



# MATANUSKA VALLEY

61° 30' N. Lat.

149° 15' W. Long.

## PIONEER

BUY  
"MATANUSKA MAID"  
PRODUCTS

Vol. I

Palmer, Alaska

May 28, 1936

No. 41

LEO B. JACOBS TO BE NEW  
ASSISTANT TO THE GEN. MGR.

Leo B. Jacobs, resident project architect who came up with the 1st contingent of Colonists on the St. Mihiel, has been named Assistant to the General Manager, replacing Don L. Irwin.

On the 1st of June Mr. Irwin is to take over his new duties as Superintendent of the Matanuska Valley Experiment Station, replacing Dr. Lechner who leaves for the States.

Mr. Jacobs is well and favorably known to all colonists, and this in spite of the fact that it was to him that all came last fall when the cry went up that they must have homes by snow fall. His calm assurance that no one would have to suffer in a tent restored the confidence of the panicky, and when he fulfilled his promises they were for him to a man. They still are, and though it they hate to see Don Irwin go, all concede that the choice of his successor is a fine one.

The esteem with which Mr. Irwin is held by all connected with the project was expressed by the goodwill gifts presented to him the evening before he left on his vacation. A collection among the colonists was used to purchase him a fine repeating shotgun, while members of the administrative staff and corporation employees chipped in to buy him a pair of binoculars.

No one who heard his speech of acceptance and thanks at the dance need have any doubt as to the depth of his appreciation, nor as to the sincerity of his statement that he looked back upon his year with the colony as one of the fullest of his life -- fullest, because of the many real friendships he made.

"Good luck, good health and success, Don," expresses the sentiment of the whole valley who knew him during the most trying times the colony has, or ever will, experience.

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Mrs. Sheely says no one will believe it, but it's the Gospel truth that she planted flower seeds in the bed of her hothouse on Sunday and they were up through the earth by Tuesday noon.

And these seeds were put in the ground without being soaked.

OPEN LETTERS FROM DON. L. IRWIN

I take this means of thanking the staff members and employees of the ARRC, with whom I have been associated during the past year, for their fine remembrance to me on the occasion of the first annual Valley picnic.

It is a gift that through the years to come will be a very pleasant reminder of our work together towards a worthy goal. The friendships formed and the values established will, I assure you, never be forgotten.

With best wishes for your continued success, I am,

Cordially yours,

Don L. Irwin

I want to thank the Colonists for their fine gift to me during the first annual Valley celebration, May 16, 1936.

I want to assure you, one and all, that it will be a very pleasant reminder of our labors together during the first year of your life in your new Alaskan homes.

The work has been pleasant, because constructive. The friendships formed will be among the treasures of my life, and can only grow richer with the passing of the years.

Again I say, thank you.

Don L. Irwin

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ZELDA KING AND ALVA  
PILKENTON MARRIED 23RD

Zelda King, school teacher at the Palmer school, and Alva Pilkenton, accountant with the ARRC, were married at a ceremony performed by Rev. Patterson at the apartment of A. B. Cummings at the Anchorage Hotel last Saturday evening.

About fifteen friends of the popular young couple were present and stayed over the week-end to help the newlyweds celebrate the occasion.

Mr. and Mrs. Pilkenton will continue to make their home in Palmer.

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The E. A. Dunklees have started construction on a building which will contain five apartments.

## THE MATANUSKA VALLEY PIONEER

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Jack Allman, Editor - Publisher  
David Markham, Assistant Editor  
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copies 5¢ locally and 10¢ else-  
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Advertising rates upon request.

## CALL YOUR SHOTS

On Tuesday the Anchorage Times published what it called "An open letter to newspaper correspondents at Palmer."

Editorially, the piece had considerable merit, but we do think it could have been a little more specific, especially so as only two of the larger and better known news services are represented here.

Instead of saying: "Some correspondent erred in handling the story and giving it to the nation through one of the foremost news agencies," the writer could, and should, have said: "...giving it to the nation through the Associated Press."

Such a statement would have saved us, as correspondent for the United Press, the annoying experience of having at least a half a hundred persons greet us with the question: "Was that you the Times took a rap at?"

The editorial states that: "A good reporter writes without fear or fervor."

We say: "So does an editor."

So, we ask, why let the accusing finger waver all over Palmer to include all agencies and all correspondents? Why not point it directly at the target? The Times, because it is a member of the Associated Press, probably didn't like to come right out and accuse the service of employing inefficient correspondents, but that is not writing "without fear or fervor."

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There is an old Alaskan saying: "Gold is where you find it, and where you don't find it you'll find me and my partner digging like hell."

