

Palmer Historical Society

PRESERVING OUR PAST, SHARING OUR STORIES & MAKING HISTORY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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PRESIDENT'S VIEW FROM FARM LOOP

Blue skies, longer days, robins singing and the trees just starting to leaf out, finally Spring is here. Spring means it's May, a busy month for the Historical Society with our monthly evening program and the raffle dinner event at the Colony House Museum. The May program will be a sharing of memories about our mothers so think of a story you might like to tell about your mother. The program meeting is Wednesday May 19, 7:30 p.m. at the Palmer Public Library. The annual Colony House raffle dinner will be Sunday May 23, and there is still time to purchase a raffle ticket, but don't wait too long because the drawing will be May 18. Tickets are for sale at the Colony House Museum, Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 to 4:00, or contact Gerry Keeling (745-3703). Looking forward to June,

the biggest event we know of is the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Matanuska Colony. The Colony Kids have put together a number of events during Colony Days, June 11-13 including sales of souvenir items, a commemorative poster, a "mug-up," dinner, and picnic (more information on page 3). Also during Colony Days, Saturday June 12 from 10:00 to 4:00, is the annual Open House at the Colony House Museum where there are always plenty of tasty treats. Later in the summer, there will also be the PHS annual Picnic and Historic Tour: information about this fun summer event will be posted on the PHS web site and postcards (or emails) will be sent.

Chuck Logsdon, President

LEROI AND MARGARET HEAVEN PRESENT PHOTO POTPOURRI

At our April meeting we were treated to a nicely paced, informative, and entertaining presentation by the Heavens of historic photos of valley life from the 1920s through the 1970s. Pictures included LeRoi's uncle's mink farm in the Houston area in the 1920s as well as photos of Old Matanuska, the Lake George floods, and the Palmer Agricultural Experiment Station in the 1940s and '50s. The show wrapped up with LeRoi and Margaret telling about how a crew of volunteers moved a Colony Barn to their property in the 1970s. Thank you LeRoi and Margaret for a really nice show.

NEWS FROM THE COLONY HOUSE MUSEUM

Summer hours arrived at the CHM on May 4, once again accompanied by the footsteps of the many school children who finish off their school year on the trail of the Valley's history. (Twenty-seven tours are already scheduled in May!)... (Continued page 2)

MAY AND JUNE:

Wed. May 19 7:30 PM at the Palmer Library: Palmer Historical Society Program - **Stories About Our Mothers**

May 18: Colony House Museum Raffle Dinner Drawing

May 25: Registration deadline for discounted prices to Colony Kids' 75th Anniversary events (see pg 3)

June 11-13: Colony Days & 75th Annual Matanuska Colony Reunion

June 11 (11:00-3:00): Colony Kids' *mug-up* at Raven Hall

June 12 (10:00-4:00): Colony House Museum Open House; 75th Reunion Dinner

June 13: Reunion Picnic



Moving the McCombs/Johan Johnson Colony Barn along Fairview Loop Rd.

(Continued from page 1)

... It's a great opportunity for our docents to highlight our history for these young visitors and impart that special spirit of community that has enveloped our town through the years. The Colony House Museum is now open for regular summer hours 10:00 to 4:00, Tuesday through Saturday, until the end of August.

The Colony House Museum will host its annual **Raffle Dinner on Sunday, May 23, 2010**, when the lucky dinner winners and their invited guests will be presented a "ritzy" evening to enjoy! Several PHS and CHM friends are ready to offer warm welcome and hospitality to the evening's visitors. Guests are invited to dress in vintage or "on the town" style and will be served by an amiable ensemble of black-and-white-attired museum-minded folks. Chef Pete Scott of the Inn Café will prepare what is certain to be a most enjoyable repast, served in the mid-thirties ambiance of the Museum and flavored in that pre-1940's historical time and with a bit of home-town perspective. The PHS board wishes to thank all of those who continue to support this event and for the interest and participation in PHS's other projects and programs. **THANK YOU!**

It's not too early to think ahead to our **Colony Days OPEN HOUSE** celebration, when our Museum will offer hospitality to visitors both local and from out of town on Saturday, June 12. There's nothing more inviting than a homemade cookie or treat and we're looking for our bakers out there to help us by bringing some goodies (we will be most appreciative) and perhaps also come with a historical tidbit or tale! (Check with Gerry if you have questions 745-3703.)

