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1931

Alaska, Pilgrim Springs, Our Lady of Lourdes Mission School, 1931

William M. Hughes

Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions

Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions

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MISSION SCHOOLS-20
ALASKA
PILGRIM SPRINGS
OUR LADY OF LOURDES MISSION SCHOOL
1931

Made FEB 10 1881
 Ans. *April 27/81*
 Paid *segrim Sprague his house*
 Letter to *Acacia*
 Order No. *Jan. 7th 1881*
 Work Slip O.K. *PO*

My Beloved dear Bishop,
 We are badly in need of a sewing
 machine. Just a few days ago our
 old one refused, went blank,
 to go any further. We called
 Brother Wilhelm, the dealer of
 all sorts of articles, in to examine
 the machine and he said
 there is no use it is completely
 played out and will go
 no more. So where can we
 turn but to Your Lordship in

our great need? If you
will be so kind as to ask
for one, through your excellent
magazine, will you please state
that my need is a strong plain
sewing machine. no fancy attach-
ments required with it. Our Eskimo
girls are so strong that their
tools must needs be strong.

Thanking you in advance and
begging your blessing on our work
I am gratefully and respectfully,
Sr M. Rose (Sister)

TYPESCRIPT OF PRECEDING DOCUMENT

Copy for: Bureau
" " Sister Rose
" " I.S.

Pilgrim Springs, via Nome, 40-1
Jan. 14, 1931. Alaska.

Rt. Rev. and dear Bishop:

We are badly in need of a sewing machine. Just a few days ago our old one refused, point blank, to go any further. We called Brother Wilhalen, the mender of all sorts of articles, in to examine the machine and Brother says there is no use it is completely played out and will go no more. To whom can we turn but to your Lordship in our great need? If you will be so kind as to ask for one through your excellent magazine, will you please state what we need is a strong plain sewing machine. No fancy attachments required with it. Our Eskimo girls are so strong that their tools must needs be strong.

Thanking you in advance and begging your blessing on our work.

I am gratefully and respectfully in J.C.

(Signed) Sr. M. Rose (Sup.)

Copied by CW

Return this COPY to BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS
2021 H St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Ursuline Nuns,
Pilgrim Springs,
Via Nome, Alaska,

Dear Sisters:

I enclose herewith Bureau check for \$125.
the gift of Bureau from an appeal for you
designated for your support.

~~Upon receipt of this donation, please write a letter of
thanks to the donor and forward it through this Bureau for transmittal
by me to the donor.~~

Yours in Christ,

Wm Hughes

Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Hughes,
Director.

WH:SMF

One hundred and twenty five dollars (\$125.00)

Received the check named above

(Signed) *Ursuline Nuns*

~~(This form satisfies the Bureau but not the donor. Send no letter for
donor. Pictures mean much both to the donor and to THE INDIAN SENTINEL.)~~

Pax Christi

Date MAR 4 1931 Amt _____
7/7/31 Cu _____
Postage _____ Manner _____ Per _____
Letter to _____ O O
Order filled _____ Work Slip O R _____
Copy to L.S. _____
Outgoing _____
Outgoing _____
February 18th 1931.

Dear Father Hughes,

I am so glad that the Indian Sentinel replaces the Mission Edition & received in the last mail another subscription which I shall enclose with the address.

I am longing for the time
for the pictures & films to return
and the other materials too but

I have a few ^{III} more films but
shall send them to you next
time

Yours very respectfully

Sister M. Irene O. S. U.

Mrs. S. G. Wilhoit
100 Vine Street
Gayette Missouri.

know it is ^{II} too soon to expect
them I have been asked for
some prints of our last plane
but those wishing for them can
wait. I only mention this as
I was writing any way.

The mail carrier gave us a
surprise to day as he has arrived
an a day sooner than we had
expected from fifty miles
further North to the Taylor Creek
D. O. — he came back the fourth
day & we understood five days
for his return here. I just have
to hurry some that's all.

40-1

March 4, 1931.

