CLOSE RACE PROMISED IN
BEAUTY QUEEN CONTEST

Voting at the various business
houses has been quite active since
nomination voting was closed on
Sunday and the five ranking highest
at that time entered into the final.

The race has simmered down to the
following girls whose names appear
in the order of their standings:
Virginia Big, Beatrice Mulally,
Margaret Clay, June Howard and
Betty Fox.

Many groups have formed to cast
their votes for one candidate and
rivalry is keen.

ANCHORAGE LIKES LAVISH
SPORTS TOURNAMENT PLANS

With a whole train of Fairbanks
sports enthusiasts scheduled for
a visit; with teams and delegations of
boosters from Palmer and Seward
planning to attend, the entertain-
ment committee of the Anchorage
Sports Tournament organization have
gone 'first class' in their plans
to entertain.

Visitors will find every moment
filled while in the hospitable
town. Days will be filled with a
variety of open air sports events
and the evenings with dances and
such games as basketball.

PIONEER HOOFER TAKES
WIPING INTO SHAPE

"Andy" Anderson, captain and
speedy center of the Palmer Pioneers,
has been demanding hundred per cent
attendance at hockey practice each
evening at the pond in Dugan's field.

The Pioneers suffered a set-back
when Roland Pasco injured his leg,
but Lee Kernberg is showing up well
in the difficult goalie position.

Special stamps depicting Alaskan
scenes is a worthy idea we have been
hearing a lot about recently. With
the Territory using about 9 million
stamps a year the publicity value of
such a move is quite apparent. We
are not certain whose idea this is
but it sounds a lot like Editor
Earle Knight of the Alaska Weekly.

COLONEL OFLSON TELLS 'EM
JUST WHAT'S WHAT UP HERE

Colonel O. F. Olson, convincing
salesman of everything Alaskan, and
president of the AFRG, gave Seattle
newshawks some really first hand
information about the Territory in
general and the Matanuska Valley
in particular.

Of our colony here the Colonel
said:
"They're getting along fine, but
there was a lot of propaganda
against the project -- political
propaganda.

Unforeseen circumstances re-
tarded its progress. A steamship
with road equipment was lost and
road construction slowed up. A mill
strike in the States retarded de-
ivery of construction materials for
dwelling houses. But they were all
up before winter set in. There can
be no question about the success of
the project.

"There is an ample market for
the produce. There are 1000 people
employed on the railroad alone dur-
ing the summer. There's a miners'
market, too. A great new mining
market has opened up to the west-
ward because of the increased price
of gold, and old properties can be
operated at a profit again."

Colonel Olson is in the States
arranging for the routing of the
hordes of tourists that will be
coming north this next season.

He has expressed the belief that
the appropriation for the hotels
and cabins to be erected at McKin-
ley National Park would be forth-
coming soon.

ROSSITER AND POWELL
SILENT ABOUT PROJECT

Hank Rossiter and Greg Powell,
colonists now on their way back
to their former homes, had little
to say to newspaper men when they
bottled stopped at Juneau.
"I don't care for conditions
there," said Hank, but refused to
amplify his statement. He did
say, however: "I didn't see any-
thing wrong with the colony," and
added, "And I have nothing to say
that I would want quoted."

"Powell had nothing to say."
Saturday in front of the Trading Post nine men will draw by lot for tracts left vacant by returning colonists.

Some of these men have lived in the valley since long before the AKC was ever dreamed of; some have worked as employees on the project.

All of them have had a splendid opportunity to study the set-up from all angles. They have heard the disgruntled rumblings of the dissatisfied and have heard the expressions of confidence by those who intend giving the deal a fair trial.

They have seen families return to the States with the lame excuse that the majority of the people were not the class they had been promised as future neighbors and they have heard colonists say that they could not be driven from the country with a gun.

Having heard both sides and seen all angles of the set-up as it now stands these men are not only willing to assume the debt for the house and for work done on the tracts they will draw, but each and every one considers himself lucky to be offered the opportunity.

What better answer to the howls of those who felt their return to the States had to be justified by adverse reports!

What better argument to meet the long distance criticism exasperated by those who have never been in the valley and know nothing of its potentialities.

Gee, but it's great to meet a friend from your old home town.

Someone once wrote a song on that theme. Whoever it was must have known the thrill that comes with meeting a pal after years of separation. It is a thrill, you know, and we have had many since establishing ourselves here.

