

# PALMER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESERVING OUR PAST, SHARING OUR STORIES & MAKING HISTORY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS  
Official Publication of the Palmer Historical Society - Volume XXV No.1 - January 2010 Edition

## PRESIDENT'S VIEW FROM FARM LOOP

The days are short but it is a brilliant sunny day on New Year's Eve 2009 and 2010 lies ahead. In 2009, many people were affected by the down-economy and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and, as happens so often, the passing of good friends. However 2010 holds the promise of new opportunities for celebrating Palmer's past and challenges for its future. The downtown one way couplet is being re-examined and the Matanuska Maid property may be acquired by the City. And finally, in case you have forgotten, 2010 is also the 75th anniversary of the Matanuska Colony. Plans are well underway for the celebration and it should be an exciting Colony Days.

## MORE ON MOORE'S CABIN

Palmer Area Homesteader John Moore - 1915 Surveyor's Map showing Moore's Cabin

Township No. 17 N. No.2 East of Seward Meridian

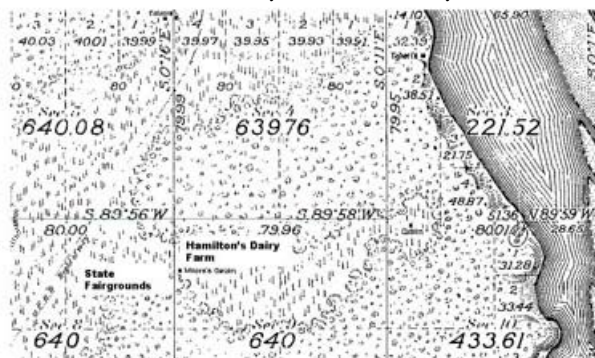
The following is taken from the 1915 Surveyor's Notes as they walk north, marking the Section line that was to become the South Inner Springer Road. "Leave heavy timber enter fallen burned timber bears E. and W. Enter clearing 1 acre in extent bears E. and W. Moore's cabin, log 12x16 ft. bears East 2.00 chs. Dist. Leave clearing bears E. and W." 16.5 chains (roughly 1/5 mile) later the surveyors set the corner post for intersection of sections 5, 4, 8, and 9, the current intersection of the South and East Inner Springer roads.

Here is a short summary of the information that we have about Palmer homesteader John Moore as told by his grandson Donald Moore. "About 1914, my grandfather, John Allen Moore, moved from Louviers, Colorado to the Palmer area to try a homestead and

We are still working on our program series for the upcoming year, but be sure to mark your calendars for January 20th when we will show the recently released documentary "For the Rights of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska" (at 7:30 p.m. at the Palmer Library) and on February 17, Ralph Hulbert will give a presentation on Palmer's mysterious underground.

Finally, we will not be sending out our usual February newsletter due to scheduling issues with our production team. However, expect a postcard reminding you about the February meeting.

**Chuck Logsdon,**  
PHS President



(the older) and Walter (my dad) graduated and moved up to Palmer to be with my Grandfather. About 1919 Ben joined

*More on Moore's continued page 2*

## YOUR PHS NEWSLETTER

That's correct—this is your newsletter, and the Board is anxious to see member submissions coming in for this new year. As a member, who has chosen to serve to assist in getting the news to each of you, I shall ask for your support again: short stories about life in Palmer, school memories, things you thought "no one else knows about this" stories, send in comments about Ralph Hulbert's "The Old-est..." series and help us ferret out some more facts about our Palmer History.

You may e-mail me directly at newsletter@palmerhistoricalsociety.org, or you may call me at 745-2013! Operators are still standing by...

## PHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Your Palmer historical Society Board of Directors:

President - 745-2327

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Vice-President - 745-3462

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Ralph Hulbert

Colony Museum - 745-3703

Gerry Keeling

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Karen Stuart

## PHS OFFERS OUR CONDOLENCES

Condolences to our President Chuck Logsdon on the passing of his Mother, Arly Logsdon, this past December.

## MORE ON MOORE'S CABIN

*Continued from page 1*

the Navy and became a radio operator on a ship. My dad left Alaska to pursue his life in the states and Grandpa, apparently abandoned his homestead and went back to Denver to be a plumber.