Elmer Quam, hockey star and basketball coach, says that don't apply only to prospecting. His name was called at the Express Theater last week as winner of the \$50.00 cash prize, but because he wasn't in the house at the time he doesn't get it. The day he should have been at the show he went hunting up the Knik, mushing half way to the glacier without seeing a thing.

Returning, he ran into two big moose a mile from home and there were two black bears in camp when he arrived.

## HOSPITAL NOTES

Mrs. Henry Laako visited the hospital for medical treatment and returned home; more fortunate than Mrs. David Onkka who is still confined to her bed there.

During the week Mrs. Edith Meier, Robert Meier, Duayne Peterson, Otto Peterson, Jr., Margery Peterson, and Mrs. Elverta Klinepier had their tonsils removed.

Mrs. Cadwalader and Mrs. Mattie Ferning, both of Wasilla, were in for treatment. Mrs. Cadwalader has returned to her home, but Mrs. Ferning is still a patient.

Donald Irwin, Jr., Clayton and Teddy Deland, Dorothy White, Mrs. Orville Couden and Mrs. Johan Johnson with her newborn baby boy were all discharged during the week.

Kathryn Kennedy is now home with her mother. The Kennedys have taken the Thuma home for the summer

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With everyone talking hunting, now is the time to get your gun in shape. Drop into the PIONEER office if interested in a Sporter stock for your old army rifle.

Some of the 117 NRA members have made over their service guns into better balanced guns, but it is a big job unless you have the tools. We have the catalog for fine inlitted walnut stocks, ready to be attached in place of the club-like affair the army used.

The boys report fishing as being pretty good up Wolverine Creek. If you haven't time to go that far you can get a mess of ten and twelve inch Rainbows out of Jimmy St. Clair's lake by trolling with a small spinner.

There must be a lot of moose around as we have reports every day of someone seeing one.

A cow with a young calf treed I. M. Sandvik while he was out with Don Irwin's party up the Knik. Don reported seeing one cow with three calves, and he had John Bixler and Neil Miller to back him up.

They brought back proof, however of a bear with three young. The old lady made her getaway, but they got the cubs. They also got a yearling black.

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FOR SALE: Spaulding truck body to fit any small car. Cost \$85.00 will sell for \$25. Call PIONEER.

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HEWITT'S -- PALMER

GET YOUR DEVELOPING AND PRINTING DONE THROUGH OUR 26 HOUR SERVICE. SATISFACTION IS GUARANTEED.

EVERYTHING FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHER

VALLEY YOUNG PEOPLES' CLUB IS ORGANIZED

The young people have been "getting together" recently at the Bingle place - the Community Church Manse - meeting every Sunday evening for a couple of hours of social life.

Last Sunday they decided to get down to business and Mr. Claire (Nick) Nichols was elected President of their club, to be known as Valley Young Peoples' Club. Ernest Crabbe of Matanuska was elected Vice-President, and Ruth De Armond Secretary-Treasurer.

Officers immediately took their respective chairs and committees were appointed.

The purpose of the organization as outlined is to have a short prayer meeting followed by a discussion of some topic of interest to the group as a whole. Each discussion will be led by a different member each Sunday. It will be the duty of these members to prepare material on the subject.

Following the discussion there will be group singing or other entertainment such as members can provide. Of course, there is a social committee, so there will be eats, picnics, parties, etc.

Everyone is invited to attend and add his or her voice to the discussion or singing. Meetings start promptly at 8 p.m.

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On Monday Master Charles Moore gave a stump party in the new clearing behind Aristocrat Row. Wieners and marshmallows were served from an open fire and there were buns, cookies, pickles and mustard.

After eats games were played and there was an exhibition of a Viking in action.

The party finally broke up in a lovely free-for-all fight after which the unbruised guests joined their host in a bicycle hike.

Guests names are withheld for obvious reasons.

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GRAND OPENING AT VALLEY CITY CAFE

SUNDAY MAY 31, 1936

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SOFT DRINKS AND EATS

AT

HORTON'S NEW ADDITION

This advertisement courtesy of

STILL PALMER GROWS

Not only are we to have an apartment house as recorded elsewhere in these columns, but a new building to house a complete laundry is about to be started. The concern, which is a branch of the Sunshine Laundry of Seattle, has purchased the site and machinery is now on the way in, scheduled to arrive on the next boat.

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The regular meeting of the Valley Farmers' Club was held at the H. J. Lechner home at the Experiment Station Farm on Wednesday evening.

Since this was the last meeting at which Mr. and Mrs. Lechner will be present, the occasion was turned into a farewell party after the business meeting and discussion.