All this is brought to mind by Feinie Snider, effervescent Hollandcr, soldier, seaman, studious vagabond, and more recently successful mink farmer of Basina who walked into the office the other day.

The last time we had seen Feinie was 61 years ago. We were prospecting on a sunny hillslice 8 miles above timberline in the Chisana district when Charley Schnell came along and told us that all Europe was at war. This was about a month or six weeks after the big show had started. Charley, a German, figured it would be all over by that time, but he got an argument out of Feinie who even then was carrying a couple of bullet scars from South African fighting. Feinie said it would last four years.

Feinie, by the way, has written a book on mink raising; a complete, thorough and comprehensive treatise on the care, feeding, breeding, showing and marketing of the little animals. Anyone here owning mink will enjoy the copy we have in the office.

Charley Duddell had some tough luck with his trio of mink. They froze to death.

Tom Snyder of Tract #50 now has the pair left by Hank Rossiter.

Howard Lyng, member of the Territorial Legislature, has resigned as Assistant General Manager of the AKC.

Mr. Lyng, whose resignation is effective February 15, will leave for his home at Nome where he will be in closer touch with the local political situation. Mr. Lyng has filed his candidacy for the Senate on the Democratic ticket.

Mr. M. D. Snodgrass has filed for the Senate and Mr. John Bussey for the House. Both are from Palmer and both on the Republican ticket.

A letter from "Stew" Campbell states that he is again associated with Eugene Carr on the Cherry Lakes farm project in Madison, Florida. Givens is in New Orleans, Sullivan is on a WPA job near Washington and Rex Atwood has his old job back again.

From another source we hear the Lt. H. V. Martin is stationed down in the Virgin Islands where Panama Canal fortifications are being installed.

LOST: A big reddish dog, part collie mix. Answers to the name of "Red" and is wearing a new collar.

LOST: Gus Roscheke's horse, a dark chestnut has wandered off. Please notify Gus at Tract 154 or leave word at the PIONEER office.

WY BOTHER WRITING - PIONEERS 5¢
NEW POST OFFICE OPEN

Palmer's new post office will be open to handle the next mail through from the States. Applications for boxes are now being taken by Mr. Felton and soon the long line before the window will be a thing of the past.

Though the building was first erected as the community bakery shop it is readily adaptable to the new use and will be a great improvement over the inadequate facilities with which Mr. Felton has had to contend since the sudden increase of population in the valley.

In a delayed letter to Ray Wilkes the Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota asks that his personal season’s greetings be extended to the colony.

Bill Hyneck of #91 reports the first attack upon stock by a predatory animal. Because there was not enough snow to get a good study of the tracks there is some doubt as to what it was that had the nerve to jump into the big pen and rip his neck across the back. Sounds like a wolverine, but none have been seen around the place.

Walt Menginan, who got slammed right in the middle by one of Clarence Green’s horses, is out of the hospital and drooped in to say that he felt able to again start snacking out logs. This, he said, would give him a swell chance to get even with that horse.

Clair Patten of #43 had the misfortune to lose his cow just four days after he had freshened. Death was due to injury during calving.

LOST: Black bitch, 5 months old, three white paws and white on chest. Answers to the name of Goofo. Please notify Eino Virtanen Tract 143 or PIONEER office.

ALSO: Big red dog showing some Valomax strain. Is wearing new collar and answers to name of “Red.” Notify Pete Wick at L-1 Punkhouse or leave word at PIONEER office.

HOSPITAL NOTES

If you see George Conners of Tract #135 hiking night and morning toward the hospital don’t forget it’s because he’s the proud daddy of a fine big 7 pound and 11 ounce baby girl, born to Mrs. George on the 31st and already named Patricia Fae.

Another proud father is John Bixler, coach at the Wasilla school. Little Miss Bixler weighed 8 pounds and 2 ounces when born on February 2nd. After hearing the nurses remark of her infant beauty Daddy Bixler was right over here at the office trying to enter her in the “Miss Palmer” contest.

John Pfieff has had his infected knee opened and drained and is getting along as well as can be expected.

John Nordman whose back was badly wrecked in an accident at the tumbling of a scaffold timber in the Community Hall is doing well.

"Tykie" C riots is getting to be a great big fellow...growing every day...and gets a big kick out of being whooped around in a wheelchair. Shorts a lot of cow clothes his mother made, too.

Cast Schiebel is open for advice on how to dry up his fine Holstein cow. She’s due to come fresh March 20th, but still insists upon giving 8 quarts to the milking. Must be something wrong with our native feed up here.

