



MATANUSKA VALLEY

61° 30' N. Lat.
149° 15' W. Long.

PIONEER

BUY
"MATANUSKA MAID"
PRODUCTS

Vol. I

Palmer, Alaska....April 16, 1936

No. 35

CLINTON JOHNSON HOME ON TRACT 148 A TOTAL LOSS

The fine log house of Clinton Johnson was burned to the ground last week when fire of undetermined origin broke out in the kitchen, spreading with such rapidity throughout the house that it defied combat.

Mrs. Johnson, who had been washing, was out in the yard hanging up clothes when the kitchen burst into flames. She called to Clint who was slashing about 150 yards from the house. He rushed up and received some rather bad burns about the face and hands trying to reach the fire extinguisher. Even then it was too late to do any good and by the time a neighbor could reach the nearest telephone, fifteen minutes away, the whole house was in flames.

The Colonial Volunteer Fire Department covered the four miles of bad road in the record time of 9½ minutes, but there was little good it could do other than post a guard to keep the fire from running off into the woods and bring Clint to the hospital for treatment.

Too much stress can not be laid upon the necessity for more phones to be installed throughout the project. When waste material beside the log home of Bill Smith caught fire on Easter morning he gave the alarm immediately over the phone in his house. The fire was just eating up under the eaves when equipment arrived and stopped further spreading. Had it been necessary for him to run a mile to the phone the result might have been very different.

The Johnsons, who lost everything but the clothes on their backs, will live in the Wilding house on Tract 105 until arrangements are made for resettling their own place.

A lesson in thoughtful generosity may be gained from Anton Anderson's two little girls who gathered together a number of their toys and asked their daddy to take them out to the little Johnson children who had lost theirs in the fire.

LEGION DANCE SCHEDULED

The American Legion Post of Palmer will hold a dance at the Community Hall on Saturday, April 25th. Music will be by the Serenaders and an excursion train will run up from Anchorage with a lively crowd.

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KOSLOSKY BACK FROM LONG TRIP

Leo Koslosky is back from a six thousand mile flying trip through the interior where he has been buying fur and stocking up with native made goods for the family stores here and at Anchorage.

Leo says that things are looking up inside, that everyone is preparing for a big season in the mining game and that there are more prospectors in the hills this year than there has been since the war.

That the Kosloskys have confidence in Palmer is evidenced by the recent doubling of their store space. The new portion, that which was formerly the recreation parlor, now contains the grocery department while the other half of the Koslosky Block will carry clothing, notions and hardware.

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PALMER GETS NEW WATER TOWER

Have you noticed the workmanlike manner in which those 3 steel-men have gone at the job of erecting the new 70 foot water tower? No sooner had the material arrived than they were up in the air putting it together.

Under Silas Isom's direction, and with the help of Wilbur Ingram and Ray McCartney, the Seattle Boiler Works contract is well under way. When completed the 75,000 gallon tank will furnish water under pressure to all the buildings in the Community Center.

Unlike earlier construction of this kind, the new tower and tank is being put together in one piece by arc welding instead of rivets.

It will be of the conventional round bottom design familiar to all

MARTIN NOVAK AND DOROTHY BOUWENS TO BE MARRIED 23RD

Two colonist families will be joined together with more enduring bonds than their mutual interest in pioneering the valley when Marty Novak and Dorothy Bouwens are united in marriage next Thursday.

The ceremony will be at ten A.M. at the home of the bride, with the Reverend Father Sulzman officiating. On the evening of this important day in the lives of these two young people the whole valley is invited to be their guests at a dance to be held in the Community Hall. When Marty goes, he goes first class.

When asked about plans for the future Marty said that everything depends upon the action the corporation takes on his application for a tract. In the meantime he will continue as a member of the mess staff, a position he has held since it was first started with the arrival of the colonist group a year ago.

Marty is from Ashland, Wisconsin, and came north with his brother, George, of tract 57. Miss Bouwens is the eldest daughter of the colonist member of the corporation board, William Bouwens, and is from Rhinelander, Wisconsin.