Sister M. Irene, O.S.U.
Our Lady of Lourdes Mission
Pilgrim Springs, Alaska

Dear Sister:

Enclosed please find Bureau check for \$1 in exchange for your remittance covering subscription to THE INDIAN SENTINEL magazine.

Yours in Christ,

Rt. Rev. Mgr. William Hughes,
Director.

By this time, you must have received the prints of your films besides the photographic supplies which I sent to you last August.

Tax Credits 40-1

Rec'd APR 21 1931 Amt. _____
 Ans. 7/11/31 Ent. _____
 Fol'd. _____
 Letter to _____
 Order filled _____ Work Slip O.K. _____
 Ship't _____ List _____
 Copy to I.S. _____ D.G. or Ref. _____
 Copy to _____ Check sent _____
 At Res. Monaghan Wm Hughes.
 Washington D.C.

April 4/1931

Rev. and dear Monaghan,

We thank you with all our hearts
 for the sum of One hundred and twenty four dollars
 received by us on April 2nd. May God
 reward your charity and the charity of
 all the good friends who are helping
 us through your kind interest in our
 work. This check comes to us just
 at a time when badly needed and
 will procure for our dear children
 very necessary articles which they

require and which we could not
have otherwise easily have procured
for them.

Our little family is growing larger
and our purse would be growing
meager were it not for your kind
assistance.

May your worthy work continue to
prosper. This is partly a selfish
wish for we know what is your gain
is also ours.

Begging your blessing on all at our
little mission I am

Gratefully Yours in J. C.
Sister M. Rose

Return this COPY to BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS
2021 H St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Ursuline Sisters
Our Lady of Lourdes Mission
Pilgrim Springs, Alaska

Dear Sisters:

I enclose herewith Bureau check for \$15.00 covering
the gift of Miss Alice M. Connor of Missouri, and which she has
designated for your mission.

Upon receipt of this donation, please write a letter of
thanks to the donor and forward it through this Bureau for transmittal
by me to the donor.

Yours in Christ,

Wm Hughes

Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Hughes,
Director.

MF

Bureau check for fifteen dollars (\$15.00)

Received the check named above

(Signed) Edna M. Rowe (Sup)

(This form satisfies the Bureau but not the donor. Send me letter for
donor. Pictures mean much both to the donor and to THE INDIAN SENTINEL.)

I hope this letter reaches you
in time to get it sent on
before the August boat leaves
Seattle because it may get left
back some where along the
way until next year in
June if sent later.

Please send some film packs
too for it.

Yours most respectfully

Mary Irene O.S.U.

COPY FOR *Bureau*

40-1
Our Lady of Lourdes Mission
Pilgrim Springs, Alaska
June 3, 1931

Rev. dear Father Hughes:

Will you please interest a kind friend among your INDIAN SENTINEL readers to donate a film pack kodak, size $2\frac{1}{2}$ x $4\frac{1}{4}$ with a clear glass finder for me?

I shall be ever so thankful for it, and it will help get better pictures in this country than one carrying a roll film on account of the changes of light.

I hope this letter reaches you in time to get it sent on before the August boat leaves Seattle because it may get left back some where along the way until next year in June if sent later.

Please send some film packs too for it.

Yours most respectfully,

(Signed)

Slater Mary Irene, O.S.B.

COPIED BY MC

+Pax Christi

Our Lady of Lourdes Mission,
Pilgrim Springs, Alaska.

1931 JUL 24

8/4/31 M.C. H. H. H.

June - 21 - 1931.

Rt. Rev. Monsignor Hughes
Washington, D. C.

Copy to

Check

Rev. and Dear Father:

Complying with your wishes expressed in a letter received by our Rev. Mother last month, for stories of the missions, written by the children, I am sending four, written as you will see by the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade pupils.

I came to Alaska last October from St. Ignatius, Montana. It has certainly been some experience and I find both the work and the life in Alaska very, very interesting. I can assure you that I enjoyed more than one hearty laugh, seeing myself all decked out in real eskimo fashion (Parky, mukluks, etc)

Besides being sacristan, organist and teacher I also have the surveillance of the children during recreation on certain days. This certainly is a problem, for if they are not occupied with something ^{provided for them} you can well imagine what happens - mischief without ^{they will find}

+ Pax Christi

Our Lady of Lourdes Mission,
Pilgrim Springs, Alaska.

