

Collection B06.1 – Julia & Earl Dean: Copper Center, Alaska 1937-1941

Photographs

- B06.1.1 Julia Dean with black bear – “Bear was killed one hour before”
- B06.1.2 Julia Dean and four children with black bear – “Four darling little Eskimos with me”

Miscellaneous Items

- B06.1.3a, b, c, d
Jan. 12, 1955: To “Julie” from “Elise?”: Letter about living in Sitka, job at Sitka Alaska Pioneers Home, children, husband Jim living in village of Tenakee working construction, poor state of economy in Alaska, statehood, politics.
- B06.1.4 – Information card on transportation between Fairbanks and Valdez
- B06.1.5 – Julia’s notes on the trip to Alaska through June 2nd, 1938

Correspondence

Postcards from Pennsylvania to Copper Center

- B06.1.6
Nov. 26, 1937: To “Marie, A. Ella & Bill” from “Julia”: Arrival in Binghamton, meeting family.
- B06.1.7
Nov. 30, 1937, 9:20 PM: To “Folks” from “Julia”: Arrival in Chicago, cold, boarding to Seattle.
- B06.1.8
Dec. 2, 1937, 11 AM: To “Folks” from “Julia”: Arrival in Seattle, determining plans to get to Copper Center, etc.
- B06.1.9
Dec. 23, 1937: To “Sis & Brothers” from “Julia”: In Copper Center, setting up house and school, Christmas.

Letters from Ship

- B06.1.10
Dec. 8, 1937: *Alaska Steamship Company* menu entitled “Summer Comes Early” – Letter to “Sis & Brothers” from “Julia & Dean”: arrival in Juneau, impressions of Alaska.
- B06.1.11
Dec. 8, 1937: *Alaska Steamship Company* menu entitled “A

Land of Magic Contrasts” – Letter to “Sis & Brothers” from “Julia”: meeting with Commissioner of Education in Juneau and living situation, still on board.

B06.1.12

Dec. 8, 1937: *Alaska Steamship Company* menu entitled “Mountains Rise to the Sky” – Letter to “Sis & Brothers” from “Julia”: admiring otter fur coats, arrive in Cordova next day.

Julia and Dean’s Letters from 1937-1941

B06.1.13

Sunday Morning: To “Sis & Brothers” from “Julia & Dean”: On board ship, love the trip, met with other couples who said they would like Alaska, what they did in Seattle.

B06.1.14a, b

Dec. 11, 1937, Saturday morning: To “Sis & Brothers” from “Julia & Dean”: Arrived in Cordova, big snowstorm hindered taking train to Chitina. Met Mr. & Mrs. Pinkum, teachers, learning about education situation there. (2 pages)

B06.1.15a, b, c

Sunday afternoon 2:30 PM: To “Sis & Brothers” from “Julia & Dean”: Arrived at Copper Center (Chitina) from Cordova, impressions of “The Trail”, housing situation, getting settled, etc.

B06.1.16

Jan. 11, 1938, Tuesday 9:15 AM: To “Marie & Bill” from “Julia & Dean”: On funeral that they attended for a Native baby.

B06.1.17a, b, c

January 4th, 1938, Tuesday evening, 8:30 PM: To “Sis & Brothers” from “Julia & Dean”: Christmas celebrations, beginning of school, Jan. 3rd, difficulties in needing to know all of children’s ages, Native baby sick with pneumonia whom she tried to help, impressions of Native graveyard with fences around plots. Note by Dean at the end.

B06.1.18a, b

Friday 3PM: To “Marie & Bill” from “Julia & Dean”: The school, having the children for Friday lunch, helping natives with supplies and food, visit from supervisor.

B06.1.19a, b, c, d

Jan. 30, 1938, Sunday Evening 8 PM; Jan. 31, 1938, Monday evening; Feb. 3, 1938, Thursday evening; Feb 6, 1938, Sunday 5 PM: To "Marie & Bill" from "Julia & Dean": Disease ("the itch") going through the town, her birthday, snowstorm, requests to pick up items in the states.

