



ALASKA STEAMSHIP COMPANY

9/11

5³⁰ A.M. 19093 bells you
remember them bells yet

Dear Sir

well little girl how are you this morning a little early I dare for you we sailed across milbank Sound last night pretty decent it was and now we are abreast - or opposite the place where S.S. Ohio was lost? by the way we have for Pilot Capt Snow the word around the ship is sleep with your close on no one has any confidence in him to bad I sent it he was responsible for S.S. Ohio but the Captain took all the blame poor fellow he cried like a child when they found the bodies of possor & shesless operator he said he did not care for the loss of the ship only them that ^{was} lost he has not his licence back yet but I think he will get it all right after things quiet down a bit? the Chief a particular friend of mine we went to school together and worked in the same shop together in the east or back east well after they stuck and things looked serious he went to his engine room and ordered all hands on deck and I laid below himself in water waist deep but stuck by his post until they reached the ship he has had good many close calls since he has been in this business? little don't know on getting up in the morning or on going to bed what will happen, but its the same in all other walks of life all we can do is our best and be prepared for the unexpected? we will be in Ketchikan tomorrow morning about 1⁰⁰ A.M. we are not so slow we can get some where on Sunday morning to I dont know what I

am going to do for stamps but I must wait for they is a boat going South Monday and
these letters must sail on him? tomorrow you start for Mexico City I hope you
have a nice trip I knew you were going there Uncle told me about it how many
nice talks we had? when I was bidding him good by and wishing him a pleasant
trip he said that if you only enjoyed your self that was what he wanted
what an exception how good & true how glad I am to have you with him
how often I wonder where I would be or be doing if I had bin more
like him but they is only a few blessed with this disposition do you know
honey sometimes I get a thinking what might have bin if I had paid
more attention to Mother "She says I am a very hard boy to talk to what U. funk"
but of late things seems this ~~way~~ I suppose I had bin as Mother wished
me to be would I have the pleasure of being you "I funk not honey" Do you see our
misfortunes sometimes leads to happiness after all "once more an all wind honey"
It appears to me at times as though this life & world is one big drama and each one
of us adds our little bit some more some less according to circumstances I funk I less
do you ever think of Uncle Rob & Pauline? I have not heard from Mr. Esner
and well I think he is a fine fellow but do you know I wished he would not
send me that ~~dear~~ you know what" So here we are again his idea of sending it
dear was to please me if I had refused to receive it wouldnt I have hurt their
feelings now listen what am I to do with it when it does come if he sends
it I will haft to write him and tell him its good qualities or he will think
I didnt appreciate it what a force I dont really know keep it for Mr
Holland if he comes next summer? does he intend to come with you!
In writing a while back I spoke about things that you would want to hear
In regards to me and this business the reason for my baby sister married
a Marine Engineer I knowed him real well in fact we were on the ship
together he was about the same as I always naby for fun but my mother
did not like to have her marry him she did not object to strongly but used
to talk to her but they loved each other and that settled it after he met her
he cut out all his bad habits even to smoking and he makes her a noble
nubby and they are very happy they have one little girl now 4 years old
and a Candy there is to they have a little place on the water front near Tacoma
I guess he raises all kinds of flowers & vegetables he goes to sea in summer
and stays home in winter you would like her I am shore you are alike
in a great many ways she believes in her bible and goes to church always has
and a sister that I am proud of and say she certainly knows how to work
her big brother to when she was a girl of 14 or 15 she used to keep me broke
most of the time she certainly knowed the proper time to approach me when
she wanted anything say I often Josh her about it now she is quite tall
black hair & eyes more like my father myself & mother black hair & blue eyes
well dear I think when you have finished this bunch of odds & ends you will not
have so much spare time on your hands but I funk I can take off a little of your
time can I dear 7 bells and now good by until I wear wet shoes & make it hot
John



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3 P.M. and full speed ahead after breakfast I
 laid down to have a bit of a nap and certainly made
 a job of it didn't wake up till 2 o'clock I must
 try and change my sleeping hours and sleep right
 for this is only a pleasure boat for a engineer
 on the northwestern we never thought of leaving
 the engine room and here we never think of staying
 there. When going on watch here we only make a look
 see how every thing is and then come on deck to the
 purser's office of the Chief Purser + Captain
 and my self and we have some great sessions
 this is the 3rd time I have bin here on this boat with
 the same bunch and we always have a good time
 we do nothing up north but hunt & fish dig clams
 go a berrying never think of standing a watch in port
 she is smaller than the S S Clara about 1/4 the size
 of northwestern it talks about taking pictures. I certainly
 have bin making some snap shot changes in ships
 since I saw you last the Santa Clara is a mail boat
 carries U.S. mail therefore must be here no I have
 not bin to the Expo since we were there.

