contest.

Votes will be available at all Palmer business houses, and final sale will be conducted at the big dance to be held at the new Community Hall on Saturday, February 8th, the closing date of the contest when, under the supervision of Mr. Irwin, the votes will be counted and the winner announced.

Fill in the blank below and enter your favorite. Bring or mail your nomination ballot to the PIONEER office. Names of nominating parties will be held confidential.

Names of nominees will be posted and votes may be cast for any one listed.

\*\*\*\*\*

NOMINATION BALLOT - MISS PALMER \*

Name.....\*

Age.... Height.....Weight....\*

Address.....Tract.....\*

(Any resident of the valley is \*  
eligible providing they pass the \*  
other qualifications.) \*

Nominated by.....\*

### ALASKA, LAND OF PROMISE!

Every mail brings inquiries as to the chances of getting a foothold in our Territory. Some want farms, want them badly, and show by the tone of their letters that they are no whit discouraged by the adverse reports of returned colonists. Others want to know if there is any work to be had.

Whatever their reason for writing, it is usually quite easy to read between the lines a dissatisfaction with things outside, and an undertone of willingness to gamble with a new frontier.

It is this spirit which built up our west. For years after the great gold rush to California word was carried back across the plains that nothing would grow there except sagebrush and cactus.

Many who were not miners and had intended to farm returned without giving the new country a fair trial; others, those with vision and determination, stuck it out and proved the land fertile.

To many in the States, Alaska is the land of promise that California was in the 50s. Eventually the thin stream of hardy, venture-some Americans who come to seek homes in a new land will widen into a river of immigration and our great northern territory will cease to be a frontier. It will be a land of homes; homes supported by more abundant natural resources than any like area in continental United States.

Though there have been no new cases of small pox the valley is still under quarantine. Dr. Albrecht is wisely taking all precautions against the possibility of an epidemic.

Fortunately, there has been no 'scare' to worry the folks outside who have relatives and friends up here.

Maybe that's because we didn't all get excited and send a 'plane winging to some distant town, or a dog team skimming over frozen mountains for serum or vaccine.

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UPON GOING OFF HALF COCKED

A rumor, unless it be started with the downright vicious intent of misleading others, is usually a matter of someone going off half cocked.

A statement can be carelessly repeated so as to put an entirely different meaning to that intended by the quoted party; or it can be misunderstood and made to contain that which had no part in the author's words.

Palmer is rife with harmful rumors. During the past ten days one has been informed that:

"The FEPA has folded up and there will be no more money with which to complete the project."

"The Supreme Court of the U. S. has been asked to pass upon the constitutionality of establishing permanent homes for some relief clients while others starve."

"This is a war measure, and they don't care what it costs."

"This is an experiment patterned after the Russian Collective Farm System."

"This whole thing is just a matter of redistribution of wealth and it don't make any difference what it costs as it is creating employment and giving everyone a chance to earn a few dollars."

In fact, one could hear almost anything. Some of the dope was imagination rampant; pure fiction. Some of it had foundation in fact but was embellished by the individual viewpoint of those who relayed it.

Here is an illustration of how these things can start. On Wednesday evening, in a conversation with a colonist from the Butte section, we were given to understand that an order had issued from Mr. Sheely's office to the effect that each colonist was to have ten acres cleared by spring or take the consequences.

This was entirely new to us and naturally we were interested. An inquiry disclosed that there had been no such order; that Mr. Sheely had said, in the presence of this man, that he would LIKE to see ten cleared acres on each tract, but that such an order wouldn't be fair because the clearing of ten acres on some tracts would entail no more work than the clearing of two on

other parts of the project.

The false reports made the AP wires, appeared in the Thursday Anchorage Times and was broadcast by J. P. over station KFQP. Because of the obvious unfairness of such a ruling, there is little doubt but what it has bred a feeling of dissatisfaction in the minds of many of the colonists who have heard or read of it.

Here is another instance showing how in the matter of going off half cocked one can create useless worries.

On Tuesday evening J. P. read over the air the following item from the Anchorage Times.

"Approximately two million dollars has been spent on the Matanuska Valley government project since inception a year ago, E. W. Griffin, secretary of Alaska, reported today.

There are now 167 families living in the Matanuska colony, indicating that close to \$12,000 has been expended in Federal aid for each family....."

Despite the fact that there is not one word in this report which states the indebtedness of the individual colonist, there have been a number drop into the office who are fully convinced that they owe the corporation \$12,000.

Two small fires, one at the old hospital which is now being used as a bunk house, and one at the big tent housing the caterpillars, have proven the efficiency of our volunteer fire department, but for the purpose of saving time Father Sulzmann has inaugurated the following signal system, to be sounded on the powerhouse whistle.

1 long	1 short	Com. Center
1 ..	2 ..	W. of R. R. Track
1 ..	3 ..	In the country

The general alarm will be successiv shorts and when the fire is out it will be announced with two long blasts.

If you spot a fire give one extra long ring on the nearest telephone and give location together with number of whistles to be blown to whichever answers, either the fire hall or the powerhouse.

