



Matanuska Valley Farmers Not Getting Rich on High Prices

Editor's note: This is the last of four articles on the cities of Alaska, and the opportunities they afford for would-be settlers.

By HAL WOOD
UPI Correspondent

Palmer, Alaska—(UPI)—Lettuce sells for 17 cents a pound, tomatoes 33 cents and strawberries 55 cents a basket in this area. And milk sells for 25 cents a glass.

So the farmers in the fabled Matanuska Valley should be getting rich. But they aren't.

Palmer is the "city" of Matanuska, the valley that was settled during the depression days of the 1930s by farmers from the U.S. It has been damned and blessed, in turn, during the past quarter of a century.

But today it is the greatest thing that has happened to the boom city of Anchorage—outside of government spending in this area.

Why can't the farmers get rich at those prices? Production Costs High

"The over-all cost of production here is so high that there is no chance to get rich quick," said Irvin Schomburg, manager of the Matanuska Co-Op.

"There is a chance to make a good living—and if you stick it out 15 or 20 years you have a chance to become comfortably well off. But any farmer with an idea of settling here for a year or two and making enough to retire on is doing the wrong 'thinking.'"

Without the Matanuska Valley, which is 40 miles north of Anchorage, the people of

Anchorage would be paying twice as much for food as they do now.

Here is what Matanuska, furnishes in the way of agricultural economy to the territory of Alaska:

- 1—About 95 per cent of all the fresh milk consumed.
- 2—One-half of the potatoes.
- 3—75 per cent of the green vegetables.

"If we could get about 200 more good truck farms, we could furnish nearly all the green vegetables in the summer months," said Schomburg.

No Beef Cattle

"Out of the state's total farm crop of \$4,500,000, the Matanuska Valley furnishes \$2,700,000. Of this amount, \$1,034,240 comes from our dairy, where we have about 2,000 cows. The other 100 cows in the state are in the Fairbanks area."

There are no beef cattle in Alaska—the economy wouldn't permit it.

There are 16,000 acres of

ADD ANTI-SUB UNITS

Norfolk, Va.—(UPI)—Two new anti-submarine task groups have been added to the Atlantic Fleet, Adm. Jerauld Wright announced Wednesday. The units will join the one existing anti-sub group as permanent fleet components.

Ten Southern states celebrate Robert E. Lee's birthday, Jan. 19, as a legal holiday.

MEET WITH HUSSEIN

Amman, Jordan—(UPI)—A U.S. military mission headed by Brig. Gen. Richard Ridsden met with King Hussein Wednesday. Premier Samir Rifai also participated in the talks.

Tunis—(UPI)—Tunisia has decided to break off diplomatic relations with the United Arab Republic, the Tunisian Information Ministry reported. A recent survey by the U.S. Department of Agriculture found that rural residents use more pickles than city dwellers do.

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Child Guidance Clinic One of 23 Agencies Benefited by UMC

(Editor's note: This is another in a series of articles prepared by various agencies which will benefit from the United Medford Crusade. Today's article is a typical case history of a boy who is helped through the Southern Oregon Child Guidance Clinic.)

The Southern Oregon Child Guidance Clinic is one of 23 agencies in this area which receives some of its financial support through the United Medford Crusade.

The organization received \$4,000, about 25 per cent, of its budget last year from the UMC. The same amount is budgeted for the Clinic in this year's UMC total goal.

The local campaign started last month, and more than 40 per cent of the goal has been reached.

Following is a "typical case history" of a child who receives benefit from the Child Guidance Clinic.

Oct. 14, 1957: David at 14 was nearly beyond control. He refused to go home when supposed to, frequently skipped school, and was "running with the wrong crowd." The school was unable to reach Dave, felt his problem was deeper and more serious than their level of counselling, and asked the public health nurse to visit the home.

Oct. 18, 1957: The public health nurse visited the home and found the parents angry, embarrassed, and humiliated by Dave's behavior. They felt he was "old enough to know better," and after "months" of arguing and try-

ing to correct him, had "given up." They were, however, willing "to try anything" and came to the Guidance Clinic at the nurse's suggestion.

Oct. 22, 1957: The parents were seen by the clinic's psychiatric social worker, who learned Dave's parents were divorced when he was five, and that each had remarried. First he was "left" with his father, then with his mother, and finally sent to his grandparents. A year ago, when the grandparents' health began to fail, his mother and stepfather had "given him a home, but he didn't appreciate it."

Oct. 31, 1957: Dave was tested by the clinic psychologist, who reported that "Dave felt deeply neglected, and from being shifted from one home to another has concluded he really is not wanted. The boy has average intelligence and while living with his grandparents earned average grades and made a satisfactory school adjustment. His parents have much higher standards, and have pushed him to get top grades which are beyond him. This unrealistic pressure has added to his feeling of unworth. I believe this boy could use some supervised and organized means of maintaining both a feeling of worth and as an outlet to express his angry feelings. This might be accomplished through activities and sports with the Boy Scouts or the YMCA."

Nov. 7, 1957: The Clinic psychiatrist talked with Dave, and summarized: "Undoubt-

edly this boy feels unsure because of his many moves. Dave has a deep desire to be dependent on a strong mature adult. He feels his half-sister is loved more than he is, and feels he is left out of things. Dave then misbehaves to prove to himself that the world is hostile and rejecting. I think Dave is capable of insight into his current problems, and will respond, after several interviews here at the clinic."

Nov. 1957, to March, 1958:

For the next five months Dave and his parents returned to the clinic every two weeks for treatment interviews. Dave talked with the psychiatrist; his parents with the social worker. Dave was able to talk about his behavior and feelings, and gradually began to improve. His parents became able to understand Dave's fear of being unwanted even though "he seemed so grown up," and went out of their way to reassure and consider him. And they "praised him for his average" grades, rather than criticize as they had previously. Christmas went well, and Dave reported he felt more a part of a family than he had ever felt before. Increasingly he turned to his "dad" to "talk things over," and this was strongly encouraged. After the first of the year, at Dave's suggestion, the "family" joined the YMCA with father and son particularly being active. The case was closed at the end of March, with mutual understanding that they would return if future problems arose.

Richard Jones, president of the Child Guidance board, explained "that while this case story is fictitious, Dave's type of case is far from unique."

Opponent Criticizes Rep. Edith Green

Portland—(UPI)—Rep. Edith Green has been criticized by her Republican opponent here in a political meeting at Bennett Chapel Methodist Church which was attended by candidates from both parties.

John Johnson declared Mrs. Green had failed to adequately represent her district in Congress and cited the refusal of the Navy to renew a lease on the Swan Island drydock owned by the Navy. Johnson asserted that Mrs. Green had antagonized the Navy by referring to officers as "brass hats."

Mrs. Green, who also was at the meeting, did not reply to Johnson's remarks but blamed congressional Republicans for defeat of the Kennedy-Ives labor reform bill and the Federal school construction bill. Failure to approve those two measures, she said, was the chief weakness of the 85th Congress.

Normal Mercury Readings Forecast

Washington—(UPI)—The Weather Bureau's 30-day forecast from now until mid-November calls for warm, dry weather for much of the nation. The forecast follows:

"Temperatures to average above seasonal normals over most of the nation, except for near to below normal east of the Appalachians, along the Gulf Coast, and also in the Pacific Northwest. There are some indications of a sharp break in the prevailing warm regime, perhaps during the first half of November, but it is too early to specify the nature of the new weather pattern.

"Precipitation is predicted to be subnormal over most areas, except for near to above normal in the western quarter of the country and along the Gulf Coast."

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