

BLODGETT, JOHN E.
December 5, 1941-August 27, 1967

The following letter was received from Mr. and Mrs. Vern Blodgett Thursday morning regarding their son, John who has been missing for some time following an apparent boating mishap in Alaska:

Glenallen, Alaska
September 2, 1967

Dear Friends:

Last Wednesday evening, we received word that our son, John E. Blodgett, who you all know well, and a hunting companion, who worked with John here for the State Highway Department, but whose home was formerly New Jersey, were missing and were presumed drowned in a boating accident. It happened last Saturday, August 26, on Lake Klutina, located approximately 40 miles southwest of Glenallen, or about 200 miles east of Anchorage.

We arrived here about 5:30 p.m. last evening, still holding onto a slight chance that he might have reached shore and would be found alive. The State Highway Department, as well as the Alaska State Police, have conducted a very thorough search using boats, planes and helicopters ever since they were found missing Monday morning, covering the lake and surrounding area and also the rivers leading into and from the lake, but have found no indication at all that they had been able to reach shore. The dog that was with them was found alive on shore, and their capsized boat and camping gear were found washed ashore over an area of about 8 or 9 miles. Lake Klutina is a large lake approximately 20 miles long and from about 1 ½ miles to 4 miles wide. It has a probable depth of 60 to 85 feet in that area; has a year round temperature of 33 F. It comes directly from a glacier which causes the water to be filled with silt.

Although the bodies have not been found as yet, the searchers and we are forced to believe that there is no chance of their survival. There area will be thoroughly searched once a week from now until "freeze-up" which will occur in about five weeks.

We will be home in a few days, but we know all of Johnny's and our friends will be anxiously awaiting word so we will take this means of notifying you of the facts of the accidents as we know them.

Love to all,
Vern & Violet Blodgett

John was born at Wheatland, Wyo. Dec. 5, 1941, and had lived here all his life until he moved to Alaska in July of 1964 upon the completion of his University of Wyoming education where he received a degree in Civil Engineering. He had worked for the Alaska State Highway Department for the last three years as a civil engineer. He was unmarried.