Assemble at R. R. crossing with all fire fighting equipment from your bunkhouse whenever an alarm is sounded.

Palmer isn't the only spot in Alaska that gets a bit of wind now and again.

During a storm at Sitka recently a high wind tolled the bells of the Cathedral for eight hours. It also did considerable damage to property

FORMER CORP EMPLOYEE  
MARRIED AT ANCHORAGE

Miss Rita Revell, former Palmerite and secretary to Eugene Carr, was united in marriage by Reverend Father Sulzman to Morris Wilson (Slim) Moore at the Hotel Parsons in Anchorage on January 19.

Due to an injury sustained when she slipped and fell while working here, the bride, dressed in a pale blue gown with cream lace trim, was married from her wheel chair.

The ceremony was performed at 9 in the evening with Irene Holden as matron of honor and Fred Parsons as best man.

Guests were Mrs. Andy Simons, mother of the bride; Mrs. Agnes Barry; Mrs. Fred Parsons and Walter Brewington.

Mr. Moore is a guide and trapper from the interior and he plans on flying with his bride to Paxon on the Richardson Highway where they will make their home.

Over Mr. Ross L. Sheely's signature, a notice appears announcing that in an effort to cut down unnecessary expense feed deliveries will be made only once a month.

Colonists are asked to order enough at one time to carry them through a thirty day period.

Oscar Kindgren of Tract 170 suggests that a lot of this business of the cows being under the weather is due to taking them from a warm barn out to the pump and loading them up with ice cold water. He carries his water to the barn and has had no trouble with his animals.

John Oden, with two helpers, has just completed manufacture of all the concrete flue tile - almost a mile of it - that will be used for colonist homes. Tests made at the U. of A. show that concrete made from local unwashed gravel has a strength far above standard.

William Cassler from the Butte reports that all chimneys are finished in that area. There are 26 over there and now with the work completed Cassler is released to start building cabinets for the homes. He will open the cabinet shop at his own home.

Mrs. Vida Dillon, beautician, who is established at the Community Center barber shop, announces that she will return from her place of business in Anchorage and be open for appointments here on the 21, 22 and 23.

HANDICRAFT SHOP REPORT  
SHOWS 500 HAVE VISITED

The handicraft or curio shop, founded by Mrs. Lydia Fohn-Hansen of the Extension Division of the University of Alaska, shows a total of \$349 in sales since being taken over by Mrs. Frank Ring on November 11.

The report lists hand woven scarfs made by colonist women as the most popular item, 90 of them being sold. Eight pair of hand made gloves, 20 purses, 8 bill-folds, 1 apron and 35 souvenir coin purses account for the \$265 taken in by women of the colony. Another \$84 worth of Indian made articles were sold for native women.

Five hundred callers had visited the shop up to the beginning of the year.

A. A. (Slim) Johnson of Nenana will replace J. W. Frost as Palmer station agent of the Alaska Railroad. Mr. Frost has been transferred to Curry.

"Slim" is around shaking hands with old friends and getting acquainted with his new surroundings.

There is pride in his eye as he looks over the finest little depot in Alaska, his new home.

STRAYED: A gray mare and a black mare belonging to Scotty Dreghorn and Donald Parks of the Butte section. When last seen they were headed toward Wasilla. Please corral if possible and notify the PIONEER office.

Motor freight service to Anchorage was inaugurated over the week-end when Ernie Kling, manager of the Palmer Motor Service, and Elmer Schakel drove through with a load of Matanuska vegetable and returned with a full cargo of beer - in the truck, we mean.

Manager Kling will maintain a weekly schedule, leaving here on Sunday and returning the next day. If business warrants, he will also make trips during the week.

Rates, said Mr. Kling, will be 30¢ a ton mile, about the same as the railroad, but with a saving of delivery and pick-up charges at either end.

If things seem brighter down at Koslosky's, there's a reason. The new Kohler electric light plant is in operation under the capable direction of Sam Checota. Sammy says there's more juice at Koslosky's than anywhere else in town.

January 16, 1936

Page 4

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

Mr. J. G. Wenzel, who came here late in December to open the new Treasury Accounts office, has left to return to his duties in Juneau, and Mr. John Turner has arrived to carry on the office.

The next boat will bring Mr. Arthur Adams who will relieve Mr. S. D. Putnam of the disbursing office.

Miss Susan Trenth, school teacher who will replace Miss Mary Johnson at Matanuska, has arrived to take over her duties. Reaching the valley was no easy trick for Miss Trenth as she was at Hiddelford when word of her appointment reached her. She had to mush 23 miles to the railroad where she caught a train.

Mrs. Morekrid of Anchorage has accepted the vacancy created when Miss Marie Lyon heeded the beckoning of young Dan Cupid.

Howard Lyng, Senatorial candidate from the 2nd Division, will attend the Territorial Democratic Convention to be held at Seward Jan. 18.

It is understood that Walter Huntley, newly appointed Commissioner of the district, will also attend as a guest of A. A. Shonbeck, Divisional Committeeman.

