

MATANUSKA VALLEY

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PIONEER

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Vol. I

Palmer, Alaska - January 30, 1936

No. 24

LARGE CROWD ASSURED FOR DEDICATION DANCE

Indications are that Palmer will see the largest crowd in its history when the new Community Hall is dedicated and the Palmer "Beauty Queen" introduced Saturday, February 8.

Word comes that Anchorage will have a large delegation aboard the excursion train leaving there at 7 that evening, and it is expected most of the valley will be in for the big event.

Hank Colisch, under instructions from Mr. Cheely, is getting the big hall completed in a hurry. The attractive ceiling of molding-stripped celotex is in place and as soon as the scaffolding is down Hank puts his crew on the floor laying. He promises to have the whole thing finished in plenty of time for the big affair.

Transportation is again the main problem and the Chamber of Commerce, after studying the problem from all angles, has decided that complete coverage of the valley runs into too much money and that a small charge will have to be made.

It was decided that 20¢ would be the round trip fare for adults, and 10¢ for children under fourteen, and that it be paid to the driver at the time of entering the bus.

So that no time will be lost, it is requested that those living along the routes have a light conspicuous sign displayed outside the house so the drivers will know where to stop.

A bus will leave Wasilla at 7:30 and make the first pick-up of passengers at the Ray Wilkes place. He will continue past Camp 2 and come by way of Matanuska. Those who wish to get on the first bus will have to wait for the second trip or other vehicle.

Another bus leaves Camp 7 at 7:00 o'clock and comes to Palmer by way of the Werner cut-off. A second trip will be made if necessary.

George Lemmon will leave his place at 7:30, run east to the camp road and then north and in on the Finger road. This bus will run back past the Shonbeck and Bouwens places, turn west at the John Lake corner, and run out across the track and back in.

Other trips will be made by truck or taxi, taking in Camps 6 and 1. All will be able to get in.

A truck or car will be at Jack Hermon's place at 8 o'clock, make the road in to Wm. Smith's and back out the same way.

Some families are going to have to walk a short distance to catch their rides, but it can't be helped. It would be impossible to run in and out of the individual roads.

Try and work out schedules among your various groups so that you can gather at a neighbor's house along the main routes. Every effort will be made to pick up all who wish to come, but it is a big job and will demand cooperation of the colonists and old settlers.

Don't miss this dance, folks. Make an effort to be there and enjoy a real dance with music by the famed Anchorage Serenaders.

Meet the Palmer entry for the big Beauty Queen contest to be held at the Fairbanks Ice Carnival.

PALMER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FORMED AND FUNCTIONING

A Chamber of Commerce with almost a 100% membership of local merchants, business and professional men was formed this week with Edward Coffey as President; Luther Weeda, Vice President; Jan Koslosky, Treasurer and Jack Allman as Secretary.

The purpose of the Chamber will be to promote the welfare of the community, to develop the Matanuska Valley's natural and industrial resources and to coordinate and unify the efforts of Palmer merchants, Professional men, Business men in commercial pursuits, old settlers of the valley and the colony group as well as other activities of general interest.

Fire control of the community, an agricultural fair association and sponsorship of the contest to select a Miss Palmer are among the issues already taken up by the organization.

NEW POST OFFICE ABOUT READY

Palmer's new post office will be ready to handle the February 10th mail from its new quarters.

January 30, 1936

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THE MATANUSKA VALLEY PIONEER
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Jack Allman, Editor - Publisher

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elsewhere. Advertising rates fur-
nished on request.
Weekly PIONEERS for sale at Bert's
Drug Store, Anchorage.

Because this is a "political year" and because we circulate, to a greater degree than any other paper, the largest single group of new voters to arrive in Alaska in recent years, we have been repeatedly asked just what our political stand would be.

We thought we had made that clear in our January 2 issue when we said in part that we: "...must not be partisan in our editorials."

By that we did not mean that we have no politics. We have. It was intended to mean that we are not out to make a 'hurrah' party paper of the PIONEER.

We do not consider it partisan to be - as all Alaskans should - grateful to the first administration in 20 years which has recognized the value of our natural resources and made an effort to afford those without wealth an opportunity to profit by developing them.

We do not consider it partisan to lend our support to a bill that will take special privileges from the big companies which have been exploiting these resources. Were these Republican acts we would have nothing but words of praise for them.

