

# Palmer Historical Society

Promote Preserve Protect

## It's time for our last History Night of 2015!

Palmer Historical Society Presents



### Yukon Don Tanner

Featured speaker this month is Talkeetna writer Yukon Don Tanner - A Pioneer in his own right, homesteader & adventurer.

Yukon has been adventuring around Alaska for over 50 years.

As a naturalist he will reveal secrets to treasures of the borealis (Chaga mushrooms and more) found in excerpts from his soon to be published book.

Learn how Yukon Don gained his famous name!

Everyone is welcome!

Wednesday, November 18, 7:00pm

@ the Palmer Public Library.

History night is FREE, historical, and fun!

In 2016 History Nights are at the Moose Lodge in Palmer!



*"Hail and Good Cheer to the New Alaskans – Welcome Home"*

### MaryAnn Anderson

has been a very generous supporter over the years with numerous donations for our collections.

Most recently a wonderful collection of Colony related newspaper articles including this Anchorage Daily Times dated May 22, 1935!

THANK YOU  
MaryAnn!!!



November 2015 Newsletter  
Volume XXXI No. 11



### 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



## October History Night!

Wendy Hjellen Wesser

Assistant Editor Last Frontier Magazine

Great Granddaughter of Gerrit 'Heinie' and Alice Snider



### Fun Gerrit and Alice Snider Facts

- \*Born in Holland
- \*At age 12 Heinie quit school and worked at a shoe makers shop
- \*At age 14 Heinie stowed away on a Red Cross ship as it left his country of Holland – he was discovered and brought back to Holland
- \*At age 16 Heinie sailed to South Africa to explore
- \*Heinie went back to Holland & on to Argentina looking for a place to make a new life
- \*He worked as a steward on many ships & for Holland America as a tour guide in the Mediterranean Sea
- \*1911-1914 Heinie mined gold in Alaska
- \*1915 Heinie married Alice Aldenberg in Spokane, WA
- \*Alice and Heinie lived in Ship Creek Tent City in Anchorage in 1916
- \*In 1920 the Snider's lived at Pittman and Heinie worked for the Alaska Railroad
- \*The Snider's moved to Matanuska where Heinie worked as a section foreman
- \*Heinie, Alice & 4 children moved to a homestead in Wasilla in 1925 to farm mink
- \*The Snider's donated their home for Wasilla's first High School
- \*They donated 30 acres, money & labor to Wasilla for airport
- \*Heinie was the swing vote that brought the Pioneer Home to Palmer
- \*They were instrumental in Wasilla's first community hall
- \*Heinie was a territorial representative – known as the Wild Cat from Wasilla
- \*Heinie was a character!

A laughter filled Q&A time with stories from our audience/friends of Heinie was a great conclusion to Wendy's presentation ☺

**REMINDER! REMINDER! REMINDER! REMINDER! REMINDER! REMINDER! REMINDER!**

**History Nights in 2016 will be at the Palmer Moose Lodge Third Wednesdays of the Month 7:00**

### *Did you know?*

A **Very Special** Palmer Historical Society Member & Board Member **Extraordinaire** is Celebrating her birthday this month!

Happy Birthday to Colony Kid  
**Gerry Kindgren Keeling!**

We wish you many blessings in the year ahead!



### **In 1976 Koslosky's advertised**

- \*Turkeys .79 per pound
- \*Ground Beef 80% lean 1.09 per pound
- \*Alaska potatoes 20lb bag 1.89
- \*Matanuska Maid Ice Cream ½ gal. 1.49
- \*Chicken, Beef or Salisbury TV Dinner .67 ea.
- \*Matanuska Maid Yogurt ½ pt. 2 for .99
- \*Hills Bros. Coffee 3lb can 4.09
- \*Ruby Red Grapefruit 5 for .99
- \*Bananas .39 per pound
- \*Corned Beef Brisket 1.65 per pound
- \*Carrots 4lb for 1.00
- \*Fresh Parsnips .69 per pkg

### **Palmer Historical Society Members**

Your 2016 Board of Directors will be voted on at our Annual Meeting in January at the Palmer Moose Lodge.

Would **you** like to serve on the Board of Directors for 2016?

We are accepting nominations – let a Board Member know if you are interested and we will give you an overview of the role of a Board Member – it's a fun way to be involved!

## Colony Christmas Colony House Museum Open House December 12 10:00-6:00

Everyone's favorite part of Colony Christmas –  
Gathering at the **Colony House Museum of course!**

\*Live Christmas tree decorated in Colony style!

\*Carols sung around our colony piano!

\*Sweet treats and warm sippers!

\*Pick up some great Christmas gifts!

\*Sneak a peek at Santa's workshop – catch an elf or two at work!

\*Build a snow man in our front yard!

\*Grab a hot drink and watch the fireworks from our lawn –  
A great view!



### Calling all *Bakers and Makers!*

Bring your Christmas treats for our Open House!

**Colony House Museum Open House** is the perfect time to  
show off your *Baking and Making* skills!  
Maybe your skill involves a purchase from the local bakery –  
great! We welcome that too!

Please bring sweets on 12/11 or 12/12 before 12:00 if possible.

**Thank you!**



Are you hankering to be Mr. or Mrs. Claus???

We have a great opportunity for you!

December 12 @ the Colony House Museum Open House!

We'll have your milk and cookies ready!



The Department of the Interior laid out the townsite of  
Matanuska in 1915 and auctioned city lots in 1916.  
A.A. Schonbeck opened a store in Matanuska later  
purchased by O.O. Krogh who remained there until 1935.

*Matanuska Valley Memoir*

Would you like to receive the monthly Newsletters by email rather  
than a print copy? – We are happy to add you to the enews list! As  
always full color Newsletters can be printed from our website.

#### **Board of Directors**

Joan Campbell  
Gerry Keeling  
Sheri Hamming  
Carol Lombardo  
Carol Strouse  
John Stuart  
Barb Thomas

#### **Support Team**

Sharon Benson  
Jean Krupa  
Clyde & June Oberg  
Joann Utt  
YOU?

Palmer Historical Society  
PO Box 1935  
Palmer, AK 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 2015.

Individual  
One Vote \$25.00 per year

Household  
Two Votes/One household \$40.00 per year

Patron/Business/Organization  
One Vote \$100.00 per year

Lifetime  
One Vote/One person/No transfer \$500.00

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!**