Arnold Newman, son of an old settler and messenger for the AFRC, is just back from a hunting trip it isn't the good fortune of every 16 year old boy to experience.

As a starter he, his father and another party hiked up the Knik River 20 miles. There they established a base camp. Their first bag was a big bull moose, then they hit out after goats. Running into a band of from 60 to 75 they had no trouble getting their limit of six.

A near accident occurred when a goat shot high up on a slide came tumbling down at a terrific rate and almost caught one of the hunters below.

"Pushing through snow-laden brush and climbing mountain peaks is hard work," said Arnold. "And siwashing out this kind of weather is not exactly like a warm bed at home, but the fun was certainly worth it."

In a letter to Don L. Irwin, Matt Saarela, colonist from Big Fork, Minnesota who left early in the summer, sends New Year Greetings to all his old friends.

"We are out in real sticks," writes Saarela. "We are cutting by piece work for a logging company and Mrs. Saarela is cooking for six of us men folks."

It may be pure altruism that prompted the following letter, but it sounds as though the gentleman might be interested in "The Sulphur Producers of America," if there is such an organization.

Mr. C. E. Rudell, Dear Sir:

After getting your name from the enclosed clipping I am writing you about something you need.

I have found out something the doctors have been trying to find out for the last 40 years & and that is a remedy for common colds.

Put a teaspoon of sulphur in each stocking every morning until you use two pounds. Wear your stockings day and night. This will take from 3 to 4 months and do not overload soon as it takes time as well as quantity. See how many people you can get to do this this winter as I want the whole world to know it.....

Mr. C. E. Crary of Fuston, Texas, who wrote the above goes on to name 14 'diseases' he is certain Mr. Rudell will never contract, including 'bronkitus' and 'new-monia.'

Jack Lund and Paul Jahr left for their former homes in Saint Louis County, Minnesota, and Ores Powell, from the same place, will leave on the next boat.

Last minute news comes that Hank Rossiter, another Saint Louis County man, has declared that he is through with the Matanuska.

George Venne, Jr., of Tract 82, picks up a few extra dollars by whittling attractive little fans from one piece of wood. Tourists are scarce, but George manages to sell a few anyway.

Bert the Bakererrinderson got hold of something stronger than lemon extract the other night and went on a wing-ding...marshal John Herson came along....says Commissioner Huntley: "Thirty days in the Anchorage jail"...the train goes toot toot and Bert waves from the window, grinning from ear to ear. He'd been bidding for it a long time....he'd finally made it.

Vernon Jones of Tract 144 reports that his month old calf has disappeared. It slipped out of barn and wandered off, but there wasn't enough snow to track it.

**Found**

Sourdough Sam says that some of the colonists are returning because they can't stand the mild climate.

Leo Jacobs, the architect, announces that he has a pyrene and a 2½ gallon chemical extinguisher just inside the door of his residence tent for use in case of fire in that area.

Others might follow Mr. Jacobs' lead and leave word of what equipment may be available at their homes with the editor.

Doctor Pollard, ARRC dentist with offices at the new hospital building, sends word that he will in Palmer on the 25rd.

Bill Taylor says that all concrete chimneys at camps 5-6-8 and 9 are installed. His crew is now working along Finger Lake Road and he expects to be completed in about ten days.

Bill also says that our report on the chimney situation at the Butte is all wrong. He says that they are not all in place and that some of the self-designed houses of the colonists are presenting a problem as they are so constructed as to require two chimneys.

FOR SALE: Two room house, 18x22, with 3 thicknesses of lumber and 2 of paper on the walls. Composition roof. Six windows. Two stoves, table, chairs, cabinet, writing desk.

The house has recently had a \$75 paint job and has double floor with 3 inch tongue and groove top.

There is also a woodshed with some wood and a couple tons of coal. Three years old and on skids for moving by tractor. The whole works for \$650.00. Inquire at the PIONEER office.

Don't forget! The editor is in the real estate business. A couple of nice building locations and a couple of farms now for sale.

Leave your listings or wants at the office, or with Allman whenever you catch him.

FOR SALE: A Silvertone phonograph with between 30 and 40 records. Good condition. Ten dollars.

Pair of 12x50 inch tub snowshoes. Complete with harness \$12

About a hundred Victor and Newhouse steel traps. Sizes 1-1½ and 2. Seven dollars for the bunch.

PIONEER OFFICE

Sheepskin lined coat with big fur collar. Cheap. Beymer-barber.

HOSPITAL NOTES

A bouncing 8½ pound baby boy was born to Mrs. Kenneth Klineprier of Tract #158 at the hospital Thursday. Doc Albrecht is getting all swelled up about his boy record after all the kidding he took about girls earlier in the camp.

Pretty nearly everyone in the Albert Fredericks family of Tract #157 have been under doctor's care for sore throat and bronchial conditions. Nothing real serious, fortunately. All home treatment.

'Tykic' Griese is still gaining weight, slowly, but surely.

Severn Jacobson, whose burned back took on some serious complications, is now doing splendidly.

Bob Rock is still on crutches.

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