

Neva Creek

Aug. 16, 1901

My very Dearest One -

I have nothing much to write as I am away off from every body and don't know what is going on. Dan Tullock went to Quartz Creek yesterday to get a pair of boots. Came back last night and could not cross the river, slept out with a piece of hose for cover. He said the Willmans outfit and a lot of others were going to start back to Nome to-day. Tom and Lou Emery were going to start in a few days. Louis came up the river to my camp the other day, had a hard trip as water was very low then, he brought me some lumber, hose, barrel beef & etc.

I am going to stay with Neva Creek till I am satisfied it will or will not pay, it looks very doubtful now, seems to only be good in very small spots., it is getting pretty cold, rains most of the time and cold wind all the time Bill got a letter from Neva, he does not say much, but I can see that he is at sea as to what to do or say, prospects are very slim here for any one to make a stake or even wages, one has to figure every thing worth thirty five cents above cost for freight, making it actually cost a person nearly \$4.00 a day to eat.

I am working four men now am preparing to ground sluice and do away with shoveling into sluice boxes can not make it pay and should am paying the men \$6.00 a day & board.

Bill has nothing yet as far as we have prospected, so I see nothing in the near future for Neva to plan on, would not encourage the subject to any extent.

I can't tell just when I will start back, but think I will leave about the 20th or 25th of Sept. All depends upon the weather and what I find here if I don't strike any thing, better than what I have so far, will leave pretty soon. When I strike Seattle will

wire you, if you are at home, let me know if you go east, and when you will return.

I have not seen any thing of my trunk since I left Nome, it and Ma's got side tracked some way at Teller so I am flying pretty light on the clothes line, have my grip and roll happened to have them both full of stuff, but not full enough.

Have not been able to give Bill his box of candy and letter from Neva, they are in the trunk. I sent you a nugget weighing \$1.40, I wrote the letter and gave it to Tom to address and mail, also gave him the nugget.

I have about a half a teaspoon full of ink so will save that to address letters with, I do hope this pencil writing will not rub out.

Well dearest I am getting anxious to get back to my dear little family again, it is so uninteresting here, things so dissapointing, I may pack up any time & strike out. Am afraid you will need my assistance along the latter part or middle of October don't you think so?

Ma is worrying herself to death, about the poor showing of the claims, I am going to see her in a few days and try and get her to go out now, and if she won't, I will get her to go out earlier with me, she is doing no good here and is worrying herself over money pouring out and none coming in.

Am going to get the three dogs Louis gave me for the kiddies, and keep them with me so they will know me and stay with me, then they won't be any trouble to take out.

Would like to see you all now, wouldn't it be a treat thought to walk in on you all this afternoon?

Lots of love to my dearest sweetheart and take good care of her and your kiddies -

Always yours only
Paul