*** **

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Mrs. B. Sellers, a familiar figure here last summer when she had the only transfer truck in the valley, has returned with a spanking new covered Chevrolet pick-up which she is putting into service.

Sid Raynor has been up from Anchorage locking over the motion picture house possibilities for Captain Lathrop.

About a hundred tourists, the 1st of the season, arrived yesterday at Matanuska. Vic Morgan says they were loud in their praises of the country as they passed through.

You've guessed it...a fine big wedge of geese...raucously impatient to reach the familiar nesting ground pointed out by stretched necks.

*** **

Another sign of spring: A grunting tractor hooks onto a house and crawls across the tracks to a more suitable summer location. Katherine Powers, Head Nurse, shops for paint and asks for costs on the building of a white picket fence. And the little home set 'mid spruce and birch beyond the hospital is filled with floral seed catalogs.

"Shuh nuff a shame watahmellons wont grow heah," says our genial nurse. "Now if this were Ahkansas..."

THE NORTHERN LIFE OF SEATTLE ANNOUNCES ITS NEW 30TH ANNIVERSARY POLICY..

THE INCOME PROTECTOR

It is another "3-in-1" Life-Accident-Health number, with a "Million Dollars in Negotiable Securities Deposited with the Treasurer of the State of Washington for the Protection of ALL Policy Holders Behind it."

--See..or Write--

Manley E. Sweazey, C. L. U. Supervisor, Territory of Alaska, Box 161, Palmer, Alaska.

FOR SALE--5 PASSENGER NASH SEDAN ADVANCE SIX MODEL...REASONABLE... ENQUIRE BOB'S TAXI SERVICE, PALMER.

LOST-- Bridle.. By B. Reiten, Tract #75, on Camp 8 Road.

LOST-- Oldsmobile Hub Cap.. Finder Return to Pioneer Office.

THE PIONEER CAB

FIRST CLASS SERVICE.... AT REASONABLE RATES

GIVE US A TRIAL!!!

GEORGE LEMON

PROPRIETOR



MOTHER'S DAY

KOSLOSKY'S PALMER "The Friendly Store"

MOTHER'S DAY IS MAY THIRD !!!

There is still time to get that Remembrance off to the states...

MAY WE SUGGEST ---

- Fancy Mother's Day Box Choc-olates, Coty Perfume Sets -- Potter & Moore Lavender Sets Ivory Arctic Beads and Baskets Lavender Toilet Water Sets...

..And MANY OTHER gift Suggestions. REMEMBER--WE WILL GLADLY GIFT-WRAP MAIL AND INSUPE YOUR PURCHASES AT NO ADDITIONAL COST TO YOU!

THE NEW KOSLOSKY'S.....PALME

April 16, 1936

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THE MATANUSKA VALLEY PIONEER

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Jack Allman, Editor - Publisher
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ONE OF OUR PET PEEVES

This thing of being continually asked: "Will the Matanuska Project be a success?" is getting to be something of a pain in the neck.

This question is no doubt promoted by the black eye given the Valley by returned colonists, but any thinking person can answer it for himself. The success or failure of the project does not depend upon whether these colonists stay or return to their former homes.

All the buildings necessary to a community have been built. Almost 200 homes and their outbuildings have been constructed upon tracts of land that proved their agricultural worth under the hands of old settlers long before the colony was thought of.

These fine homes will never remain untenanted. These tracts will not lay idle. Whether the present group of occupants remain or leave will have little effect upon the ultimate standing of this valley as a farming community. Someone will continue with the work already started, and, as far as we can see, it doesn't make much difference who. The fact remains that a farming settlement will have been established in this district, and after all, that was the idea underlying the establishing of the project in the first place.

In a conversation the other day with Pat O'Cotter we were impressed with the pertinence of a comparison he made between colonists and stam-peders.

Pat has taken in all the stam-pedes to the established gold camps of the interior, Fairbanks, Ruby, Iditorod and the rest. "And I never mused into a camp yet," he said, "But what I met men coming out with the grumbling comment that the strike was a fake. History tells you just how wrong they were."

