

Palmer Historical Society

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

Official Publication of the Palmer Historical Society – Volume XXIII No.1 – January 2008 Edition



Colony Christmas at the Colony House Museum

Shout it from the House Top!!!! by Gerry Keeling

Palmer Historical Society Appreciation for those who made possible the Colony House museum “open house” with their cheery participation and support during Colony Christmas on Saturday, December 8th!

Set Up and Readiness Crew...

John Stuart, Bonita Strong, Jean Bradley

Holiday Bakers...*Vivian Smith, Vi Norbo, Beverly Larsh Hayes, Kay Love, Arleta O'Connor, Jean Bradley, Dona Hermon, Jack & Gena Straayer, David & Betty Mathews, Mel Sandvik, June Tull, Cliff & Marjorie Salisbury, Arlene Fox, Helen Hulbert, Margaret Heaven,*

Fran Seager-Boss, Joann Utt, Sharon Benson, & Roy Hoskins.

Craft Items...*Mary Ann Anderson*



The Colony House Museum Ginger Bread House delightfully “furnished” ...*Roy Hoskins* On Board for Open House...*Heather Lampard, Jean Bradley, David Mathews, John Stuart, Chuck Logsdon*

Our Carolers...Bass Soloist *William & Marylou Bailey* of Healy and Grandchildren from North Pole continuing their annual 4-generation visit to sing at the Colony House Museum with great-grandparents *Chuck & Lois June Neher-Overton* of Palmer.

And our Musicians...Pianists *Alice Branton, Vi Norbo, Sally Hitchcock* and Guitar music accompaniment by *Billy Olsen* 1961 Palmer High grad.



Dahlia Street Market Open House

While many PHS Members enjoyed the Museum's activities during Palmer's Colony Christmas, many of them strolled across the snowless courtyard to take in the ribbon-cutting ceremonies at the latest restoration in Palmer – the Dahlia Street Market Open House!



Photos by Sharon Benson of the view from Dahlia Street Market back to the Colony Inn and the ribbon-cutting.

In the Next Edition

- *Upcoming Speakers*
- *Tribute Recipe of the Month*
- *2008 Calendar of Events*
- *Member Of the Month*
- *Your Article? We welcome submissions from our Membership!*
- *Mystery Photo of the Month*
- *Presidents' Report from Farm Loop*

Next Society Meeting

January 16, 2008

Palmer Public Library Mtg Room
Gather at 7:00PM

Call to Order at 7:30PM

Program information on Page 2

As always, the public is cordially invited to attend, and refreshments, served by our Hospitality Committee, will be available during our evening. Come Join Us!

visit our website at www.palmerhistoricalsociety.org

January 2008 Program News and More!

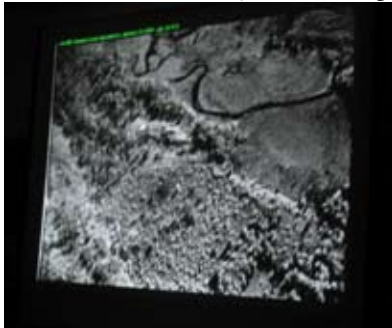
"There has been much recent progress on history" ... Yogi Berra must have said that.

PHS is finding new treasures of our valley history – and we've just begun to explore them. On January 16, 7:30 PM at the Palmer Library, we will take a peek at some new discoveries and continue exploring the aerial photographs we first saw in October.

January Program – 1939 Aerial Fly Over, Part II

We took a quick look in October at the 1939 aerial photographs from AeroMetric – and immediately the membership wanted more. We briefly peeked at the 48 high resolution photos, zoomed in on a few of them, and identified features we'd never seen. "Can you zoom in on that cabin? What's there now? Wow, I didn't know a farm was there! So that's the schoolhouse! Can I buy that photo? Can you enlarge it?" Yes indeed.

We'll look more closely at select photos you request, and help identify features. You can now order 8x10 reprints and enlargements – membership has its benefits. We'll even look at larger scale aerial photos of the entire area from 1939 and satellite coverage from 2004, so you can place the photos.



Check our web page for details!
First, What's New in 2008!

ByLaw Changes

First on the agenda will be the special meeting to vote on the proposed PHS bylaws changes.

2008 PHS Projects

New PHS projects for 2008 will be briefly described, and some may become future monthly meeting topics and others will need input from those interested.

