



# MATANUSKA VALLEY

61° 30' N. Lat.  
149° 15' W. Long.

# PIONEER

BUY  
"MATANUSKA MAID"  
PRODUCTS

Vol. I

Palmer, Alaska

May 21, 1936

No. 40

## WIND AND DUST FAIL TO DAMPEN COLONY DAY SPIRIT

In spite of wind and dust clouds the Valley turned out in force last Saturday to properly celebrate the first "Colony Day," an institution that is planned to make an annual affair.

Shortly after 11 o'clock the speakers took their places on the stage of the Community Hall. After short talks by Col. Olson, Don Irwin, Ross Sleely, Governor Troy and Dr. Ernest Gruening an al fresco luncheon was served in the park area before the Trading Post.

Following lunch were the sports, ranging from a tug-of-war to a horse race. The women folks tried their hands at rolling pin throwing, nail driving and husband calling, while the men folks ran hundred yard races and pitched horse shoes.

It was really the childrens' day. Little girls tried running with eggs in spoons and sprinting 50 yards, while their brothers rode bicycles and tried to climb the greased pole.

The greased pig chase was a complete fizzle. Piggy didn't know what it was all about, so he just sat down. About forty kids piled on him and he just had time to let out one squeal.

The pie eating contest was a huge success, resulting in ten dirty faces (they were blueberry pies) and ten belly-aches.

The sports wound up at 4:30 and at 6 o'clock coffee and cake was served at the mess hall. At 8:30 the dance, given by the ARRC staff, started and everyone had a high-old time till midnight, dancing to the music of Peggy Pimperton and her Palmer Pioneers.

All in all, it was a pretty full day.

Dr. Ernest H. Gruening, who was present when the idea of this colonization project was first broached by President Roosevelt, showed a keen interest in everything while here. By arranging for a plane to take him to Fairbanks from Wasilla additional time was at his disposal

and he visited a number of the farm tracts.

He was particularly interested in our hospital as he is a graduate doctor of the Harvard Medical School himself. He talked with all the patients and discussed the ailments of each with Miss Powers who acted as his guide.

## BACCALAUREATE SERVICES HELD SUNDAY MORNING

Baccalaureate Services were held at the Community Hall at 11 o'clock Sunday morning.

The program consisted of music by the orchestra, songs by the choir and the audience, and a bible reading by Rev. Ernest Crabb, who also pronounced the Benediction.

The sermon, which included an interesting account of the origin of the baccalaureate ceremony, was given by Rev. Father Solzman.

## COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES HELD HERE ON WEDNESDAY EVENING

First Commencement Exercises of the Palmer Public School was held at the Community Hall Wednesday evening, May 20th.

The Invocation and Benediction were both given by Rev. Frieling, and the address of the evening by Dr. H. J. Lechner. Music was furnished by the orchestra, with a violin solo by Wilburn Lossing and a piano solo by Mrs. Henry Harrison. There was a vocal solo by Leonard Cahn and a duet by Margaret Pimperton and Virginia Berg. The valedictory was delivered by Earl Barry, sole member of the senior class, and presentation of awards was made by Anthony E. Karnes, Territorial Supervisor of Schools.

Eighth grade pupils included: Melvin Barry, Will Dreghorn, Miles France, Patricia Hemmer, Virginia Hunt, Lorraine McKecknie, Charles Moore, Dale Rorrison, Jean Sandvik, Dorothy Anne Slocely, Wesley Sieber, Lucille Taylor and Jean Vasanoja.

It was a happy bunch of children who attended the exercises with a three months' vacation ahead.

## THE MATANUSKA VALLEY PIONEER

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## ILL WILL IN THE MAKING

It is becoming increasingly ap-  
parent that there will never be one  
hundred per cent co-operative mar-  
keting of valley raised produce, and  
without just that there will always  
be difficulty in standardizing  
prices.

Since Mr. Sheely returned from  
Washington with the promise of funds  
for loans to old settlers who will  
sign up to join the proposed co-op's  
marketing program, we have tried to  
find out how the old settler feels  
about the idea. A surprising num-  
ber have said that they want noth-  
ing to do with any loans or agree-  
ments.

"Why should I?" asked one who had  
some very definite views on the sub-  
ject. "Haven't they shown us all  
along that we don't belong? Isn't  
it enough when they tell us that we  
can't buy in the commissary, for  
cash, while the colony group can get  
anything they want on credit? And if  
I want lumber which they sell on 30  
year credit for \$35 a thousand I am  
told my money is no good, to buy my  
lumber somewhere else, and that  
means I pay \$55 for the same stuff.  
Would it hurt them to give the old  
settler a little break on things of  
this kind?"

