Juneau, Alaska
Box 2376
Dec. 7, 1936

Dear Friends;

Bet this country is far prettier than yours. We have a thick covering of snow on everything, the temperature is about 20° and has been as low as 8°.

We have a large glass sunporch on our house where we keep our eggs, apples, etc. The eggs froze so hard, Mary couldn't break one with a hammer. They thawed out in about an hour.

The slide in Juneau wasn't as bad as they first reported it to be, tho it was tragic enough.

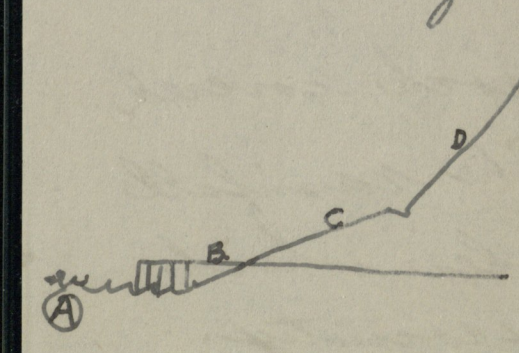
Juneau is built against a hill, not just rolling land but gigantic mountains of hard rock covered with shale and loose dirt. The rainfall last month was over 25. inches which is a great deal for any country.

Ms 4-13-15
#2

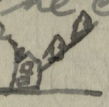
The water ran off the mountain in rivers and seeping through the mud to bed rock it loosened the shale and mud, causing the slide. Four houses were completely wrecked. Three others were badly damaged, so much so that they will have to be wrecked. Nine people survived the slide while fifteen others in it were killed.

The slide started about 800 feet above the street level and slid to the street heaping debris 20 feet high against a cement building. Logs, huge rocks, and tons of mud were piled high across the main street.

One can't imagine the force of such a slide. I'll try to draw you one of those hard to understand drawings of the slide.



(A) Represents the channel between Douglas Island and Juneau.
(B). Main St of town called Franklin St.
(C) Hill where houses stood
(D) slope of hill above houses

The bottom house was dug into the ground and built of cement. The cement was crushed to small rock.  Bathtubs were mashed flat. Pipes were twisted into all shapes.

One miner heard the slide coming ran out of the house, was half carried by the mud to safety. Others running out were swept to the ground. The daughter of the family owning the lower house was ~~sat~~ preparing to take a bath. The lights went out just before the slide hit. She stepped into the hall to see if all the lites were out or if her globe had burned out. The slide hit and threw her through a window to the ground and swept her to the safety of a too-scared-to-run-bystander who gave her his overcoat and rushed her into a store. Her folks were killed.

Fire broke out following an explosion about 5 a.m. the following morning and all hope was lost. 45 hours later a rescuer heard a child crying. Not believing his ears he called another worker who knew the 3½ year old girl. They talked to her and when we came off shift the miners went to her rescue. It took

three hours to uncover the mass of twisted walls. She was brought out alive and apparently all right, to the cheers of thousands of on lookers. She died 2 hours later from shock, and injuries. Her legs were beerned badly, and a crushed arm would require amputation, so it was noddoubt for the best that she had to go, tho the town mourned the loss.

Every time our babes turned over in bed we thought it was our house going, tho its almost impossible for any slide to effect us. We live on a hill like this. [sketch]. The hills near us are solid rock and this picture makes it look that these hills slide into each other, but they don't, they go by each other.

I'm still crazy about this country. Wages are good, the work is the easiest I've ever done and the bosses don't drive you. What you don't do today you do tomorrow. I work in the

machine shop and bit shop.
You fix about 8 machines a day
and 6 hoses. Some days only 4
machines come in — those days
you take it easy. But grinding,
we grind about 70 a day. When
the work is done we take it easy.
Time goes fast. Pay through noon
hour. We don't really loaf but
we take it easy. We have to stay
there in case more comes in.

We ride 5 miles to work via
electric train in the mine tunnel,
on company time, which takes about
half hour. We ride out on our own
time. The mine runs 24 hours a
day.

There is need for carpenters here,
and if a fellow can afford to build
a few houses, he can clean up. Houses
were scarce before the slide. Now about
50 houses have been condemned so there's
need for many new ones. They sell
easily here. Rents are $30.00 up, and

the houses aren't modern.

The strike has made the ~~houses~~ stores look bare, tho we have plenty of grub for awhile. We're going to get 1/2 Reindeer tomorrow at 10¢ a pound, while beef is about 40¢.

Eggs are 70¢ a dozen, Butter 65¢ lb.

Must close now, but first I want to say I don't know how I can thank you for the kindness you bestowed up on my family, and Ida, how I appreciated your sending me the pictures of the babies. By some ill luck I forgot my big photos and had none, I'd written Mary for them but she failed to send them and then a letter from you and those photos. Thanks lots.

Bye - write whenever you get time,

Sincerely

George L. Webb

and

Family.

Box 2316
Juneau Alaska
JUNEAU
DEC 13
12 PM
1935
ALASKA
1936
HOLIDAY GREETINGS
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
WASHINGTON
3
Miss Ila Couture
1769 Anson
Hayward
Oakland
Arbor Ave
&
Laurel Ave
California

Box 2376
Juneau, Alaska
June 14, 1937

Dear Ila and Folks;

We received your letter a few days ago, just before Mary and family sailed for California. Were glad to hear from you, again, I put that word "again" there just for fun. I realize youire probably pretty busy looking for that job.

Gee! youire having some vacation — Richardson Springs. Thatis a very nice place. Lucky People your are to get a vacation.

Mary and babes are heading for Lake County, to Lakeport, Calif. Theyll probably be there for a year — ah-me — and then maybe theyll try Alaska again.

HS 4-13-15
#1

I certainly miss them plenty. Mary Ann was so much of a pal and Baby was getting to talk a little, and was getting kinda chummy too. They were anxious to leave — especially anxious to go to bed on the boat — in a bunk.

We're having the grandest weather now. Temperature around 82° — light from 1 A.M. to 11 P.M. and the three hours of darkness are about the same as dusk there.

We went out towards Eagle River the other night and it was certainly beautiful. Talk about colors — the sunset was just full of pastel shades, pink lavender, blue, green white yellow orange. We could see the big glacier with its massive ice pack. Prettiest scene I ever viewed.

I'm enclosing a recommendation for you Doc. I hope its satisfactory. Your work was more than satisfactory. I know of no one I'd rather leave the care of the babies to. May I express my hopes, - that I wish them to grow up to be like you.

Well my job is still fine, I weigh 185, feeling fine and I'm still crazy about this country. I hope you can see it sometime.

Must close now.

Bye

Geo. L. Webb

Season's Greetings from Alaska.

WS4-B-5 #3

JUNEAU
DEC 14
12 PM
1936
ALASKA

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
3 WASHINGTON 3
CENTS

Mr. & Mrs. Couture
and Ila
1769 Anson Blvd
~~Laurel Ave & Arbor Ave~~
Oakland ~~Hayward~~
California

If we were rite next door, we'd Lollerout 'n say -
A very Merry Xmas and Happy new Year day -
But we're closer to the North Pole and Good old Santa Claus
So will send a greeting to you over two thousand mile.

Mary Webb and family -

Mary Ann calls the enclosed picture Illa and
spends lots of time looking at it - So when we said
we were writting to Illa and Tough she gets the picture.