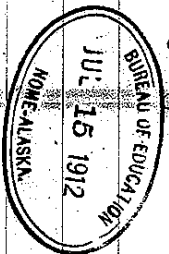


Deering, Alaska.
July 5, 1912.

Mr. W. C. Shields
Nome, Alaska

Dear Sir,



All who are interested in Seltimo character and welfare will appreciate what occurred here on July 3.

On last Friday June 28, about noon a fire was started, a few miles up the Sumasbut River, presumably by one of two white men who were seen going up the River a short time before. Mr. H. F. Iverson was one of them, & understand.

Some of the time ~~copy~~ them at strong mind has been returning

COPY

and the fire spread up and over the hills. The extent of the burned territory has not been ascertained yet. There were many berries, a great deal of meadow grass, some small trees, (one of the varieties of Deering Sektinas fuel supply), and many young pine trees in this burned region.

There seemed to be no hope of being able to extinguish the fire and a probability that much more of the hills would be burned between the Amnashut and the River.

On the morning of July 3rd there appeared to be much smoke and only two places in which

COPY

the fire was burning, and a lone possibility that the fire might be put out, so a company of Eskimos was collected taking shovels, hoes, buckets, tal and all sacks.

The wind was favorable, but the mass was so dry that the fire was still spreading.

In 1 1/2 hours the first fire, probably 300 feet long, was extinguished. After a short rest the company moved on 1/2 mile further where another and larger fire was raging. This was finally conquered, and 1/2 hour was taken for lunch.

COPY

Then a little, ^{smoke} was observed over the hill. So the company took up their "fire apparatus" and marched $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles over the burned tundra.

When the third fire was reached, it was found that the tundra was very dry and fighting the fire was hot work, and water had to be carried quite a distance.

This fire was probably $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in extent.

By this time the 16 were consuming large draughts of drinking water and one was kept busy carrying water for that purpose.

COPY

Before the third fire was all gone, a large smoke was seen to the northeast toward the mouth of the Kungukt River.

Again the line was formed and the fourth fire, 2 mile in length, was reached and the Eskimos set to work with a will.

Water was not found near and had to be carried a long distance. Still they worked steadily on. Not one had turned back of those who had left Deering at 9 A. M. for the scene of the fire.

Finally at 6:30 P. M. when the last smoke of the fire was gone, they sang with gladness "Eskimo Copy" ^{"Eskimo Copy"} led from whom all Eskimos know.

COPY

6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100

them weary, but victorious, they
toiled over the tundra covered
hills toward Derring 4 or 5 miles
away.

For steady faithful persevering
toil these Eskimos deserve honorable
mention in the Annals of Alaskan
history. I enclose their names
Respectfully,
Martha Glumacitt

COPY

Deering Eskimo Fire Company

1. Florence Paumook Wells
2. Iva Ashugak Taber
3. Jimmie Akamaak Carey
4. John Koochuk Gregg
5. Joseph Shopshok Hadley
6. Poo v r u k t o k
7. Frank Echukayuk Wells
8. Wheeler Iyugek Douglas
9. Dana Okok Thomas
10. Thomas Kootenah Newlin
11. Benjamin Shinokok Coppock
12. Albert Noyuk Starbuck
13. John Avingnik Douglas
14. Leonard Pooto Vestal
15. Robert Ooculluk
16. Pete Echaunavik

On July 3, 1912 they extinguished
4 fires in 9 hours.