B06.1.20a, b, c, d, e, f

Feb. 22, 1938, Tuesday evening 9 PM; Feb. 27, 1938, Sunday evening 7:15 PM; Mar. 2, 1938, Wednesday 8 PM: To "Marie & Bill" from "Julia & Dean": Story of a drunk man, worried about cleanliness and disease in the village, helping with medicine, having the schoolchildren to dinner on Fridays, difficulties in receiving packages, building playground, friends at home.

B06.1.21a, b, c, d

Mar. 18, 1938, Copper Center, Alaska; March 21, 1938, Monday 3 PM: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia & Dean": Divisions in the community against the missionaries, socializing with the other "white folks", prizes to children for cleanliness, problems receiving packages, roads and RR opening for the summer and construction work, Dean's toothache and getting to Fairbanks, glad they decided to come.

B06.1.22a, b

Mar. 28, 1938, Monday 9:30 AM: To "Sis & Brother" from "Julia": Dean's toothache, receiving packages and letters, schoolchildren.

B06.1.23a, b, c

Apr. 3, 1938, Sunday 9 AM: To "Sis & Brother" from "Julia & Dean": Mail service better with roads opening, affairs in the states (birthdays, Mother's Day), April Fool's Day jokes.

B06.1.24a, b, c, d

Apr. 9, 1938, Saturday evening 8 PM: To "Sister & Brother" from "Julia & Dean": Easter craft projects and favors for the children and decorating the school, gifts from a native woman, snow melting, fish wheels put up, poacher caught with caribou and other skins, includes a recipe for Graham Cracker Pie, natives from outlying villages arriving for Easter services, car ride and enjoying scenery.

B06.1.25a, b, c, d

Apr. 30, 1938, Saturday 6:15: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia & Dean": Seeing the ice moving on the river, problems with flooding,

saw first “drunken brawl” in front of the school, impressions of the natives, excited to receive a fox fur, fresh fruit and vegetables.

B06.1.26a, b, c, d

May 16, 1938, Monday evening 8:15 PM: To “Sis & Brother” from “Julia & Dean”: Getting fresh fruit and vegetables, learning to “do without”, family affairs, surprised by the daylight.

B06.1.27a, b

[No date]: To “Sis” from “Julia”: Disappointment in one of the missionaries there (“Vincent Joy”) for not fulfilling his purposes and living off of everyone and effect this has on the natives who watch all of them closely. In response to pictures that her sister saw from a friend of Vincent who visited Copper Center.

B06.1.28a, b

May 29, 1938, Sunday 2 PM: To “Sis & Brothers” from “Julia & Dean”: Tomorrow last day of school, inviting parents to school for social time (games, native dances), meeting Miss Sheridan who is nurse and bound for St. Lawrence Island and Pt. Barrow, performing medical care and inoculations in Copper Center.

B06.1.29a, b, c

June 9, 1938, Thursday 7:30 PM: To “Marie, Bill & Frank” from “Julia & Dean”: Receiving packages, trip to Valdez, ploughing the road, Bridal Veil Falls, Devil’s Elbow, Keystone Canyon, dentist and Dean’s toothache; first fresh salmon, natives moving to fish camps.

B06.1.30a, b, c, d

June 19, 1938, Sunday afternoon 4 PM: To “Sis & Brothers” from “Julia & Dean”: Mail problems, Dean’s toothache finally cured, baby died, summer events, etc.

B06.1.31a, b, c, d

July 15, 1938, Friday evening 6:30 PM; July 17, 1938, Sunday evening 7:30 PM: To “Sis & Brothers” from “Julia & Dean”: Repairing house, tourists coming through, having backaches and pains (sciatica), natives “afraid of the government”, Miss Johnson (the other missionary) left, party with native dancing.

B06.1.32a, b, c

Aug. 1, 1938, Monday 9 PM: To “Sis & Brother” from “Julia & Dean”: Summer scenery and colors, buying native blankets, met the Bradford-Washburn party whose photos of Mt. McKinley were in Nat’l Geographic. Reports that the party attempted to scale Mt.

