

Cape Blossom

Kotzebue Sd

Alaska

Oct. 25 1897

My Dear Brothers and Sisters Jesse & Irena, George & Iva,

I rejoice in the opportunity of sending mail although we are very uncertain as to when it may reach you.

O. Rock the native seelawik preacher arrived here with dogsled last Saturday and is going to ? soon and will take letters to that point which is not far from St. Michael. O. Rock was with us yesterday in two services in which the dear Lord blessed us and the natives together. I've have enlarged our tent and use it for school and meetings having two services on Sunday and school every other day except Sunday which IO take for a rest day. My school session is from 1 ½ to 3 ½ hrs long commencing usually about noon. Our winter house is very small but comfortable and we curtain it into three apartments at night.

The coldest time yet has been -1 and that was not uncomfortable unless the wind was flowing. The Sound is frozen and skating is fine. There has been only slight snowfall as yet. We have had many beautiful warm bright day this fall but the dark cold days are fast approaching. The sun rises now about 6:30 and sets about 3:30.

The tent has been quite warm most days for school but I do not think I can have school in it more than two weeks more. After that I expect to go daily to their homes to teach the children. There are 36 enrolled all of school age except 1 man. There are now 70 natives at this place and they are divided into eight houses.

These houses are underground or half underground and covered with earth. In the center of the roof is one skylight which serves as window and smoke escape. This they cover with thin translucent skin and their homes are not so uncomfortable as we thought they would be. They do not burn a great deal of wood but burn mostly seal oil with moss for wicks. This gives forth light and heat and seems to throw out but little unpleasant odor. The largest house is about 18 x 14 ft and the smallest about 6 x 8 ft I think. The entrance is long, dark, and small and you must crawl in on your hands and knees. This is the most unpleasant part about their houses and but for this and their savage dogs, visiting them in their homes would be quite a pleasure to me. Their dogs I think would eat me up if they did not protect me from them at least, I don't like to risk them. They let them get hungry and they act like wild wolves and really are a species of the wolf. We have placed large Sunday school pictures within homes, each showing Jesus in some act while on earth. These they seem to appreciate very much.

We have learned all of their Eskimo names but have not yet given them English names. I love these people even more than I did those in S.E. Alaska and think they are very hopeful. I think nearly all of them would like to be Christians. George I guess I will have no opportunity to shoot a bear as they do not live here but perhaps will have a chance to shoot a crazy wolf after while as they say they will come around later and kill dogs and men. I suppose they are crazed with hunger. Carrie and I take turns cooking and we have but two meals each day.

My daily routine is about this: Arise about 3:30 as at day light, get breakfast, family prayers then skate on, help Robert saw wood as some other outdoor exercise then read, study bible & pray until school time or any other work I may have to do. After school we have dinner and I do the after dinner work and by that time it is dark. In the evenings I have been practising [sic] on the organ and violin and studying this language or sometimes we entertain natives with pictures and what conversation we are able to carry on. We have sometimes talked almost a whole evening to them.

I have made some progress on the violin and am able to lead the songs in school it it now. I am praying for 3 or 4 more workers next year. This is an excellent place to ? we can hardly afford to be without someone stationed here constantly. This would also be a good place for reindeer we think and the village would probably increase with a ? or mission school and domestic deer. There are a number of very nice boys and young men who go to school now and who I think would be reliable to take care of deer. Then the Koovak with its rich fur region and its many many fine natives to whom we were so drawn last summer all without teachers. Surely, we think, someone must go to those people another year.

At first it seemed doubtful about the Hootak region but we have a Hootak boy there who is very intelligent and recently another Hootak man has come among us to whom we are drawn on account of his great honest childlike friendship for us. He is a noted hunter amongst them a great brawny broad faced fellow named Pineluk. He has started to school and learns fast.

These tell us there is a large village and plenty of wood and plenty of gold a few das up the Noatak. I think this appeal for teachers will be irresistible. I feel drawn to the neglected Hootak even more than to the Koovaks and would not be at all surprised if the Lord sends me among them sometime. The time is flying and the year will soon by gone and I am not sure whether my faith is strong enough to bring Jesse & Irena net year but as not but feel reassured that the Lord has control of this work and will have this glory manifested amongst these people. We have resisted all temptations to peep into our Xmas box and packages also a certain curious letter which is to be opened Thanksgiving. We have made economy of space something of a study and the foot of my bed extends some distance under the head of Robert's and Carrie's. I think I must write a separate letter to Father and Mother as I suppose they are at El Modina so I will close. I often dream about spending a pleasant time with you, and Robert and Carrie often laugh at my accounts of ? at home. The Lord our blessed Redeemer keeps me full of courage and I find in Him comfort and satisfaction such as this world cannot understand. May you abide in Him my dear ones and may His most precious blessings be poured out upon you.

Please great Aunt Maggie and Uncle David and Aunt Mary and Uncle Perry with much love from me. Also send this to dear Amy whenever she may be married in Iowa I suppose. How sweet the joy of meeting at the feet of Jesus to rejoice in Him forever more though perhaps we shall not all meet again on this earth. Dear Father may we do thy will faithfully to the... ?. Your most loving sister, Anna Hunnicutt.