

The Empire Hotel



Youngstown, Alta., May 23rd/1913

Dear Mother

As you see by the heading, I am at the city of Youngstown. Today there is the annual celebration here which every town in the West seems to have. People from miles + miles around come in to see the crowds, (each other) to get a little excitement and to get drunk. There are some very interesting things, the horse races and wild horse bucking contests. This part is the only part that interests me very much. I suppose it is because one associates bucking broncos with the West in a sort of romantic way. There are five baseball teams here to compete for championship. I have taken pictures of two of the teams, one last week & one a year ago. The team pictures like that seem to bring me in more money than almost anything else. I made over twenty dollars from the Chinook team, and about fifteen from the Colholme team, our nearest team to Chinook. I hope I will be

able to take pictures of the three other
teams here today.

I bought a tent last night size
8x10 for \$13.50 and I am living in
it now. It is so very much better
to have a house of my own that way
than it is to stay in hotels, to do my
developing + printing. I am going to make
some sort of a dark room out of my
blankets so that I can develop when
ever I want to. I am sure I will
get my money's worth out of the tent.
I debated a great deal about it before
buying; however, you know I was
planning to go away on the train but
very often there are such big crowds in
towns that it is impossible to get a room
& I would have to have some place to
develop & print. With a tent I am very
nearly self-sufficient!

I get a great deal of pleasure from
my business besides work. It is lots
of fun seeing & meeting new people
& trying to make them part with their

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money. It is the game of life. I am afraid that Will is a little jealous of my wearing good clothes & having such a good time but I certainly work hard too. We mutually planned that I should do this & keep him going, that is pay the running expenses of the farm & hired man, etc. It costs a awful lot of money to live in this country, even economically. I think I have done fairly well this week. I have collected just fifty one dollars & forty five cents (\$51.45) this week. That is one week's work. I took pictures Friday & Saturday and developed & printed Monday Tuesday & Wednesday, mounted & delivered Thursday.

I try to make my expenses just as small as possible. Instead of eating at the hotel at fifty cents a meal I eat at the Chinese restaurant at twenty-five cents. The grub is just about as good here, but not as stylish but I am not living to make a show just now.

I hope that I will be able to go down to Empress before long with my outfit. It is a grand new city sixty miles south-east of ~~Winnipeg~~ on a new line of the C.P.R., at the junction of two rivers the Red Deer & the South Saskatchewan & is bound to become a big city. I want to make enough money from photographs to buy a lot or two & then keep the lots a few months to double or triple my money. I think Empress will be one of the best openings for money-making investments of any place in the West.

I must go to dinner now. The crowds have just begun to come & there will be an awful crush this afternoon.

Love Selden.

I may go back home tomorrow & I may go on to Kansas if there is no photographer here. I don't know yet.

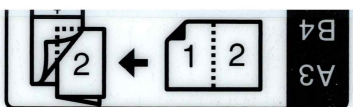
The Empire Hotel
YOUNGSTOWN
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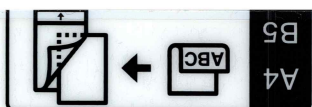


Mrs. ~~Wm~~ N. Belden
~~374 West College Street~~
~~Oberlin~~
~~Ohio.~~
The Sanitarium
Clyden Springs
New York

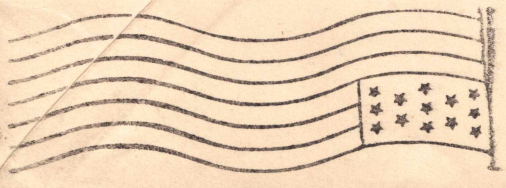
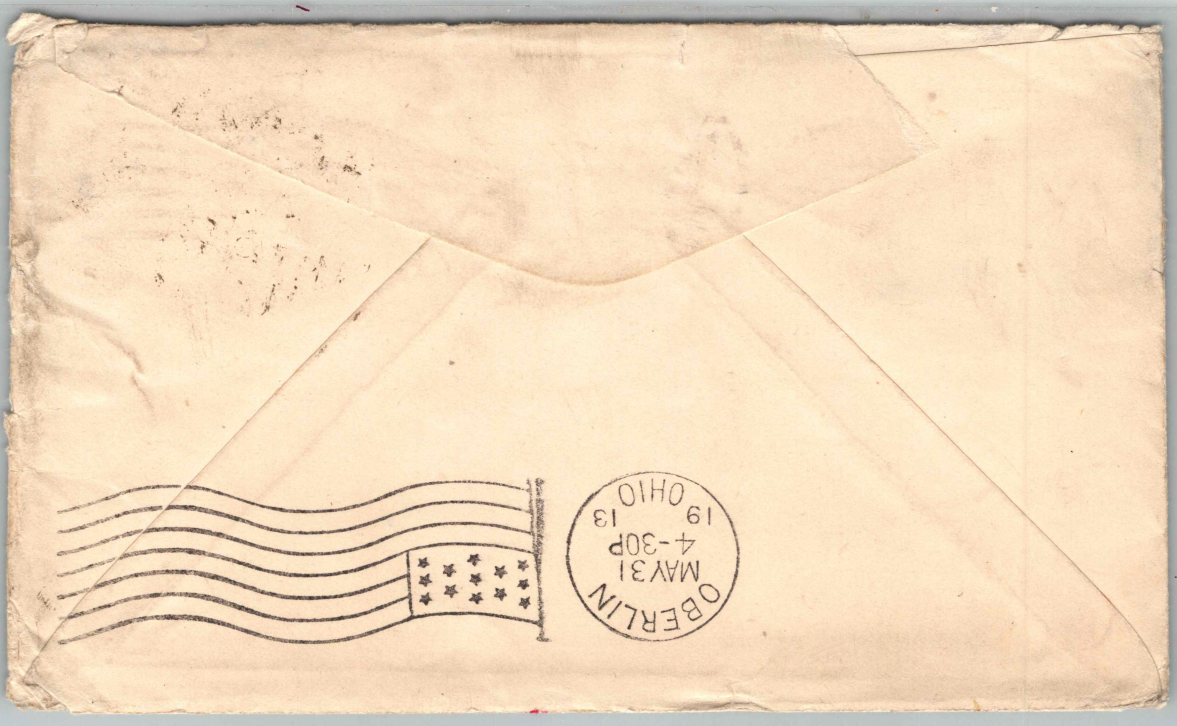
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