

Willow Springs, Mo.

Jan 8. 1922.

My dear Lister and Herbert.

Your Christmas letter arrived Dec. 23. just when we were full of the seasons spirit. Our Christmas was a Merry one, it centered in the little boy, he's nearly six and fully believes in old Santa. We first went to the woods and brought home a Christmas tree that reached to the ceiling and we made a State occasion of the trip, then all had to help trim it with colored candles and ornaments of various kinds and tinsel and sparkling snow powder for a finishing touch, and I wish you could both have been here to help and see how pretty it looked. - We talked of you when we sat down to breakfast on

Christmas morning, that you would be at dinner. I hope you had a very happy day together. and I hope you had good weather so you could go to the Cathedral and enjoy the service. how much I'd like to go with you I know it is grand to hear the singing and they would have to sit on me to stop me from joining in. I'm just that that perhaps I didn't tell you that Frances and her boy came from Colorado to spend Thanksgiving and Christmas with us. so with them and the boys here we had a good time.

We have had no snow yet and very little cold. have had it 7° above zero one night. most of the nights about 18° or 20°. Sunny and warm in day time hope you are missing the severe winter you say they predicted. they have predicted that tho' every year for 1921

years to my knowledge, it makes me wish I could pile a few loads of wood in your back yard. I'd either warm the rooms above 52° or I'd burn the house down trying. That isn't comfortable. guess its because the houses are new and walls damp.

Hubert's pictures of the prairie fire looked familiar to me. if only the line of fire extended several miles and the blaze running up the dead trees 40 ft high eating them up. now is the time we are fighting forest fires but this year I have two active boys to help me. so I dont mind. they are going to see me thro' until all the woods around me are burned off then they will have to go. but we all hate to break up the party we are having. such a good time together. Frances has been fixing on going ever since Xmas but she hasnt begun to pack yet and

she will be here for 10 days any how
after she begins to pack. - I shall be
relieved when she gets her boy away all
safe and sound. for I'm afraid every
day that he'll get lost in the forest
he's so venturesome he takes his gun that
Santa bro't him and calls the dog and
away they go hunting and in this dense
forest he's out of sight in a minute
but so far he has always found his
way back. but there's a panther been
seen and shot at within a mile of us
and they might tackle a little boy like
him. also timber wolves. I get so nervous
when he hasn't been seen lately. but
his mother says "he'll come back" and
he does. telling great tales of the
animals he's seen. he's a wonderful
hunter when he begins to tell you. He's!

Wonder if you got the R. Snake Skin
Cyril shot a big hawk a few days
ago. and I'm curing his claws or talons

his upper beak on the back of the hand and his lower beak in the inside and the hole measured 2 1/2 inches from the edge of the hand so you can guess what a big mouth he had. from tip to tip of his wings measured 4 ft. 6 inches their bodies are about the size of a good hen but long wings. we have so much trouble with them we never know just how many chickens and hens they take every year. I saw one a few years ago eating a big rooster alive he had his breast eaten off and the rooster could still stand up. I had no gun but went & put the rooster out of his misery. I suppose we lose 40 or 50 a year.

Well! In yarning. Good by and hope '22 will be better than '21. we'll all pull thro I hope. Fond love my dear old Sis. and better luck this year Hubert. and Thank you for the photos.
Uncle Dan