

COPY

Kotzebue, Alaska,  
August, 27th, 1913.

Mr. Walter Johnson,  
Acting Supt.  
Nome, Alaska,

Dear Sir;- I was pleased to receive a letter from you on last mail. I did not find sufficient time to reply to it before the mail left again for Nome. We are always kept doubly busy on mail days and there have been other days this summer when we could hardly find time to eat on account of the numerous interruptions. Kotzebue in the summer time is truly quite a little city of tents, which swarm with inhabitants of all ages, sizes and kinds.

I think I'll begin by saying that my life here is made up of small things, many of the daily or almost daily recurring events that need attention. anything from helping to catch a dog that has broken loose, buying of supplies for apprentices, helping some to get more credit, trying to get other to get along with less (credit). Helping some one to make out a mail order for something they wish to get by mail, perhaps a song book, a Bible, a watch, a fountain pen, or even groceries or dry goods. Sometimes we become quite wearied trying to peaceably adjust family and inter-family differences. Again we see the merrier (marryer) side of life, as on the evening of July the 14th, we united three couples in about one hour's time. We could have done it quicker if they had all come at once. Then there is the visiting of the sick, the burying of the dead, the visiting of the reindeer camps and listening to the things that annoy the reindeer boys and attempting to help them solve their problems. I am "Bureau of Information" on all questions of right and wrong, game laws, and every other imaginable thing that a native can find to ask questions about.

Besides we hold four services a week regularly, -one Wednesday evening at 6 o'clock and three on Sunday, the morning service at 11:AM the Young Peoples service at 2:30 or 3: P.M. and an evening meeting for worship at 6:00. During the winter months we also held a Bible Class on Saturday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. This we hope to organize work with the women and the children.

In the summer time when many of the natives are here from Kivalina, Noatak, Kiana, Oksik, ~~Point Hope~~ and some from Deering, Buckland, and other places down the coast to Cape Prince of Wales, We held a four days conference and heard reports from the places given by the natives mainly, but at times supplemented by the teachers or missionaries.

We have made three trips and have spent about two weeks fighting tundra fires this summer. This being such a dry year the fires have proved to be quite a menace. Since about the tenth of July up to the middle of August much damage has been done to quite a bit of our former winter reindeer range. Since the rains began about ten days ago the fire troubles are past for this year.

In regard to the apprentices I have not had much trouble with them. I believe that with few exceptions that I have the best lot of boys that you could pick up anywhere. Thos. Lee (Ahtigenak), I really do believe is unable to do reindeer work, on account of poor health. He has been unwell all summer. Oogluk who quit a year ago about this time of year, went back the first of April and has done fairly well ever since. The Nilima children's apprentices stay by their work quite well.

Mrs. Riley wanted to stay in Kotzebue in order to keep the children in school, so she said. We had a conference or two with them before we found out what their difficulty was. Then when Mr. Shields was here on his return trip to Nome he met them here and it was decided to let Mrs. Riley get an apprentice and let John Riley be paid for his work in deer as tho he were an apprentice, and allowed to quit the herd.

*Mrs. Riley's apprentice gets his food & clothing for two and one half years, just the regular apprentice contract and wages.*

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This seems to be quite satisfactory thus far as I have heard no other complaints from them.

We were more than glad to see Dr. Nichols and wife and Miss Hawk arrive here. There have been a number of cases of sickness here that really needed medical attention of a higher grade than was possible, as there was no doctor available. The teachers and missionaries have done the best they knew which I sometimes realize is short of the real needs.

Mr. Snowden of the Noatak school, having been here from about the first of June, seemed very anxious to take charge of the medical work when Dr. Barbour left for Candle, so it was turned over to him. We have done very little medical since we came here. Dr. Barbour arrived on the boat the former missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. Cox left on.

Today Mr. White is away helping some natives to bring down two logcabins, one a small one and one a large one. We are so glad to see these cabins going up in place of the low igloos so much used here so we encourage the cabins all we can. As the boat is due now any time and he can not get in while the storm is so bad as today, I will finish this for him and it get off as I know he is anxious for it to go.

We have beat now with a little engine in it and we find it a great help in many ways. He expects to tow down the skin boats with the logs in the log little cabin as the boy called it belongs to one of the herders.

Winter is coming early it seems this year as we have had several little snow storms one lasting over an hour and leaving the ground white to the depth of two inches on the level. There are large ice cycles hanging on the wharf in the mornings now. Ice has formed on the rain barrel to the depth of an inch. The natives are getting out to their own places pretty fast now. It will not be long before the tent city will have disappeared entirely from the coast. There are hundreds of tents here in the summer time.

If there is any thing more to say Mr. White will put it in next time as I do not know what it is.

Hoping you have a pleasant winter, I am,

Sincerely,

P. S. Sept. 1st 1913. We returned all O.K. yesterday with the larger of the Log cabins, not having boat room to load both of them. I am trying to locate some timber suitable for building a house larger than fifteen feet square. We are hoping to get the logs ready this winter and erect a church next summer.

Alex Allan arrived yesterday. He was searching for the channel for a few hrs. yesterday morning - it somewhat reminded me of our trip and the trouble the Alaska had last year, hunting the Channel -

School started today, that reminds me that winter is soon to lay his chilly hand upon us and we will have to withdraw into the depths of furs and reindeer parkies, mittens, boots and so on.

Sincerely,

Wilton L. White