

Willow Springs, Mo.

Feb 6th. 1921.

My dear Sister and H.

Your dear letters and pkg of 57 photos arrived yesterday, bless your dear thoughtful hearts. to do all that for me on my bthdy I want to hug you. It wasn't raining, in fact I was busy thrashing. but when Mama came from Mail boy and said there's a pkg from Hubert. I hopped down and said to the boys. "so long" you don't need me; and Mama & I went down to the house and I forgot the thrashing until dinner time. - you ought to have seen me

trying to count them. Ha! Mama had
lots of fun out of me. I would begin
to count and lay them in a pile on
the table. and when I got a few counted
I would stop to look at one & tell
Mama what I knew of it. Then I would
say "how many was that?". I don't
know. she would say. Then I'd begin
again & couldn't resist doing the
same thing over again until finally I
put them in piles of ten each &
found them O.K. at last. That's me
when I enjoy myself I enjoy myself
all over. just a big old boy. - time
and troubles never could rob me.

Hubert if you are going to be at
home a little while I will write you
for we talk about things that wouldn't
interest Mother perhaps. I have

some mining Magazines to send you
with some articles in them by Lawrence
and his picture, for his great on
advertising Lawrence Bothwell. The
Violet is not the National flower of
the U.S.A. you know, but Lawrence
is doing well has an office in town
and will soon have all the law
business he can attend to. They had a
man murdered there a couple of weeks
ago. officer arrested murderers and
Lawrence was sworn in deputy District
attorney and questioned at the inquest
also conducted the preliminary trial
No one in town who could take the
evidence in shorthand but Frances
is Frances officiated as she was a
law stenographer before she was
married. so she made 50 dollars

pocket money and Lawrence was retained by the dead mans brother for \$500. so I told them if business got dull just get someone to kill off the whole town. (there's only 300 there) there's money in it.

Lucky I addressed that Lit. Digest to Lineda. you said in your last from Bordington that things looked dull so I that I had better send it to 54. Cyril was also "let out" and he went to Kansas City and enrolled in the same school Harold is in. to learn Auto Mechanics. Bob Eley is also out (Jo's husband) or was but I see that Ford has started up again with a reduced force so Bob may have gone back. I tell the boys, nothing beats farming no bosses to fire you. one may work all the time even if he

fails to make any money, - as you say it takes money to farm. I tell the boys they will work & save all their lives to enable them to resume farming when they are old. when they might have enjoyed it all their lives and have been independent of any boss. but it came too easy they didn't appreciate it. I offered to divide the farm into three.

Many thanks for the holly leaf. I did think of putting it in the Circuit letter so they could all see it but it might have got lost.

We are having a reasonably mild winter. have been sitting two days with no fire in the house and the doors open. no damp walls here - but I am so nervous I can scarcely write for the wind is blowing I should

Judge about 50 miles an hour and the air is so full of smoke one can see but a few yards. so we know that fire is coming but how far away we can't tell and it is simply impossible in this wind to help ourselves. if it comes our fences & probably buildings will go. we can only hope for rain or the wind to settle. these forest fires are the bane of our existence - the wind has just picked up a 3 gallon galvanized iron bucket and carried it out of sight.

Many thanks for your good wishes. Mamma and I are well and get along fine won't be long before thinking of another crop. We send you our love and I again thank you for this but present you could have sent me I would be glad to pay duty on such photos