Sanford. (Actually did scale the mountain – first time, July 21st 1938)

B06.1.33a, b, c

Aug. 8, 1938, Monday 1 PM: To “Sis & Brother” from “Julia”: Summer repairs, trip to Gulkana and description, size of flies and mosquitoes and general bug situation.

B06.1.34a, b

Aug. 20, 1938: To “Mr. William Pfizenmaier (Bill)” from “Dean”: Humorous story on missionaries and revenge from Mrs. Barnes, the keeper of the Trading Post in Copper Center, who received it from an unknown writer. Also information on fishing, visit by ex-Governor of AK and two persons from the Department of the Interior in Washington.

B06.1.35a, b

Aug. 21, 1938, Sunday 2 PM: To “Marie, Bill & Frank” from “Julia & Dean”: Lack of paper money there, transactions only in silver dollars, fresh vegetables from Chitina teachers, visit from Cleveland teachers.

B06.1.36

Aug. 31, 1938, Wednesday 5:30 PM; Fairbanks, Alaska: To “Marie, Bill & Frank” from “Julia”: At doctor’s office getting X-rays and tests for hip and back pain, does not like expense of and constant drinking in Fairbanks.

B06.1.37

Sept. 16, 1938: To “Marie and Bill” from “Dean”: Account of Julia’s stay in the hospital in Fairbanks to recoup her leg, school year and sickness in village.

B06.1.38

Sept. 29, 1938: To “Marie & Bill” from “Dean”: Note that Julia is returning home, details on her illness.

B06.1.39

Oct. 4, 1938: To “Marie & Bill” from “Dean”: Julia returned home the day before, details of her illness from the doctor.

B06.1.40

Oct. 17, 1938, Monday: To “Sis & Brother” from “Julia”: Details of time at Fairbanks and how she is feeling.

B06.1.41

Oct. 28, 1938: To "Bill" from "Julia & Dean": Requesting box of candy as Christmas gifts for families, Julia's health conditions.

B06.1.42a, b

Oct. 30, 1938, Sunday 1 PM: To "Sis & Brother" from "Julia & Dean": Third child in same family dying from T.B., her illness, requesting to purchase a Christmas present for her to give to Dean.

B06.1.43a, b

Nov. 8, 1938, Tuesday: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia & Dean": Thanks for packages, how her recovery progresses.

B06.1.44

[No date] To "Marie" from "Julia": Requests to purchase and send Christmas presents for Dean and others.

B06.1.45

Nov. 19, 1938: To "Marie & Bill" from "Dean": Writing for Julia as thanks for anniversary card, state of Julia's health, winter temperatures.

B06.1.46a, b, c

Nov. 29, 1938, Tuesday 4:30 PM: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia & Dean": Her health, Thanksgiving, incident in the village with their oldest student, etc.

B06.1.47a, b

Dec. 3, 1938, Saturday afternoon: To "Marie & Bill" from "Julia & Dean": Received package and cards, men leaving for traplines, etc.

B06.1.48a, b, c

Dec. 21, 1938, Wednesday 8 PM: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia & Dean": Bad weather with no planes or radio, Christmas presents to people, health details, Christmas events.

B06.1.49a, b, c, d

Jan. 5, 1939, Thursday 12 noon: To "Marie, Bill & Frank" from "Julia & Dean": Christmas party for schoolchildren, boxes for children, Julia's health and recovery, disappointment with missionaries.

B06.1.50a, b

Jan. 22, 1939, Sunday 9:30 PM: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia & Dean": Julia recovering and moving around some, packages from and for people, etc.

B06.1.51a, b, c, d

Feb. 4, 1939, Saturday evening: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia & Dean": News of death in family at home, mail problems, scene of natives on sleds going to a potlatch and the potlatch events (first held in Copper Center since 1924), questions on pamphlets and pictures the missionaries from their village distribute in PA.

B06.1.52

Feb. 23, 1939, Thursday: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia & Dean": Julia being flown to base hospital in Anchorage for treatment.

