

Palmer, Alaska.

Mar. 12, 1936.

Dear Mr. Bath:

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 don'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 blow up & we 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 5-room modern home, and new furnishing, gasline, washing machine, radio etc.

We have a team, 2 cows, 2 sheep, a hog & a calf. We have ordered more sheep.

and chickens for the spring. The creamery will be opened soon, when all the cows have freshened so they'll have a large enough amount of milk. We sell what butter & cream we have now in Palmer to families there. Cream is 90¢ a qt. & Mr. Sheely our General Manager says that anybody selling for less will be kicked out of the competition. We have about 10 acres cleared & a half of that was plowed in November; so will have a nice start for spring. We have 80 acres and I have filed for an extra forty homesteading. We are allowed \$45.00 (3 in family) for food. Clothing we have been able to purchase too in reasonable amounts.

We have been very fortunate as to climatic conditions. The winter has been wonderful compared to your Michigan winter. Giving us 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  
 here at the store, but that isn't as good  
 as your venison. Spruce-hens are in  
 abundance & are nice eating in the fall.  
 Just now they would taste too sprucey.  
 The woods here are mostly spruce, white  
 birch, and large cottonwood. They all make  
 good firewood.

For hay they grow, oats, 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 10 tons to an acre. Potatoes grow  
 good, but not as much to the acre as over

there. All vegetables grow good. We had a community garden last summer at camp. & we had wonderful celery, head lettuce, cabbage, beets, carrots, peas, radishes etc. One thing will miss here is the apples. They claim that the apple tree will not thrive here. Flowers grow to twice the size as out there, and the people thrive too. I could just bet anything that every child + grown up has gained out here. Our son has out-grown every one of his clothes we got there before we started.

They have a beautiful school building in Palmer, built this winter. also a hospital trading post, barber shop, power house post office, beauty parlor, drug store & couple restaurants. Our new depot too takes the cake, We'll have to get some pictures of these & send you folks up there. We have a weekly newspaper, "The Matanuska Pioneer", I've been sending

them to my brother in Hancock,

We have been getting mail once a week here all the time. Rumors 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.

We have sent Art Kelly an application blank, if he would like to come here. If so, maybe you could write to Mr. Ross Shelly, Gen. Manager, Palmer, Alaska and give him a recommendation. I'm sure Art himself would like it here, also the children. Mrs. Kelly seems not so interested but she may change her mind.

Our wells were drilled for us too. Our is 53 ft. and good water. 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 bus service  
for church, Sunday school & dances.

Mr Laake from Prohauk plays in the  
orchestra here for the dances. He's a great  
accordion player. Perhaps you've heard  
of him, he used to play in Hancock.

The Greeses live a forty away from  
us, so it makes it nice for us to visit  
each other. Of course we all 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 we've been here. I stop  
and if there's anything you wish to know  
we'll be glad to let you know. We'd like  
to hear from you sometime. If you should  
happen to see Mrs Roach & Mrs Mc. Clenna  
give them our regards. Hoping this finds  
you all just fine.

Mrs Mrs Harved Johnson.