



# MATANUSKA VALLEY

61 30' N. Lat.

149 15' W. Long.

## PIONEER

BUY  
"MATANUSKA MAID"  
PRODUCTS

Vol. I

Palmer, Alaska....April 25, 1936

No. 36

### FIRE DESTROYS OLD WAREHOUSE AND RADIO STATION

A fire of undetermined origin broke out at 6:10 this evening, completely wiping out the old warehouse and contents, also the U. S. Signal Corps Station which occupied a corner of the building.

The Colonial Volunteer Fire Department was on the job early with all equipment, but the dense and acrid smoke made entry to the seat of the fire an impossibility.

Elmer Waugh, Bill Fallet and some of the other boys crawled across the office floor and into the main storage part to where they could hear what sounded like frying grease, but no flames were visible and the heat drove them back.

With the aid of Koslosky's big tank of 'Fire-Freeze' Wes Griswold and Ike Moore, together with some volunteers, saved the safe, some radio receivers and other equipment from the wireless shack. Further salvage was out of the question when the roof started settling, and flames began to lick along the partitions.

With the bursting of the blaze through the walls it was obvious that the whole warehouse was doomed and efforts were concentrated upon the saving of other buildings. By this time embers were flying and tents on all sides were in danger.

Chief Bill Taylor enlisted the aid of corporation employees to augment his force of firemen and large tarps were spread over the paint shop and wet down by hose. Willing helpers, many already dressed for the big Legion Dance, rolled heavy drums of turpentine, varnish and other inflammable material away through the mud.

The warehouse was by now a roaring furnace. A chemical fire extinguisher exploded in the center of the building and shot a hundred feet into the air, falling three feet from a small boy standing over near the depot. With a rattle like that of machinegun fire, 6000 rounds of heavy rifle ammunition started go-

ing off. There was no need for guards to keep the spectators back as those waves of heat swept out.

The fire itself created a draft and soon flames were leaping the narrow space to the lumber piles. The dry wood charred, smoldered and then burst into flames. It began to look like a sweeping victory for the blaze. More tarps were called into play and nozzle-men Sammy Cicola, Phil O'Niell, Earl Ramsey and Bill Young changed off in that terrifically hot alley between the burning building and blazing lumber piles where they could spray a hose. Their only protection was from the mud they smeared on their faces and in spite of this the first three named were scorched. Bill's too tough to let a fire eat through his skin.

Embers flew and lit on storage tents that the big 40 'cata' were dragging away. Residents along Aristocrat Row began emptying their homes of personal belongings. Fire Marshal Sulzman was busy advising the fighters upon methods he had learned as a fireman in other Alaskan towns. Chief Bill Taylor, his face roasted a lobster red, was everywhere at once. Don Irwin, from a vantage point atop the open storage shed, shouted out the location of new fires. And within an hour the roaring flames had crumpled the low building to the ground. The danger was past.

That more property was not destroyed is due to the efforts of the fire crew and volunteer employees. That more men were not seriously hurt is a matter of luck.

Mr. Irwin estimates the loss at \$8000.00 including the building. The reason for the low estimate is the fact that much of the stuff in storage there was salvaged equipment from the Transient Division.

The biggest single item was the loss of the creamery equipment. Ten heatrolas, forty-five washers and six power washers, and a quantity of coats, bedding and mattresses were also lost. It was our new town's worst.

April 23, 1936

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Jack Allman, Editor - Publisher  
David Markham, Assistant Editor

NOVAK-BOUWENS NUPTIALS  
FILL DAY TILL MIDNIGHT

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elsewhere. Advertising rates fur-  
nished upon request.

#### AN AWAKENING

Reactions have started coming in on our 'Pet Peeve' editorial of last week. A very sensible colonist woman, one with whom one can discuss a subject without it becoming an argument, took us to task.

"It hurt me, Jack," she said, "to read your meaning into that piece. You as good as said that the government don't particularly care whether we, the original colony group, stay here or leave. It was my first awakening to the fact that this might be the case."

We repeated what we had said editorially: That whether they stayed or not wouldn't effect the ultimate success or failure of the project; that someone would be living in all these fine homes, would farm this rich soil, thereby establishing an agricultural community here in the valley which, after all, is the crux of the whole proposition.