B06.1.53a, b

Mar. 6, 1939; Hotel Parsons, Anchorage, Alaska: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia": Saw the doctor in Anchorage, severe treatments to prevent paralysis and hope of recovery, loves Anchorage.

B06.1.54

Mar. 22, 1939; Hotel Parsons, Anchorage, Alaska: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia" (postcard): Hoping to go home by Apr. 3.

B06.1.55a, b

Mar. 26, 1939; Hotel Parsons, Anchorage, Alaska: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia": Her recovery, less pain, welcoming experience in Anchorage, people fearing an upcoming war moving to AK in greater numbers.

B06.1.56a, b

Apr. 5, 1939, 8 PM: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia": Details of treatments, walking around more, hospitality of friends in Anchorage.

B06.1.57a, b

Apr. 16, 1939, Sunday evening 9 PM: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia": Poor weather, mail pilot crashed in interior, crowds of miners waiting (due to bad weather) to be flown to interior (Yukon and Kuskokwim), met a writer Kay Kennedy, marveling at the varied kinds of peoples who come through.

B06.1.58a, b, c

May 5, 1939, 6 PM and May 9, 1939, Saturday 4:30 PM; Copper Center, Alaska: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia & Dean": Arrived back in Copper Center, colds going around village, friends coming up in July (Sellers), Mr. Kirkpatrick (their mail pilot from Cordova to Chitina) crashed, Julia's recovery.

B06.1.59a, b

May 18, 1939: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia & Dean": Problems with mail being opened, short on supplies and hoping the road will open soon, end of school.

B06.1.60a, b

June 5, 1939, 8 PM: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia & Dean": Dean on "buying trip" to Valdez, planting a large garden by the school for the village, incidents with the villagers and first lawsuit.

B06.1.61a, b, c

June 20, 1939, Tuesday 7 PM: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia & Dean": Julia's recovery, dental clinic in the village, government tuberculosis specialist visit, salmon season.

B06.1.62a, b, c

July 5, 1939, Wednesday 6:30 PM: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia & Dean": Fixing up their house, tourists, met a professor of archeology at the University of Denmark who took a movie reel of the children, also met a Professor Rainy.

B06.1.63a, b, c

July 25, 1939, Tuesday 1:30 PM: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia & Dean": Sellers' (friends from home) visit to Copper Center, Julia's recovery.

B06.1.64a, b

Aug. 1, 1939, Tuesday 9:30 PM: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia & Dean": Death in family, arrest in village.

B06.1.65a, b

Aug. 17, 1939, Thursday 7:30 PM: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia & Dean": Julia's first walk to Trading Post since illness, trip to Valdez for dentist, etc.

B06.1.66a, b, c, d

Aug. 31, 1939, Thursday 11 AM: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia & Dean": Doing inventory since government stations are required to be "bonded", news from home.

B06.1.67a, b, c

Sept. 21, 1939, Wednesday 10 PM: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia & Dean": Beginning of school, visit of government nurse, meeting with Chitina teachers.

B06.1.68a, b

Oct. 5, 1939, Thursday afternoon: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia & Dean": Dean taking the ten-year census for the area, preparing for Halloween parties.

B06.1.69a, b, c

Oct. 14, 1939, Saturday 4 PM: To "Marie & all" from "Julia & Dean": Snowing since Oct. 6th, freight backed-up on highway, met the geologists of the Guggenheim Co. of New York, news of the war in Europe.

B06.1.70a, b

Oct. 25, 1939, Wednesday 6:30 PM: To "Sis & Dean (?)" from "Julia & Dean": Receiving packages, children's Halloween party.

B06.1.71a, b, c, d, e

Nov. 5, 1939, Sunday 2 PM: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia & Dean": Details of adult party and children's Halloween party, Road Commissions "boys" arriving on a tractor, presents, children.

B06.1.72a, b, c

Nov. 13, 1939, Monday 6:30 PM: To "My Sis & Brothers" from "Julia & Dean": Beginning of trapping season, receiving and opening Christmas packages, visitor from Juneau.

