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Sanford, Fla.



Mr. J. N. Crosby
Bartles
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Sanford. Dec. 16. 1952

Dear Jesse:

Seems like I'm not satisfied unless I keep you owing me a letter! We are all ways so glad to get them. We are all so interested in your coming back to the U.S. and hoping and praying you will soon find your way out.

You did have a nice Thanksgiving "feisto". Turkey + dressing are good but as you bro't out in your letter there are other ways of expressing ^{thankfulness} besides pining for those things which are still far away from the real spirit of the day. I was up at Farnier + she had chicken + the "trimmings" + Floyd + Leola come over and ate with us. I went up there the middle of Nov. + got back here on Dec. 4. You is anxious for me to come up there to live + the sewing outlook there is better ~~to~~ than in Gainesville.

Last Thurs. I drove up to Gainesville + come back on Friday. It was a follow-up on a letter from a dressmaker there in a store where I had been before to talk about a job. Then about 10 days ago Clother called me + told me she had found an apartment that she thought she would be able to get by the middle of January. Then

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there are the people here in Sanford concerned over my leaving + offering inducements if I will stay. People that I've served for for so long as they say, "they just don't want anybody else to do it". One of them asked me "if I made up ^{my} mind to stay here," would I do so + so. I told her it wasn't making up my ^{mind} to stay here that was the hard part. It was making up my mind to leave that was sort of getting me down.

The yours + my problems are somewhat different I do know what it is going to mean to give up here + start all over again somewhere else - new surroundings, new equipment + new people. I know too how the girls + Eloise feel about my staying here alone + so far away from ^{them} in case of sickness.

Would sure like to ~~be~~ be in Gainsville with you + Renie for your first months there to help you what I can in making new adjustments. Larina + I were talking about, when I was there last week. The first thing of course was the disappointment over your being tied up there longer than we had hoped you would. I do so want you to get away from there while you still have Ragin + Larina to see you through + keep you going until you get on your own feet.

We were discussing what there would be there that you could do. Between Gainsville & Ragins ranch a distance of about 14 miles, there are 3 saw mills - all busy. One of them the owner operates alone. Said he had tried hiring help but hadn't found anyone that could earn the money he was supposed to pay them. It doesn't seem to be any trouble for Marguerite's husband to go from one mill to the other & get a job as saw-filer at \$75⁰⁰ a week. The trouble with him seems to be he won't stick to any one job. They do the filing mechanically & they say it isn't hard like the "old timey" way. I don't think your government deductions out of 75⁰⁰ a week would be very high. For each dependant you get ^{an} exemption from Income tax & since you are just 65 ~~th~~ you get exemption too for yourself which would give you 5 exemptions. I don't know what there would be about the Social Security & old age pension. They changed the rulings on that in 1950 or '51, which in our case was very much to our advantage. For Herbert's I got a check for 207.90 & after I've had my 65th birthday

next Aug. I'll get a monthly check of a little
over 50.00 Being a newcomer in Fla I don't know
just how it would effect you. Herbert could
have retired on a \$69.30 a mo. pension had he
cared to do so.

If you wanted to stay in Gainsville + work
for yourself ~~with~~ ^{we} think with your ^{mechanical}
repair work ability you could do well with
that. A man here in Sanford has a shop down
town where he seems to do everything: repair ^{locks}
on car doors repair refrigerators, lawn mowers,
sewing machines, saw filing + fixed a desk chair
for me that we couldn't adjust the height on.
He has one or 2 helpers + stays busy. A neighbor of ours
here is foreman at the Ry. shops + works from 8 (I guess)
anyday he gets home at 4.00. ^{PM} In his garage he has
an electric welding shop + we often see him
working out there at night. They say he just does
it because he likes too. I believe either one of
those ideas could be carried out in Gainsville
with good results after you got started.

Must stop now + let you rest. Hope you
will all have a nice Xmas. Love wish you
were here. Write when you can. ^{brother} A Xmas card from
Newell had an op. Love to all, Nell ^{later was dead}
eration for hernia. Come thru jail + 2 hrs before ^{Novell} Novell Hobbs wife says
time to leave the trap started having breathing ^{trouble} time Herbert did.
Newell died about the