

Mrs H. A. Nickerson
314 W. 12th St.
Sanford, Fla. U.S.A.



Ms. J. D. Crosby.
Santa Lucia
Neeritas
Cuba.

Dear Jesse:

Ragin came by to see us a few days ago and as it was nearly supper time he stayed and had supper with us. He had been telling us about what he is doing with the mill property. He was on his way back to the mill then, from Orlando, where he had been to get some ~~xxx~~ pasture grass that he has on the place in Orlando and is getting started at the mill. We had a few minutes alone together so I asked him if he was running the mill at all. Said he had done some fixing up out there some time ago in an effort to get Arthur interested in staying there and running it but Arthur hadn't stayed very long, which is running true to form in Arthur's case. Said he thinks there is a good ~~xxxx~~ money making chance there for some one and would very much like to get it in operation if he could find some one he could depend on. Said he had hoped you and Frank would decide to come. I told him that you had written me recently that you would like to come to Sanford if things worked out for you so that you could.

He said he would gladly turn the mill over to you and Frank and take care of whatever financing was needed to get it started. He said that one of the power units he put in is fuel oil. That it saved a lot of time in the operation of the mill and eliminated the necessity of paying a fireman and the cost of the fuel oil is very small in comparison with paying a fireman. The other smaller one is gasoline. He also said he had added another machine and I think he said ~~axmoldax~~ it is a molder. Also, he has a tractor that could be used for logging and that there is plenty of timber on the place. He said with two or three men, logging one week and running the mill the next, plenty of business could be done to bring in a nice income and be small enough to eliminate government labor regulations.

His idea is to do a retail business instead of going into it in a big way. Said there would be plenty of buyers that would come there for what they wanted and also that there had been people there recently looking for car strips. I know when I was out there with Walter he did quite a retail business, people needing small amounts and just coming out there and getting what they wanted and taking it away with them. They he always made good on the strips. He said that Arthur, with the help of 2 or 3 others (I can't remember which) could saw, and I think he *said* planned, 3000 feet a day and that the first 1000 ft. took care of the expense for the 3000 ft. so that the 2000 ft. was profit.

I asked him what chances Frank would have of coming over here and working, not being an American citizen. He said all that would be required would be for some one to act as sponsor for him and that he would gladly do so. That Frank would probably have to go back to Cuba, or somewhere, out of the States, for a few days after he had been here for six months, until his citizenship could be established here.

With that to fall back on, in case you couldn't get the right kind of a set up in Sanford for welding, I think it would be a safe enough move for you. What do you think? I told him I thought you were more interested now in the welding than in the mill work. He said, "well, you could get the mill organized and let Frank run it and you do welding. That he felt sure you could get plenty of it brought there to you to do."

Talking on, I told him I wondered what kind of ~~transporta~~ transportation facilities could be managed for the things you ~~man~~ might not want to come away and leave. Finally he said you "had that good truck" and he thought you could put whatever you wanted to on that and

drive to Havana and ship it across with the truck. Then reload in Miami and drive on up here. The truck being second hand, there would be no duty, it would be cheaper transportation than freight and then you would have the truck to use here."

Then, we girls have something else on our minds. The beginning of the story goes back to 1946 at Fannie's after Elathier's graduation from Library school. We resolved that in so far as we could, we would not let more than two years elapse without the three of us spending a little while together during Bertha's yearly vacation. Since it is a long, rather hard trip across the continent for Bertha and 6 days of her 14 used up on the train and puts her back on the job with no time to rest she prefers to have Fannie and I make the trip out there. Fan, of course travels on a pass and fare on the trains that she can travel on is less than the fast ones that Bert has to take when she comes to Sheffield⁵ she offered, and did, pay my way out there rather than make the trip to Fannie's.

We are planning to be together again the latter part of May or the very first of June. Until Joe's Mother died on the 11th. of Jan. we planned to meet at Fannie's. Since Fannie is no longer tied down with her, Bertha wants us to come out there. When Fan wrote me some 3 weeks ago she was so tired I don't think she quite knew what she wanted to or could do. What she suggested was that we postpone our decision until we could hear from you and see ^{you} were coming and could be with us at that time. I am sure Bert would come as far as Sheffield if you were going to be there too. She has never talked favorably about coming on to Fla. on account of the distance and the extra time it would take for the trip.

I haven't heard from Lorina for quite a while. Ragin said she doesn't say anything about how she is feeling but he thought from the way she keeps on working day and night that she must be getting along alright. Herbert seems to be improving slowly. Gets pretty tired from being on his feet and walking so much and spends most of his week-ends just resting.

Bert will have to get her application in for her vacation soon after the first of March. So if you can give us an idea of your plans we will try to work ours out to fit yours. And we sure hope you are all coming.

Love to you all, as always,

Nell