

Shungnak Village Ala  
 Dear Sir. I have the pleasure of  
 submitting our annual report of our  
 work and condition of the U.S. school  
 at the close of the fiscal year ending  
 June 30-1909.

We have had some varied experiences  
 in the year just past. We left Shungnak  
 Village June 22-1908 in company with  
 two native families Riley Jim Wood's  
 family and his brother, Uncle<sup>3rd</sup> and  
 and the U.S. Commissioner M. F. Moran  
 Mike Turkey, Mr Young<sup>3rd</sup> Ned Ragan  
 the last named Ned Ragan was a  
 criminal the U.S. Commissioner was taken  
 to home for trial, We had a pleasant  
 voyage down the river, were on the way  
 eight days arrived at Kotzebue July-1-1908  
 found every body well there, were there  
 about a week when we were informed  
 that Mr. A. H. Evans had failed to get the  
 information so badly injured that  
 make out his annual Reinder Report at

at this place, so we could do nothing but hire a native and skin boat and take a trip across to Candell or Deering a distance of about one hundred miles the way we had to go to reach a telephone, so we could tell Mr. Evans or Mr. Kopp, <sup>the</sup> desired information concerning the Reindeer herd at this place. I think this is one of the most isolated places that we have in northern Alaska to get mail too and from.

We were at Deering about four weeks waiting the arrival of the Revenue Cutter on special business, we found Miss Bertha Cox the U.S. teacher there doing a good work both along the industrial and educational lines she is a very congenial and has the respect of both the white people and Eskimos. We enjoyed our stay at Deering very much as we met our daughter and her husband Mrs. + Mrs. York they were on the way to Kivalina as U.S. teachers after our stay at Deering we returned to Kotzebue about the middle of August expecting the schooner ~~was~~ with our year's supplies on also School and Reindeer supplies.

We waited there until the eighth of September before the arrival of the Schooner with the supplies to start up the river a distance of three hundred and ten miles by river and winter looking us in the face we were unable to start on our journey up the river until the tenth of September. We have started had gone eighteen miles the first day when the wind raised and we had to stop for the night before we started across the Hortlawn inlet, which is a very dangerous water being so very shallow next morning wind had gone down and we started across the inlet were within a couple hundred yard of the mouth of the river when we ran onto a sand bar wind high waves rolling from five to six feet high we were on the sand bar until four o'clock next morning when we succeeded in getting everything unloaded <sup>and</sup> were in the mouth of the ~~river~~ <sup>inlet</sup> we had ~~waited~~ <sup>waited</sup> a couple of hours then loaded our cargo again and started on our way again to think that we had saved it all and had it to load on again after being in such

a storm stranded on a sand bar from about four o'clock in the evening until four next morning. We had only gone about fifty or six miles up the river when struck low water in the river and to our surprise the captain of our launch gave us our choice to take us back to Kotzebue or unload us and the cargo at a point where the squirrel river empties into the Kobuk. We told him to unload us, as we were going up the river about ~~one~~<sup>two</sup> hundred miles further, so by chance as we were intending there were four native families with large skin boats came our way and we persuaded them to take as much of our personal supplies as they could handle and next morning Mrs Myers & Carlisle started with them up the river leaving me at squirrel river to see after the balance of the supplies and getting them up the river the next day another launch came our way I persuaded the captain of the launch to load on some of our supplies so we succeeded in getting most of the supplies on the way up the river.

again, what school supplies such as seats, mats, terracotta and lumber + I cached at Squirrel river to have brought up in the spin. Very well we are on our way again fine sailing for this launch as it doesn't draw so much water, we only ran about fifty or sixty miles up the river when we ran onto a gravel bar which extended across the river and we were compelled to tie up and wait for rain or ice to continue our journey up the river but the ice came first so we unloaded again cached our provisions on the bank of the river pitched our tent and thought I would stay a few days until the ice was strong enough to travel on, but to my surprise one morning before we were out of our sleeping bags we heard a native on the other side of the river so I got up and went out and what do you think, there was one of the natives of Miskin crew waiting on the other side of the river with a message from her stating that they were frozen in about one hundred miles further up the river (while I supposed

