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Bradford-Higgins House: Letter from Brudenell, February 21, 1981

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Hello there!

February 21 / 81

It's been a long winter since October but we are not looking forward to the mud, either! As you can see (or maybe you can't!) we haven't done a thing except sleep and eat in the house, trying to get the final bills paid. The day I took these pictures it was about 12 below -- notice no condensation on the windows with the in-line humidifier going full blast. That combination of new sash/frames and double-pane stormns is really fine. I did have to put big wads of fiberglass into each firebox throat above the dampers, but it takes about $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. to put all 5 in and put up the woodstove pipe, so it's certainly no big deal. The thermostat is in the kitchen with the wood stove, so when we build a fire the furnace nearly always shuts down. We are using about 25,000 cu.ft. of gas/month so it's a very good system, considering our temperatures averaged 0° for the daily low and 12° for the daily high. Next set of pictures will be outdoor shots of the setting in winter. Tony sent our door knockers and said Doug and David have the Hobart House chimney nearly through the roof -- I'm glad that

We could help celebrate that sister-project. The concept of living in and/or restoring an old house certainly has captured the imagination at least of the newspaperwomen (Doug can tell you about her!) who first heard of the Bradford-Higgins house; hopefully after this last article she'll leave us alone for awhile! Doug would be interested to know that we never have gotten a C.O. (certificate of occupancy) from the Municipality of Anchorage, primarily because of some mistakes and omissions made by the pipe-fitter who installed the underground fuel system. Suffice it to say, The Big Griff who installed the tile likes keeping his airplane here so much that he never charged us a nickel for the tile job! Doug, we ought to have the C.O. by next summer! Maybe you can help us celebrate when we come to Westport. We plan to see you in Westport in mid-to-late-June; Dee has a reunion in Pittsburgh, Pa. over July 4th. We'll let you know more specific details later. Pete, we would like to try to visit the original Bradford-Higgins site and maybe take a day or two to do some research on the house while we are up there. Any ideas or pointers? I enclosed the letter from Abbott Cummings for your interest. Basically non-committal, I thought. Well, send us some pictures of the Hobart chimney-celebration! And tell Tony we need 2 fireplace cranes!

Fondest regards,

Ross + Dee