Rec'd. JUL 14 1931

Alaska 874 B. C. R. P. 11

From

Postage

Sh. to

Copy to

Check

June - 21 - 1931.

Rt. Rev. Monsignor Hughes
Washington, D. C.

Work Slip O.K.

Label

U.S. or Ref.

Check

Rev. and Dear Father:-

Complying with your wishes expressed in a letter received by our Rev. Mother last month, for stories of the missions written by the children, I am sending four, written as you will see by the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade pupils.

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Pax Christi!

40-1
1 print of each negative sent 9/23/31
Rec'd JUL 13 1931
Ans. Marquette Convent
From Our Lady of Lourdes Mission
Letter to Bellevue Springs Alaska
Permitted Yes Work slip O.K. P
Ship June 22 and 1931
Copy to L.S. Yes D.G. or Ref. Yes
Copy to Yes (Check one)

Rev. dear Father Hughes,

I am enclosing some films so will write a few words as you may not know how long it takes things to come to us sometimes.

The materials you sent last August have not arrived and we may not expect them until some time in July. This month's mail did not get here until the 18th inst & then only the letters - no parcels of any kind.

There is much snow & ice in places along the rail road tracks so the mail carrier had to walk much of the way.

to be seen in ^{the} places. The mountains were white until the last days of May.

Soon the salmon may be coming up the river and after that the berries will have to be gathered - some of our extra vacation work.

It is a great thing ^{we} have to be thankful for is what the benefactors of the Indian Sentinel do for our Missions for the Eskimos and Indians & I pray our dear Lord to bless and reward them.

Most Respectfully & thankfully yours
Mary Irene O. S. U.

I sent you ^{the} ~~two~~ letters to publish if you please & am very hopeful that you get the kodak for film packs and as the pictures I take are for the 'Sentinel' I do like to get good ones.

These I can get the use of are all for the roll films & I lose exposures on account of the difference of light.

The medicine will be a God send and even I forgot to add to the list, if I am not mistaken, Nuxated Iron tablets of which we ran out finishing our ~~the~~ troubles.

We are having warmer days now & things are beginning to grow green with patches of snow

[ENCLOSURE]

1 Plane when crossing
springs to landing when
it came Oct 6th for Rev.
Father Delan 513

2. When landed with
Father with his hand
up to the engine 515

3 Mother & Sisters on
side of the plane 516

Old bath house 517+518
after the wind storm.

Brother Wilhalm going
to work with the mule
team & other things. 514

his with children 512

Fr. Ballussen 511 a + b

Identification

noted me

40-1

July 10, 1931

Rev. Peter L. Baltussen, S.J.
Pilgrim Springs
Via Nome, Alaska

Dear Father Baltussen:

The enclosed copy of order form will inform you that I am placing
order today for a hanging sanctuary lamp.

Kindly send me a letter of thanks for transmittal to the donor,
Miss Anna Hartvik, Chicago, Illinois.

Yours in Christ,

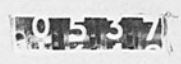
Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Hughes,
Director.

WH:MB

Rec'd JUL 14 1931
 Ans. _____
 Mail'd _____
 Letter to _____
 Order filed _____
 Copy to _____
 Copy to _____
 Work Slip O.K. _____
 List _____
 G. or Ref. _____
 Check _____

Rev dear Father Hughes

just after a siege of Idu in
 our Mission as well as the
 surrounding country. Now,
 why am I telling you this?
 Because we exhausted the
 supply of medicine we had
 on hand and want you to
 help us by getting some more
 thru your dear generous
 benefactors of the Indian Sentinel.
 Get as many as you like on the
 help job, but do please help us
 in this case, for we need much



as our order for medicine
for next year, was sent long
before our surprise with the
seige of flu, and none of
the things I am going to ask
you for was ordered, as we
did not know the flu was
coming to consume what
we had on hand.

Here follows our request list.

Bromo Quinine tablets (Lassie's).