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they were ~~to~~ enjoying the comforts of home, requesting me to take up my bed and across the country, for her and Pauline were very lonely and that the natives of her crew were on a strike, after taking an inventory of the supplies I rolled up my bed and took a few cooking utensils consisting of a frying pan, tea pot made from atomato cans, tin cups, knife, fork, and spoon and some provisions, all were ready for the perilous journey of about one hundred miles over niggerheads or big logs as they are called in the States but it don't make any difference what they are called I thought they were the most difficult things to walk over. ~~It~~ that I ever encountered sometimes we would miss our footing go down between the logs to your knees or more with a tremendous fall with about seventy five pounds on our backs, when night came we could sleep any where at the ~~end~~<sup>close</sup> of the third day we arrived at the place where Mrs Myers and Pauline were camped if ever a tent looked inviting there did, We arrived there

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on Thursday evening, rested until Saturday  
and then paid the natives for their freight,  
that fare, then cached the freight ready to start  
on our way Monday morning with two  
natives and their dog teams and sleds for  
fifty or sixty miles further we thought the  
ice strong enough but to our surprise the  
ice was only strong enough for a few  
miles when we had to leave the river  
and go across the country and as there was  
only about three or four inches of snow it  
was impossible for our gear and line to hold  
much of the way now as there was only snow  
on the ~~ground~~ where the ground was level and where  
the bogs were the highest and worst walking  
they had to walk of course that was the  
condition of the trail about two thirds of the  
way we were on the trail four days from  
a point about ten miles below the mouth  
of the Amble river where they were frozen in  
with their skin boats, if ever the song  
"Home Sweet Home" sounded sweet to me  
it did on the evening of the tenth of October  
when we came in sight of home

and about one hundred and twenty five natives anxiously waiting our arrival and welcomed us with a warm handshake and a thank you, Well we are home without any provisions at all we had to borrow supplies of Mr. Mike Tully one of the runners here he has been very kind to us since we have been here also Mrs. M. J. Moran the U.S. Commissioner has done all he could to make our work pleasant while here, but we have seen of the ten white men <sup>that</sup> ~~we~~ squaw men that have tried to make our work hard for us, last year they were very kind to us as they did not realize what we were doing last year until we had gone down the river and left them alone among the natives, for we had married twenty four couple of natives last year and taught them the evil of mingling with those white men that are trying to degrade the native instead ~~instead~~ of elevating them, instead of having the white men ~~and~~ ~~stop~~ with the natives last year when they came down we entertained



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them in our home in order to keep as much of that evil influence away from the natives as possible, after we were gone they just began to realize that we had been out work trying to teach <sup>the</sup> natives the snares and pit falls that such malicious men are setting <sup>for</sup> them and they found that their easy prey had flown, so you can guess what we had encounter this year. Those squaw men had their gambut guns turned on us at every turn of the way and to make it still harder for us the U.S. Commissioner was detained at Nome on the murder trial so we had no legal protection nearer than Nome a distance of about six hundred miles from here, we treated them kindly but attended strictly to our own business that seemed to make them more angry than if we would have retaliated, until they exploded and some of the frames went to the Bureau of Education and some to the Mission board and some to <sup>the</sup> district superintendent of schools of Alaska through an instrument called a petition to have

was removed from this station of whom  
Lennis Lloyd + Frank Knight were the  
propagators of the instrument assisted by  
Ace Wilcox living with a squaw and not  
married with one child also Tom Shy who  
has a half blood child in camp and is  
supporting it, we have 13 half bred children  
here in the Village, you can guess what it  
means to oppose such an outfit of malicious  
men six hundred miles from any legal  
protection but we are very thankful that  
the U.S. Commissioner has returned and  
I think things will take a change now.  
In regard the school building we had the  
ceiling all taken off and reciled as the lumber  
was so wet and frozen when it was put on  
that it dried apart and we also had ~~paper~~  
~~paper~~ put inside the ceiling it is very  
comfortable now we also painted the inside  
of the building the roof and windows and  
doors on the outside, the house is in good  
condition, we have been very busy this  
winter after we arrived here we had the  
house recooked, began school with a good

attendance, fine interest, pupils learned very fast this winter, our daily average for the year was 82.1 thirty four ~~for the year~~  
 We made 534 visits to homes received 3298 callers rendered 354 medical aids in addition to this we have had the logs brought in for a new dwelling and had them whiped sawed on three sides ready to be laid up as soon as the finishing material gets here this fall and had two hundred willow pickets prepared for the erection of a fence around the U.S. buildings and a garden about 30x40ft prepared and planted.

We have enjoyed our work very much with all of the opportunity that we had we feel that our work has not been a failure

Eli M. Myers

U.S. Teacher

Shungnak Village  
 Alaska

P.S. There are about 20 or 23 of our natives working in the mining camp two of our boys are cooking for the Sunday and one of the girls she gets the Sunday.

E. M. Myers