The government cannot be concerned with the individual. It is a matter of small consequence to Washington just who lives and develops a tract up here. They want a farming district in this section, and they will have it.

With the water rising in the Tanana about all one can hear nowadays is: "Has she busted yet?" And they don't mean banks or boils. It is the ice at Nenana they're worrying about. She's due to go any time now and every fresh report on conditions up there carries a potential threat of heart-failure for someone.

Well, after all, winning a sixty thousand dollar pool would be quite an event in a person's life.

It's a strain on the alphabet, but it certainly is a space saver the way Washington hands out letter groups to bureaux and employees.

L.T. Oldroyd, DED of U of A, J.T. Flakne, DAA, Miss Ruth Peck, HDL and Miss Ruth DeArmand, DFDA, have all arrived here during the past week and are establishing their various offices from which they will direct school activities dealing with home economic problems and agricultural science.

Guests to the wedding of Marty Novak and Dorothy Bouwens started out for the bride's home by car, truck and bus at nine-thirty...and from then on there was something doing every minute, with "Barrel Chested Bill" Bouwens playing the role of perfect host.

Reverend Merrill Sulzman united the young couple in marriage at eleven o'clock and shortly after the hundred guests did things to the banquet board. Did things is right. We even saw Bill out by the barn whetting a butcher knife on his boot top and sizing up another of his fat shoats in case they started calling for more.

Looking tired but happy the popular bride and groom were hosts at the big dance at the community hall that evening. Marty invited the whole valley, and about everyone who had a way of getting to town was there.

All in all, she was one big day.

A pot-luck noon luncheon will be held at the Manse by the Ladies Aid of the Community Church on Wednesday May 6th.

A Mother's Day program will be carried out and a large attendance is hoped for.

No paint will be issued to colonists unless square feet to be covered are turned in with the requisition, according to an announcement by Mr. Biggs.

Have you seen what looks like new rolling stock on the roads? Well, that is what George Black is accomplishing at the big Community Center garage.

Transportation has always been a big problem here and an efficient repair department is an important unit. That's the reason for so many changes in the shop set-up, but as George says, he is now in shape to make all ordinary repairs. He has the bulk of the tractor fleet in Al condition, and that is an item with all this land clearing staring the corporation in the face. Trucks, pick-ups and busses are continually getting their innards overhauled....a big job, but because George is at them all the time; because he fires inefficient drivers and seeks for only top-notchers behind the wheels and on the levers, they continue to roll over roads that will tear the very heart out of any machine not properly handled and cared for.

It will be just a year tomorrow since the Allen Fredericks of Tract 87 left their home in Minnesota and Mrs. Fredericks id having as guests those who left Mille Lacs County for the Matanuska. They will include: the Vernon Joneses, the Arnold Carsons, the Edward Mosses, the Glen Doughtys, the Clair Pattens, the Virgil Eckerts and the Clarence Sjudins.

Of the original ten families who left Mille Lacs together only those of Ray Wilkes and Rudolph Leander have returned.

NOTICE

To whom it may concern: We will not be responsible for any debts contracted for by Earl Sanborn.

signed (Fred Larson  
(Leonard Larson

Lost: Cameron Erickson lost a pair of Basket-Ball trunks somewhere between Palmer and Tract 58.

Mrs. Edwards lost a shoebuckle at the last dance. Return PIONEER.

Lost at the last dance, A flat black leather handbag. Return PIONEER.

Allen Jacobson, brother of Adolph of Tract 45, arrived from the States last week and intends making his home here in the valley.

Bill Hynek of Tract 91 has some fine cabin logs for sale. All straight and a short haul to town. See 'em.

Geo. Connors and Arvid Johnson were the first to drive a car all the way from Anchorage on the new highway and over the Knik bridge.

The old jillobny sure looked like she had been places when they got here with her, too.

Frank Robertson, the cook, lost a pair of glasses at the fire. Any one who saw Frank working there can understand that he was lucky not to lose more than that. He was right in the middle of things.

Vernon Olmstead of Tract 28 is turning out some mighty nice articles in native birch these days. Have you seen his ash tray stands and book ends? Or the fine piece of inlay work Father Sulzman had on display here at the office?

The families of Geo. E berg and John Wilding left for the States on the last boat. The Clinton Johnsons are living on the Wilding tract since their own home burned the ground last week.