Aspirin

Bromo Seltzer (Emerson)

Nuxated Iron tablets

Quinine pills, 1, 2, & 5 gr.

Cascara pills 5 gr.

Presd. bi chls. Am^monia.

Griars Balsam

Salvars Liniment

Vicks Vaporub.

Beaume Benque

Boric Acid

Gel. coated pills of Iron, Quinine &

Stychnine. (Tonic.)

Epsom Salts.

Yours respectfully

Mary Irene O.S.U.

40-1
August 27, 1931

Rev. Peter L. Baltussen, S.J.
Pilgrim Springs,
Vie Nome, Alaska

Dear Father Baltussen:

On September 9, 1930 I placed an order with John F. McEvoy for a cope, white and gold color, no lining to be sent direct to your mission, the gift of Mrs. Ellis T. Shea of Massachusetts.

As I have not as yet received a letter of thanks from you for Mrs. Shea, I am in doubt as to whether or not you received the cope. If you did, send me by return mail a letter of thanks for Mrs. Shea. If you did not receive this shipment, kindly write me and I shall have it traced.

Yours fraternally,

Rt. Rev. Mgr. William Hughes,
Director.

MB

+ 9. C.

40-1
 Recd SEP 28 1931
 Add. File
 Vol. 1 Spring 1931
 Letter to Mr. Clark
 Order filled Sept. 5
 Sub't File
 Copy to I. S. File
 Copy to File

Re. Rev. and Dear Amigos,

We thank you for this cash favour of your
 beautiful collection of toys from California.

Another box is announced in the name of
 Sister Mary of the Sacred Sacrament who is
 with at our mission - just heard through our
 Rev. M. Delegate - M. C. Henry, that she has
 recently appointed Ex. Mary B. S. Superior of the
Abakak Community - We will keep the donation
 mentioned above, here as it is all the one family
 and I will ask Sister M. B. S. to write a
 letter of thanks to the donor - We beg your kind
 regards
 Sincerely Yours in J. C. - S. M. Owen

Copy for Bureau
" " J. J. Sgt. Miss
Miss H. Eugenie Delamare
37 West Peoria,
Pasadena, Calif.

Pilgrim Spring, via Nome, Alaska
September 3, 1931

(ENCLOSURE)

Dear Friend:

The box of lovely Christmas toys and parcel of beautiful cards reached us in good condition on Aug. 31st. I scarcely need to tell you, I think, that your lovely gift was a source of much joy to us, for you can easily realize what such a collection of lovely toys mean where there is a house full of small children to be supplied with Santa's gifts.

May our dear Lord reward you for your great kindness to us and may He bless all those who helped you fill the box. I see by your kind letter that our good and even faithful friend and benefactor, M^{rs}. Hughes is still "mustering for us", as they say in Alaska. He is a friend, indeed.

When putting away the Christmas tree last year and all that goes with it, there remained only a few toys, less than we ever before had to hold over for the next Christmas and those few I carefully packed away. The day after packing them away a white man one of the unlucky gold seekers who in his younger days married an Eskimo hence tied himself to this cruelly cold country for life, came to ask our good Father Superior for some candy and toys for his little children who he said, were so disappointed at Christmas that he would like them to be happy on the New Year. Of course, our good Reverend Father could not refuse and I had to give up my precious nest egg for the coming Christmas. I did not like to do so but now I am glad I did because the poor man died in the "flu" which carried off so many in Alaska. Now I see our dear Lord has generously rewarded our little sacrifice by inspiring you to provide the toys for this coming Christmas. As He has so abundantly repaid us for the little sacrifice we made what must be the reward He has in store for you!--

We have heard much through our correspondence in the states of the upset conditions there. This knowledge makes us all the more, appreciate the donations we receive these days.

-2-

Your name is enrolled on the list of our benefactors for whom public prayers are said daily beside special devotions every Wednesday.

I am sending a few lines also to good Mrs. Crance, your friend and ours.