In the District #1 election for a councilman to fill the vacancy created when Jack Lund ‘called the pin,’ there were a total of 74 votes cast out of the 100 eligible. This is a far better record than previous elections.

August Ruschke of #164 received the highest number, 28; Victor Nelson next with 26; others voting were George Conners 14; Lawrence Purisson and Virgil Eckert 4 apiece, and Clarence Johnin 2.

The Women’s Club held a meeting at the Gift Shop on Wednesday afternoon. In view of the Women’s Club which shows a fine spirit of cooperation is their offer to make all the curtains for our fine new hospital. The material to be used is white scrim. 

VALLEY CITY CAFE

CAKES PIES PAstry AND BREAD
FRESH DAILY
Cigarettes CANDY TOBACCO
Horton’s VALLEY CITY CAFE

X
The following article is the first of a number that will be prepared by Dr. M.J. Lechner, Superintendent of the Matanuska Experimental Station, and appear in the pages of the Pioneer.

THIS SOIL OF OURS

In 1914 the Bureau of Soils of the U.S. Department of Agriculture made an Alaskan soil survey which included the Cook Inlet-Susitna-Matanuska Region.

As in any other region we find here more than one type of soil. Our best soil is designated as Knik loam, of which there are 1300 square miles in the region surveyed. This is equal to about 3/4 of the area of Delaware, and this is the soil upon which practically all farms in the Matanuska Valley are located. The Alaskan Survey reports rate Knik Loam with the best soils found in the U.S.

Physically this soil is about 60% silt, 28% fine and very fine sand, and only 12% clay. The small remainder being coarse material. Knik Loam has excellent qualities. (1) it holds moisture well for most satisfactory crop growth, (2) particularly, the silt and clay are rich in mineral food for plants. (3) The soil does not puddle or bake. (4) It warms up quickly and (5) has excellent drainage, especially with clay subsoil.

Along with these good qualities we have what might be called one weakness. This soil becomes difficult to work if it becomes too dry. Another point is that the humus and nitrogen go quickly with careless farming, but these are easily built up by the careful farmer.

A word about the soil minerals. The U.S. Soil report shows 2.36% lime in the soil and subsoil - a high lime content. However, for some reason, at least a portion of the Knik Loam responds to lime. Apparently the lime is not in a readily available form. If this is true we should be able to hit upon some way to make it so. Based upon the analysis given in the soil report each acre of soil contains some over 5,000 phosphates, and over 50,000 pounds of potash. The mineral requirements of most crops is not very high. Even the phosphate supply is sufficient to last a good many years of usual cropping, provided, of course, this phosphate is all available for plant use. To know that it isn't all available, and neither is all the potash.

Nature has a way of locking up plant foods for a time, and even for "keeps." Proper soil management and the use of fertilizer supplements, particularly on the older lands, will do much to give our crops the minerals needed for proper production.

In conclusion, we may add that our low rainfall with its distribution, and the winter freezing, are very important factors in holding down wastes in fertility so common in many places where the rainfall is high and the winter weather mild.

H.J. Lechner, Superint.,
Experiment Station.

FOAMITE SOUP IS BRAND NEW VALLEY CITY CAFE DISH

Fire, due to an overheated oil, broke out in the roof of the Valley City Cafe the other day just when Ralph Horton had his big dinner on the range.

The volunteer fire department again proved its efficiency by smothering the blaze before any damage was done to the building. But you should have seen the diner! With our new forty gallon "Foamite" tank doing its stuff the kitchen range soon took on the appearance of a foam smothered headland of the Aleuts with a norther trampling down across Bering Sea.

Elmer Vaugh was the only casualty. He thought he could walk on a melotex ceiling. "Following Bill" Taylor strained both ankles. He was running to the fire with an extinguisher when someone rang the dinner gong for an alarm. Bill thought it was the regular call to grub and slammed both brakes before he saw his mistake.

How about sending a subscription for the Pioneer to cut to the folks? They want to know what's going on up here, and returns from the outside state that almost everyone back home is asking for old copies.

PALMER MOTOR SERVICE
REASONABLE, RELIABLE, RESPONSIBLE
WE GO "HEREWHERE THERE'S A ROAD & A LOAD" AGENTS FOR
NEW METHOD CLEANERS 5 DAY SERVICE
ALSO AGENTS FOR STAR AIRWAYS
LARGEST FLEET OF PLANES IN ALASKA
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MANAGER