Delegate Anthony Dimond's bill to abolish fish traps is a measure too important to Alaska to even bear the semblance of a political issue. Our former Delegate to Congress, Dan Sutherland, (Rep) deems it so, and has testified before the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries in support of the Dimond bill.

We are not hunting for political arguments, but so the readers of the PIONEER may have both sides of any question we agree to publish any communication coming to our desk under the heading of 'Letters to the Editor.' Such articles must of necessity be short and bear the writer's name. We, of course, reserve the right of censorship.

As for our own editorials, whatever appears under the masthead of the PIONEER, as long as we are running it, will be the expression of the editor and not dictation from any political machine, the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation or anyone else.

Our views are our own...and they are the honest views of one who has, first of all, the best interests of Alaska at heart.

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WINTER WILLOWS HERE
55 BELOW IN THE STATES

G. B. Scarlett, father of Mrs. Gilford Lemmon of Tract 128, is from International Falls, Minnesota, and the day JP announced over the radio that it was 55 degrees below zero out there he mailed home some pussy willows he picked near the home of his daughter.

It's been so darn mild here we have paid but little attention to the thermometer, but we did see 42 above all one day last week and haven't noticed anything colder than twenty above.

And won't this be a tough year to try and guess when the ice will move at Nenana? Weather all over Alaska has been running off form.

Your chance to bet you can call the day, hour and minute will be here very shortly for the Ice Pool tickets will soon be making their appearance. Charles Shade, popular sourdough mail driver, has been elected manager and now all that remains is for some lucky person to hit her on the nose.

Last year the net win was \$62,000 and was hauled down by a cheechako who worked in a Fairbanks drug store.

And don't forget the Dog Derby Sweepstakes! Even \$2,000 is worth winning and the tickets are only 25¢ apiece. Drop in at the PIONEER office and take a few chances. Ten per cent. of what you spend goes for our Palmer Beauty Queen.

If you don't win first you may get in on some of the rest of the cash prizes. Second pays \$1,000, third \$500, Starters and non Starters are \$250 and there are 25 more prizes of \$10 each.

Come in...buy a ticket...maybe you're lucky.

If that delegation of colonists who called on us the other day ever come back to me with their proposition we're going to get a load off our chest.

Seems they had something to propose to the editor, but before it was put directly up to us they got to jangling among themselves as to whether it was two or three rows of perforations they wanted across each sheet of the PIONEER. There were a lot of unkind expressions about the kind of paper we use, too.

Just let 'em come back and sound off. We'll tell 'em.

Believe it or not, the PIONEER is a newspaper, and it isn't trying to compete with the catalog departments of Montgomery Ward or Sears and Roebuck.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Arthur Adams, formerly of the Road Commission office in Juneau, has arrived to take over the work of the disbursing office, filling the vacancy left by the departure of S. D. Putnam last week.

Miss Peggie Johnson who was employed through the summer by the PWA office at Nome, and more recently as a secretary at the Territorial Democratic Convention at Seward, has arrived to augment the staff of the General Office.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. "Bill" Williams are leaving for San Francisco on the boat leaving Seward the 9th.

Bill, who has spent the summer and fall with the warehouse crew, is making the trip for the purpose of purchasing equipment for further prospecting and development of mining property in the Moose Pass country.

Canyon Creek Placers, Inc., in which he is interested, owns two miles of drag-line ground that looks like real pay dirt. It joins the ground upon which the Cache Creek dredge is at present being assembled.

Bill expects to arrive on the property in May and says: "Then we'll tear her wide open."

Four colonist families have signed up to return by the Saturday boat train. They are the Hilmar Olsons, the Robert Ushers, the Paul Walports and the John Kalliosaaris.

HOSPITAL NOTES

John Pfeiff of Tract 76 suffered a painful accident when he broke through thin ice about fifteen miles above the Knik River bridge.

Pfeiff, Joe Dragseth and Oscar Chaney were on their way up to take a look at the glacier when they came to a place where sand and gravel had been blown over a thin shell of ice. It was through this that Pfeiff broke, throwing him to the side and wrenching his right knee so severely that it swelled to twice its normal size in a few minutes.

After carrying him about a mile the boys decided it would be quicker to come in for help. Chaney made a camp and stayed with the injured man while Dragseth mushed in.