The Colony House Museum also received an interesting donation a couple of weeks ago when Mary Ada Peery dropped off a vintage wooden desk chair that her father, Francis Lee, a colonist, used while working at the original Eklutna Power Plant. Mr. Lee worked at the Eklutna Power Plant from 1941 to 1955 and Mary is fairly certain this chair was also the one used by Frank Reed starting in the 1920's. We thank Mary Ada and her brother Jimmy Lee for donating this classic piece of local history.



PALMER HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETS IN THE REFURBISHED NEAL WRIGHT HOUSE

Doug Olson recently purchased the Neal Wright house which he moved to Badger Road just off the Outer Springer Road and, in April, he kindly offered to host the monthly board meeting of the PHS at this rejuvenated historic home. Doug has done a fine job of blending the old with the new while maintaining the historic character of the house and highlighting the fine view of Pioneer Peak. Doug continues to work on the house and he welcomes visitors.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THE COLONY HOUSE MUSEUM

Summer is a busy time at the Colony House Museum and we are looking for volunteers. We need docents who welcome and interact with visitors and help with sales and donations. We also need help with maintenance and cleaning, lawn mowing (lawn mower provided!), and garden upkeep. Or if anyone is interested in learning about collections management, we have several projects in this area. The Palmer Historical Society is an all volunteer, privately funded non-profit organization so any assistance is deeply appreciated. Please contact Gerry Keeling (745 3703) or Chuck Logsdon (745 2327) for more information, or stop by the Museum, Tues. through Sat. from 10:00 to 4:00.

COLONY KIDS PLANNING A BIG PARTY FOR THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Every year the children of the Colonists get together and visit and share memories. This year, though is the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Matanuska Colony and the Colony Kids are putting on a number of public events during Colony Days, June 11-13. The first event is a *mug-up*, June 11 from 11:00 to 3:00 at Raven Hall. The *mug-up* is free and you can purchase tickets to the catered dinner and/or other picnic events. There will also be commemorative posters, unique collectibles, hats, t-shirts and calendars for sale as well as raffle tickets for a Matanuska Colony commemorative quilt (for more information or to purchase a raffle ticket contact Norma Benson / 745-3555).

You can get discounted prices to 75th Anniversary events if you pre-register by May 25th at Matanuska Valley Colony, Inc., 248 East Dahlia Ave. in Palmer. The cost of the reunion dinner is \$35 per person; and the Reunion Picnic is \$15 per person (children 10 and under \$5 each). Please include your name, date, total amount paid, and number attending each event. Make checks payable to: Matanuska Valley Colony, Inc. For more information, contact Tiny DePriest (745-3927) or email colony75@gmail.com.



Tiny DePriest, Marcella Hartley and artist Douglas Girard with the prize winning painting titled "Our New Home," a painting commissioned by the Colony Kids which will be featured as a commemorative Matanuska Valley Colony 75th Anniversary poster.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

JoAnn, glad to hear your co-workers enjoyed the cookies. Here is the recipe. Jean

Jean Krupa contributed the recipe for Hunker Dunker Cookies which JoAnn Utt "tested" on her co-workers at MEA where the cookies received rave reviews.

Hunker Dunker Cookies

- 2 cups butter or margarine
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups oatmeal
- 2 cups Rice Krispies

Cream butter and sugars together. Add eggs and vanilla extract. Sift dry ingredients together and add to butter mixture. Stir in oatmeal and Rice Krispies. Bake at 350° F for 10 minutes. Add chocolate chips for variation.

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Regular \$10/yr Contributing \$25/yr Sustaining \$100/yr Lifetime \$500

Mark Your Calendars

Wednesday May 19 - Stories About Our Mothers.

Return Service Requested

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