Colonist Monument Now Complete

Next time you are in Palmer, check out the completed Colonist monument at the historic quad in the center of town. Located at the flag area of the quad, the monument is now topped by a bronze sculpture depicting a Colony family after disembarking the train to Palmer in 1935.

Palmer Historical Society Board member Dan Strouse and local resident Helen Hoffman designed the monument in 1997. With the help of the City of Palmer in installation of the base, much of the work was completed by June of 1998. The base, covered with Matanuska River rock, was topped by a block of Minnesota Swedish green granite with the inscription:

~The Matanuska Colony~
"There is a new day,
And this is it!"

A sculpture depicting a composite Colony family had been planned for the top of the monument. Unfortunately, Dan Strouse died in April 2000 and the project was never completed.

This past year, the Palmer Historical Society Board commissioned Pat Garley, owner of Arctic Fires Bronze Sculptureworks, to design, fabricate, and install a sculpture for the top of the monument. We are proud to have this project completed.
It's time for History Night!

September 21, 7:00pm @ the Moose Lodge

We are excited to kick off our season with local artist

**Pat Garley of Arctic Fires Bronze Sculptureworks**

Governor’s Awards for the Arts and Humanities awarded 8 Alaskan artists in January. Pat was the honored recipient of the *Individual Artist Award* for his art pieces located throughout the state of Alaska.

Pat recently completed & installed a beautiful Bronze sculpture for Palmer Historical Society. The Colony Family sculpture completes the Colony memorial in historic downtown Palmer. We love it! Pat has amazing talent!

Join us as Pat shares the process of creating the Colony Family sculpture, and other sculptures including a magnificent Joe Redington Sr. and a trio of giant vegetables!

As always History Night is a free event and open to the public.

Join us for entertainment, sweets and door prizes!

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We were excited to feature the *Eckert* family history at the Alaska State Fair!

**Thank you Gayle Rowland** for your time volunteering & for adding your mom’s beautiful wedding dress! Fair goers loved this display!
Words cannot fully express our extreme thankfulness to Jean Krupa (& husband Larry) for her years as Program Chair.

We have had amazing History Night special guests thanks to Jean’s dedication to preserving History.

We THANK YOU & wish you all the best Jean!

Wow! What a great year at the Wineck Barn!

We had a great team of volunteers this year! A huge Thank You to each of you that chose to share Palmer history with Fair-goers!

The Matanuska Valley Fair of 1936: Admission $1 for adults, $2 for a season pass and kids under 8 were free. Events included egg races, sack races, baseball games, a rodeo, a baby show, dances, boxing, horse races, crowning of a Fair Queen, plus hundreds of agricultural entries.

*Carnival rides made their debut in 1950

*An Air Show was added in 1951

**Board of Directors**
Joan Campbell
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Carol Lombardo
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John Stuart
Barb Thomas

**Support Team**
Sharon Benson
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Joann Utt
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

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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!