

Anchorage Alaska
August 14, 1940
Temp 68° at 6. P.M.

Hello Everybody:-

I don't want you all to expect these every mail but think I have enough news for another letter to-day. The mail goes out to-morrow. In Tuesdays mail I received Pat's letter mailed August 8th so air-mail sent on Wednesday will reach me the following Tuesday.

The work is tremendous I mean the project, acres of ground and you can see the progress day by day. The men hour three shifts 3.30 A.M. to 12 noon, 8 A.M. to 4. P.M and 12 noon to 8. P.M. and so far we have 1400 men without the office. It is very interesting but I work 8 to 10 hours a day and seven days a week. A person never knows what day it is or date for that matter but it all makes the time go fast.

Now for Anchorage. Whoever gave the description about a town without sidewalks is out. It is situated at the head of Cook's inlet on a half moon shape, the railroad runs around the head of the inlet approx. 30 ft above high tide which runs 20 to 30', then the town sits on a level about 100' above, so from the station you climb the hill and there is the town. Paved street called Main about twelve blocks long and numbered streets run parallel from One to nine, then the cross streets are A to M. Many very pretty and cute homes scattered thru the town and log cabins mixed with them. The gardens are beautiful, roses, huge daisies (seven inches across), large clover, strawberries very sweet, peonies, delphinium grows eight to nine feet tall and many shades of blue. They pride themselves on their gardens and it is a treat to walk around.

The very latest in drugs stores, camera supplies, and everything modern. Some very nice stores particularly because of the very high class of merchandise. Food prices are high but the wages are in line with them. Housing is bad at present but with the completion of the labor camp this week it should relieve it some. We are in an apartment house 12 apts. ea on two floors, steam heat, hot water, bath, gas for cooking.

The one catch is laundry. 25¢ for a shirt, socks 10¢, collars 7 1/2¢ but as they haven't any pennies they have to charge 10¢. You all know how we have wash nights on Monday and get in the bath-tub with the weeks laundry. The apartment furnish a washing machine but to date we have not used it, altho the iron furnished is at a premium. We live and like it.

Saw Fred Lintner to-day as he was going to work, spoke to him a few minutes and will see him later to get the low-down on the town. The Main Street on one end has 13 saloons and it is typical of my idea of a mining camp. Of course it is one as you can see the gold mines in the distance. The sunsets across Cook's inlet are marvelous and I hope to get time to take a roll of color film of gardens and a sunset before the winter comes. It is snowing in Nome we hear. But the days are warm here and very pleasant, rains are heavy but short.

About the war we hear nothing, receive New York papers about 15 days later and the Sunday paper is 25¢. Oh yes, cartwheels are the only change you get. I mean silver dollars. You

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ask the price something and it is two-bits, four-bits or six-bits. No pennies except for the weighing machines. Coca-cola in packages of six are .75 with a return of bottles at .25. You are charged 10¢ for each milk bottle so are mighty careful of them. The milk is good and I also like the city water. For lunch you order a sandwich at .25 but it includes potato salad and coffee. All coffee or tea is 10¢ but they continue to fill your cup as long as you sit and drink it. Also at meals they serve very large lumps of butter and you can spread it on your bread like on the farm.

Haven't been to the movies yet but notice they have bank night at \$100. Each week. Have had lots of excitement at work of threatening strikes but there are seven hundred soldiers around it is didn't go far and has died down now. Imagine the lowest paid man is making \$68.80 a week and then being unhappy. The only people not making money is the office force and I believe adjustments will be made shortly. When Bryce arrived the office boy was making more money than he is and Bryce was chief clerk.

Well, guess this is all the general news for now so will close. Regards to all on the outside. Here they call the inside and U.S.A the outside. They say Inside, Outside, Morningside and suicide.

Dear Aunt Clara:-

Thanks so much for your letter to the boat. Hope things are going well for you. Think I have about covered the news here in the above. Do write as we look forward for the mail so much. Hope to be able to send for Willoughby soon as it is so lonesome here, of course, working so much helps considerable but it will slack off when the winter comes. Love to all
Howdy