Gratefully and devotedly yours,

(Signed)

M. Rose.

Copied by MB

Recd. Sept 23, 1931 Amt. _____
 A.M.D.G. Ans. all Est. _____
 Pilgrim Springs Mass. _____
 Alaska. Letter to _____
 Order filled _____ Work Slip O.K. _____
 Ship't _____ List _____
 Copy to I.S. _____ D.G. or R. _____
 Check sent _____

Dear Monsignor Tracy,
 P.C.

My sincerest thanks for Your kind donation of a sanctuary lamp. I will feel a great deal safer now than with another coal oil lamp I was using up to now. A man cannot be too carefull around places like these. There is always a chance for a fire.

I wish to thank You also for your kind offer of extra copies of the Indian Sentinel. I really do not know what to do. I am being transferred to Kotzebue and I am only waiting for my successor, Father John Concannon, to put in his appearance, to spread out my wings and fly Northward. I do not know what is waiting for me in Kotzebue, the only thing I know is that it seems to be a very cold house. But I will let You know this when I get there. We will not try to cross any bridges till we get to them.

Last July the Bishop was here and gave Confirmation to 18 of our "kiddies". "Ecclesia supplente" for all the sins we committed against the ceremonial, we had a Pontifical High Mass. It was the first the youngsters had ever seen. Our altar boys performed very well, notwithstanding the little practice they had had. Sister Mary Louise had her canary birds well trained and they sang well. But I suppose somebody must have been giving You a detailed description of all

the beautiful services so I will save myself the trouble of repetition.

New York has sent us some of their very useful knittings. Mother Rose said this is just what we need.

The Catholic Medical mission Board has sent us a box of medicines. No need of telling You that this also came in very handy. The Flu, we had about Easter time, emptied our medicine chest.

I am sending You under separate cover a letter of thanks for Miss Anna Hartvik, the donor of the Sanctuary lamp.

Thanking You for all You have done for this place during my short administration, I beg to remain,

Yours very gratefully in Xto,

Peter H. Balmussen

Copy for

Bureau
" " " "
Miss
Orig sent down 9/29/31 MB

Miss Anna Hartvik
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Miss Hartvik:

Your beautiful sanctuary lamp was the most agreeable surprise this last mail brought me. Thanks to your generosity the little Sentinel of the Blessed Sacrament is something more decent than our ordinary coal-oil lamp. It will remind Our dear Lord continually of its donor and it will keep on, in its silent way, to intercede for you and to beg our dear Lord, in whose presence it burns day and night, to bestow upon you and those dear to you, His most choicest blessings.

The Mass you have requested to have said, has been said already.

Thanking you once again and begging God's blessings for you, I beg to remain

Yours very gratefully

Copied by HS.

(Signed)

(Rev.) Peter L. Baltussen, S.J.

ENCLOSURE 40-1

A. M. D. G.
Pilgrim Springs, Alaska
September 3, 1931

40-1

File No. 40-1
 Letter to Mr. Hughes
 Order filed Sept. 24, 1931
 Subj't Belgium Springs, Ala.
 Copy to I. B. NY
 Date to Sept. 24, 1931

At. Rev. Magr. W. Hughes,
 2021 H St., N.W.,
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Magr. Hughes,
 Your letter of August 27th ^{seen by me} to
 Fr. Baltussen finds me his heir - and
 therefore the recipient with the consequent oblig-
 ation of responding. I have made inquiries
 relative to the cope sent by Mrs. Ella T. Shaw
 of Massachusetts - and as far as the Sisters
 upon whom I must rely I recollect - it came.
 They recall having lined a cope last October
 which would be about the time it was due.

If no letter of thanks was sent at that time it may have been due to the changes made at Oilgin Springs, subsequent to the crash of the Marquette! Fr. Post went to home & Fr. Baltussen assumed charge here. Fr. Post has now been transferred to Holy Cross, and ten minutes after my arrival here, Fr. Baltussen departed for Kootenai. Hence it is to me, I suppose, to drop to dear lady a word of thanks.

Perhaps you already know that I have been appointed to take charge of this place, and Fr. Willebrand is stationed with me. I know we can count upon the generous assistance of the Indian Sentinel - upon whose bounty I have not yet had occasion - after five years - &

3.

depend. I intend, however, to make some efforts
to it before long.

