

# MATANUSKA VALLEY

61° 30' N. Lat.

149° 15' W. Long.

## PIONEER

BUY  
"MATANUSKA MAID"  
PRODUCTS

Vol. I

Palmer, Alaska - February 27, 1936

No. 28

### LEGION PURCHASES HOMESITE NEAR MAIN HIGHWAY TURN

Matanuska Valley Post #15 of the American Legion has purchased an acre of land fronting on the main Anchorage-Palmer highway just east of the Freiling residence.

Plans are being formulated by a committee of the Post for the erection of a suitable log building for the Legion Home.

The location is within easy walking distance of the Community Center and still out of the higher priced real estate. It is 208 feet square and comes off the south line of "Hard-working Smitty's" homestead.

### BINGLE MONEY NOW IN USE AT THE COMMISSARY

Bingles of aluminum and brass in the denominations of standard money are now being issued to colonists in amounts equal to their budgetary allowances. They will greatly simplify the matter of keeping accounts, especially as regards the dealings between colonists. Heretofore it has been necessary for the accounting department to make charges against one colonist and credit another for such things as direct milk purchases and the like. Now the bingle will be the medium of exchange directly between the parties concerned.

In spite of the fact that only a colonist can use the bingles for purchases at the trading post it is very probable that they will become "Matanuska Valley Money" before long. Already one taxi man has offered to accept them for his service.

### FEW ROOMS IN SCHOOL SOON TO BE OCCUPIED

It is expected that home study pupils (all those served by teachers living at Tract 97) will soon be attending their classes in the new school building.

A conference between Mr. Sheely, Mr. Jacobs and School Superintendent Harold Thuma has arrived at the date of March 16th as the probable time when the switch of teaching schedules can be made.

-----COO-----

### FAIRBANKS ICE CARNIVAL ALL SET FOR A BIG CROWD

A telegram addressed to "Hon. Ross Sheely, Mayor of Palmer," has arrived from the Mayor of Fairbanks, inviting Palmer to take part in their celebration. The wire reads:

"FAIRBANKS EXTENDS TO THE CITIZENS OF YOUR CITY AND VICINITY A CORDIAL INVITATION TO JOIN WITH US IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE COMING ICE CARNIVAL STOP FAIRBANKS LOOKS FORWARD WITH PLEASURE TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE DELEGATION WITH THEIR QUEEN WITH EVERY ASSURANCE OF AN ENJOYABLE CELEBRATION

E B COLLINS MAYOR

There is little doubt but what those who visit the inland city will have a fine time. Fairbanks is noted for her ability to put things over in a big way.

The Alaska Railroad has scheduled an excursion train which will pass through Matanuska at 7:45 AM on March 5th. The fare will be \$19.15 for the round trip.

The train will go straight through with only a stopover for a meal at Curry. It will return from Fairbanks on the 9th.

### MODERN RECREATION RESORT IS POPULAR WITH PALMERITES

Palmer can now offer visitors all the advantages of her older sister cities in the way of an evening's entertainment.

James St. Clair's Lake Resort offers the tired Palmer Business Man a place where he can relax after hard labors. Good food, music and dancing are now offered and when the ice goes out of Cottonwood and Finger Lakes there will be good fishing.

### VALLEY GIRL AN HONOR STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY

Jaunita Cooper, former Matanuska High School student now attending the University of Alaska, made the first semester honor roll according to figures recently compiled by Carl M. Franklin, Registrar.

Jaunita, a sophomore in Arts and Letters, was second highest in her class and fifth highest in the University with a grade of 2.6 out of a possible 3.00.

## THE MATANUSKA VALLEY PIONEER

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

The following figures are from  
the records of the U.S. Weather  
Bureau substation at the Experiment-  
al Farm.

Temperatures for:

Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	
62	53	45	45	Maximum.
-4	-5	-19	-17	Minimum.
3.0	2.01	.49	.68	Precipitation

Mr. H.J. Lechner, superintend-  
ent of the Farm tells us how this  
range of weather affects the valley  
from an agricultural standpoint.

"Cold weather means chemical in-  
activity in nature. Such a condition  
affects soil fertility very favor-  
ably, especially with an annual rain-  
fall as low as ours.

"While we have no scientific  
records to prove our point, observa-  
tions point emphatically to the fact  
that from the standpoint of rainfall  
and climate in the Matanuska Valley,  
nature is balanced in a fine way.

