

# Palmer Historical Society

Promote Preserve Protect

## HISTORY NIGHT

February 15, 7:00pm @ Palmer Moose Lodge

### Rhodiola Rosea as a New Alaskan Crop?

The biggest challenge that Alaskan farmers face is trying to grow crops that don't want to live in Alaska. However, what kind of commercially profitable crops can you grow that like our harsh environment?

Enter *Rhodiola rosea*.

*Rhodiola* is a plant that is native to Siberia and is harvested for its roots. *Rhodiola* has many uses, but is primarily used as a non-toxic substitute for caffeine. Once Alaskan production reaches 200 acres, it will be the most valuable crop in the state...not counting our recently legalized cannabis crops.

Palmer is ground zero for the development of *Rhodiola* in Alaska. All the University of Alaska Fairbanks *Rhodiola* research is being conducted at the Matanuska Experiment Farm. Research agenda include improving production, developing best practices for processing and creating value added products such as blueberry, birch and *Rhodiola* flavored vodka.

This presentation will be led by Dr. Stephen Brown who is the Principal Investigator for the project. He is a Professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and serves as the Matanuska/Copper River District Agricultural Agent. In his spare time, he is an avid mountaineer and marathon runner.



History Nights are open to the public-  
Spread the word & bring a friend!

February 2017 Newsletter  
Volume XXXIII No. 02



### Colony House Museum

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



### Palmer Historical Society &

### Colony House Museum

PO Box 1935  
Palmer, AK 99645

History Nights are  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
7:00p.m. @ Palmer Moose Lodge



## History Night – January 2017

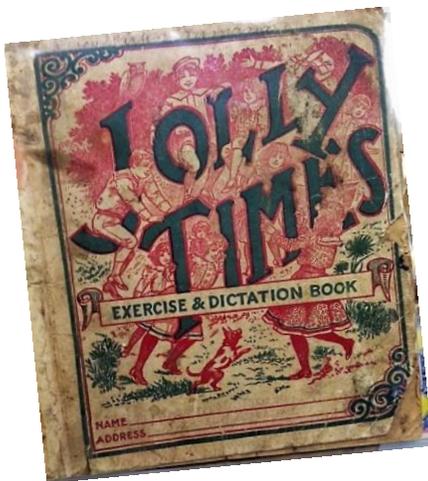
A fantastic & unusual historical Colony collection was brought by Denny Hamann. Denny has been gifted his grandparent’s items, which were not in ‘collection’ form when he received them. Denny has been systematically organizing the items for the past few years.

This collection includes 1000’s of items including the slip of paper drawn by colonist Leroy Hamann to determine the tract Leroy & Gretchen would live on, tract 108, & Leroy’s Farmall tractor, (which still operates) and everything in between!

Denny is guessing his grandparents didn’t throw away even a piece of paper – and he has many receipts to prove it!

Thank you, Denny, for preserving & sharing the Hamann Colony story!

*Leroy Hamann’s Exercise & Dictation Book*



Dr. Senta surprised us with a donation of a great historic photo!

The Colony’s first teachers!



We welcome **Denny Hamann** to the 2017 Board of Directors.

Denny joins past Board Members Joan Campbell, Gerry Keeling, Sheri Hamming, Carol Strouse, John Stuart & Barb Thomas to comprise the 2017 Palmer Historical Society Board of Directors.

The Board looks forward to a great year of preserving Palmer History!

**Many Thanks to Carol Lombardo** for her service on the Palmer Historical Society Board of Directors. Carol has chosen to step down from her role on the Board to allow her more time doing what she is very talented at - Archiving!

Archiving is a very important & necessary part of preserving our history. We are happy to let you know we are working our way through the Colony House Museum and cataloging items that have been waiting for the skills & patience of an Archivist.

We are excited to have Carol stay on as Archivist! Assistant to the Archivist - is this something you can help with? This job comes with huge benefits of preserving Palmer History! ☺ Give us a call if you have a couple of extra hours to help.

## A Peak at Palmer History

Excerpt from Matanuska Valley Record September 1952

By Clarence Bell, Manager Matanuska Dairy

**THE CO-OP PAGE**  
"EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO TRADE AT THE CO-OP"  
*Money Saving Values*  
**The Trading Post**  
DRY GOODS DEPT.

Boys and Girls Size 2-6 Wore \$3.65 Now \$2.00	DUOFOLD UNDERWEAR Wore \$3.65 Now \$2.00	Rainware-odd lots- \$3.50
Size 8-16 Wore 4.50 Now 2.90	Shirts and Prints Wore \$5.20 Now 3.50	WORK GLOVES REDUCED
Men's DUOFOLD UNDERWEAR Wore 9.25 Now 6.00	WOOL UNION SUITS	Leather Palms ..... only 50c
		Canvas Gloves ..... only 35c
		White Ox ..... only 50c

**The Warehouse**  
Close Out on Wall Paper  
All Going At 50c a roll  
See our New VELVECOAT Rubber Base PAINT  
MANY NEW COLORS

**The Garage**  
GOODYEAR TIRES  
DOUBLE EAGLE (Premium)  
DeLUXE (Regular)  
MARATHON (Low Cost)  
General Repairs—Mechanic Shop—Body and Fender—Tire Repair—Greasing—Gas and Oil  
MATANUSKA MAID PRODUCTS-THE WEEK'S SPECIAL, PEACH ICE CREAM

International Trucks  
TRACTORS  
FARM MACHINERY  
New 1952 1120 International 5, Ten Pick Up \$2280.00

The Matanuska Valley today has the most modern creamery in Alaska, operated by the Matanuska Valley Farmer's Cooperative Association in Palmer. The creamery which has been operated by the MVFCA since 1941, has continued to improve its facilities until it has emerged one of the most up to date creameries in the world. It is located in one wing of the MVFCA Trading Post building in Palmer.

A brick making machine forms the ice cream and packages it into the familiar Matanuska Maid cartons, in quart, pint, and half-pint sizes. Matanuska Maid ice cream contains 14 percent butter fat, an increase of four percent over United States standards. Fresh fruit is often added to enrich the flavor of the ice cream. The plant's peak production for the month of August was about 40,000.00 gallons.

The annual report of the fiscal year ending July 31<sup>st</sup> showed that the creamery produced 281,228 gallons of Matanuska Maid ice cream during the year for the people of "the land of ice and snow." We have always had ice cream for our customers, but not always the flavor they wanted. Seventy-five percent of all sales are for vanilla flavor, with chocolate, strawberry maple walnut, Hawaiian delight, cherry, black raspberry and pistachio running in about that order.



*"This week's special, Peach Ice Cream"*

*Was the "Special" flavor a surprise???*

Do you have an attic with Palmer history items? Are you cleaning out a storage space, garage, or getting ready for a yard sale? Have you found something you aren't sure about? Consider a donation to Palmer Historical Society to rehome your historic items. We can scan your historic photos & add them to our collection too! Give us a call! All donations are tax deductible. We love to preserve, protect & share Palmer history!

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 2017

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:  
Mailing Address:

Phone Number:  
Email Address:

*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!**