B06.1.73

Nov. 20, 1939, Thursday 9:15 PM: To "Frank, Marie & Bill" from "Julia & Dean": Thanksgiving Day, weather, etc.

B06.1.74a, b, c

Dec. 18, 1939, Sunday 8:30 PM: To "Sis & Brothers" from "Julia & Dean": Planning for children's Christmas party and holiday season, Dean working on census sheets, lack of furs this season.

B06.1.75a, b, c

Dec. 23, 1939, Saturday evening 7 PM: To "Marie, Bill & Frank" from "Julia & Dean": Freezing rain hindered planes, Chinook winds, Christmas plans, story of getting a 26-lb halibut.

B06.1.76a, b, c, d

Jan. 3, 1939(1940), Wednesday 12:30 PM: To "Marie, Bill & Frank" from "Julia & Dean": Christmas day festivities including children's party, native child drowned, visiting people in the village.

B06.1.77a, b, c, d, e, f

Jan. 18, 1940, Thursday 2:30 PM and Jan. 22, 1940, Monday: To “Marie, Bill & Frank” from “Julia & Dean”: “Drunken brawl” incident night before, frustrations with natives, enclosing picture and story of pilot (Mr. Mirow) who died.

B06.1.78a, b

Feb. 2, 1940: To “Marie & Boys” from “Julia & Dean”: Julia’s birthday broadcast on radio, weather, family news.

B06.1.79a, b, c

[no date] Friday 3:45 PM: To “Marie, Bill & Frank” from “Julia & Dean”: Recent California law on relief clients, natives in village on relief, upcoming election between Dewey and Roosevelt, home news.

B06.1.80a, b

Feb. 27, 1940, Tuesday 1 PM: To “Marie, Bill & Frank” from “Julia & Dean”: Weather around the country, the release of “Gone With the Wind”, Dean going to summer school in Chemawa Oregon, Julia encouraging family to visit AK, etc.

B06.1.81a, b

Mar. 24, 1940, Easter Sunday: To “Marie, Bill & Frank” from “Julia & Dean”: Invited to a potlatch, account of events there, influx of men into Fairbanks and Kodiak due to army, booming population in Anchorage, etc.

B06.1.82a, b

Apr. 1, 1940, Monday 8 PM: To “Marie, Bill & Frank” from “Julia & Dean”: Dean looking for another job, inconveniences of living out there (clothing, hair, dentist).

B06.1.83a, b

Apr. 14, 1940, Sunday 12 o’clock noon: To “Marie, Bill & Frank” from “Julia & Dean”: One of large Philadelphia department stores planning to start an Indian Art & Craft Department, summer plans, etc.

B06.1.84a, b, c

May 2, 1940, Thursday 11 AM: To “Marie, Bill & Frank” from “Julia & Dean”: Teaching school while Dean is building a cabin, Gulkana roadhouse “crashed to pieces” by ice.

B06.1.85a, b

May 25, [1940], Saturday 4 PM: To “Marie, Bill & Frank” from “Julia & Dean”: Richardson Hwy opened May 15th which is

earliest on record, home news, Dean leaving, war news and AK a possible target.

B06.1.86a, b

June 25, 1940, Tuesday 11 AM: To "Marie & All" from "Julia": Living without Dean there, etc.

B06.1.87a, b, c

July 14, 1940, Sunday 8 PM: To "Marie, Bill & Frank" from "Julia": Trip to Fairbanks, guest on K7AR (Fairbanks radio station) during women's hour, fixing house, war and presidential race.

B06.1.88a, b

July 22, 1940, Monday 3:30 PM: To "Marie & all" from "Julia": Tourists coming through, magazine articles on air bases being built in AK (especially Diomed Islands in "Life" magazine), enclosing article about lost man found in area.

B06.1.89a, b

July 31, 1940, Wednesday 1 PM: To "Marie, Bill & Frank" from "Julia": Family news, weather, etc.

