

Dear Willie:-

I just had a letter from Evelina. She expects to come home Sat. Mar. 17 for a week's vacation. Ellen's is later & I am not sure about her coming home. She will come or stay - whichever she can do most cheaply. Cousin Carrie may come to make a visit soon, Caribel writes, but I don't expect her much till I see her, for she has disappointed me so often. She now expects to come when Cousin Will comes next on business, soon. I suppose you have heard that Eddy is

engaged? I shall hear all particulars of the family from Cousin Carrie, if she comes. Caribel & Sam have separated - is it it shameful how easily some people marry & separate? Marriage is the most important step in life, involving not only two people's destiny, but that of generations to come, and yet in these days so easily entered into and so easily broken away from.

Well, this is only a P. S. on Lelden's letter. Tell me as much as you can about yourself Willie when you write. I wrote you last week. Your loving Mother E.S.B.

Say, Willie, do you think of a better way to spend that prize money that is coming? Perhaps you could put it in a good investment in land or something, together with your own. If you want to think it a better investment to put this money in land or something of that sort, please tell me so because I do not want to waste it. I wish you could see how much I really want a launch. But I think it would be a great deal wiser if I could get someone to go shares with me, don't you?

Well, I hope this letter is as interesting to you as it should be. Please write me soon & give your opinion as to what I ought to do. If you cannot lend me \$15.00 will you be able to lend \$5.00 as I would like to buy the canvas for the canoe I am making. Oh, I guess you had not heard about that, had you? Well, this canoe is 12 feet long & is just about perfect, every part fits just right & all the ribs are bent evenly & are cypress not old barrel hoops as in the other canoe. The canvas will cost \$1.80 but I can buy some lumber to start making the launch with the rest of the \$5.00 if you send it.

Hoping to hear from you very soon,

I am  
your most loving brother

Charles Seldon Belden.

P.S. I will enclose something on which you can try your eyes.