"While our rainfall is low, it  
is well distributed from the stand-  
point of agricultural production.  
About half our moisture falls dur-  
ing July, August and September.  
Rainfalls are frequent and usually  
light - perhaps a bit too frequent.  
Our cloudy days may seem excessive,  
but they play a very important part  
in this latitude.

"Obviously the frozen ground  
holds moisture during the winter.  
Recent tests made at the Station  
show 36 to 38% moisture in frozen  
ground.

"Reasonable care in seed bed  
preparation will assure the farmer  
ample moisture until the July rains.  
Proof of this is the record of no  
crop failures in past years.

"Since this soil shows a 60% silt  
content with 26% of fine sand, and  
only 12% clay, the farmer must be  
careful not to let his seed bed get  
too loose, lest a few days' drying  
in early summer reduce his moisture  
content to a dangerous degree.

"Cold weather, under control, is  
a fine preservative for crops. Mr.  
Adam Verner, an old settler, has  
kept carrots over to the second year  
in excellent condition by keeping  
his cellar a few degrees below  
freezing. Here is an idea that can  
easily be put to practice in the  
Matanuska Valley."

TWO CHOSEN TO FILL  
COLONIST VACANCIES

Two more names have been added  
to the colonist roster this past  
week. C.E. Bisson takes over the  
Hoeft place, Tract 197, and Jack  
Bourdon is moving onto Paul Jahr's  
former place, Tract 114.

Mr. Bisson, whose family will  
be here shortly from his former  
home in Ketchikan, says that since  
he has been here he has never seen  
anything to change his original  
idea that this whole project is a  
fundamentally sound proposition.  
He has farmed in the States and  
worked for the past twelve years  
in Alaska. He considers himself  
fortunate in being permitted to  
settle on a tract and does not ex-  
pect to encounter any of the pic-  
nicing difficulties that hampered  
him in settling upon frontier land  
in the mountains of Idaho.

Jack Bourdon, who waited for his  
wife to come in and look the valley  
over before placing his application,  
says this will be a picnic compared  
with the work he encountered in try-  
ing to whittle a home out of the  
wilderness of Eastern Oregon where  
he and his young wife had to pack  
all their supplies on their backs  
from a railroad twelve miles away.

Bourdon's ambition is to have  
a string of twenty milkers. "I  
know I can make it pay," he says.

Bisson expects to go in for  
hogs in a big way. "Pigs is  
Pigs!" he says, "Especially when  
you go to buy them over a meat  
block in this country."

Pioneering is not new to either  
of these men. Young, footloose  
searchers for a permanent home, it  
is understandable that they both  
got their applications in as soon  
as it was announced that many of  
the vacancies created by the return  
of former colonists were to be  
filled by Alaskans.

"It was a chance that only a  
fool could overlook," said Mr.  
Bisson.

FRED BEYMER, WHO HAS HAD THE  
BARBER SHOP AT THE COMMUNITY CEN-  
TER, WILL WELCOME ALL FORMER CUS-  
TOMERS AT HIS NEW LOCATION IN THE  
VALLEY CITY HOTEL BUILDING.

LET MANLEY E. SWEAZEY, C.L.U.,  
WHO SELLS NORTHERN LIFE "3 in 1"  
POLICIES, SHOW YOU HOW TO PROTECT  
YOURSELF "ALL WAYS" WITH ONE POLICY  
LIFE ACCIDENT HEALTH  
ROOM 7 AT HORTON'S HOTEL

COMINGS AND GOINGS

William O'Neill, brother of Phil of the Trading Post, was a visitor to the valley during the week. It was a hurried trip, something of a solo honeymoon, for Bill.

His bride of the day before, Violet Lundell, Anchorage school teacher whom he had met when they were students at the University of Alaska, couldn't leave her duties even to make the short trip up to visit Phil and Alice.

Ted Wright, flashy right defense of the Palmer hockey team, has gone to Seward where his wife is expecting the blessed event. Ted was a little nervous when he left but said that he expected to pull through all right. The doctor in attendance has the reputation of never having lost a father.

Dr. Pollard, ARRC dentist, will return to his office in the hospital building on March 18.

Walter Sackman, official photographer for the Alaska Railroad, was a visitor to the valley.

The mild weather here was too much for old Bob Chanquist, sourdough prospector and stamper. Bob has quit the corporation and is flying in to the South Fork of the Kuskokwim where he is certain he will dig up the big paystreak he has been hunting for the past 30 years.

Around 80 men have been dropped from the corporation payroll this past week. Most of them have left the valley.

MRS. T.A. SMITH HAS SOME ATTRACTIVE BUILDING LOTS CLOSE IN AND FOR SALE AT A VERY REASONABLE FIGURE FOR CASH DURING MARCH ONLY.