Just as I found my faithful Corona is safely
ensconced within my trunk "somewhere: Alaska"
and I am afraid of scintilla long-hand! I'll do so
to Mrs. Plea - whose address I do not know -
that you can alter, re-arrange & send - as you
think best.

May God bless you and keep you,
dear Fr. Hughes.

Sincerely in our Lord,
J. A. Concannon S.J.

Return this COPY to BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS
2021 H St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

October 12, 1931

Ursuline Nuns
Our Lady of Lourdes Mission
Pilgrim Springs via Nome, Alaska

Dear Sisters:

I enclose Bureau check for \$20 covering
the gift of Miss A. M. Connors of Missouri, which she has
designated for your mission.

Upon receipt of this donation, please write a letter of
thanks to the donor and forward it through this Bureau for transmittal
by me to the donor.

Yours in Christ,

Wm Hughes
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Wm. Hughes,
Director

WH:MF

Received the check named above

(Signed) *Charles E. Rose* (Sup.)

(This form satisfies the Bureau but not the donor. Send me a letter for
donor. Pictures mean much both to the donor and to The Indian Sentinel.)

Rec'd DEC 21 1931 / *Bycard, 2/3/31* Pilgrim Springs, Alaska.
Ans. *Bycard, 2/3/31* Nov. 3, 1931

Letter to Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Hughes;
Reverend and Dear Father;

Order filled I am inclosing a couple of little news items which might be of interest. All
Ship's ☒ is going well here. We are now in the midst of winter. It began about the middle

of October with a very heavy snow. The natives around here say that it is the heaviest
they have ever seen so early in the season. For the past several days the thermometer
has been hovering about zero. All the rivers and streams are frozen.

All are well here at our school. We have a very nice group of girls and boys.
During the winter one of our most difficult problems is to keep our little
establishment warm. The fuel problem is more acute than at any of our other missions.
We depend on willows from the surrounding country, and at the rate we are going
they will soon be exhausted. We are trying to install a heating system with which
will be supplied with water from the hot springs. We will soon begin work. Some
good people at Nome have donated radiators, pipe etc. We have enough for one of our

buildings. But this will only be the beginning. If it proves successful an attempt will be made to extend it to our other buildings.

Our work at Arvinsk has begun. I like the people very much. They are good intelligent, and practical Catholics. Soon we will try to make a visit to Teller which for more than a year has not been visited by a priest. There are also a number of should-be Catholics at Igloo. We hope to be able to do something for them soon.

There is still some work on the church at Arvinsk which should be done. If we can finish it inside it will be a very nice little chapel.

I take this opportunity to wish you a joyful Christmas and a happy new year.

Most sincerely yours in Our Lord

A. J. Willchand S.J.

Faithful
FAITHFUL MEMBERS OF MY FLOCK.

[Enclosure]

"Hello Camille" said I as recognized the familiar form of my old guide and catechist. I was making slow progress from a hill about a mile behind my little church with a sled heavily laden with wood. I had much need to cook our meals and heat out little church.

"How are the people at the camp?" I continued.

"They are all right. They would like to have you come. Here is a letter for you".

I opened the sealed envelope. It was from my catechist Maggie. They were very eager to have me come. I could stay there for a while and say mass. Camille had come with her husband Frank's dogs. "Of course I will come" I said putting the letter in my pocket. Together we soon had the sled at the church and had it unloaded. Soon I was on my way to the camp.

As we made our way up the wide and frozen Yukon I thought of my first meeting with Maggie. Long had I heard of her. At Akulurek I many times heard from the nuns about their girl Magdelene who had married and went to live up the river and who was doing wonderful work for the church. Then from Fr. Sifton during my stay at Mountain Village I had heard much about her. She it was who would interpret my sermons, take care of my singing in church and help me in many other ways. Long I imagine my disappointment when upon arriving at Pilot Station, I learned that she was not at home and that she would be absent for a few weeks, perhaps even for months. Now I was on my way to the place where she and her husband were staying, and soon I would see her.