New Deal Anniversary

The 75th anniversary of the New Deal is in 2008! We know a lot about Alaska's biggest New Deal project, the Matanuska Colony, including names of

the colonists and administrators, but we know less of the hundreds of New Deal workers who

built the colony. Most of these initial ±400 "transient" workers were hired in California, and their contracts made it very difficult to stay in Alaska – but some did. Later workers came from other places, including Alaska – and more of them stayed. Check our web pages for details.

Website Updates

The new PHS web page: many new resources and a great tool for historians.

PHS Newsletter

Special thanks to Gerry Keeling for single-handedly putting it out these many years. It will take a group effort to replace her efforts. Cheryl Babbe has graciously offered to take over the newsletter. Cheryl is energized about the Palmer Historical Society and about working on the newsletter with the Board of Directors. Look for a really cool new look in coming months.

Map Project for PHS

PHS has found some very unique maps, which we'll reproduce. The Original BLM Survey: The first cadastral survey of the valley started in 1911, covering the area from Eklutna to Chickaloon and north to Talkeetna. We now have on disk the plats and original notes, which were only available on tedious microfiche. These notes are a treasure, describing original cabins, trails, and features now long lost. PHS will make copies available for members – just be prepared to share your findings at a future meeting.

Mark Your 2008 Calendars Great Speakers Lined Up!

February 20th we will feature a presentation by Kevin Tripp of the Alaska Moving Image Preservation Association. And on **March 19th** Kenny Hughes Jr., born in the original hospital in Palmer will be our guest speaker.

Ralph Hulbert
Program Chairman

Bylaw Amendments for Membership Approval

The PHS Board has adopted two amendments to the Palmer Historical Society Bylaws that need to be voted on by the membership just prior to our January Program.

The Board of Directors of the Palmer Historical Society has agreed on the two following bylaw changes and will officially adopt these changes at the January 2008 meeting of the board.

Once these amendments are officially adopted by the Board, it is my duty as President of the organization to call and hold a special meeting of the membership during the 30 days following this adoption.

As a result I am calling for a special meeting to allow the membership to vote on these changes prior to the January

16, 2008 regular meeting.

The first Board approved amendment will simplify the ability of the Treasurer to pay PHS bills. Section VI Paragraph D sentence no. 2 shall now read: "The Treasurer shall maintain local bank accounts.

We have voted to remove the following text: *checking account limited to \$1000.00 maximum balance, and a savings account.*

The second amendment changes our bylaws to conform to the financial year we use for filing our tax return with the IRS. Section VII Paragraph A shall now read: "The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be from [July 1 through June 30] January 1 through December 31.

Chuck Logsdon
President

Palmer Community College Anniversary House

The Mat-Su College will have an event celebrating their 50th Anniversary on Saturday, Jan. 26th, 11am-4pm.

They began as Palmer Community College in 1958. There will be food, displays, guest speakers and a movie premiere. The event is open to the public.

Board of Directors Serving PHS in 2008

President – Chuck Logsdon.....	745-2327
Vice President – John Stuart.....	745-3462
Co-Secretary – Sharon Benson	745-4913
Co-Secretary – JoAnn Utt	376-4938
Treasurer – David Mathews.....	745-7687
Program Chairman – Ralph Hulbert	745-4586
Colony Museum – Gerry Keeling.....	745-3703
Board Member Emeritus – Kay Love.....	745-3697

Tribute Recipe of the Month

Calico Beans from Jinx Cornelius

Brown & drain:

½ pound bacon—cut-up in small pieces

Brown together:

1 pound hamburger

1 small onion

Add:

1 can kidney beans

2 cans pork and beans -1 lb. 15oz.

(Van Camps or Campbell's)

½ cup catsup

¾ cup brown sugar

2 tbsp. vinegar

Salt & pepper to taste

Cook or stir on top burner. Medium heat.

Stir to prevent burning.

This makes a great dish for large family get-togethers or picnic.

By Lyla “Jinx” Cornelius—I love it!! Good for a Winter main dish!

Recipe submitted by Sharon Benson. This recipe is from Jinx Cornelius' sister, Edna Wolfe, of Minneapolis, MN. Jinx is a Pioneer of Alaska, and a PHS member too. She was “Nurse of the Year” in 1987. She was married to a Colonist Norman France, and after his death she was married to Frank Cornelius who was here before the colonists. As you can tell by the photo—she is a big Cubby fan!!

