It’s time for History Night!
Your last opportunity until we gather in the fall of 2015.
Palmer Historical Society Presents.....
Helen Hegener
Helen, an accomplished author, will be sharing her two newest publications featuring the Matanuska Valley Colony Project.

May 20, 7:00pm
@ Palmer Public Library.
History Nights are free, historic, and fun!
No membership required 😊

~Tent City Market~
June 12-13 at the Colony House Museum

Donations are coming in!
A GIANT THANK YOU to Palmer Soil & Water Conservation
For their truckloads of donations!

Please consider donating your treasures as you spring clean this year!

We will continue to preserve Palmer with YOUR help!
Give John a call @ 745-3462 if you would like us to pick up your donations.
(Please limit clothing and footwear to quality vintage)

Palmer Historical Society
PO Box 1935
Palmer, AK 99645

Coming Up!
May 20 History Night!
7:00pm Palmer Library

June 12-13 during Colony Days
Celebrate the 80th of the Colony!
At the Colony House Museum
Tent City Market 12th-13th
9:00-5:00
Museum Open House 13th
10:00-4:00

May 2015 Newsletter
Volume XXXI No. 5

Colony House Museum
Located at
316 E. Elmwood Ave.
In the Historic District
Tuesday –Saturday
10:00-4:00

Mailing address:
PO Box 1935
Palmer, AK 99645
907-745-1935
History Night brought us fantastic, entertaining, and hilarious stories from a favorite Colony Kid Earl Wineck.

The Wineck family has a long history in Alaska. We learned of Earl’s grandfather’s work in the Klondike gold rush and his dad, Ed’s, start as a cannery worker in Bristol Bay at age 19.

In Michigan Ed married Emma, and Earl and his brother Ray were born. The family later moved to South Dakota as the first leg in their adventure toward Alaska. Earl learned English as a second language when he started Kindergarten at age 5, brother Ray was then 3 years old.

Earl’s father and uncle made their heroic journey to Alaska in the spring of 1934. Their journey included a Studebaker, a ship, a train, a boat, and ended with the Studebaker in Palmer 😊. To hear Earl tell the story is priceless!

Emma and the boys arrived in Alaska in February 1936. Earl was then 8 years old. The family took over tract 174 in Camp 10. Ed Wineck worked on many of the Colony barns and houses in the Butte area. He also worked on the school which opened the fall of ‘36. The Wineck property was the source of water for many of the colonist families for a time.

As a child Earl enjoyed ice skating, skiing and sledding when not doing ‘handle work’. Handle chores included the ax, pump & shovel. Earl also helped with the farm as all kids did in those days. Chickens, cows, horses and gardens all require a lot of work! Earl was the ‘happiest guy in the world when we got the tractor’!

The Mukluk Telegraph was great radio entertainment for the family. They listened and anxiously awaited messages from their dad who was working on base in Anchorage at that time.

Earl has fond memories of visiting close neighbors, the Sandvik’s, sauna and gave us a quick lesson in the correct Finnish pronunciation ‘sowna’ 😊.

At age 14 Earl started working at the commissary unloading boxcars with contents to be stored in the warehouse. Earl, also a delivery driver, would distribute the goods around Palmer.

Earl states that a trip to Anchorage would take 4 hours – one way - with top speeds at 35mph those days. The ‘highway’ was not an easy road to travel as it is today!

Earl and wife Rebecca were so much fun! We encourage Earl to write a book of his life story – he has a great memory! We could have listened and learned for hours!
2015/2016 Board of Directors & Team
Joan Campbell  Sharon Benson
Sheri Hamming   Jean Krupa
Gerry Keeling   Clyde & June Oberg
Carol Lombardo  JoAnn Utt
Carol Strouse   You?
John Stuart     Barbara Thomas

Pat Durand gave a quick update on the progress of Engine 557. Imagine Engine 557 chugging into Palmer - Check out their website to learn more and support the restoration effort. http://www.557.alaskarails.org/

Mark your calendar!
Colony House Museum Open House
June 13 ~ 10:00-4:00
This is a great time to bring visitors!
(Drop off your donated baked goods the 12th please)

Palmer Historical Society has suffered the loss of a great friend Willie Pedersen. Willie has been sharing her knowledge as a docent at the Colony House Museum for over 15 years. She has been a friend of Palmer Historical Society for many more.

She was with us on April 15 for the Docent Gathering and was excited to volunteer again this year. Willie was a person that others looked up to as a role model. We are thankful Willie chose to be part of preserving Palmer for many years. She is irreplaceable and will be missed greatly!

ALASKA STATE FAIR
Share your Colony Era items with thousands of Fair Go-ers!
If you have Colony era items that you would like to display during the Alaska State Fair this year let us know!
Palmer Historical Society has use of the Wineck Barn to educate Alaska State Fair-goers about Palmer History!
Be sure to stop by and see the beautiful replica of Colony buildings that the Loyer family created!
Yes! I want to Preserve, Promote, and Protect the History of Palmer Alaska!
Please sign me up! I will circle the level I would like to commit to for 2015.

Individual
One Vote $25.00 per year

Household
Two Votes/One household $40.00 per year

Patron/Business/Organization $100.00 per year
One Vote

Lifetime $500.00
One Vote/One person/No transfer

Name: ___________________________  Phone Number: ___________________________
Mailing Address: ___________________________  Email Address: ___________________________

Please check the box if you would like to volunteer in one of the many ways we preserve Palmer History

Cut out form - Please mail to Palmer Historical Society, PO Box 1935, Palmer, AK 99645 or bring to History Night!
THANK YOU for your generous contribution – Palmer History will be preserved because of you!

Palmer Historical Society
PO Box 1935
Palmer, AK 99645