

Monroe Wash.

Aug. 27 1905.

Dear Mamma:—

I suppose you received my postal saying that I had arrived at Monroe. I came into town last Thursday (a little walk of 20 miles) and found a letter from Mr. Hillis enclosing a draft for \$30. I left on the evening train and got in here Saturday morning. The scenery through the Cascade mountains was fine but the Rockies the other side of Spokane were kind of disappointing—really nothing but big round hills. When the air is clear of smoke we can see snow-capped mountains here from Monroe.

The ranch where I worked was on the Missouri river. When I got out there the rancher wasn't at home so I took on

inventory of the stock and cooked my  
own meals for a day. It was quite a  
wild sort of a place. I saw quite a few  
deer close by, and any number of prairie  
chickens and sage-hens. Mr. Bender had  
for a crumb-brush an eagle's wing.  
Last winter an ~~eagle~~ silver-tip grizzly  
was killed just across the river. Last Sunday  
Mr. Bender was gone on a forty-mile ride  
and I went up into the woods and picked  
a lot of choke-cherries and made two  
or three quarts of jelly. It was pretty  
good considering I didn't have any directions.  
It didn't get very hard but perhaps that  
was because we broke into it before it was  
cold. How do you tell when jelly is done?  
I had my first experience ~~own~~ (as in)

a saddle. I rode about fifteen miles on an  
wand one morning. Everybody in Montana  
is in love with the country and I guess it  
is pretty good for stock. You know there  
are just miles and miles of range for cattle  
that will probably never be taken up because  
it is too rolling to irrigate. There are several  
claims still left on the Missouri bank just  
above the junction of Milk and Missouri  
Rivers. It is only about 20 miles from <sup>Glacier</sup>  
and 5 miles from a post office. The land  
is pretty well covered with brush and  
cottonwood trees.

It's a pretty wild place here too. All  
sorts of wild game - deer and bears and  
trout. For the last week or two the  
men here have been rather afraid to

come up from town alone (about 3 miles  
after dark as a cougar has been seen  
in the woods. It is a pretty nice sort  
of a place here at camp. Our shanty is  
set off a little distance, <sup>from camp</sup> and stands on  
a little hill covered with old stumps and  
fallen trees. At the foot of the hill is a little  
lake fed by a little trout stream. Perhaps  
I can get some pictures later. The boys have  
a camera. The weather here hardly ever  
reaches freezing and there is hardly any  
snow but it rains nearly all winter.

I think I am going to like it very well  
here. I have a fine start. You see the  
boys have worked up quite a reputation  
here, they are so big and strong and  
such good workers. As soon as they tot

The Secy. that I was coming ~~to~~ he began looking  
up a good place for me and he has been  
holding down a place for me for the last  
two weeks by working himself. Every once  
in while he would come to Harry in the evening  
and show him his hands all full of splinters  
and ask when "Bill" was coming. Harry  
has several times taken men down to the  
evening train to meet me and I hardly  
needed any introduction when I got here.  
I get a good job to start on at \$2.35  
a day - a quarter better than what the boys  
started with. (Lots of chance for overtime too.)

I went of Sat. afternoon into the woods  
with Percy to see them get the logs. I wish  
you could see them pull the great big logs  
down to the cars and load them in

I think Mrs. Kille is going to start out here Tuesday. (Before you get this letter, I think probably I won't need to have many things sent out to me as I can buy most of the things I will need. The company has a store here in camp where you can get anything charged. Perhaps I would like my flute but I don't know. There is one thing I would like and that is a razor which I left at Mr. Glenn's to be honed or ground. If it was honed it was to cost 25¢ and if it needed grinding it would cost 80¢ I think. I would send the money but I can't very well get to town to get a money order. If you are too kind

to pay for the razor I can get along  
very well at present with the one I have.  
Lots of love to every one.  
Willie

W. H. Belden

257 W. Coll. St.  
Oberlin,  
Ohio.

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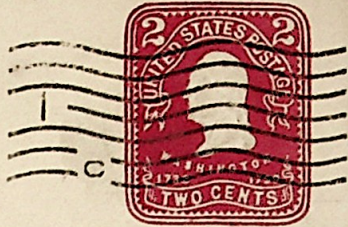
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Ellen S. Belden  
Oberlin  
O.



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