Lloyd Bell of #194 has been writing regularly for publication in the "Kanabec County Times" in Minnesota.

The other day he received a letter in which the editor said:

"Since you are the only local colonists remaining in the valley our readers are no longer interested in news of the project."

NOTICE!

Colonists who wish to increase their acreage will please see Mr. Biggs at once.

*** **

"It has been reported to me that a number of dogs are running at large in bands around the country.

"Game is not safe. Spruce hens are nesting. Dogs must be kept at home, otherwise they are a nuisance and according to law must be killed."

Don L. Irwin

*** **

Orders from Colonel Westbrook make a complete fire inspection of the project a necessity. A cleanup campaign will begin with the publishing of this notice.

Also there is to be a complete reorganization of the Volunteer Fire Department. Father Merrill Sulzman is now the Fire Marshal with authority covering the whole valley, including the towns of Matanuska and Wasilla. His position as Chief will be filled by Bill Taylor who had a similar duty at Boulder Dam when he was responsible for the fire safety of 800 tents.

Jack Allman has been appointed Fire Inspector for the valley and Elmer Waugh replaces him as Assistant Chief.

New Deputy Wardens to control the hazardous brush burning in the various districts will be appointed to replace vacancies created by returning colonists.

Don't take any chances with a fire reaching your home. Back fire before setting those big piles of brush to flame. This is the windy season and the grass is even now so dry that fire will run through it at incredible speed.

And a word to the women: Don't leave a can of grease or your gasoline iron on the warming oven of your range. Vibration set up by your washing machine may jiggle them off onto the hot stove top and start a fire that will envelope the whole room.

Hang your extinguisher near a door. Learn how to snap it out of its rack, and BE SURE IT IS FULL. Don't keep gasoline in house.

*** **

John Kirsch of Tract #64 is looking for a few companions to join him in a Big Brownie hunt on Kodiak, starting from here May 1st.

The main cost will be boat charter, but John figures \$50 will cover everything. Colonists from the Minnesota group are eligible.

SCHOOL NOTES

FIRST AND SECOND GRADE NOTES

The second graders are about half way through the new books received about two weeks ago, while the first graders are just starting theirs.

Absences have been very few in these grades during the past week.

THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE NOTES

The 3rd and 4th grades now have a triangle for a bell in their room, the idea being Mrs. Kling's.

The following pupils received 100 in spelling: Dick Johnson, Vella Bingle, Audrey Bouwens, Phyllis Jensen, Evelyn Pfeiff, Norma Wilding, Lloyd Thorsen, Betty Jo Clayton, Betty Lou Rorrison, Bonnie Moore, Peggy Foster, James Monroe, Jimmy Poppel, Charles Monahan, Margaret Jane Duncan, Gene Bailey and Marion Frederick.

When one realizes that there are only 26 in the classes it is readily seen that this is an excellent percentage.

FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE NOTES

Joe Sheely, student in the 5th, returned home April 13th after having his appendix removed at the hospital on the 4th. He is recovering rapidly and the whole school hopes he will be back in classes soon.

BASKETBALL

The girls had a basketball meeting Thursday evening at which Ina Belle Irwin was elected Manager and Ruthelyn Elliott Captain. Coach Elmer Quam gave a short talk and the girls extended a note of thanks to Helen Barry for organizing the team. It was decided to have practice three times a week.

PERMANENTS, MARCELLES, SHAMPOOS & FINGER WAVES...LEAVE APPOINTMENTS FOR ALL BEAUTY TREATMENTS WITH TED McROBERTS....HE OF THE LIGHT RAZOR HAND AND THE SNIPPY SHEARS AT THE COLONY BARBER SHOP

OLE'S COLONY CAB SERVICE - PALMER
NEW FORD & SEDAN - SPEED - COMFORT
GET OUR CLUB RATES

HANS NORDHEIM PROPRIETOR

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE NOTES

These grades have been taking short tests in all subjects in preparation for the coming examination.

