

Bellevue, June 29/89

*Dear Mother, Sister, Brother,
and family*

As you wish

to know more particulars about the big fire

I will this evening try and explain it

to you as best I can as I got to the City about

5 hours after the fire first started but everything

was then in flames already though I seen

quite a number of walls fall after I got

their Herbert was along so ~~was~~ were five of the

camp men we stayed around until after

midnight- Their wasnt but one Brick

business house left unburnt and that was

on fire 5 or 6 times but a lot of Citizens

formed a bucket brigade and in that

way saved it and the building was the

Post office & Land office. July 1st I got so sleepy

this evening I wrote what is here I could

write no more so I quit. I will now try and finish

it Well it the fire burnt about 90 Blocks

or about 160 acre of ground all built

up solid with frame and brick buildings

you stated that you thought the

fire would make things dull

*though it is just the reverse Every
thing is bustle and activity Brick
masons, carpenters, painters and
common laborers can get all the
work they can do and more men
are wanted and cannot be had
there is five or six buildings
that is brick stores one storey high
already in the burnt District
and about as many 1/2 as high
there is about 300 tents up in which
all kinds of businesses is done I heard
the other day Johnny an Willie are
Trying to sell their lot in the North
of Seattle Johnny is just now Tending
a lodging house Willie Told me ~~so~~
that he got the job for him he might
of kept it for himself but he was
said he expected to start a chop house
this week again, the fire has not
done any harm on the whole though
some of the property holders are
heavy losers but only in a few
instances will any be unable to build*

and that property goes into other owners hands and will be rebuilt at once there is only a few instances where the poorer people have lost their all and in such cases if they make application they will be furnished a good cook stove and dishes and beds enough for the family and clothing and a few provisions too start on there is no need of suffering in any one case if only application is made through the proper authorities there has been a fund subscribed for the sufferers to the amount of about \$8500 cash and upwards of 30 ton of provisions for the needy and all that want work can get it at \$2.00 per day and can get meals for 15^{cts} at the relief tent so you see there is no needy need to go hungry if they want work but no Lazy need apply as they will very soon get found out and then theirs name is waker and if any needy can show good cause

*Johnny and Willie (?) left their trunks here so they
 Did not get burnt Jonny got all his shirts burnt except
 The one he had on and two pair of shoes. he has all the
 Stockings good he had when he left home except one pair
 and the distance not too far they
 were furnished with a railroad
 pass or steamboat ticket to go to
 their friends so your see that
 people can live if they are
 burnt their has been a few
 chared human remains found
 but how many I cannot say probably
 3 or four well I must stop as
 I must get ready for Town and am
 In a hurry we are all pretty well
 At present Bella would write but
 has no time just now but will
 write when she can she has not
 been troubled with headaches
 so much the last month
 love from all to all
 wee are as ever
 I.K. & I.L. Bechtel*