

MATANUSKA VALLEY

61° 30' N. Lat.
149° 15' W. Long.

PIONEER

BUY
"MATANUSKA MAID"
PRODUCTS

Vol. I

Palmer, Alaska - February 13, 1936

No. 26

FIRST COLONIST WEDDING IS CULMINATION OF A REAL ROMANCE

Dan Cupid scored again in the Valley at 9 P.M. Friday, February 7th, when the Rev. B. J. Bingle united Betty Hermon, of the Plymouth, Wisconsin Hermons, and Matt Onkka, whose family hails from Bruce Crossing, Michigan, in the bonds of matrimony at the home of the groom.

Our Betty left the ranks of the contestants in the Beauty Queen race just prior to its conclusion, being her own judge in attaining the prize of a husband.

The ceremony was held in the living room of the home which was attractively decorated for the occasion.

The bride was presented to her future spouse by her father, Jack Hermon, Chief of the Colonial Police. Matt was attended by Fred Hermon, brother of the bride. Betty's attendant was Dorothy Onkka.

The two young ladies presented a lovely appearance, the bride gowned in all green and the bridesmaid in peacock blue.

Following the ceremony many friends of the young couple joined them at the table where they presided for the first time as host and hostess.

During the dinner an announcement about the newlyweds was heard from Radio Station KFQD, Anchorage, and a musical selection was played, dedicated to the new Mr. and Mrs. Onkka. Later the guests enjoyed dancing to music provided by the new Colonial Orchestra.

Among the guests present were Ross L. Sheely, Mr. and Mrs. Don Irwin and Inabelle, Rev. Merrill Sulzman, Bill Taylor, the Gust Schiebels, George Lemmons, the Lakes and Laakkos, the Vasenojas and ye Ed.

Congratulations, Betty and Matt.

Another of Cupid's darts landed in Palmer when Martha Ervin, daughter of Mrs. and Mr. Winfield Ervin of Anchorage was married to Fred Rutledge on Monday evening, Feb. 11th, by Judge Huntley.

Martha was formerly employed at the Valley City Cafe and Fred at

Sally's Shoppe.

The wedding came as a surprise to their host of friends, many of whom joined them at an informal reception at the Valley City after the ceremony held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Smith.

And there are those who say there was still another wedding here over the last week-end. It has been rumored, broadcast and written up in the paper, but we don't know anything about it up here. So what?

HAIL! THE QUEEN!
LONG LIVE THE QUEEN!

With truly regal bearing, Miss Virginia Berg, winner of our Beauty Queen contest, accepted the crown of "Miss Palmer" at the big dance opening our new Community Hall Saturday evening.

It wasn't until the very last minute that the judges were able to announce the winner as it was a very close race between Virginia and Miss Beatrice McNally. Early in the evening Bee was in the lead, but the final tally as reported by judges Howard Lyng and Doctor Albrecht gives Virginia 8444 and Bee 7859 votes.

When Mr. Sheely placed the crown on the blonde head of Palmer's choice and she so graciously acknowledged the honor there were few in the hall but felt that Virginia has splendid chances of winning the title of "Miss Alaska" when she competes at the Fairbanks Ice Carnival in March.

Virginia, willowy in an ankle length gown of black panne velvet was strikingly beautiful as she accepted the congratulations of the crowd. It was Vivian Stoddard who broke the routine felicitations by wishing her a happy birthday as well as success at Fairbanks. Hardly anyone in the hall knew that Virginia had been nineteen years old for just fifteen minutes when the crown was placed on her head.

Virginia, Alaskan born, is 5 feet 7½ inches tall and weighs 130 pounds. Good luck, gal!

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WELCOME NEW COLONISTS

The Matanuska Colonization Pro-
ject has without doubt benefitted
by the enthusiastic spirit of the
new colonist members it has just ac-
quired.

Elsewhere in this issue is an ac-
count of the drawing of tracts by 9
men who will fill the vacancies cre-
ated by the return of former colon-
ists.

It is to these men that we wish
to extend a hearty welcome.

We still think as we did in last
week's editorial that these men are
disproving, in a most effective man-
ner, all the unjust claims that have
been made against the project and
its management; against the valley
and its agricultural possibilities.

C.H. Perrine, who has farmed in
the valley on rented ground, and
who has observed every phase of the
development of the project, told us
today that it was the best break he
had ever had. Others said, in ef-
fect, the same thing.

WORK, NOT GLORY

We've been rocked! We've been
hornswoggled! We've been made the
innocent victim of false representa-
tion!

One doesn't expect to be taken in
by a gentleman of the cloth, but
that is just what happened to us.
We feel we have a howl coming - and
here it is.

The Reverend Father Sulzman,
chief of our local volunteer fire
department and who fights fires
both here and hereafter, dropped
into the office not long ago wear-
ing his most benign smile. He told
us of all the new equipment that
had just arrived and with all the
suavity of an insurance salesman he
sold us the idea of becoming Assis-
tant Chief.

