Dear Mr. Battie:

Please accept our apologies for not writing sooner, but it seems as though time flies so fast with plenty of work and everything new that one doesn’t seem to settle down to write. We wish to thank you for all you did for us before we left. We have not regretted coming here at all. We really like it here, and have every intention of staying unless the whole works how it is and are forced to leave. So far everything has been satisfactory and far beyond our expectations. We naturally thought we were to have a small log cabin, but now we have a nice 6-room modern home, and new furnishing, gas stove, washing-machine, radio, etc.

We have a team, 2 cows, 2 sheep, a hog, and a calf. We have ordered more poly.
and chickens for the spring. The creamery will be opened soon, when all the cows have calved, so they'll have a large enough amount of milk. We sell what butter and cream we have now in Palmer to families there. Cream is 90c a qt. Mr. Cheedy, our General Manager, says that anybody selling for less will be kicked out of the co-op.

We have about 10 acres cleared, a half of that was planted in November, so we'll have a nice stack for spring. We have 80 acres and I have filed for an extra forty homesteading. The are allowed $45.00 (for family) for food and clothing. We have been able to purchase too in reasonable amounts.

I have been very fortunate as to climatic conditions. The winter has been wonderful compared to your Michigan winters. Giving me a break I guess. I haven't had a chance to do much hunting here yet, because you have
To go so far now that this valley is so closely settled. An old settler that lives a half a mile from here, shot a big moose in his back yard this fall. It was 52 in. between the horns. He had a piece of the meat & it was very good. We got reindeer meat at the store, but that isn’t as good as your reindeer. Spruce-hens are in abundance & are nice eating in the fall. Just now they proved tastes too squishy. The woods here are mostly spruce, white birch, and large cottonwood. They all make good firewood.

For how they grow, oat, peas, vetch, mixed for cattle. That grows the height of a man almost, on account of so much rain, but it don’t ripen till its cut & put on racks like they did in Finland. It sure makes the cows milk though & they love it. They average about 180 to an acre. Potatoes grow good, but not as much as to the acre as over.
there. All vegetables grew good. He had
a community garden last summer at
camp. We got wonderful celery, head
lettuce, cabbage, beets, carrots, peas, radish,
etc. One thing we'll miss here is the apples.
They claim that the apple trees will not
thrive here. Flowers grow to twice the size
out there. And the people thrive too.
I could just let anything that everyone
grown up has gained out here. Our son
has our grown everyone of his clothes we got
there before we started.
They tore a beautiful school building
in Palmer this winter. Also a hospital
trading post, barber shop, power house
post office, beauty parlor, drugstore &
general store. Our next deposit too takes
the cake. We'll have to get some pictures of
these. I send you folks up there.
We have a weekly newspaper, "The Mat-
anuska Pioneer." We been sending
there to pay brother in Hancock.

We have been getting mail once a week here all the time. Some have it that we may get two deliveries a week. Last night we heard on the radio that they were trying to get an air-mail route from here to Seattle. That would be great.

The home sent Art Kelly an application blank if he wished to come here of us. Maybe you could write to Mr. Rose, Kelby Plm., Mavags, Palmer, Alaska and give him a recommendation. In case Art himself would like it here, also to the children. Mr. Kelly seems not so interested but she may change her mind.

Our well was drilled for me too. Our is 53 ft. and good water. I didn’t hear of anyone striking an artesian here. Some had to go over 200 ft. to get good water. Our groceries are delivered to us once
a week, and children are taken to school on the bus. We also have two services for church, Sunday school, and dances. Mr. Jackson from the bank plays in the orchestra. He is a great accordion player. I'm sure you're tired of him, he used to play in Hancock.

The Greens live a forty-five away from us, so it makes it nice for us to visit each other. Of course, we are good friends here. Having come here all at the same time, we have so much in common.

Well, I guess this just about covers our history for the while. I've been told to stop and if there's anything you wish to know, I'll be glad to let you know. I'd like to hear from sometime. If you should happen to see Miss Roach, tell Mr. McCumia that we have some mutual friends.

You all just fine.

Mrs. & Mrs. Howard Johnson.