Also 6 young Rhode Island Red Roosters at \$5.00 each. See or write Mrs. T.A. Smith - Palmer.

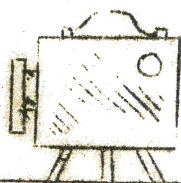
BERT'S DRUGS

BIG STOCK OF FRESH CANDY

Kodaks and Attachments -

Rolls and Film Packs -

... FOR ALL SIZES ...



PAY YOUR DOLLAR, MAKE A GUESS, MAYBESO YOU WIN A FORTUNE

Last year, a cheechako working in a Fairbanks drug store bought himself one ticket on the Nenana Ice Pool. When the ice went out on May 15, he suddenly found himself in possession of \$52,000!!

Somebody hits the ice pool every year and so far no one person has had the luck to win it twice.

It's a darn good gamble, tho; the squarest there is. It can't be fixed by a schemer. The winner gets the whole business, barring a tax which Uncle Sam appropriates. In a case where two or more people strike the same winning date, hour and minute, the money is split evenly. You need not name the precise minute, if you are closest you take the money just the same.

The device which sets the time for the payoff is simple and fool-proof. In the center of the Tanana River, 200 feet from the railroad dock, a tripod is set up. Its legs are frozen into the ice of the river. From the top of this tripod to the top of the stiff-leg of an unloading derrick on the dock is stretched a length of No. 9 telegraph wire. There is an appreciable amount of slack in this wire, and to the slack a finer wire is attached which runs into a sealed sheet-iron box locked to the top of the stiff-leg. Inside the box is a Waltham 8-day chronometer with a special clock-stopping device. The finer wire is attached to this device, and when the ice moves, the slack tightens the fine wire, causing the clock to stop.

Ten days before the anticipated movement of the ice day-and-night watchmen are on the dock making sure that no one tampers with the mechanism.

When that clock stops, someone is certain to be made happy.

Here's a list of ten years of ice-movements. If you study it, MAYBE you can learn a system!!

1925-May	7--	6:32PM
1926-April	26--	4:03PM
1927-May	13--	5:42PM
1928-May	6--	4:25PM
1929-May	5--	3:41PM
1930-May	8--	7:03PM
1931-May	10--	9:23AM
1932-May	1--	10:13AM
1933-May	8--	7:30PM
1934-April	30--	2:07PM
1935-May	15--	1:32PM

The ice has an unhappy habit of moving when it pleases, and attempts to forecast are difficult regardless of how much you study the thickness, the amount of snow in the hills and other governing factors.

NOTICE!!

All mothers, housewives and young ladies over 15 years of age, who are interested in classes in "Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick," will please be at Mrs. Ring's Handicraft Shop on Wednesday, March 4, at twelve noon.

We shall discuss the requirements for the course, our meeting places and the material for lesson #1.

Pearl V. Williams  
Red Cross Public  
Health Nurse.

Lawrence Rorrison, of Tract 112, was operated upon for appendicitis at the Anchorage hospital last week and is reported as doing nicely.

Lawrence has been troubled with his side for some time and was anxious to have the trouble removed before he went into the heavy spring work.

Marion Poore of Tract #41 now has his own truck with which he makes a specialty of hauling live stock.

Henry Colisch, genial superintendent of construction at the Community Center, has received the sad news that his 19 year old daughter failed to recover from an operation in Seattle. She was an only child. Hank wishes to extend his sincere thanks to the boys under him who expressed their sympathy by wiring flowers for the funeral.

"Being away from home at a time like this is tough," says Henry, "And a gesture like that from the boys hits a fellow pretty deep."

A fine baby girl was born to Mrs. Harry Jensen at the Palmer Hospital. If you want to see a proud daddy just stop and talk to Harry for a few minutes.

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COLONY CAB SERVICE  
RIDE IN COMFORT - NEW FORD SEDAN  
CLUB RATES A SPECIALTY WITH US  
HANG NORHEIM Proprietor

D I N E



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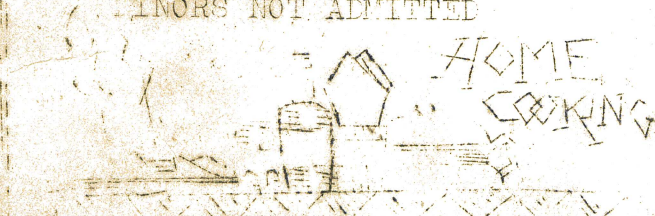
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MINORS NOT ADMITTED

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