We suggested that it was the  
government's policy never to enter  
into competition with existing pri-  
vate business.

"Private business," exploded the  
old timer. "Isn't it enough that  
A. A. Shonbeck gets a cut out of ev-  
ery drop of gasoline and oil that's  
sold here; every truck, car and  
tractor that the government has pur-  
chased? He was never in the lumber  
business before; why does the gov-  
ernment feel so keenly about protec-  
ting one man at the cost of all us  
old settlers?"

"I am not blaming the colonists,  
they have nothing to do with it,  
but certainly, after being treated  
for a year like an unwanted step-  
child, I have no heart for entering  
into the co-operative set-up. They  
can keep their loan."

This, unfortunately, is the quite  
understandable attitude of many with  
whom we have talked.

## NAMES CHOSEN FOR CLUBS

The women of District #1 held  
their second Homemakers' club  
meeting at the home of Mrs. Guil-  
ford Lemmon on Thursday afternoon.  
They chose "Mountain View Home-  
makers' Club" as the name for their  
group and elected the following of-  
ficers: Mrs. Guilford Lemmon,  
president; Mrs. E. I. Larsh, vice-  
president and Mrs. Edward Moss,  
secretary-treasurer.

After the business meeting there  
was a discussion, led by Miss Ruth  
Dearmond, district home demonstra-  
tion agent, of handicraft products  
suitable for sale in the Craft  
Shop at the Community Center.

The next meeting of the club is  
to be at the home of Mrs. Fred  
Larson on June 11.

The "Pleasant Valley 4-H Club"  
with 15 charter members was organ-  
ized at Butte on Tuesday afternoon.  
The club elected Lorraine McKechnie  
president, Dorothy Newville  
vice-president, Angus McKechnie  
secretary-treasurer and Jean Mae  
Sandvik news reporter.

Summer projects chosen by the  
members included garden, colt,  
pig, calf, chicken raising, and  
sewing and baking. The latter  
project, with six members, includes  
Angus McKechnie and Dale Sandvik -  
the first boys in the valley to  
sign up for baking.

Charter members include: Con-  
stance Andrews, Mary Dreghorn,  
Victor Falk, Barbara Falk, Jack  
Hemmer, Patricia Hemmer, Donovan  
Lentz, Edwin Lentz, Jane Lentz,  
Angus McKechnie, Lorraine McKechnie,  
Dorothy Newville, Leila Pet-  
erson, Dale Sandvik and Jean Mae  
Sandvik.

## OLAV PALVERSON TO TEACH

Saturday may have been Colony  
Day to most of us, but it was  
something far more important to  
Olav Palverson, Engineer's Assis-  
tant.

A few years ago, while teaching  
school in Minnesota, Olav had  
dreams of sometime holding down a  
similar position among the natives  
of Alaska. That dream was slated  
to come true when Mr. Karnes had  
Olav sign a contract which will  
make him teacher this coming year  
at Bethel, near Bering Sea on the  
Kuskokwim River.

About the first of next Sept-  
ember Olav will fly over the Al-  
aska Range to take up his duties  
with the mixed classes of whites  
and natives who make up the well-  
known lower country trading cen-  
ter population.

A new school building is being  
constructed at Bethel.

PLANTS AVAILABLE

Joe Flakne, Agricultural agent, informs us that raspberry and rhubarb plants are available to all who want to set them out right away. They may be obtained from Lawrence Rorrison at Tract #112.

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Many thought that the mounting of the ten inch copper ball on top of the big new water tower marked the completion of the job, but it didn't.

Si Isom and Wilbur Ingram made the steelman's final gesture when they both climbed up and stood atop the ball the night before they left the camp. Ninety feet means nothing to those fellows.

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Charles Cadwallader, Wasilla merchant, suffered a painful accident last evening when a pinch bar used in repairing the cattle chute slipped and cracked him in the forehead between the eyes.

The blow knocked Cad out for over a half hour, but we understand he is all right again today.

Cad's accident was only part of the excitement at Wasilla last evening. The little town echoed with the rumble of hoofs and the bellowing of cattle as the two hundred and some odd head of Shenbeck stock were unloaded from the train that brought them on the final leg of their journey from Deer Lodge, Montana.

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FOR SALE: SPAULDING TRUCK BODY TO FIT ANY SMALL CAR. ONE YEAR OLD AND COST \$85, WILL SELL \$25 CASH. Inquire PIONEER office.

FOR SALE: TWO YOUNG HAMPSHIRE SOWS DUE TO FARROW EARLY AUGUST. See M. T. Snodgrass

THE PIONEER CAFE

SPECIAL RATES FOR FISHING PARTIES  
THEY'RE BITING OUT AT COTTONWOOD

MAKE UP A PARTY  
THEN SEE

GEORGE LEMMON PROPRIETOR

WANTED TO BUY: TWO YOUNG PIGS.

