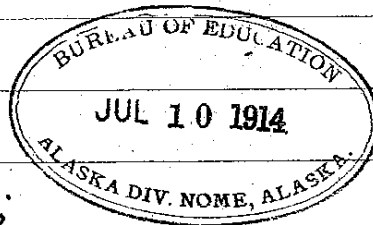


Shu gnah Alaska

COPY

Walter Shields,  
Supt. Native Schools,  
Nome, A.



Dear Sir,

Your letters received,  
and am very sorry that there are no funds,  
and that there may be no funds for  
the next year. I am willing to do all  
the work that I can, but you know  
that in chinking up a house that it  
is a great loss of time trying to work  
on the outside and inside of a house  
at the same time.

About the cement, there is less than  $\frac{1}{2}$   
that is not damaged or perhaps 1000 lbs.  
allowing 75 lbs to a cubic ft.; there is less  
than 14 cubic ft. Not more than 3 parts of sand  
should be used for 1 of the cement so we  
would have  $14 \times 4 = 56$  cu ft of mortar.

Now the residence is about  $25 \times 30$  ft. and is upwards  
of an average of 16 logs high. Allowing a space  
of two inches high and six inches wide between

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the logs (this estimate is perhaps rather low.), we would estimate the cubic ft of mortar for chinking to be:

$$\frac{1}{6} \times \frac{1}{2} \times [(2 \times 25) + (2 \times 30)] \times 18 \text{ or } \frac{1}{6} \times \frac{1}{8} \times 110^{\frac{55}{8}} \times 78^{\frac{3}{8}} = 165$$

In other words even if the cement on hand is of good quality (not injured by freezing, air, water etc), we have only 52 cu ft of mortar to chink 165 cu ft. of space, or in other words we have only  $\frac{1}{3}$  enough.

Like wise about 1000 ft of board strips came, but whether this was for the cement work, or not, I am not sure. The house is over 100 ft. in circumference, so there is only  $\frac{1}{2}$  the quantity on hand that there should be.

The strips however may be for use with the asbestos roofing and not for tacking on the outside of the cracks, or joints between the logs (on the outside).

I am also not sure whether this asbestos paper (10 rolls) is to be used over the shingles or is intended to line the house.

As you know, there was no terra cotta stove pipe sent in and I am afraid to use the iron after my experience of last winter.

Now I have found a bed of clay about a mile from the school. This clay hardens rapidly and without "checking" or cracking. It is by far the best clay that I have seen since I came to Alaska. I am sending you a sample of this clay. It could be dug and sucked this summer and brought by dog team on the fast ice in which case it might be possible to finish the house should the weather warm up again (as it often does). Or the clay could remain in the village until the next spring. The cement might be made into a chimney but there is no flooring or other lumber on hand that could be used for a mould. Of course such a chimney should rest on the cellar floor but whether it would be best to make

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it in one piece or in sections, I am not sure.

In the absence of cement, terracotta and lumber being sent in this summer, I think I should use clay for chinking cement for the chimney etc.

About payment in deer, you did not specify male or female, or number that I might use. I would like to have this labor as well as some for whip-sawing and some for hauling the clay.

I intend to look for some more clay to see if I cannot find some closer to the river, <sup>and</sup> where it might be brought to the school in boats. In this case I may begin the work next month, or at least as much of it as I can do alone & without expense.

The natives will take female deer or fat steers in payment for work. I tried to barter the male deer for wood but could not. The natives said that when

it came to eating lean meat they would as leave have parmesan or rabbits.

Now we need enough tongue & groove lumber to make double floors for the residence, single floors are not warm or solid enough. We also need tongue and groove for a ceiling to the 2nd story of the residence, as too much heat is lost in the attic.

Please let me know what you think of the clay, cement chimney, see a no of deer etc.

Respectfully

Fred M Sichter

N.B. Do not forget to send me some mortar trowels as soon as possible.

F.M.S.

Order