B06.1.90a, b

Sept. 1, 1940, Sunday 2 PM; Chitina: To "Marie & all" from "Julia & Dean": Visiting school and hospital in Chitina with Miss Cunningham (the nurse), socializing with all the delegates.

B06.1.91a, b

Sept. 7, 1940, Saturday evening 9 PM: To "Marie & all" from "Julia & Earl": Trip to Valdez to meet Dean, entertaining Valdez and Road Commission people, etc.

B06.1.92a, b

Sept. 29, 1940, Sunday 11:15 AM: To "Marie & all" from "Julia & Dean": Beginning school, "our little native woman and her brood" set up in the cabin next to them, war news, someone setting fire to new Federal building in Anchorage.

B06.1.93a, b

Oct. 16, 1940, Sunday 1:30 PM: to "Marie, Bill & Frank" from "Julia & Dean": "No, the Russians have not gotten us thus far", Bombers flew over house en route to Ladd Field in Fairbanks, alcohol problems with the villagers and the trading post encouraging the problem, drafting for military.

B06.1.94a, b, c

Oct. 19, 1940, Saturday 4 PM: to "Marie, Bill & Frank" from "Julia & Dean": Upcoming presidential election, villager sent to prison and cleaned cabin and took children, news of missionary (Vincent Joy).

B06.1.95a, b

Oct. 31, 1940, 4:30 PM: To "Marie, Bill & Frank" from "Julia": Receiving packages, presidential race addresses, village news.

B06.1.96a, b

Nov. 27, 1940, Wednesday 7:30 PM: To "Marie, Bill & Frank" from "Julia & Dean": Buying wholesale from a company in Minneapolis, presidential election.

B06.1.97a, b, c

Dec. 8, 1940, Sunday 4:45 PM: To "Marie, Bill & Frank" from "Julia & Dean": Two women's babies died, other injuries in village, Christmas preparations.

B06.1.98a, b

Dec. 22, 1940, Sunday 5 PM: To "Marie, Bill & Frank" from "Julia & Dean": Christmas party preparations, boxes received, etc.

B06.1.99a, b, c

Jan. 4, 1941, Saturday 2 PM: To "Marie, Bill & Frank" from "Julia & Dean": Accounts of Christmas party, New Year's party, presidential address, end of CCC projects for natives.

B06.1.100a, b, c

[no date] Saturday afternoon 3:30 PM: To "Marie, Bill & Frank" from "Julia & Dean": Registration by Selective Service Board, announcement that no Alaskans would be called until next September (lack of equipment), ordering native crafts and furs.

B06.1.101a, b

Feb. 9, 1941: To "Marie & Bill" from "Dean": Julie getting a job as the weather observer for Copper Center, weather, etc.

B06.1.102a, b

[no date] Wednesday 7:50 AM: To "Marie, Bill & Frank" from "Julia & Dean": "Old Phela" (the oldest "squaw") died, weather.

B06.1.103a, b

Mar. 25, 1941: Tuesday 3 PM: To "Marie, Bill & Frank" from "Julia & Dean": Living expenses, shipping issues, weather observer work.

B06.1.104a, b

Apr. 16, 1941: Wednesday 7:45 AM: To "Folks" from "Julia & Dean": Easter, Julia passed the examination to take Airway Observations for the Juneau Office, new roads being built, jobs with the Road Commission and mining.

B06.1.105a, b

May 17, 1941: Saturday evening 7 PM: To "Marie, Bill & Frank" from "Julia & Dean": "First white funeral", weather observing work, war and government news.

Newspaper Articles

B06.1.106a, b, c

Mar. 18, 1938: "Tells of Trip to Alaska and Conditions There": Trip across the country and descriptions of Alaskan scenery and towns along the way, journey to Copper Center from Chitina, life in Alaska and Copper Center.

B06.1.107a, b, c, d, e

Sept. 9, 16, 1938 and Mar. 24, 31, 1939: "Tells of Life and Habits in Alaska" and "A News Letter From Alaska": Description of Copper Center's location, geography and weather of area, schoolhouse and children, fishing and preserving, native traditions, events in the village, winter conditions, trip to Fairbanks.