He appealed to our civic spirit.
He promised us fame and glory. He
even promised us a little red hat
-- said he'd write to Ed Wynn for
one.

With rosy visions of heroically
rescuing fair damsels from burning
buildings, we fell for the idea.

Then what happened!

Fires! Lots of them. The dorm-

itory...Bill Taylor's tent...the
gasoline rack at the garage...the
caterpillar tent...the Valley City
Cafe. And we rushed madly to each
one.

For what? Fair damsels...fame...
glory? Not a bit of it. And after
the fires are out.....

Where's the fame in working half
the night filling extinguishers?

Where's the glory in getting
your pants burned off with splash-
ing acid?

Again we say we've been taken
in. We'll never believe another
preacher.

AUXILIARY OFFICERS ELECTED

The Auxiliary of the Matanuska
Valley Post #15 of the American
Legion held their regular meeting
on Wednesday afternoon, February
12th at the home of Rev. and Mrs.
Bingle.

Twelve members were present and
a full complement of officers was
elected, after which steps were
taken toward the securing of a
charter.

Officers are as follows:

Pres. Mrs. Grace Anderson
1st V.P. Mrs. Beatrice Huntley
2nd V.P. Mrs. Margaret Mangold
Secretary Mrs. Margaret Miller
Treasurer Mrs. Lila Ennes
Captain Mrs. Ines Huseby
Historian Mrs. Fabel Bingle
Sgt. at Arms Mrs. Sorenson

The next regular meeting will
be held with the Legion on the
25th, 8 P.M., at the home of Rev.
and Mrs. B. J. Bingle.

CO-OP COMMITTEE MEETS

The committee on organization
for the Matanuska Co-operative
Association met Wednesday at Mr.
Irwin's office and passed upon the
articles of incorporation they have
had drawn. Mr. W.D. Snodgrass is
Chairman of the Committee, with
Don Irwin, Ray Wilkes, Lawrence
Dreghorn and C.C. Erix as commit-
teemen.

Last week we stated that Gust
Schiebel couldn't dry up his cow.
Bill Taylor dropped in, like
to tore his cap apart and labor-
iously wheezed:

"Why don't he go see Anton An-
derson? Anton didn't have any
trouble drying up his well."

FOR SALE: A dandy Jiffy Kodak.
Uses films V127, SS127, F 127 or
just plain 127. \$3.50 See Chuck
Moore the PIONEER newsboy.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION OFFICE
TO OPEN HERE IN MARCH

From Fairbanks comes word that there will be an Agricultural Agent and a Home Demonstration Agent assigned to work exclusively here in the valley, devoting their entire time to the interests of farming, home building and boys' and girls' 4-H Club work.

The Agricultural Agent will be the first appointed to that position in the Territory and the Extension Service takes pleasure in announcing that Joe Flakne, who is to hold the post, is a graduate of the University of Alaska.

Miss Ruth Peck of Wisconsin will have charge of the Home Demonstration work, replacing Mrs. Lydia Fohn-Hansen who has resigned from the service.

For five years Mrs. Fohn-Hansen has held that the future of Alaska depends upon happy homes, and when she resigned she simply said that she feels that her own home comes first. "This," said Lorin T. Oldroyd, Director of Extension who replaced Mr. Ross L. Sheely, "leaves us little ground for argument."

Women of the Valley will be sorry to hear that Mrs. Fohn-Hansen will not be back this summer. Last year she rendered invaluable assistance to the colony wives in the matter of advice on proper methods to preserve Alaskan fruit, fish and vegetables, and in the work of showing them how spare time can be turned into cash by home handicrafts.

A meeting for the colonists and old settlers of District #2 is called for Sunday at 1 P.M. at the former Hank Roughan place, Tract 137 where the loop road turns off the Werner Cutoff.

The purpose of the get-together is to discuss important council matters.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Miss Lois M. Spencer, former secretary to Registrar-Comptroller Carl M. Franklin of the U of A, has arrived to take up her duties as secretary to Mr. Sheely, a duty with which she is quite familiar as she worked with Mr. Sheely in this capacity when he was with the Extension Service of the U.

Manley E. Sweazey, Insurance Counselor with the Northern Life of Seattle, arrived Saturday and will make his headquarters here for an indefinite period.

Ruth Cook, colonist daughter who stayed on after her parents left, is leaving by the next boat.

NINE VACANCIES FILLED
AT SATURDAY DRAWING

Nine tracts, each with homes on them left by returning colonists, were awarded by lot before the trading post Saturday afternoon at 1:30.

