

from
Selden
Bulder

address Pine Cone,
Idyllwild, Calif.

3248 Burton Ave.,
Lynwood, Calif.,
29th MAY 1934.

Dear Mary -

Thank you for your nice and encouraging letter which we received last week. We enjoyed Elkn's letter so much too, and I will try to write her separately in a few days.

You dont know how much we hate to have to take you up again on your kind offer of help. I have not made any money since the last check you sent me, and we are so badly in need of things that we simply have to "holler" for help .. Surely it will be possible some day to get caught up again and make money . We are very careful and economical . I dont know of anyone of our acquaintances who spend as little on any sort of pleasures or on clothes as we do. We can make five dollars go further for food than most of our friends can make ten dollars stretch !

If only our venture up in the mountains turns out succesfully as we really expect it to we will be able at least to keep on living. I have wanted to tell you all the particulars about it but have not had the opportunity ~~to~~ so far. Suppose I start at the beginning right now and give you an outline of "Why we have been up in the Mountains!"

Since ^{my} I was back East two years ago and had the osteomyelitis ⁱⁿ Chicago, I have never been in normal good health. I was soft and fat and caught the flu and everything else easily and no matter what I did for exercise or diet I could not get any reserve strength ahead. We were scared pretty badly at Christmas time when seemingly I was in better condition and had a series of five abscesses in my ear, for no reason at all. They were very painful and I had to stay in bed each time for a few days until the abscess broke and relieved the pressure. Well to make the outline brief - my Life Insurance policy which I had taken out in Alberta twenty years ago was about to mature. Fully half of the payments had never been made and I did not think there could possiblly be any cash value to it, BUT there was, and I cashed it instead of leaving it as paid up insurance, with a loan against it . We got enough money to make a payment of one year's premium on a new policy, and by doing a lot of shopping around and figuring and chisel^{ing} I bought a lot up in a subdivision in the mountains and enough lumber to build a cabin.

When we get this cabin completed it will have been a good investment if we do not sell it at all this year. A friend of ours has one up there, the same size and they figure its value at \$1400.00. I am not sure, but I think that is what it cost them, as they bought it, or got it on a trade.

The cabin is well worth \$750.00 but I offered to sell it before the fireplace is built, to this couple for \$600.00. They would have bought it right then I believe for one hundred dollars down and the balance fifteen per month with interest at 6% per. m. It will probably take me at least two weeks of hard work to haul the rocks and build the stone fireplace. However we have very little chance of making it now because I have no money to buy the cement to build it with. That was one reason I offered to sell it at \$600.00 without the fireplace, Another reason was that the real estate man wanted to get the job of building it for himself, in which case he would not charge me any commission on the sale.

Our living. Good steady, healthy and pleasant job and means of making cabin for cash and then build another this would make me a means of building other cabins. If we could only sell the dollars per month instead of putting it back into the business and then we would be eating up their payments of fifteen in cash we could not buy the lumber to build another cabin we do not get at least two hundred and fifty dollars down that they do not want to pay enough money down in cash. If them. The only reason we have not sold to them already is couple of years but had not seen any cabin as attractive to wanted to buy it, and they had been looking around for a first prospects who a Real Estate agent showed our place to and roomy. Nearly everyone who has seen it has made such flattering remarks that we swell up with pride. The very hundred dollars including the lot. It is very attractive Our cabin cost us in round numbers about three

We figured that as health insurance there could be no surer way for me to get back my health than to work up there in the pure air. There is and was no possible way to get a job there or here or anywhere. We all enjoyed the work and vacation, as others would probably call it, but best of all I am now in the best health. I feel better than I have in ages. It has been a fine and valuable experience for the children, as well as Coral.

Another friend has a cabin about the same size which he told me he had just rented for June, July and August for \$50.00 per month or \$150.00 for the three months. That is a much better investment than anything else I know of. Our nice home here in Lynwood would not bring more than half as much rent as that right now.

There are more cabin sites selling around Pine Cove and Idyllwild this spring than in all the last three years put together.

We would like to own several cabins and rent them. Without more capital this would be impossible. The next best thing would be to build cabins and sell them. This would give me a healthy job which I need and like and would provide us with a means of making our own living and eventually, if the sales were close enough together so that we did not have to eat up all the profit in between, we could get a cabin or two built out of the profits. This would give us a chance to get a source of income in the future. From an investment point of view I do not know of anything to equal the possibilities. Californians all go to the mountains for vacations. If there is snow in the winter the mountains are crowded as soon as the roads are cleaned off, which is usually right away as the county has a large crew stationed there for the purpose.

I have to pack up right now as we are expecting to go back up to the cabin as soon as Teddy is out of school this afternoon. I just have enough money to buy gas to get us there and if we do not spend a cent while there for fresh milk or anything we will have enough money to buy gas to get home on. Fortunately we still have some canned foods still on hand. When we came down a week ago last Sunday we found that the electric light company had turned off our lights so we have been using old candles for lights since. Coral took the ironing to a friend's house to do the ironing.. Isn't it the limit to be poor?

While here this trip we have been enjoying the ripe apricots from the tree in our back yard. Coral is just now canning the last of them before we leave.

I wish you and Ellen and family were going to come out here for the summer. Ped would like to help build cabins I bet. We hope you are all well and happy.

Lots of love Selden

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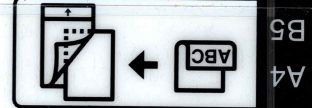
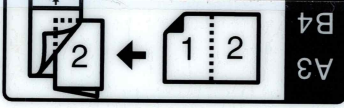
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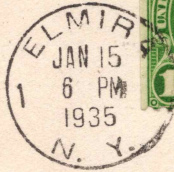
I forgot to mention that one of the reasons we came down last week from the mountains was to sign up what I believe to be the final papers for our Federal Home Loan. Also to give Ted a chance to be in school a little more, also to get more food.

The Federal Home Loan will reduce our mortgage more than three hundred dollars. Total mortgage now is \$2300 We have to pay about \$10.00 interest per month now until June 1936 when the amount is doubled including interest. , but where will we get the \$10.00 ?????? If we can sell the cabin soon enough for enough cash down we will get along all right.

*This letter is for Ellen too - love
from both - ever Selden*

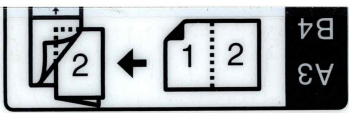
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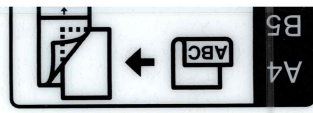


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