PHS Newsletter Finds New Volunteer to Serve

For some time now, I saw the “blank” beside Newsletter Editor in the PHS newsletters and gave consideration to getting involved. At the October meeting, I spoke to many of the Board Members and pondered my involvement.

I am not able to serve the PHS without the support of the Board of Directors. They have been involved in the changes you will see coming, and we look forward to getting the membership involved as well.

Please, *send me your e-mail address* to add to our membership records, and I will send you a pdf-file of this edition. No, we're not abandoning a print-version, yet many members would like to get the newsletter faster and e-mail can accomplish this easily!

I look forward to being of service to the PHS in the upcoming year. Send your e-mail address to me at: p hs@thefastfrontier.com.

Safe travels,
Cheryl Babbe



2008 is the New Deal

Just after his inaugural in 1933 President Roosevelt announced the New Deal, a bold initiative to put Americans back to work in the depth of the great depression. Major programs included the Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps.

We know a lot about Alaska's biggest New Deal project, the Matanuska Colony, including names of the colonists and

administrators, but we know less of the hundreds of New Deal workers who built the colony. Most of these initial ~400 “transient” workers were hired in California, and their contracts made it very difficult to stay in Alaska – but some did. Later workers came from other places, including Alaska – and more of them stayed.

So, now is the year to share their stories. But we have

many questions. Who were these New Deal workers? Who stayed in Alaska or Palmer? Any relatives still here? What did they do? Tales! Photos!

Call a PHS board member if you have details to share, or email to info@palmerhistoricalsociety.org.

We will post information on our web page as it becomes available and share it during monthly meetings.

Website Links from PHS Members

From Ralph Hulbert: *Coleen Mielke's long awaited article on George W. Palmer has been published* by the Alaska Historical Society in their Alaska History Volume 22. Visit their website at <http://www.alaskahistorical-society.org> and click on publi-

ated in Alaska genealogy and valley history, be sure to spend time at Coleen's Rootsweb site too: http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~coleen/south_central_alaska.html to learn more on our area history!

From John Stuart: a website to learn more on land patents:

<http://www.nps.gov/home//historyculture/> and <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/> for federal land patent info. Need more? At <http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/land/index.html>, you can spend more time looking into homesteadrecordselectronically!



President Gerry Keeling, brings the membership up-to-date at the Annual Meeting, held October 16th.

Program Speakers

February 20th –Kevin Tripp of the Alaska Moving Image Preservation Association.

March 19th – Kenny Hughes Jr., born in the original hospital in Palmer, will be our speaker.

April 16th – Joe Lawton will show us his 900-mile pilgrimage across northern Spain.

The PHS Board of Directors always welcomes suggestions for monthly speakers. Please contact one of us if you would like to make a presentation yourself or have a suggestion for our consideration!

President's Corner-the View from Farm Loop

Oh my, PHS has a new president and it is I. It is just a little overwhelming to find oneself president of such a successful organization. As many of you know, organizations like ours succeed because of the commitment of the volunteers and I would like to start by thanking everyone who continues to provide their time, effort and money to ensuring our organization continues to contribute to the community.

Just by way of introduction, I am the oldest son of the late Charles E. Logsdon, whom many of you knew as a member of PHS and long time resident and volunteer.

Our annual Colony Christmas open house was a great success with many familiar faces as well as new ones stopping by to say hello, buy a treat and maybe even sing a carol or two. The mild temperatures compensated for the lack of snow and

Christmas spirit filled the air. What better place to enjoy the season than at our little piece of colony history here at the colony house museum. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make the open house possible and in particular to event organizer Gerry Keeling.

Expect a new look to our newsletter next month as Cheryl Babbe will be taking over the Newsletter. Many thanks to Cheryl for volunteering to take this job on.

Finally as you can see we have an exciting year ahead of us, I encourage you to get us your email address as this will ensure that you get the newsletter in a timely fashion. Of course you can always read it on our website <http://www.palmer-historicalsociety.org>. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have ideas or questions.

Chuck Logsdon

Come Join Us and Become a Member of the Palmer Historical Society!

Mail in your payment with the following information today:

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Membership Levels of the Palmer Historical Society:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular – \$10yr | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing – \$25yr |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining – \$100/yr | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime \$500 |

**Palmer Historical Society
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Palmer, AK 99645-1935**

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Address Correction Requested

January Program: An Aerial Tour of the Matanuska Valley, Fall 1939 – Part 2