Soon the journey was at an end. We helped the sled up the steep bank to the little village. "Go inside while I take care of the dogs" said Camille. I entered and there at last was Maggie. "We are very glad to see you, Father" We were almost counting the minutes until you should come. Take off your parkys and set down. The house was a small cabin with an earthen floor, beds and a small stove. The place was only a camp where the people spent part of the year. "If there is anything I can do for you let me know. I will do anything for you." Then pointing to the little table towards the front of the cabin "You will say mass there in the morning. All the people gather for prayers in the evening."

Soon supper was over. "It is now time for the first bell" said Maggie. "It is half past six. We have a boat whistle for our bell." Then she stepped out and the sound of the whistle carried through the village. "We will have our prayers like we have them every evening" said Maggie after she returned. Then opening a big book "Every evening after prayers we have a catechism lesson from this book. What will we do this evening?" "I will teach the catechism," I said. Soon it was time for the second bell. The little cabin we quickly filled with the people of the other five cabins which made up the little village. Maggie had placed a nice crucifix on the little table and lit her only blessed candle. Then she started a hymn in the Eskimo language in which all joined, then were all the evening prayers in Innuik of course, and a few hymns all direct from the hearts of simple and devoted people. Surely Almighty God must have been very much pleased.

Then I set up my nice catechism chart, the gift of a good lady of New York and the people looked with silent attention as I explained the nice pictures. Then were confessions. I used one of the cabins for a confessional. and a couple were married.

Next morning all the people of the village gathered in the little cabin to be present at the Holy Sacrifice. The fervently joined in the Innuik Hymns, and most received Our Lord in Holy Communion. I spent the entire day in the little village. I blessed all of their houses. In the evening were more prayers and another catechism lesson, and next morning all were again present at Mass.

After mass I returned to my home, poor and lacking many things, but happy to be privileged to work among such devoted and fervent people.

FAITHFUL CATHOLIC ESKIMOS.

[enclosure]

It was about a week after I had moved into my new quarters. I was sitting in my room busily engaged at my desk. There was a knock at my door.

"Hello Camille", I said as I recognized the familiar face and voice of a friend of days past, of my guide and interpreter of a number of trips to the little villages of the flats south of Akulurek. After the first year of my stay, she had moved up to this part and settled down and married.

"I am very glad to see you father. I have not seen you for a long time. Where have you been?"

I went back to the States about one year after I last saw you. Then I came back to Alaska but they sent me to another part North of here. Now I am very glad to be once more back on the Yukon among you. "Where are you living now?"

"I am staying at our fall fishing camp about six miles from here"

"Will you stay there all winter?"

"After the freezeup I will go back to Takchak. That is where I live. Are you coming up there soon?"

It is one of the stations assigned to me. I will go there this winter sometimes if I have the means."

"I think the people would like to have you come as soon as possible. There is a baby of to be baptised."

"I cannot make any promises for I am very poor. However I will try this winter to spend some time among you"

"If you come you will hear some Innuist hymns and prayers. I am the Catechist there. Every evening the people gather to say night prayers, and on Sunday Mornings we gather for prayers and singing."

"Marshall is near there is it not?" I asked as the conversation continued.

"Marshall is about six miles away"

"I wonder how the church there is" I asked. I remembered having one said mass there in an old frame building with seats or any furniture except a table.

"The church is fixed up very nicely. I have made benches for it. I am also the catechist there. The people there also would like to have a father among them. When you come up there you must use me as your interpreter."

"How many people are at the camp where you are staying now?"

"There are six families. All are Catholics except one which is Russian. Every night we gather to say our prayers at Maggie's house".

This brings to me another pillar of my little congregation, Megdelene Tallor. It is she who gathers the people together for prayers when the priest is absent, and who acts as interpreter. I have not yet seen here as she at the fish camp located on a slough not far distant, where white fish is very abundant. In order to live our people must move about where they can get food.

