



Palmer Historical Society

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palmerhistoricalsociety.org

Hello from Your Palmer Historical Society,

It must be spring with snow melting, swans spotted up the Knik River, and the hint of a muddy road or two. It is also time to remind you about our Spring Fund Raiser, the Colony House Dinner Raffle. So in lieu of our usual Newsletter we have put together a quick update about what's happening to accompany the enclosed raffle tickets.

At the Colony House Museum

It's time again to *ring* the Dinner Bell! 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.

Two winning tickets (and two alternates) will be drawn at the Museum on Tuesday, May 18 with the winners being notified promptly by telephone. Each of the two winners drawn and their three guests will be served a table-for-four dinner. **Dinner hour will begin at 6:00 p.m. with guests asked to arrive at least 10-15 minutes earlier.** All proceeds from the raffle will be directed to the Colony House Museum. It's annually a main fund raiser opportunity to support this CHM historical preservation effort, and 2010 marks **our twelfth dinner year!**

Two raffle tickets have been included with this newsletter. Additional tickets are available by contacting any PHS Board member. (Tickets are \$5.00 each.) You may drop your stubs at the Colony House Museum 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. beginning May 1 or at PHS's program meeting at the Library on April 21. Or just pop them into the mail. Call Gerry at 745-3703 for special information, and plan on a special evening if you are one of the two lucky winners!! **GOOD LUCK TO ALL, and THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

The 75th Anniversary of the Colony and Colony Days

Helen Hulbert provided us with the following information about the Colony Kid's plans for their reunion activities during Colony Days. Reunion dates are June 11, 12 and 13 over the Colony Days weekend. We plan to have a quilt raffle, commemorative posters, hats and t-shirts available soon. There will be a mug-up registration on Friday, June 11th for the dinner and picnic events the following days. We have an email address of colony75@gmail.com for those who have questions. More information will be posted soon.

Our April Program

Don't forget our next Program meeting is Wednesday April 21st, 7:30 pm at the Palmer Library. LeRoi Heaven will share a few of his photos from the 1920's through 1970's. I got a sneak preview and I know you will enjoy the show.

Jean Krupa our March speaker

Jean presented an endearing and entertaining slide show of her family's life on the shores of Finger Lake. A number of family members were also in attendance and they kindly shared a number of amusing anecdotes as well. Jean introduced Melvin, Mary, Beth, and Paul Barry as well as her sister Kathy, sister-in-law Wendy and her brother Barry Simpson. The Barrys were a large colonist family that was having a hard time making it on the small parcel of land drawn in the land lottery. As a result, they soon began looking for something bigger and eventually bought the Bogard homestead on the shores of Finger Lake. The family worked hard



clearing additional land for farming, raising cows and eventually opening a lakeside resort and even a golf course. Jean's presentation brought back a lot of memories for many in the audience who swam at Barry's and ate at the restaurant and gave us all a great appreciation of the life the family made for themselves and for the entire community.

Panel of Colony Descendants Interviewed at March meeting of the Cook Inlet Historical Society

Never mind Jay Leno and Conan O'Brien; we prefer Jim Fox hosting a panel of Colony Kids for our late night entertainment! A large contingent of Valley history buffs joined the crowd of Anchorage folks at this Cook Inlet Historical Society presentation at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art on the evening of March 18th. We were treated to a fascinating discussion of our history from early Colony years up through the war years and beyond by a panel of "Colony Kids" who'd lived it. Local historian Jim Fox served as moderator and the panel included: Norma Benson, Evelyn Mielke, Helen Havemeister, Gayle Rowland and Arlene Fox. Audience members were regaled with memories of what it was like to grow up in the Matanuska Colony from its earliest years and the panel did a wonderful job of describing the fun and hardships of those times as their families built their homes and this community.

The freedom of being a child in the camps, the chores of farming life, school years, community dances and the darker parts of the war years were all discussed. It was difficult for some of the younger audience members to imagine life without electricity, indoor plumbing, phones, television or the internet. A reception and refreshments followed and everyone enjoyed the chance to visit and discuss the memories stirred by this event. Hats off to all who participated!



See you at the PHS April 21st Meeting.

Chuck Logsdon