On slips drawn from a hat held by Mr. Lyng were the numbers of the vacancies. Immediately, the lucky nine were assigned to their new homes and put on the colonists rolls by Mr. Sheely and Mr. Irwin. Harry Sears drew #83, Ed Wineck #174, Burt Garton #188, O.T. Nelson #27, C.H. Perrine #203, Lee Marshall #162, Rex Pierce #19, Chas. G. Elliott #203. Number 46 was drawn by H.L. Conover, but because of difficulties in completing arrangements has since been awarded to Matt Onkka, who on Friday became the head of a family, making him eligible to join the colony.

With the raise in grade from 2nd to 3rd class our new postoffice now combines many new features.

The boxes are popular as many missed rides back to their tracts because of having to stand so long in line.

Baby Bonds in the denominations of 25, 50, 100, 500 and 1,000 dollars are now for sale through the window. International Money Orders can now be cashed here. Postal Savings will still be accepted by Mr. Felton, but it is still necessary to have the deposits transferred to Anchorage as the big safe has not arrived.

OLE'S TARI

COLONY CAB SERVICE

A BRAED NEW FORD V8 SEDAN

CLUB RATES A SPECIALTY WITH US

Hans Norheim

Proprietor

ANNOUNCEMENT

Manley E. Sweazey, C.L.U., who is associated with the Northern Life Insurance Company of Seattle, offers you

COMPLETE DEPENDABLE PROTECTION
IN
LIFE ACCIDENT HEALTH

"3 in 1" POLICIES

SPECIALIST IN "LIVE TO WIN POLICIES
AND ANNUITIES

P.O. BOX 161

PALMER

or

Leave Word At PIONEER Office

Our desk.

PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY BALL

The President's Birthday Ball, which was previously postponed will be held in the new Community Hall on Washington's Birthday, Saturday February 22nd.

While it is unfortunate that the Ball could not be held in conjunction with the other cities and towns of Alaska, all seem to be agreed that it should be held.

No finer token of esteem and respect can be rendered to the man whose far seeing vision enabled this project to come into being, than to gather together at his Birthday Ball for an evening of pleasure and social contacts. By doing this the people of the Valley not only have the opportunity for personal enjoyment but are enabled to do honor to the living spirit of a great American who has accomplished so much for the social and financial betterment of the common people.

Busses will follow the usual routes and extra cars will be provided where necessary.

The Ball will be held under the joint auspices of the Colonists and the Palmer Democratic Club and the following committees have been appointed:

Howard Lyng
General Chairman

ARRANGEMENTS

Rev. B.J. Bingle
Mrs. Neil Miller
Mrs. C.H. Perrine
Mr. Jack Herman
Mrs. I.N. Sandvik

DECORATION

Mr. Wm Bouwens
Mrs. Frank Ring
Mr. C.H. Perrine

FINANCE

Mr. Wm Bennett
Mr. Jack Allman
Mr. Ed. Coffey

ADVERTISING

Mr. Jack Allman
Mr. Ed Coffey

MUSIC

Rev. M. Sulzman
Mr. Frank Ring

Ray Wilkes of tract 12 and Rudolph Leander of tract 14 dropped in to tell us that they are "Pulling the pin", but no reasons given. We will have them later.

A special train will leave for the Fairbanks Ice Carnival from Anchorage on March 5th going straight through to Anchorage. Overnight stop will not be made at Curry in either direction. The fare for this train will be one way fare for the round trip. Tickets will be honored on this train only. The fare from Palmer is \$19.55.

FOUND: One lady's fur lined glove. Call at Pioneer Office and identify.

LOST: One Coleman lantern at the dance. Notify Harold Boies of tract one or Pioneer Office.

Mr. Thuma reports dumping of garbage rather haphazardly along the roads. There is a ruling out that all garbage must be dumped into the river. Just a word of warning to whoever happens to be driving these trucks out.

FOR SALE: McKenzie River Huskey, One year old, broken to driving, harness. Twenty Bucks. Harry Sears

Someone lifted 100# of flour and other provisions from the end of steel at Sutton. These supplies belonged to Aulga Stickman, a native; and it is understood that the culprit is known and is about to be arrested.

Jack O'conners, Anchorage Game Warden up here on official business was found sleeping in the jail the first morning after arrival. Probably shot at a snowshoe rabbit and had to pinch himself.

Ronald Emberg, brother of George and Truman, arrived in the Valley last Monday and expects to make his home here.

Someone blew two washtubs belonging to Charlie Ruddell on tract 17 full of holes. He's all turned up and says there are plenty of cans around there is anyone wants to target practice.

It wasn't a facial that made Ralph Horton's face so red the other day. It was a "finger wave". And we don't mean the kind the beauty operators give you either.

Louis Odsather is contemplating a lecture tour under the auspices of the W.C.T.U.

It is understood that Mr. Odsather will talk on the "Evils of Drinking", presumably basing his argument on personal experiences.

PALMER MOTOR SERVICE

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ALSO AGENTS FOR STAR AIRWAYS

LARGEST FLEET OF PLANES IN ALASKA

E. N. KLING

MANAGER