

F W Crosby
Toluca Mont

TOLUCA
MAY
27
9. AM
1918
MONT.



OPENED BY

Mr J A Crosby
Bart

Oriento Prov

Cuba

Tolued Mont May 26th 18

Dear Sam

You will see by
this that we are at the ranch
in Tolued again We came Apr
17th to kill off the prairie dogs
They are quite destructive to
the wheat I seem to have them
about done for now George
has not arrived here yet
They had a siege of Dutch
measles this spring and it seems
to have turned to the mumps
now He seems to think he will
soon be here now There has
been quite an amount of cold
windy and rainy weather here
yesterday and to day have been

rainy and windy with frequent snow squalls. Wheat seems to be growing nicely and is looking quite well considering the very dry seeding of last fall. It came up quite uneven and did not all come till this spring. This gives it quite an uneven appearance. It seems to be standing nicely and if nothing happens to it from now on bids fair to be a good crop. There are several new ranches starting about here now and they are sowing flat on the new breaking. Work is done with tractors mostly. I will have but little if any thing to do with the ranch work this summer as Anson wants me to take charge of the building here and has transferred it over mostly to me to see after

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We are staying in the 12 x 14 shack that was built last spring. I am building a cheap shack for George a short distance from this for him to house in a while until he can move into the house I am making. This is 16 x 32 with cheap paper roof and two rooms. This will be taken down in the fall and material worked in to the house which will be about 26 x 26 - 2 story with basement and porch. Now we do not have every thing we want in this little 12 x 14 still we seem to have what we really need and seem quite comfortable & cozy. Bertha stayed in Berlin so we are entirely alone for about the first time in our lives.

She seems to be about done with her school and has taken a position with the great western sugar beet factory in Billings. She types and bill filing with the engineering dept. She is on a trial now as they wished to test her ability. They think she can hold the job down and that it may get to pay here about \$1000. a year and steady work. The check in your letter came O.K. and I have taken it for it at the bank in Billings. Should you see any other way with your other obligations to send me money sometimes I would appreciate it. Losing my job in Billings last fall and helping Bertha through school has kept us about broke and have had to pinch some to get along. This work on

the buildings will be far from
 from Anson We note what
 you say regarding a trip to
 the park this summer and
 should be delighted if we can
 go I think Leo will either
 ship over car to us or drive
 it through A car now seems to
 be a necessity for use here on the
 ranch and shall have to make
 arrangements of some kind
 to have one here for hauling
 and roundabout work

Wages are very high here

Carpenters nearly all union men
 get 7.00 for this Masons plumbers
 and that class 9.00 laborers

6.00 and common men 4.50

Ranch men 7.00 to 10.00 ^{month} and
 furnished Living expense is

also High Potatoes are the
cheapest of any thing can only
get 26^{cts} worth of sugar at once
Have to buy ~~50~~ flour substitutes
all average about 10^c a pound
can get no white bread or
crackers butter 45^c cheese the
same canned goods 30 to 40^{cts}
shoes 5 to 10 pair Gasoline
30^{cts} coal oil 20^c So when a
fellow has to rest through the
winter can hardly break even
in the spring I think Mamas
health is some improved in
this climate My feet trouble
me yet We are glad you seem
to be getting on so nicely and
hope this may find you as it
leaves us all well Write when you
can Regards to all
J. W. Crosby