SEE PICTURES OF THE WAREHOUSE FIRE - at -

KOSLOSKY'S  
"The Friendly Store"  
Groceries-Clothing-  
Hardware-  
GAS & OIL STATION  
Drugs Tobacco  
Soft Drinks  
Fresh Fruits + Vegetables  
FRESH BREAD and  
PASTRY DAILY

= Specials  
This Week =

- Hills Bros Red Can Coffee 35¢#
- Borden's Milk 48 talls 4.75
- Reliance Brand Green Cage Plums 25¢
- RED LODGE PEARS 8oz 10¢
- Tuxedo Tobacco 3 for 25¢
- Reliance Fruits for Salad (Large) 30¢
- Ladies Silk Stockings 3 pr. 1.45
- Ambassador Toilet Tissue 4 for 25¢

Have you Tried  
TARD?  
Free Samples as long as  
they last.....

TOLLY'S Seeds are here!

Don't Forget  
Mother's Day!!  
May 10th

KOSLOSKY'S  
"The Friendly Store"  
Palmer, Alaska

# School Notes - Palmer

## HIGH SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

The Palmer High School was honored with the presence of Mr. Miller of Eklutna as speaker at their Saturday assembly class. He told of the Eklutna Indian School where he is Mechanic. His talk included a few well founded morals for us to remember. We were hoping his talk would carry over into the next period and thus save some class work, but the sudden sounding of the alarm for fire drill at 1:30 brought an abrupt conclusion and ruined our hopes.

### SCHOOL BUSESSES

Mr. George Lemmon is driving the bus for both the Matanuska and Palmer schools. Lately the roads have been in bad condition and the Matanuska scholars are missing school because the bus can't get through. Classes were closed on April 17th and it has not yet been determined when they will start again, perhaps next week if the roads dry up a bit.

The Finger Lake bus can not make its full run and children living beyond where it turns should try and reach one of the regular stops.

### VOCATIONAL EDUCATION BOARD

Several inquiries have been made concerning the status of the new school board for vocational education recently formed. These members were appointed by the local council at the request of Mr. A.E. Schottler, Supervisor of Vocational Education for the Territory.

They are to meet with the local superintendent and vocational teachers in order to work out a feasible program in vocational education for the Palmer School District.

Their powers are advisory only, and they have no funds to expend.

### THE NORTHERN LIFE OF SEATTLE ANNOUNCES

#### ITS NEW 50th 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. Sweazy, C.L.U.  
Supervisor, Territory of Alaska,  
Box 161, Palmer, Alaska.

## INTERESTING SPEECHES

Mr. L.T. Oldroyd, Director of Extension of the U. of A., and Mr. Joe Flakne, the new District Agricultural Agent for the Valley, were interesting speakers to the boys of the High School on the subject of agriculture.

Mr. Flakne, who will remain here permanently, is to start various clubs and has announced that prizes will be awarded this fall to members who have the best stock, and said that if the animals were worthy it might be possible for some of the boys to exhibit at the Tanana Valley Fair at Fairbanks.

## HIGH SCHOOL

The first meeting of the F.F.A. (Future Farmers Association) has been held by Mr. McClarty, who, acting as temporary chairman, opened the meeting for the explicit purpose of electing officers for the organization. The following officers were installed; President, Jack Sheely; Vice-president, Lucille Ring; Secretary, Iua Belle Irwin; Treasurer, Helen Barry.

It will be noted that the girls are taking as much interest in the Future Farmers Association as are the boys.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*  
\* THE PIONEER CAB  
\*  
\* FIRST CLASS SERVICE.....  
\* .....AT REASONABLE RATES  
\*  
\* GIVE US A TRIAL!  
\*  
\* GEORGE LEMMON PROPRIETOR  
\* \*\*\*\*\*  
\* SEND PIONEERS HOME TO THE FOLKS!!  
\* \*\*\*\*\*

PERMANENTS, MARCELLES, SHAMPOOS & FINGER WAVES...LEAVE APPOINTMENTS FOR ALL BEAUTY TREATMENTS WITH TED McROBERTS

COLONY BARBER SHOP

\*\*\*\*\*

VALLEY CITY CAFE

CAKES...PIES...PASTRY...A

FRESH DAILY

CIGARETTES CANDY

HORTON'S VALLEY CITY

st st  
8 5