

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF EDUCATION
ALASKA SCHOOL SERVICE

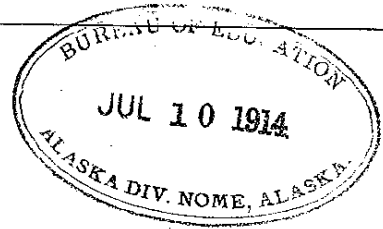
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Personal
Letter

Apr 26, 1914

SUBJECT, _____

Walter Shields
Supt of Schools
Nome, A.



Dear Sir,

As it is getting late in the season I am sending you a letter to tell you of the news here.

We have had the heaviest late snows since many years. The tundras are covered with ice and the deer have been driven to the mountain tops. I am afraid it will be a bad year for the fawns.

Joe Brown (Coxie) had a swelling over his stomach so I let him go to Nome to the doctor. I allowed him \$25.00 of supplies to pay his traveling expenses.

Tom Shea could not fix up the cache at Hunt River so I transferred the contract to Ace Wilcox. Ace has just returned from the cache. He had to dig down ten feet in the snow to get down to the

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bottom. He moved the cache about 100 yards so as to get it where the snow would not pile around it so much.

Half of the cement is spoiled and the other half is in fair shape. Ace covered all the tools with vaseline and says that nearly everything is in 1st class shape.

Three guns were sent in that are listed in the bills as Stevens semi hammerless \$7.00. each. However the guns are Stevens hammer guns which retail at \$6.25 in Chicago and at \$8.00 at Kotzebue. What about it?

Father Benard has visited Squirrel River to see about establishing Catholic Missions at Kotzebue and the Kobuk. The "Friends" can thank themselves for this. Had they left trading alone and not had so much to say concerning the Catholics, they would have had more friends.

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Our church (Episcopal) at Shungnak is growing daily. The natives have cut over 300 logs. Some of them 35 ft long and 10" diameter at small end.

Our sewing class has proven a great success. Besides the practice pieces Kirkmans etc, 150 yards of cloth was made into garments. I shall shortly send you pictures of same. (about 50 garments)

I have had about 25 cords of wood cut and have issued supplies for about 25 cords to be cut next fall. I am afraid to have it delivered now as I am afraid (as is everyone else) that the deep snow will cause so much high water that the ~~wood~~ wood would be swept away. We lost some the last year we were here and nearly lost it all.

I am having about 50 children (average) this month but shall have close school soon as the natives do not want to remain

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in the village during high water. The last year I was here some of the cabins were flooded 4 ft above the floors.

I am very sorry that Moran has trouble with the Riley Jim family. I tried my best to get both sides to come to terms but could not. I hear that Morans intends to "knock me" but of this I am not afraid. I believe that my work (& Mrs Sickler's) to be up to the average, at least.

Keetuk, the old Indian medicine man died in the village. Two children are expected to die (at Ambler River)

The U. S. Weather Bureau has appointed me in charge of their instruments at this place. I shall be glad when a missionary comes to relieve me as I have so many things, else, I would like to do.

I wish you could hear the singing. We have some "4 part" songs that sound well.

Respectfully Fred M Sickler

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