A light truck, under the direction of Emil LaWalter who has a trapping cabin up the Knik, managed to make it over ice and frozen bars to within about four miles of

the camp. Mr. Pfeiff was carried out on a stretcher and is now at the hospital with a bad looking leg that will keep him off his feet for a while.

A baby girl weighing 9½ pounds was born to Mrs. John Church at their home on Tract #26 last Monday.

James Herdman had his back badly wrenched when scaffolding in the community hall came down on him. He is under treatment at the hospital.

Albert Fredericks of Tract 157 and Lloyd Milton, a homesteader, are both recovering from minor operations performed by Dr. Albrecht.

Mrs. Harold Boice of Tract #1 suffered from excessive bleeding of the gums after having all her teeth removed, but after a night at the hospital was able to return to her home.

Mrs. Leonard Harried has just received word from Mrs. Roughan that Hank came home from the hospital to spend Christmas and refused to return. His doctor has promised to have him on his feet in a couple of months. Good news!

Senator J. R. Campbell, better known among his political confreres as "The Great Objector," uses the unfortunate circumstance that it was a man from Palmer who first came down with small pox to 'break out in a rash' himself and condemn us for lack of proper sanitation.

We are wondering just what Senator Campbell knows about conditions up here. He hasn't visited the valley since early last summer.

FOR SALE: Silvertone 110 D.C. to A.C., 200 watt radio converter in excellent condition.

SMALL Baby crib, green enameled, with springs and mattress. \$3.50
Tract #69 - Milan Spencer.

WANTED: Washing and suit pressing. All work guaranteed. Washing at regular rates - suits sponged and pressed \$2.00. Call and deliver.
Mrs. George Lemmon Tract 78.

Axeman wants work clearing, either by contract or day wages.

DIRTY POOL

We don't mind having items from the PIONEER quoted by newspapers in the the States even if they don't give us a credit notice, but we do seriously object to editors running stories we have written and then adding thoughts of their own in such a manner as to appear a part of the original.

We have in mind particularly, an item regarding the recent change in the administrative set-up here in the ARRC. Our story was copied by the "Farmer's National Weekly," with whom we exchange, and the words 'sole Colonist on the board' written after the name of W. J. Bouwens.

Then, after our story was ended, the editor added his own observations by appending the following paragraph without any indication but what it was a part of the original.

"The composition of the board is a good indication of the way in which the democratic rights of the colonists are disregarded."

The addition of this thought puts an entirely different complexion upon our news item, the inference, supported by that 'sole colonist' line, being that the board of control should have been made up entirely of colonists so that they could protect their "democratic rights."

FOR SALE: A BB air rifle with 1000 shots. King make. \$2.50 - PIONEER.

Personally owned Ward Heatrola, mahogany finish, cathedral top. In very best condition, and can be purchased for \$22.50, but little more than freight charges. See it at Chancey Poore's place, Tract 74.

Why not send the folks a subscription to the PIONEER?

CHURCH NOTICE

Father Sulzman announces the following schedule of services.
Masses: Sunday 9:30 and 11 A.M.
Daily at 7:30 A.M.

A note from Mr. Sheely quotes Anton Anderson as setting the height of Pioneer Peak (apologies to Scotty Dreghorn) as 7,400 feet above sea level within 10 feet of accuracy.

Wanted to buy: Two shoats. Must be over eight weeks old. If you have any to sell leave word at the PIONEER office.

FOR SALE: COW AND HEIFER. BOTH COMING IN FRESH SOON.

WALTER MENCK

INQUIRE AT RANCH - LOOP ROAD ONE MILE NORTH OF FOUR CORNERS.

FOUND: By Joe Sheely, a flashlight at the skating pond in Bugge's oat field. Owner can have same by identifying it at PIONEER office.

A letter from J. R. Roughton of Sedro-Woolley, Washington, asks us to send him the names of five persons to whom he can write for general information regarding the Valley. Apparently, he would like to come up here as a settler.

Would you care to write him? If the situation were reversed you would be glad to have some one send you information about a place in which you were interested.

Harold L. Thuma, old settler and superintendent of schools, threshed 43 bushels of wheat to the acre this year. Not bad!

