

15 Boudinot Street  
Princeton, N. J.  
February 5, 1926

Mr. Henry O'Malley,  
Commissioner of Fisheries,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. O'Malley:

I have received your letter of February 2d, (File 17) regarding permit to land at Pribilof Islands. I note that the best time for taking photographs of seal life and sealing is from the middle of June until the end of July. We had planned to spend the month of July on the Kenai Peninsula. It would be necessary for us to go to the Pribilofs if possible in June.

The plan that would fit in best for us would be to leave Seattle on the supply boat providing this left about the first part of June. This, I judge, would make it possible for us to reach the Pribilofs about the middle of June and have twelve or fifteen days to work with the cameras. Do you know approximately when the supply boat will leave Seattle and about how long it will take to reach the Pribilofs.

If conditions are right and we have the time, it would of course be interesting to stop at some of the Aleutian Islands as I am sure there is an opportunity there for good bird pictures.

I am satisfied we could get the pictures we want on either Saint Paul or Saint George Islands or on both if the opportunity offered. I note that the Bureau has stations on both of these islands. I am taking for granted, therefore, that it will be unnecessary to take anything like bedding and provisions. If this is not correct, let me know.

Mrs. Finley and I appreciate the opportunity of visiting these islands and I want to assure you we will be very glad to cooperate in any way that you suggest.

Sincerely yours,

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF FISHERIES

WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO FILE

February 2, 1926. 17

Subject: Permit to land at Pribilof Islands.

Mr. William L. Finley,  
15 Boudinot Street,  
Princeton, New Jersey.

Dear Mr. Finley:

Replying to your letter of January 25, 1926, I shall be pleased to arrange for a permit authorizing you to land at any of the Pribilof Islands at any time in the present year for the purpose of taking still and motion pictures.

The best time for taking photographs of seal life and sealing activities is from about the middle of June until the end of July. This time would probably be as suitable as any for taking pictures of birds and sea lions. For securing pictures of foxes and other subjects, one time would be as good as any other.

There are four principal islands in the Pribilof Islands group: St. Paul, St. George, Otter, and Walrus islands. Both St. Paul and St. George islands have native villages, and the Bureau maintains stations and personnel on each. The Navy Department maintains a large radio station on St. Paul Island. These two islands are the scene of the sealing activities. The Otter Island is a small island about seven miles from St. Paul Island. It is uninhabited and no seals land there. Walrus Island is famous as a bird resort. It is located a few miles off St. Paul Island and can be reached by a small boat from the latter island when weather conditions are favorable.

The Bureau would arrange for quartering you comfortably both on St. Paul and St. George Islands. The best views of fox life would probably be obtained on St. George Island.

You state in your letter that you are planning to go to Alaska this coming summer, but you do not state from what point in Alaska you would take departure for the Pribilof Islands. Possibly you would proceed from Seward to Unalaska by regular mail boat. From Unalaska the Bureau would arrange transportation for you to the Pribilof Islands on one of its own vessels, the power schooner Eider. Opportunity might also arise for transportation between Unalaska and the Pribilofs on a Coast Guard cutter. These vessels, being larger, would be somewhat more comfortable than the Eider.

Another possible way for you to get to the Pribilof Islands is on the vessel which will take the annual shipment of supplies from Seattle. It is hoped that the Secretary of the Navy will detail a vessel for this purpose as has been done for several seasons past. The U. S. S. Vega did the work last year. In the course of a few weeks we should have definite information as to whether the supply ship will be going north at a time convenient to you. We shall advise you further in due time.

While on your trip to the Bering Sea region it is possible that desirable pictures might be secured at some of the Aleutian Islands, including the famous Bogoslof group. Whether or not these pictures would be worth the expenditure of time necessary to obtain them might depend on the transportation facilities which happen to be available.

Very truly yours,

*Henry O'Malley*  
Commissioner.