no honey if you only do come next year what a grand
time we will have? I do hope that you will be here how
I would like to take you to see my mother she would
love you I know? well dear there is no limit to the
time I could wait for you but it seems as though
I ought to see you at least once a year any way
and if the rest of the time goes as slow as it has been
going well - we will have to make it twice a year
2 months today 8¹⁵ a.m. and it seems ages to me: how
long do you expect to stay in El Paso I hope all winter
"why" this boat usually lags up around the holidays for
a couple of weeks and in looking at a map it seems only
a step to El Paso then what "would you like to see there?"
you spoke once upon a time about being a spoiled girl well my
opinion of that is if they were more girls spoiled in the same
way what a better world ^{with} better girls & also boys this would
be in speaking of the bashfulness of your friend Howard I
wonder what he would have thought if he would have heard the
question and the abrupt answer that took place in the Georgian? you
remember "dear" I must tell you what my feelings were in regards
to that and the lot of thinking & reasoning and wondering that made me
come to this conclusion: would I be doing justice to her (I am talking to
myself now or then) to ask her to be my wife she has only known me a short
while and I don't think she would realize what it would mean to answer
me now I will only ask her not to become engaged to any one else for
a time and then she will have travelled lots and seen so many different
fellows that you would be in a better condition to know if you were
doing right? how many times have I wondered how I stood the
test tell me honey? all the time that I was trying to come to this
conclusion it kept flashing through my mind suppose I should
lose her and again I wondered would she be happy with me under these
conditions (in not knowing me) it seemed as long as I was short of your
happiness that was my chief desire even wife. some one else but I don't know
now dear I want you all for my self (selfish) no dear I need you and
love you and I am sure I could



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make you happy would you feel justified in answering me
 now dear to become engaged to the Marine Engineer do you
 think you could be happy "I think u could" do you tell me
 little little girl the rest can be arranged when we see
 each other again which I hope will be soon? I have
 to go on watch now dear so long for a little while
 6²⁵ and here we are again when you come again next
 summer and we go to Alaska you should be quite an Engineer
 also I know you will if you listen to me and I have
 lots of books (which I have not looked at for some time)
 on marine engineering, ice making, electric lighting
 etc you would be surprised to see the progress we hope
 to do on getting a licence? Say dear I don't think it was
 nice of that man talking to you about your eyes wait
 until I see him I wonder if uncle a has heard from
 the Chief of Santa Clara when they do home and the name
 of the boat is suggested let me know if possible for I
 know that country and know if the boat is safe for that
 son or not and listen I would not let you go if
 I were not satisfied "what you know about that?"
 I failed to see anything about what your mother said about
 me dear or perhaps you did not hear before you left for El Paso



I wonder how many letters I will have when I
get back. It will be the 19th so before this letter reaches
you a long time. I sent it away and it will be about
the 25th before I know how much my little girl
thinks of me you will. I hope tell me about your dear
I want to know so Dad? I will not forget the pictures dear
and will mail them to Uncle Alex so they will not be
following you around. I will send H-2 a piece of
he has them finished. They should be there 5 days after
this letter. This writing and letter looks like the funny
paper in the Sunday Times. I have no paper no pen no
stamps or nothing. I did not have time in Seattle didn't even
get paid off from northwestern no time and then I was busy
reading. I cannot help thinking of that letter dear. It seemed
to make me so much better acquainted with you and show me your
true self and make me love you more if that could be possible
talk about making a baby of you honey wait & see yes dear even
to rocking you to sleep and if you was possible cross I would walk
the floor with you. I wish I could honey? you must hurry back
and get them 24 again dear. I think I lost about 20 last voyage
working all the time 18 to 36 hours at a stretch. The northwesterns
were so very dangerous they had 3-2nd assist before I went
there they were afraid of him but you know I like to undertake any
thing in this line that some one else won't tackle. There is a certain
amount of pride in it some way? last night I was in the
writing and tonight (now don't laugh) there is a door from the
engine room to after hole and I am in there setting on a dail
of hay 7:30 and now I will bid you good night. regards to Uncle &
a kiss for Pat. I remain with heaps of love I love