

Simon got a passport to go from Mongolia to Peking, China. He walked across the Gobi Desert with 100 camels. Spent about a week in Peking. Describes Peking life (1921). Then to Nanking and to Shanghai (for one year). Lived in a Russian church. Many foreigners who ate donated food. Finally got a visa and passport and took the "Empress of Asia" to Canada. Lots of refugees in Shanghai, and they were not allowed to work. Stopped in Yokahama on way over. Went to Vancouver, stayed there for about one month. Got job as logger in Sheldon, Wash. Learned English by asking the name in English of various objects, food, etc. Could speak only Russian when he arrived. A civil engineer invited Simon into his office every night and helped him with English. Learned to read English finally.

Tacoma: Simon met an Army recruiter who spoke Russian, and the guy talked Simon into joining the Army. He was assigned to Headquarters Service Co., 6th Engineers, Third Division. Stationed at Ft. Lewis, Wash. Buck private and had KP duty lots of times. Catholic chaplain helped soldiers with English, too. While still in the Army he was assigned to Oregon State University to help teach ROTC (became citizen in 1927). Col. Moses put Simon on night duty so he could take classes in the day time. Gave him credits (16 credits). Took some more courses and re-enlisted in Army. At Oregon State five years. Took a degree in mining engineering. Spent two hitches in the Army...teaching and taking classes simultaneously. Got an honorable discharge on March 12, 1927 and another one on March 10, 1930. Graduated in 1930 in mining engineering, and bought a ticket for Juneau, Ak. Had offers in mining in many places but wanted to go to Alaska.