IF YOU HAVE THEM TO SELL, GET IN

TOUCH AT ONCE WITH THE NORTHERN LIGHT FUR FARM, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA.

VALLEY CITY CAFE

CAKES....PIES....PASTRY AND BREAD

FRESH DAILY

PALMER PROGRESSES

Have you noticed what a swell place that new restaurant is going to be. Jim Simpson and his two daughters are sure going to open in class.

And that addition to Horton's, which will also be a restaurant and ice cream parlor, is something to be proud of, too. The part upstairs will double Ralph's hotel accommodations.

Nifty little place Denny Hewitt has opened up there in the Valley City Barber Shop. They will carry a select line of souvenirs and all kinds of photographic equipment.

And Koslosky's sure are putting on the dog nowadays. Colony Day they all broke out in tan linen coats like a high class store in the States. Bob Rock, manager of the grocery department, absolutely defies you to ask for something they don't carry. Harvey Buckridge who is in charge of the hardware is doing a big business in guns and fishing tackle. Leo and Jan, who also work there are kept fairly busy at the gasoline pump now that so many new cars are showing up in the valley. Harold spends most of his time slipping quarters into the big new automatic record playing machine which recently arrived.

Sally's Cafe still retains its genteel atmosphere and caters to the needs of the inner man. Red Frodenberg insists that you leave there satisfied.

Bert's Drugs lives up to the old tradition: "Try the drugstore first! You can get everything from a wool shirt to an automobile down there.

If Hank Rossiter thought he was leaving trouble behind when he gave up his tract and returned to the States he was mistaken. A letter from Duluth says that Hank was arrested by Saint Louis County authorities for non-support of his family.

FOR SALE: Three 4 month old goats, 1 billy and 2 nannies. Fine Swiss milking stock which was brought in to the country to furnish milk for the hospital. \$40.00 each is cheap. See or write A. J. Younggreen, Cache, Alaska, care of Alaska RR.

FOR SALE: New Perfection Kerosene range. Five burner, oven on top. All enamelled, cost \$80 sell \$27. Three quarter horse gas engine in Al condition, \$27.50  
PIONEER office or Sieber, #182

SEND PIONEERS ROLE

HOSPITAL NOTES

A 7 pound and 8 ounce baby girl was born to Mrs. Anton Anderson on Friday evening, May 15th.

Anton, Locating Engineer for the ARRC, says that this thing of standardized production is a direct result of an engineer's training. This is their third baby, third girl, and they have all weighed the same to the ounce. Mother and daughter are both doing splendidly.

Kathryn Kennedy and Roberta Hemmer are both getting along in grand style and Dorothy White will soon be discharged.

Here's a hospital note that deserves space in the Believe-it-or-not column. Dr. Albrecht is 'importing' a nurse to act as superintendent of the hospital.

LOST: At Colony Day dance or at Horton's Cafe, a dark blue stag jacket. Buttons sewed on with white thread. Notify PIONEER.

We don't know what it's all about, but the Butte boys say that Lloyd Bell is still talking of the long chat he had with General Pershing at the celebration Saturday.

FISHING IS SPLENDID

Anglers report the rainbows as striking in fine style. Many big catches have been brought in from Wasilla Lake and Ottonwood and Wolverine Creeks.

George Conners has a lot right on the Anchorage Highway adjoining Rev. Fieling's house and will consider building any type of house for rent or lease or sale. See him if you have anything of this kind on your mind. Or leave word at the PIONEER office.

FOR SALE: Seven tube General Electric radio in fine condition. \$25.00. See Stampede Red Robertson or leave word at PIONEER.

If there is any truth in the reports we've been getting, just about every home in the valley will have bear rugs on the floor.

Already there have been around fifteen blackies killed in the valley this season.

Mrs. Cecil Kurtz of Tract #51 has just received word of the death of her mother back home in Wisconsin.

"The Friendly Store" **Koslosky's** Palmer

NEW!  
SOLID COPPER  
CHROMIUM-PLATED  
SKILLETS!

Adjustable Window  
Screens - and -  
Screendoor Hardware

COMPLETE STOCK  
OF  
TENNIS SHOES  
Just arrived !!

ANNOUNCING -  
a full line of  
Hostess Cakes and  
Cookies - Fresh EVERY  
WEEK!

= For your Silex =  
Reliance Silex Coffee  
35¢ lb -

KRAFT MIRACLE WHIP  
the perfect Salad dressing -  
Pints 40¢  
Quarts 75¢