Dad talked often of his adventures in Alaska. They walked the 40 miles from the ship landing up to Palmer. Their bed was a stack of pine boughs with a blanket on top. They helped Grandpa dig a well 80 feet deep through gravel and never did hit water (it was glacial fill a half mile deep apparently). [Ralph Hulbert, our underground expert says that the water there is down 100 feet]. Ben and Dad got jobs on the railroad which was being built nearby. Pop worked in the kitchen. Vegetables grew well in the long daylight summer. Grandpa raised a wagon load of potatoes and took them to the docks. Nobody bought anything

all day long so he went home and just left them there. Each day Ben and Dad walked a mile to the river for water carrying two buckets each on a yoke. They drank it, cooked with it, washed with it, washed clothes with it and if any was any left they gave it to the dog. In the winter they ate snared rabbits which would cry out when caught.

About 20 years ago Dad, Mom, and two of my nephews drove in a camper from here in Ohio to Palmer. Dad wanted to see the old homestead again. It was just after the big earthquake. Pop did locate the cabin site which is now occupied by a large dairy farm. John Bugge's was near by."

## RASPBERRY ROYAL CAKE FROM MARGE BOUWENS

Raspberry Royal Cake

1/3 cup butter

1 cup sugar

1 egg

Cream together.

Add:

2 cups flour

1/2 tsp. salt

1 Tbl. baking powder

1 cup milk

1 tsp. vanilla

3 1/2 cups raspberries

Mix ingredients. Spread in 9" x 13" pan and put raspberries over top. Bake at 350° for 30-35 minutes. Cool and spread on glaze.

Glaze

1 1/2 cups powder sugar

2 Tbl. butter

2 Tbl. milk

1 tsp. vanilla

Marge Bouwens is the wife of Wayne Bouwens. She came to Alaska with her parents, Carl and Thekla Mielke in 1945.

She got this recipe from her neighbor, Judy Flagen, who has a fabulous berry patch—complete with a maze! The Flagens could not possibly use all the berries so Marge would pick the excess for jams and the freezer.

Marge makes this cake for summertime and family reunions. This dessert is her grand-daughter Jessica's favorite!



# Come Join Us and

## Become an Active Member of your Palmer Historical Society!

*Mail in your payment, with the following information today:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Membership levels of the  
Palmer Historical Society:*

Regular

\$10 per year

Contributing

\$25 per year

Sustaining

\$100 per year

Lifetime - \$500

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

*Do You Remember This Event from the 1950's?*

We received an email the other day from Joe and Cheryl Homme, local authors, who are researching a bear attack in April 1956 which occurred near the Tazlina Roadhouse and resulted in the deaths of Lloyd Pennington and Everett Kendall.

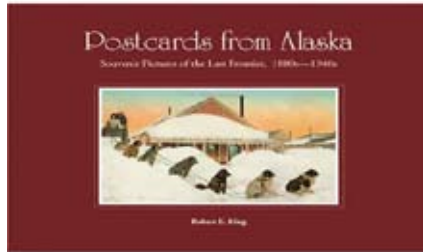
Should you have any information or recollections of this event, please contact Joe or Cheryl Homme at 745-4616 or at [cherylhomme@yahoo.com](mailto:cherylhomme@yahoo.com)

## SPECIAL THANKS

The Palmer Historical Society would like to acknowledge that we have recently received bequests from the estates of Katherine (Kay) Love and Florence Sawby. For stepping forward to serve on our Board of Directors, we thank *Jean Krupa* for her upcoming service to the PHS!

## WRAP-UP OF NOVEMBER MEETING

Robert King provided us with an entertaining and informative presentation of his collection of historic postcards from Alaska. He pointed out that the rush to look for gold in Alaska was followed shortly by the tourists, a fixture of the Alaska economy since then. The presentation covered postcards sold over the era from the gold rush through the construction of the Alcan high-



way. Mr. King included a fascinating discussion of the evolution of the postcard from the simple privately produced card in 1861 to the first government issue card in Austria in 1869 and development of colored cards used as souvenirs as introduced at the Chicago 1893 World's Fair. The first Alaska postcards showed up in 1897 and were part of what Mr. King referred to as the Beanie Baby craze of the time—postcard collecting. The Alaska postcards

that Mr. King used in his presentation are a wonderful depiction of Alaska's history even though many of them were not particularly accurate.

Mr. King has produced a book, *Postcards from Alaska: Souvenir Pictures of the Last Frontier; 1890s-1940's*, based on his postcard collection and it can be purchased online at <http://www.alaskacalendars.com/3.htm> or by contacting Robert King, 3800 Coventry Drive, Anchorage, AK, 99507 or at 907-344-0354.