HDA-IFC

Feb  
~~Jan~~ 5, 1926.

Mr. Campbell Church,  
Eugene, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Church:

I received your wire in regard to the Alaska trip and have just sent you a night letter to the effect that Mr. Henry O'Malley, Commissioner of Fisheries, wants me to go to the Pribilof Islands next summer in order to get photographs of seals. I do not know just when the supply boat will leave Seattle but take for granted it will be somewhere near the first of June. I have written to find out definitely but maybe it goes earlier.

O'Malley says the best time to photograph is from June 15th to the end of July. I presume the best plan would be to finish up on these islands about the end of June and arrange to have one of the government boats land us at Seward as near July 1st as possible. The only difficulty we might encounter would be in case the supply boat left Seattle earlier. However, O'Malley suggests that we might visit some of the other islands for photographs and even in this case we could meet you some time the latter part of June. Let me know if these arrangements would fit in with your plans.

We are sure that with your help and equipment we ought to be able to get a fine series of pictures. Mrs. Finley joins me in best wishes to all the Churches.

Sincerely yours,

15 Boudinot Street,  
Princeton, N.J.

February 26, 1926

Mr. Campbell Church,  
Eugene, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Church:

I received your letter of February 11th. I am very glad to know that our plans meet with your approval. I have written to Mr. Henry O'Malley, Commissioner of Fisheries, to find out when the supply boat leaves Seattle for the Prábilof Islands. He does not know at present, but says that the navy will have available either the Sirius in May or the Vega in August. I am in hopes that if they go in May, it will be the latter part of May or about the first of June. Of course, if they do not go until August, it will do us no good, and in that case we shall have to go up to Alaska on one of the regular boats and then get a government boat to take us over to the Prábilofs. I shall keep in touch with O'Malley, and let you know just as soon as I can get definite word from him.

I note that you could perhaps meet us at some point farther east rather than at Seward. I note that you might make plans to meet us on the way up, or even go out to Fribilof Islands in the westward. If you think your plans might work out this way, let me know, and we can arrange our plans accordingly.

In case we cannot get one of the navy boats leaving Seattle at the right time, O'Malley said he could arrange for us to go up on one of the revenue cutters. This was, however, before I told him that Mrs. Finley was going with me, so I found that this would be impossible, as they do not allow any women on these boats.

I think I told you in a previous letter that we might have to be on the Prábilofs or nearby islands for about two weeks in order to get a good series of pictures. A good deal depends, of course, upon the kind of weather we have.

Our aim is to make as fairly a complete collection of motion pictures and still life of birds and animals on the islands, as well as working in some of the natives there for background. Our plan is to feature all of our work in Alaska as an educational feature of the American Nature Association. They would give the matter considerable publicity in Nature Magazine, and we would furnish them a series of illustrated articles. As to the series of motion pictures I take, I want to use these in a series of lectures through the east next winter. I shall want to get out a lecture circular a little later on to the effect that the whole expedition is in co-operation with the Bureau of Fisheries of the United States Department of Commerce, and Mr. Campbell Church of Eugene, Oregon. The aim of my work, as you perhaps know, is to collect material on birds, animals, and other phases of outdoor life, and build up a greater interest among Americans in their outdoor resources. I hope these plans meet with your approval. It will, of course, be a big help to us to have the benefit of your experience, and we shall in turn be glad to co-operate with you in any plans you may have.

I have been wondering whether you have a good picture of the Westward that has been taken in some picturesque surroundings when cruising in the north. If you have, I should appreciate having a copy.

We shall have headquarters here until the end of March, although I am travelling a good deal of the time. A letter sent to this address, however, will be forwarded in case I am not here.

Mrs. Finley joins me in best wishes to you all.

Sincerely yours,

WLF/P

CAMPBELL CHURCH, E. M.  
EUGENE, OREGON

2/11/26

Dear Mr. Finley :-

Yours of Feby. 5<sup>th</sup> just received. Also you wire some days ago.