COLONY COBBLER SHOP

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Joseph Ulert Manager

VALLEY CITY CAFE

CAKES PIES PASTRY AND BREAD

FRESH at DAILY

LORTON'S VALLEY CITY CAFE

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REASONABLE, RELIABLE & RESPONSIBLE

WE GO

WHEREVER THERE'S A ROAD & A LOAD

WEEKLY TRIPS TO AND FROM ANCHORAGE
AGENTS FOR
NEW METHOD CLEANERS 5 DAY SERVICE

ALSO AGENTS FOR

STAR AIRWAYS

LARGEST FLEET OF PLANES IN ALASKA

N. KLING

Manager

The Legionnaires turned out in force Tuesday night when a snappy meeting was followed by a supper at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Bingle.

Sandwiches, pies, cakes and salads were furnished by wives of the post members, and after eating all sang old favorites with Mrs. Lawrence Morrison at the piano.

There's nothing like the promise of a feed to bring the boys out.

Pursuant to a resolution introduced by Mr. C. C. Brix and adopted by the council a committee of five are now busy drafting a constitution, by-laws and articles of incorporation with the view of forming a Co-operative Association for the purpose of entering into any lawful mercantile, manufacturing, agricultural or other industrial pursuit.

Another point of interest to all colonists was brought up by Mr. Lawrence Dreghorn when he introduced the question of co-operative sheep raising.

Though nothing definite was arrived at in the way of plans, it was proposed that each colonist who was interested might purchase a few sheep which could cheaply herded on open range by one employee.

Vandals who destroy telephone communication are not confined to the Butte section alone. Last week someone shot out the Camp 10 line; this week some senseless fool cut the Camp 8 line with rifle bullets.

In view of Pledge Brown's late ravings about the Matanuska Valley, of which he knows nothing, the answer we received from the Ketchikan Chronicle when we took issue with Brown last fall might be interesting.

Brown claimed to be a member of the Chronicle staff on leave, but the editor says that he has never

FOR SALE: TWO ROOM HOUSE, 18x22, WITH 3 THICKNESSES OF LUMBER AND 2 OF PAPER ON THE WALLS. COMPOSITION ROOFING. SIX WINDOWS. TWO STOVES, TABLE, CHAIRS, CABINET, WRITING DESK.

THE HOUSE HAS BEEN RECENTLY PAINTED WITH A \$75 JOB. HAS A 3" TONGUE AND GROOVE FINISH FLOOR.

THERE IS ALSO A WOODSHED WITH WOOD AND 1½ TONS COAL. ALL THREE YEARS OLD AND SET ON SKIDS FOR MOVING BY TRACTOR.

A REAL BARGAIN AT \$650.
INQUIRE AT PIONEER OFFICE.

hung his hat up in their office.

He also states that Brown was in Ketchikan but a short time, and he understood that some of that was spent in the local hoosgow... that Brown was embarrassing them by claiming a connection... that it burned them up to be receiving duns for hotel bills he was incurring in the East... and that while they disclaim any association with his work they certainly would like to MEET the gentleman.

Both boys and girls teams from Anchorage are scheduled to play a return basket-ball match with the Wasilla teams at the valley town next Friday, February 7th.

Music will be a feature of the evening and will be furnished by Heinie Snider's Juvenile band heard recently over KFCD.

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HAIRCUT 50¢ SHAVES 25¢

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HERE'S SOMETHIN' ELSE

SOMETHIN' YOUSE BIRDS HAVE BIN

WANTIN' FER A LONG, LONG TIME....

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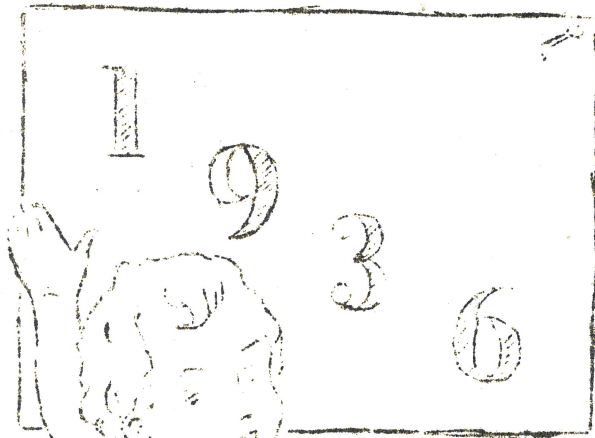
K O S T A - L O T S K Y ' S

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SCORE"

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AND WISHES YOU A

PROSPEROUS

NEW YEAR