As may well be seen I have been assigned to a very nice field, and have very good Catholic Eskimo to work among. Very zealous and self sacrificing missionaries have been here in the past. There is plenty of work to be done among them. I would like to play the part which they expect from a priest. I would like especially to respond to the calls of the people of my distant stations to have a father among them for a little while. However with an almost completely flat pocket I admit that just now I do not see just how the Good Lord will help me to do it. My people are for the most part very poor and very few of them are in a position to take a missionary around on a trip. Those who have good dogteams are accustomed to receive a little remuneration for their work. To go on a trip means that they must lose time from their fishing and trapping, and this they do not like to do.

These are some of the little stones which stand in the way of the cultivation of this little frozen portion of the Lord's vineyard, but the Good Master who wishes the souls of His faithful to be cared for has helped us in the past to remove grater so with great confidence in His goodness we are keeping in, hoping that in some unexpected way he will help us over these.

Pilgrim Springs, Tenn. JAN 18 1932
Dec. 10, 1931

Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Hughes;
Reverend and Dear Father;

I will try to inclose with this the filled out list of needs. I will go over it with the superior, Rev. Fr. Concannon and ask him to sign it. We could make good use of several of the articles listed there. As for myself, I again remind you of the catechism and biblical pictures which I have already mentioned. They would certainly be a great help in my work of teaching and instructing others in Religion. Our people are rather simple. Some of them cannot read or write. If we use a few pictures it makes our instruction much more interesting. I have a very nice and devoted little congregation at Mary's Mount. I go there every Saturday, and stay over Sunday. On Saturday evenings when they gather for confessions I give an instruction. They are very much interested in the few pictures which I have there, and they certainly help to make my instruction more clear and interesting. On Sunday Mornings after mass I instruct a class of little children who have never been in school. You should see their eyes pop out of their heads when I show them my pictures. Soon I will make my first journey to our chapel at Teller, and there may be some work in villages where there are no chapels. The pictures which I want are arranged so they can easily be carried from place to place. They are sold by the Catholic Book Co. of Wheeling West. Va. One is a Catechism Chart of Christain Doctrine price \$8 and the other is "Bible History Chart" \$14. If any one would wish to do a little favor for a missionary which would be of help in the work in teaching and instructing others in religion, here would be an opportunity.

I will also once more mention another need which is more important, or rather I will remind you of one which I have mentioned before. Summer will soon come and

my little flock will move to their summer fish camp. In order that they may not be entirely neglected for about half of the year, and in order that I may be in a position to answer sick calls, I need a little motor boat. For \$200 I could get an eight horse power Elto Motor which would be just the thing. \$100 more including freight would make possible a splendid little boat. I would have it shipped knocked down with patterns. Our two good brother here would assemble it. \$300 would put me in possession of a first class little motor boat, which would splendidly fulfil all my needs for keeping in touch with my people during the summer, and which would greatly increase my efficiency in the work of saving souls.

I also mention again that we are planning to install a new heating system which will harness some of the abundant heat which is going to waste from our hot springs. To keep our mission heated and supplied with wood is a serious problem. Up to this time we have been supplied with heat mostly from willows. These have been cut by Brother and his boys and hauled by our team of mules. Now the supply is rapidly becoming exhausted. The brothers say that at the rate we are going our wood supply will be exhausted in about five years. And we have a natural source of heat right at our door which could supply many institutions as large as ours. However the expense of pipes, radiators etc. will be considerable. I plan to write more about this later.

I may also mention our need of a new copper boiler for our laundry. An ordinary boiler of large size would suffice.

All is going well here. This winter promises to be unusually severe. We have had several terrible storms. Today was marked by the death of "Charlie". He was one of my flock at Arvinsk, whom we have cared for here at the mission during the past several months. He asked to come to the mission in order to prepare for a good death. He received Our Lord every day in Holy Communion, and bore his sufferings with patience. It means another soul saved.

Most sincerely yours in Our Lord

A. J. Wilbrandt, S. J.

P.S.
I would like to order motor in time so I could use it next summer. Would like to receive boat material next summer sometime, so our brothers could assemble it during the following winter.

Yours most sincerely.

P.S. Will send list of needs later. Mail is leaving. Am leaving for Teller tomorrow. It will be the first priest who has been there for more than a year, and there are about thirty Catholics there.