Your plans meet with our entire approval, and about what we figured on - If there is any modification you wish to make however we can easily adjust our schedule to fit.

Instead of meeting at Peward, it would be better to pick you up at Ikatan, on False Pass, or at Squaw Harbor, on the Shumagin group or even at Kodiak, on Kodiak Isl.

During May & June we will be out near the tip of the Peninsula - We want to get pictures of big bear on the west end of Unimak Isl. I know of some big ones in a little valley there - It may turn out that we can meet you at Dutch Harbor or Unalaska on your way up and go out to the Pribiloff Isls in the Westward at the same time you go -

I will leave word at Unalaska anyway if we do not meet you there on your way up, just where we will be and where you are to pick us up - or rather where we will pick you up.

So lets make this final - We will keep Unalaska informed as to

CAMPBELL CHURCH, E. M.  
EUGENE, OREGON

our movements and you do the same. And thus we  
can arrange by telegraph up there just when & where we are to  
meet -

Let us know what boat you are going on and about  
what time you will be at Unalaska on way up - down -

We are all looking forward to a wonderful trip -  
especially the time that you and Mrs. Furdy are to be  
with us -

With best regards to you both from both of  
us -

Sincerely

Campbell Church



15 Boudinot Street,  
Princeton, N.J.

February 18, 1926

Mr. Henry O'Malley,  
Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. O'Malley:

I have received your letter of February 15th with permit to land on Pribilof Islands enclosed. Thank you very much for forwarding this.

As soon as you can get any idea of about when the supply boat is to leave Seattle for the Islands, please let me know. I have to plan my work in advance. As I recall it, I think you said the boat left last year some time the latter part of May or the first part of June. Is this correct or not? It would fit in very well with my plans to leave about June 1st, and this would give us the greater part of the month to work on the Pribilofs and perhaps visit some of the other islands.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

WLF/P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF FISHERIES  
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 13, 1926.

IN REPLY REFER TO FILE

17

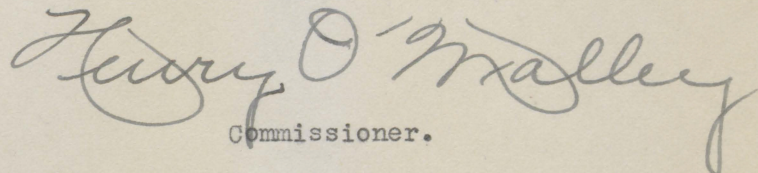
Subject: Permit to land at Pribilof Islands.

Mr. William L. Finley,  
15 Boudinot Street,  
Princeton, New Jersey.

Dear Mr. Finley:

There is enclosed herewith Permit No. 153, dated February 9, 1926,  
authorizing you to land at the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, in the year  
1926.

Very truly yours,

  
Commissioner.

Enclosure.

HDA-IFC

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF FISHERIES

WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO FILE

February 19, 1926.

17

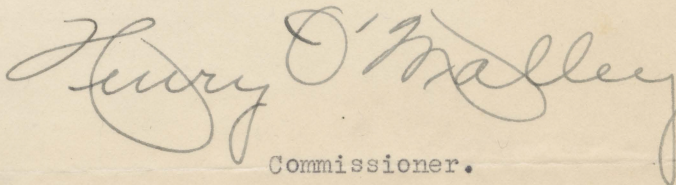
**Subject:** Supply vessel for Pribilof Islands.

Mr. William L. Finley,  
15 Boudinot Street,  
Princeton, New Jersey.

Dear Mr. Finley:

Replying to your letter of February 18, 1926, in regard to the time when the supply vessel will leave Seattle for the Pribilof Islands, I regret that we have no information other than that the Navy will have available either the Sirius in May or the Vega in August. Just as soon as any further information is available that will be of service to you in making your plans I will write further.

Very truly yours,

  
Commissioner.

HDA-IFC