

Palmer Historical Society

Promote Preserve Protect

It's time for History Night!
Palmer Historical Society Presents

Wendy Hjellen Wesser
Assistant Editor Last Frontier Magazine

Wendy will present the colorful life story of her Great-Grandfather, Gerrit 'Heinie' Snider. Heinie and his wife Alice settled in the Matanuska/Susitna area in 1920, but that's not where their story begins.

Wendy will be sharing the story of Heinie's childhood in Holland, where he traveled when he left not only his home, but his country at the age of 16, how he made his way to Alaska to search for gold, what led him to marry the love of his life, and more.



**Everyone is welcome Wednesday, Oct. 21st, 7:00pm at the Palmer Public Library.
History night is FREE, historical, and fun!**



It was a happy day!

A generous donation from Rita Loyer and the Loyer family – we are thrilled with the skillfully made colony house and barn!

Rita also donated 6 model Colony Tents!

These will be a fantastic teaching tool for school tours at the Colony House Museum!
Thank Rita!

Agricultural activity in the Valley began about 1900 on a subsistence level. During the late 1920's & early 1930's the Alaska RR promoted additional settlement. Several old-timers who came to the Territory then have since developed their holdings into efficient family sized farms. A major impetus came in 1935 with the Matanuska Valley colonization which had its roots in the great depression of the 1930's. At that time some 202 new families entered the Valley.

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Colony House Museum

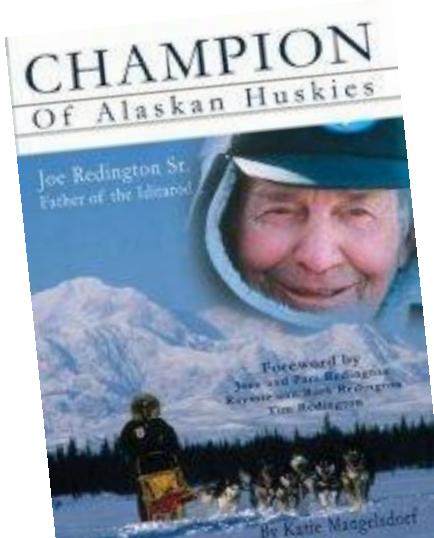
Located at
316 E. Elmwood Ave.
In the Historic District
We are open by
Appointment during the winter
907-745-1935



**Palmer Historical Society
&
Colony House Museum**
PO Box 1935
Palmer, AK 99645



History Night! ☈②①⑤∽ September



Katie Mangelsof – Through the Eyes of Joe Redington Sr.

We all know Joe Redington Sr. as the Father of the Iditarod. Katie shared entertaining stories of Joe starting with his birth in 1917 in Oklahoma. There's a great picture in the book of Joe as a young boy in OK, his brother Ray, and dad Jim. Get a copy of the book to see the photo – a picture is worth a 1000 words and this one represents the time in Joe's life that was not easy, the early 1920's – but Joe didn't realize it. He was creative, imaginative and an adventurer!

Joe was known as a person that you could count on, a hard worker, and a man of his word. His dad taught him to live by the 'Golden Rule'.

He often quoted "Do not give in to your fear. If you give into fear you can't think straight."

He asked Katie to tell the school children, during her presentation of Joe's life, 'if you are afraid, stop, think about it, who can help you get out of the situation, go home and have a cup of hot cocoa, and **then** be afraid.'

Thanks Katie for giving us a glimpse into the life of Legend Joe Redington Sr.!

> News <
Two items to remember about History Night!

- 1. The Annual Meeting has been changed to January rather than October
Would you like to serve on the Board of Directors next term? Let us know!**

- 2. Starting in January - History Night will be at the Palmer Moose Lodge**

2015 Board of Directors & Team

Joan Campbell	Sharon Benson
Sheri Hamming	Jean Krupa
Gerry Keeling	Clyde & June Oberg
Carol Lombardo	JoAnn Utt
Carol Strouse	
John Stuart	You?
Barbara Thomas	

A LOOK BACK - By 1954 Matanuska Valley dairymen were supplying perhaps 40% of the market demand in Anchorage, where their milk retailed at .40 a quart. A farmers' cooperative organization in Palmer maintained a milk processing plant & a distribution system through which an estimated 60% of the Valley's milk was channeled. By 1953 2/3's of Alaska's fresh milk was produced on 54 Matanuska Valley dairy farms.

AK AG Bulletin Oct.

Amazing Bronze Sculpture in the works!

We couldn't be more excited to share the news!

This Bronze sculpture completes the Colony Memorial in the historic district of downtown Palmer. We have enlisted Pat Garley of Arctic Fires Bronze. We anticipate the Bronze sculpture to be installed in time for Colony Days 2016.

The image below is the prototype for the sculpture – representing all colony families



On 12/31/1935 one could get \$40.00 credit at the ARRC Commissary in trade for 5 cords of wood.



ARRC = Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corp.

1935 purchases from ARRC
Dust Pan .13, Claw Hammer .62, Flashlight .82

Thanks!

Our friends at Bishops Attic blessed us with a wonderful donation that came into the store – a framed piece of linoleum from a colony house. We would love to add provenance with our beautiful example of colony linoleum. If you donated this to Bishops Attic please contact us to help us share the history ☺

Fun Fact – Linoleum is derived from the Latin words “linum” (“flax”) and “oleum” (“oil”). Frederick Walton patented the linoleum process and in 1864 established the Linoleum Manufacturing Company Ltd.



Palmer Historical Society
PO Box 1935
Palmer Alaska 99645



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 2016!

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:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

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 continue to be preserved because of you!*