The Lechners were presented with an Indian-made basket, in appreciation of their work with the club. Refreshments were served by the ladies.

Present at the meeting were: Mr. and Mrs. O.T. Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Larson, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jensen, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Moss, Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Larsh, Charlie Marino, Mr. Griffith, Howard Estelle, Miss Ruth De Armond and Joe Flakne.

The Lechners will leave next week, sailing from Anchorage on the 'Discoverer' for a trip down Cook Inlet and on to Seattle.

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The second meeting of the Girls' 4-H Club was held in the school building and a club name was decided upon - that of 'Denali,' which means the highest in the language of the interior Indians.

The Constitution was read and adopted and the first Wednesday in each month decided upon as the day of regular meetings at the school.

Ima Belle Irwin was elected chairman of the program committee with Helen Barry and Helen Arndt assistants. The club was divided into two projects, that of sewing and baking. Ruthelyn Elliott was elected chairman for baking, with Patty Ring as assistant; for sewing, Dorothy Sheely, Chairman, and Billy Jane Huntley assistant.

Dorothy Sheely Acting Reporter

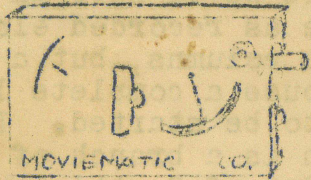
FOR SALE: Mantel model GE, 8 tube battery radio, complete. Long and short wave. New batteries and new tubes. \$45 Inquire at PIONEER.

LOST: A Mickey Mouse wrist watch at the last dance. Finder please

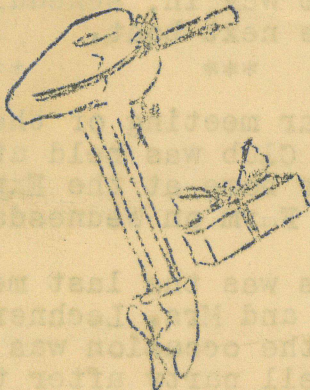


# DON'T GUESS!

One glance tells precisely where your aperture opening and your shutter speed should be set. Weston Exposure Meters insure perfect exposures. Price: \$22.50



MOVIE MATIC cameras: \$5.00 Films, ten feet in length, forty exposures to the roll, are \$1.00, which includes printing & developing.



1936 Evinrude outboards - pride of Evinrude engineers.

SUMMER SUGGESTIONS: (1) BUHACH, (2) SUNSHADES, (3) TROPPER HATS.

Gift novelties; accompanying cards expressing concisely your exact shade of sentiment - these are a specialty at BERT'S.



This week's special:

CLOTH-COVERED SUNSHADES -

39¢

"SEE YOUR DRUGSTORE FIRST"

# BERT'S

VALLEY CITY CAFE

CAKES.....PIES.....PASTRY.....BREAD  
FRESH DAILY

CIGARETTES CANDY TOBACCO

FOR SALE: Almost New Saddle...  
12 gauge pump shotgun  
Bolt-action .22 rifle  
Crosley Battery Radio

INQUIRE AT PIONEER OFFICE...

permanents -- Marcelles -- shampoos  
finger--waves

LEAVE APPOINTMENTS FOR ALL TREATMENTS  
with  
TED MACROBERTS

at the COLONY BARBERSHOP  
NEAR THE COMMISSARY, AT THE CENTER

THE PIONEER CAB  
SPECIAL RATES FOR FISHING PARTIES

....THEY'RE BITING OUT AT COTTONWOOD

MAKE UP A PARTY THEN SEE  
GEORGE LEMMON PROPRIETOR

SOURDOUGH SAM SAYS: All skulls grin,  
But nobody ever heard one/laugh...  
TAKE IT EASY....YOU GOT ALL DAY!!!

"IRISH"

WANTS EVERYONE TO JOIN HIM IN  
WISHING

HELEN LEEK AND HER ASSOCIATES

A GRAND SUCCESS AT THE  
**PALMER CAFE**

OPENING MONDAY, JUNE 1, 1936

Palmer Alaska

"JACK"

STOPOVERS ALLOWED ON  
ANCHORAGE VISITS

In answer to a letter suggesting that the change be made, the Palmer Chamber of Commerce is in receipt of notification from Colonel Ohlson that the round-trip tickets purchased here will remain good for a whole day's stopover in Anchorage, whereas heretofore it has been obligatory to make use of round-trip tickets upon the next returning train.

On June 5th the Alaska Railroad will inaugurate its summer bi-weekly train service on the mainline.

Get a history of the project by procuring a file of back copies of the PIONEER. \$1.00 for books of 10.