

5517 Monte Vista St., Los Angeles, Cal.

Sept. 22, '07

Dear Selden,

I have only a short time to write this letter, if you get it started inside a week; so please excuse any briefness.

How I wished and wish that you could have been with me <sup>on the train</sup>, not alone for the sake of your company, nor yet to get you away from Tank Home, but also for your Kodak and about two hundred plates to take pictures of everything from our last glimpse of Oberlin to our first glimpse of the Pacific.



Now let me mention a few things that you could have taken pictures of. The Mississippi on Tuesday morning, prairie dogs and cotes.

Wednesday: Two hours to take pictures at Denver, Castle Rock the first suggestion of mountains, Pike's Peak, the Royal Gorge which beats the Gorge at Niagra, for the cliffs are 2,000 feet high though the water is not quite so high.

Thursday:— A land slide which delayed us 8 hours, the Rio Grande river, the train with the engine and wheels covered with red mud those which we had ploughed in the night, Silverton Springs with its hot baths and



sulphur springs, and my three  
 wives formerly Mary Willis, Bertha  
 Kayler, Jory Willis for I tried to lay my  
 as soon as we got in Utah; and the  
 worry of married life aged me so that  
 in a few hours I looked old enough  
 to be mistaken for the father of  
 Wilbur and Fred Willis by a  
 young fellow who got on the train  
 then.

Friday:- Ogden, Salt Lake, the  
 Alkali plain, and I would have  
 had you take pictures of some of the  
 towns here, for they were so  
 small that they put up a sign  
 post to tell you there was a town.  
 In fact there were so few towns  
 that they had to name them.



and water tanks  
switches, where there was not a  
house miles or even a station;  
some of the Chinamen who sold  
sandwiches and coffee; a typacle  
Utah palace car, there was one on  
the back end of our train, in Ohio  
it would be called a freight car:  
also the cow who tried to get on  
this car and jumped clear over  
the train and stopped us for two  
hours.

Saturday:— the Sierra Nevadas, a  
little canyon 2,000 feet deep, the  
snow sheds, Northern California  
scenery, etc.

Sunday:— <sup>San Francisco</sup> Orange groves, acorn  
palm, fig, trees, the Pacific etc. etc.  
Monday:— Los Angeles, Pasadena.



you see we were two days late.

You doubtless know that I had hopes of not going to school this year but working, well dad wouldn't let me a try out of school, and if I went to school at all I must go to the Occidental Academy for I couldn't go to Pasadena High without paying tuition or to Los Angeles without a long car ride, so as the academy is only five blocks away I had to go. I take Greek ~~1~~ English, U. S. History, 5 pts. Chemistry 7 pts. a wk. Bible 1 pt.

Yesterday I found, in the hills while walking, a spiders hole with a trap door, so I dug it up and brought it home.



Fred is working on a farm down  
near the Ocean.

Claribel is in college. We are all well.

Selden, you have my love,  
sympathy, advice anything you  
want to make you lot happier  
at the Home, but I trust you  
are not unhappy.

I want you to write to me about  
yourself, school, church, Brothers  
everything and everybody.

Give my love to George & Alberta  
and anyone else that wants it.

I am your servant (if you  
will send me some pictures)

John T. Dickford.

5517 Monte Vista St. Los Angeles,

They don't need to be 1<sup>st</sup> class if they are  
PICTURES.

5517 Monte Vista  
Los Angeles, Cal.

9/22/07



Mr. Selden Belton

Tank Home, E. Col. St.

Oberlin, Ohio.