There have been no absences in the 7th during the past week, and only one half day in the 8th.

Both grades, as well as all from the 5th up to and including the senior class, now have new sets of encyclopedias in their respective rooms.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The Palmer 7th and 8th grades and the high school will have an assembly every Saturday from 1 till 1:30 P.M.

Mr. Miller of Eklutna will speak at the assembly April 18th, Father Merrill Sulzman the 25th. Reverend Freiling will talk to the students on May 2nd.

All high school pupils will get their report cards on Friday, April 17th.

Baccalaureate Services will be held May 17th with Father Sulzman as speaker.

Commencement Exercises, with Mr. Lechner addressing the pupils, will be held May 20th.

The date of the school picnic has been set at May 21st.

SATURDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

The Palmer School Saturday classes are being held for the purpose of giving students any extra help they may require, since home classes in many cases were inadequate.

Attendance is not compulsory, but many are taking advantage of the opportunity afforded. Teachers are conducting these classes in extra session without pay.

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G. O. KROCK PONTIAC DEALER
CARS ON DISPLAY NOW AT MATANUSKA
A REAL CAR AT A REASONABLE PRICE
"seeing is believing" Have a look.

VALLEY CITY CAFE
CAKES...PIES...PASTRY...AND BREAD
FRESH DAILY

CIGARETTES CANDY TOBACCO

CUPID ON THE JOB

Luther (Oskey) Weeda of Bert's Drug Store is on the way in with his new bride. Welcome back, Oskey.

We weren't so far wrong on that Morley-Meiers affair, either. The popular young couple were married last week in a quiet ceremony at the home of the bride. Reverend Freiling officiated.

Someone started a rumor, but personally we take no stock in it. At any rate they say at the accounting office that they have no near-grooms in the outfit unless it might be Ray Hair, and he wasn't involved in this rumor. And the school teachers do not know anything about losing another of their staff.

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ADVENTIST CHURCH IS DEDICATED

At a 2 day convention the Seventh Day Adventists of Palmer dedicated their new, debt free, log church on Sunday. It is the first church of the valley to be used exclusively for church purposes.

Pastor and Mrs. M. J. Jackson, local evangelists, conducted the convention following their Radio Bible Discussions over KFQD for the past 5 months. During this campaign the Company of 5 has increased to 20 adults.

A beautiful Baptismal service was conducted at the dedication and a full group of officers was elected.

Mr. Jackson will remain as pastor of the organization and with the help of his wife will conduct a similar 2 day convention at Anchorage over the coming week end.

FOR SALE: One double bed, Way Sagless spring and mattress. Three dozen wide mouth Eclipse fruit jars. Circulating heater, walnut finish, wood burner and can be used with or without grate. One 42 inch Simmons bed with spring and mattress. A Silvertone Radio, Model 1923. 7 tubes. Used two months and can be bought for less than half the catalog price.

Mrs. A. L. Gilmer, Matanuska. *****

See J. H. Conway if you are in the market for a good used watch. He has a number on hand that will be left with Colonist John Porter at Tract 124.

Also: Chances on an Overland car, 1927 model, in good condition. Leave word at PIONEER office.

VALLEY CITY BARBER SHOP

A FINE, FIRST CLASS BARBER SHOP WILL OPEN SOON IN THE NEW ADDITION BEING BUILT TO THE VALLEY CITY HOTEL.

KOSLOSKY'S
"The Friendly Store"
Palmer

You will find:
Staple and fancy Groceries
Fresh Fruits + Vegetables
Cigars + Cigarettes
Candies, Gum
Bottled Soft Drinks

Gas and Oil Station

GUNS AND AMMUNITION
SPORTING GOODS
LIGHT AND HEAVY HARDWARE
DRUGS + DRUG SUNDRIES

Gift Sets -
Watches, Clocks, etc. -

Infant's wear
children's wear
men's wear
women's wear

Boots and Shoes

ASK FOR IT
FIRST

AT

KOSLOSKY'S
PALMER

"The Friendly Store"