

New Indian River Station, (Alaska)  
June 9th, 1909

Dearest,

Will start another continued letter. The Alice can not make the rapids any farther, so the A.C.Co. will start their store here, this is about 2 miles below Indian River on the opposite side, straight across the river from the mouth of Gold Creek, I don't believe Gold Creek is on the map. The A.C.Co. staked a town lot I took next lot to them 100ft. front - 200 ft deep. I split mine with Sy so we each have a 50 ft. lot, beautiful view.

Am going to take a walk up to Indian R this eve. Found trapper's cabin, deserted, no other cabin, will move up tomorrow and wait a day or two while two young fellows, who are going in to V.C with us build a cash, I am going to leave my things with the people who are going to start a road H. here. Is raining and we have no tent, so the thoughts of the cabin sound good sounds like "dryer weather". Good night all -

Indian River June 10 -

Here we are in the cozy little cabin, it is not too clean, but it is dry & has a stove. We fell a tree across I. River this a.m. to cross on, when we start, I think tomorrow night or next day sure.

We found a grave on top of the ground in a "whip" sawed lumber box, that is made by hand & the head stone is a carved thing like this (shows Russian Orthodox cross) three crosses & the lower one must point to where the soul has gone, no lettering, date nor a thing, the coffin or box has been covered with a blanket which is rotted, just enough left to tell what it was, a walking stick was stuck into the moss by the head & a

gold pan was hanging there. May have been a Russian prospector.

I am writing this on a tea box for a table & sitting on a little chest, both belong to the cabin. Good night Sweetheart.

Indian River June 11th

We are still in the little cabin & comfy, guess others will come tomorrow. This country, as far as I have seen is not a wet Tundra like Nome country, it's a heavy dry moss & the roots of the trees all seem to be so close to the surface, seem to run on the top of the ground not go down much, so one is continually stumbling against them, but it is good mushing.

From here on we will mush nights & sleep days, it's too hot to travel days & the nights are just right, light all the time. Have seen no moose, no bear yet, but hope to soon, am getting tired of bacon. Tell Dan I got a 25/35 rifle, it is light & will kill any large animals & that I did not get sea sick & that I did not open his letter until I was nearly here, the one I received from Seattle & was not to open till on this boat.

Well dearest I must quit for now & make some flap jacks and fine cafe.

2 Hours later - Flap jacks were dandy, also bacon, water, gravy & coffee. I got a few lettuce, onion & radish seeds at S. Station, saw a nice little garden there which put the notion into my head, just planted a dozen lettuce and some of the radish seeds here, so if I come back here this summer after anyone I will go out, on a bet, that I can find radishes and lettuce growing, will be grand to eat, even if I don't get someone to bite at a bet. Now 6 p.m. here, you have 10 p.m. so guess you are in bed, good night dearest mine.

June 13th We left Indian R. last night at 11 p.m. mushed till 4

a.m. stopped ate, & took a sleep. got up this a.m. at noon, just finished breakfast in a short time, say an hour will start on, will then be about 2 p.m. will mush on till about 5 or 6 eat & rest a couple hours then mush on 4 or 5 hours more, that will be about 12 tonight.

Just as Sy & I were going to bed, here, the other two were asleep, we saw our first moose, he came down a little hill, straight towards our camp to drink out of a little creek which is within 100 ft. of us. He heard us move as I reached for the gun & disappeared in the brush.

We are camped among large trees about 200 yards above a little lake, which is in the center of a flat bare spot which contains about 50 acres, is a beautiful spot.

Well the boys are getting their things ready to pack up & go on, so I must stop, is a packing about 50 or 60 pounds each, grub beds & etc.

No more to-day Yours Paul for the day.

June 14 1:30 p.m.

Dearest. We are ready to mush again, are at Portage creek, is going to take a raft to cross I think, have not tried it yet, raining now. Geo somebody, with us gave out last night, wated to cross up the other side, which is very steep & about 3 miles to the top.

We managed to cross Portage Cr. by going up about 4 miles to where it spreads into three branches, the first and largest branch, we fell a tree across, the middle one was shallow, the third one we waded, quite swift and waist deep, with the aid of a pole about eight feet long, for bracer, managed to cross, tomorrow for Devil creek, if we can make it, good night sweetheart.

June 15 4:45 p.m. Just finished breakfast, are on the bank of Devil cr. & it is a devil, 1/2 mile below forks, is swift & lot of water full of boulders, may find crossing at forks. Timber is small & lots of brush. Mountains very steep & rocky, but rocks are covered with about 6 inches of moss, so can walk over then, sides or top.

June 16 Same place - Devil cr.

Just finished making crossing. Our companions Ed & Geo have cold feet, are going back to Indian River & wait for company who can guide them. Geo says he is going out to Seattle on first boat, Ed says his rheumatism is coming back & other things, they are quitters that's all - I will send this letter back by them, Sy & I are going on, I feel as much at home as one can 50 miles from no where & don't expect to see any one for 50 more. Am well and feeling fine.

Bye Bye sweetheart for this time

Lots of love for all

Yours always

Paul