

Palmer Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXII No. 7

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2007

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, October 17 saw PHS's members continue the current Board for another year. Following the Board's meeting two weeks later, duties were shuffled, with **Chuck Logsdon** stepping into the role of **Society president**. We also anticipate a new newsletter editor in January, with Gerry filling a smaller role overall in PHS activities for the year ahead.

Also at our Annual Meeting, the Board announced the recipient of PHS's "**15th Annual Historical Preservation Award**" to be **Joan Juster and Paul Hill of Juster Hill Productions** "in recognition of commitment over thirteen years toward completion of the documentary 'Alaska Far Away', and for creating a major Matanuska Valley Colony archival collection including extensive oral histories for our Palmer community and its people."

Those present then were treated to a "1939 flyover of the Mat Valley", a program which we will repeat in the Spring, since Palmer address-ees did not receive their newsletter until 13 days after mailing. There's lots to see, and so the "repeat" may come in chapters as part of one or more programs. Pictures likely will become available, too...more on that later!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Programs	Ralph Hulbert and Chuck Logsdon
Hospitality	David and Betty Mathews
Newsletter Editor	
Publicity	Sharon Benson
Door Prizes	JoAnn Utt
Collections	
Colony House Museum	Gerry Keeling
MSB Historical Preservation Com.	John Stuart

IN THE PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

" 'Twas the night before Thanksgiving" ... and PHS programming will serve up a slice of City of Palmer history on **Wednesday, November 21**. Our speaker will be **Palmer Police Department Detective Kelley Turney**, who this summer researched and compiled a history of our local law enforcement in recognition of the Department's 50 year anniversary observation in 2007. The PPD was established following an April 1951 election in which Palmer residents voted to incorporate their City.

We first met Detective Turney early this summer upon the season opening of the Colony House Museum. PHS was able to suggest contact leads, both names and locates, to possibly assist him in his research. His approach to the project was with a demeanor of respect and courtesy for community, leaving us confident that the research effort was in good hands.

During the course of the summer, Turney was able to assemble a notebook... including both early photos and newspaper clippings... and to locate an early uniform. He discovered humor and other points of interest, including a sign of the Good Friday earthquake. How small town law enforcement was conducted in the rural Matanuska Valley in those earlier days is a far cry from where our Valley community and city is today. Yet one communication link still visibly remains, and you likely will be amused to learn what it is!

"A 50Year History of the Palmer Police Department"
presented by **Detective Kelley Turney**
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 21, 2007
Palmer Public Library Meeting Room

As always, the public is cordially invited to attend, and refreshments will be served after the program

A Message From Gerry

PHS has been a special part of my days since I became a Board member in October 1989 and gingerly raised my hand to offer doing the PHS newsletter. Lots has happened since, and it has been a busily traveled road! Beautiful scenery... but it is time for me to cut back for awhile and try to catch up elsewhere (I'll still be at the Museum). I am looking forward to the enjoyment of continuing to see each of you during PHS events in the months ahead! We have a great community, and I want to shout "thank you" for the many ways you have volunteered to support PHS efforts, activities, and projects. It is YOU who make it possible for PHS to make such a good historical preservation effort for Palmer. Thank you SO MUCH!...It has been my pleasure to work with you. Three Cheers for Palmer and PHS!



Palmer Historical Society
 P. O. Box 1935
 Palmer, AK 99645-1935

Non-Profit Organization
 U. S. Postage Paid
 Permit No. 232
 PALMER, AK 99645

return service requested
 www.palmerhistoricalsociety.org

"A 50-Year History of the Palmer Police Department"

"Sounds of Colony Christmas"

Snowflakes are falling and a holiday spirit has entered our collective thoughts. PHS will again add to our community's Colony Christmas celebration with the **Colony House Museum's traditional OPEN HOUSE on Saturday, December 8** in a celebration of the season.

With an old-fashioned Christmas tree decked out for the occasion, the Museum will be bedecked authentically to reflect a style of the 1930's and 1940's. Refreshments offering hospitality to Museum visitors will await in the kitchen, and an array of holiday goodies from our splendid baking elves will tempt everyone at the Bake Sale table.

To top the day off, visitors who are in search of Palmer history may tour the Museum, and together we will sing those old carols as we gather around the Museum's 1896 piano, a treasured Museum donation, brought to Palmer by the Neil and Margaret Miller Colonist family.

**Bake Sale Drop Off 10-5 Friday Dec. 7, also
 Bake Sale Drop Off Saturday Dec. 8 after 8:30 am**

**OPEN HOUSE 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m Sat. Dec. 8
 (C of C Fireworks in Park Quadrant at 6:30)**

**CAROLING at the CHM--2-5 pm approximately
 (invite your vocalizing friends and stay long!)**

Ways to help?

1. If there is snow...plow the driveway, shovel the path and sidewalk, or build a yard snowman...
 2. "Deck the CHM Halls" --Thursday & Friday
 3. Be a Baking Elf or Help set up Bake Sale Fri. & Sat.
 4. During OPEN HOUSE, welcome our visitors or provide CHMuseum history and tours, or
 5. Bring your musical & vocal skills!
- (Community spirit to share?...call Gerry or John to help!)

At the Colony House Museum

New this summer at the Museum has been a series of three notecards, designed by talented local watercolor artist Ilene Paulsen. Ilene's ties to the CHM are heartfelt, for she is the granddaughter of 1935 Colonists Glendon and Hulda Doughty, a family whose stay in the Valley was cut short by the illness of Mr. Doughty. In memory of her grandparents and "with her whole heart", Ilene designed paintings by illustrating a farm under Pioneer Peak & items at the Museum, artifacts that had belonged to several different families. Her intention is to complete an additional 2 or 3 designs this winter. And thus, another family directly becomes an integral part of the Colony House Museum effort. The notecards are priced at \$1.50 each.

DUESPEAK YES, enroll me or my friend as a member of the PALMER HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE (optional) _____

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

Mail to: PALMER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 P.O. Box 1935
 Palmer, AK 99645-1935!

ARE YOUR DUES DUE?