## "HAPPY NEW YEAR" FROM THE COLONY

Magical memories linger of Palmer's holiday celebration, and much appreciation is deserved for the many creative residents who added to the festivities in December...including "Mother Nature" whose generous snowfall added a winter wonderland ambiance to the scene. At the Colony House Museum's OPEN HOUSE, a splendid array of sweets and baked treats awaited bake sale shoppers and Museum visitors. Sugars, spritzes, and spiceys, apricot and sour cherry goodies, Alaskan lingonberry and pumpkin, cardamom bread and krumkake, roca and Russian tea cakes, chocolate and gingerbread and peppermint and several varieties of brittle...it was all so good.

The CHM benefits from wonderful support from some fine folks, including loyal baking elves Louise Bidondo, Gloria Okeson, Arlene Fox, Helen Hulbert, Cindy Richmond, Hazel Koppenburg, Gena & Jack Straayer, Chris Herberger,



Jean Bradley, Vivian Smith, June Oberg, Jean Krupa, Roy Hoskins, Margaret Heaven, June Tull, Vi Norbo, Fran Seager-Boss, Jack Boss, plus JoAnn Utt, Sharon Benson, Janet Kincaid, Helen Finch, Mary Ann Anderson and two youngsters, brother and sister Joseph and Jenny Wallace. Applause to each of them, and to our caroling pianists Vi Norbo and Alice Branton, to open house greeter Heather Lampard, to our Bake Sale visitors, and to the Bailey family from Healy who traditionally add to the joyous sounds of the carolers. Remember your PHS board members too, who cover many bases of service to promote and maintain all PHS varied programs and functions.

The Colony House Museum enjoyed a tour by St Michael's staff in late December (arranged by Sharon Benson) and we look forward to a visiting group in both

January and February. With the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Matanuska Valley Colony Project's planning and surveying just weeks away, and with a special celebration being planned for the Colony Days weekend in June, there should be considerable opportunity to learn about this important chapter in local and national history in the coming days. In the meantime, full speed ahead to more sunshine and the warmer and longer days of



*Thank you to Chuck Logsdon and Sharon Benson for the photos: (l) LeRoi Haven and Sharon Benson, (m) the wonderful "sweets" table of sale items from our membership, (r) Vi Norbo on the piano, and our lovely Christmas tree!*

## JANUARY MEETING CELEBRATES ELIZABETH PERATROVICH DAY

In 1988 the Alaska legislature proclaimed February 16th as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day in honor of the Tlingit woman whose stirring testimony resulted in the passage of Alaska's Anti-Discrimination law in 1945. A new documentary describing the effort by Alaska Natives to get this legislation passed was recently released and will be shown at our meeting. Quoting from the release for the film: "For The Rights of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska (is) the inspiring story of Alaska Natives who, through non-violent social change, overcame prejudice, disad-

vantage and blatant bigotry to win justice for all Alaskans—a story that resonates today for Natives facing new challenges. A blend of documentary and drama, the re-enactments, news interviews, and rare historic footage and photographs, this one-hour film traces the remarkable story of Alaska's civil rights movement in a series of victories for citizenship, voting rights, school desegregation and freedom from discrimination won over the course of the 20th century--one generation inspiring the next. The climax is the 1945 passage of the Anti-Discrimination Act, a

groundbreaking law that marked an early crest of the progressive wave that would sweep Alaska just in time for statehood. Particularly inspiring is the remarkable poise of Tlingit activist Elizabeth Peratrovich, whose senate hearing testimony turned the tide in favor of the equal rights bill..."

Diane Benson who stars as Elizabeth Peratrovich in the film will be at the meeting. If you would like a copy of the movie, it can be ordered online and we would be glad to order one for you.

## STORIES NEEDED, PALMER UNDERGROUND, FEBRUARY PROGRAM

We're still looking for stories about Palmer's early buried utilities. Where did the original settlers get water? How about the Colonist tent city? When did city utilities reach north Palmer? Remem-

ber the sewer problems in the Central School basement? Did you ever play in the steam tunnels near the Co-op? How about across the tracks? Was there really a secret tunnel between the locker rooms

in the old gym?

Call me, 745-4586 or email colony@palmerhistoricalsociety.org.

*Ralph Hulbert*

*PALMER HISTORICAL SOCIETY*  
*January Meeting*  
Wednesday, January 20th  
Diane Benson  
*PALMER HISTORICAL SOCIETY*  
*February Meeting*  
Wednesday, February 17th  
Ralph Hulbert  
Palmer's Underground

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