

Kansas Memory



Wesley and Elsie Hasenbank Tally collection

Section 12, Pages 331 - 360

This is a collection of letters written by Wesley Tally and Elsie Hasenbank in the mid-1930s. During this time, Wesley and Elsie were dating and the letters tell about their developing relationship. In 1933 and 1934, Wesley was a teacher in Council Grove, Kansas, and worked part time for the telephone company. Elsie worked as a housekeeper and au pair for several families in Emporia, Kansas. Elsie also spent some time in Fort Riley and Alma. In March 1935, they wrote about the dust storms and how they impacted their lives. That same year Wesley had difficulties finding a job and he joined the Civilian Conservation Corp. He was sent to Camp Burns Lake at Cass Lake, Minnesota, where he served in the 1765 Company working in the forests of northern Minnesota. Wesley describes the work he performed in the camp and his leisure activities. Elsie wrote about her work, the weather, her family and friends, and her leisure activities. After leaving the Civilian Conservation Corps in April 1936, Wesley enrolled in the Davey Tree Expert Co. He left the tree service training before finishing the course and returned to Kansas. The last few letters are about their impending marriage and moving to Kansas City, Kansas, to live. A searchable transcription is available by clicking 'Text Version' below.

Creator: Tally, Wesley, 1909-1977

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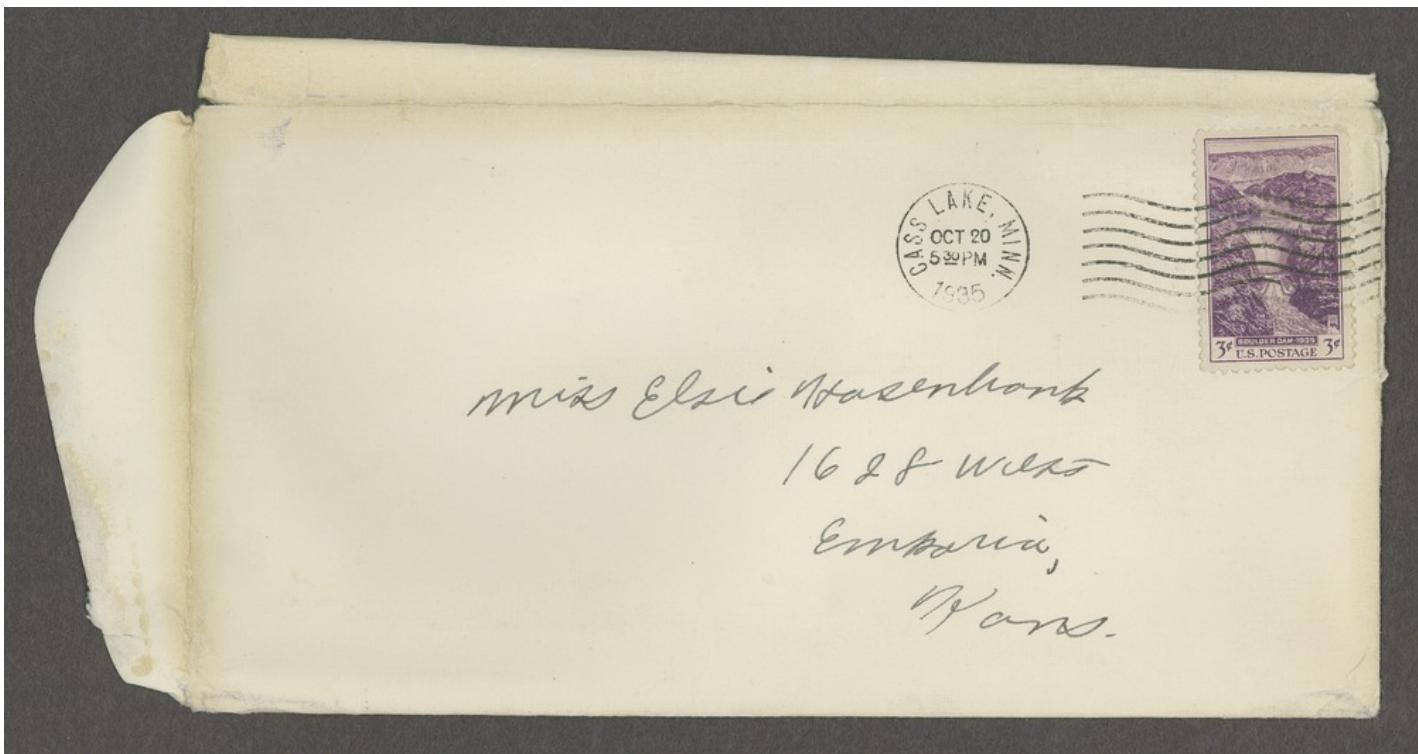
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H

1628 West St.,
Emporia, Kansas
November 1, 1935

Dear Wesley,

The weather is cold here this morning. We surely had a real rain yesterday morning and then it turned cold. It was very warm the first part of this week.

I received your letter and I was very glad to know you were O.K. & I hope your neck didn't get too stiff. I am O.K. and I guess the folks are too. Alvin went home yesterday so he could attend the teacher's meeting. He took his roommate along and two of my cousins are going to stay at our home too, so I guess they will have a big time. I would have liked to ^{have} gone with him, but

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I want to go Thanksgiving if I can, so I didn't try to get away now.

I bet you did enjoy the Turkey dinner. My aunt raised a big bunch of Turkeys, so I think mother will get one from her.

Well, here it is the first of November show the time does go! I am glad the time does go so quickly, because then it won't seem so long until Christmas, and seeing you.

Did you have any tricks played on you? I had one played on me. I was off yesterday, so I took my fancy work and went down to my cousin's. In the evening we went to church where they showed some pictures, and I never thought, and left the stuff in the car and when we came back to the car, which was parked in front of the church door, the package was gone. I rather did hate it, because I just paid around fifty cents for it and did a great deal of work on it too, just a short time ago. I guess I can't do anything about it except forget it, and be happy without it.

It is about time for the postman, so I guess I will cut this letter short, so I can mail it. I had my picture taken, but it will be next week before they ^{will} have them ready for me. I will send one to you as soon as I get them.

Well, be a good child and don't work too hard. I'll be seeing you Christmas.

So long,
Elsie

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C.C.C. ca 1765
Cass Lake

Nov. 3, 1935

Dearest Elsie:

I received your letter
just this morning. I guess
I will try to write you a few
lines to-night before I go to
bed.

We are having some real winter
weather here now. It isn't so
very cold to-night but it
has been snowing all day &
part of yesterday. Day before
yesterday it was 11 degrees
below zero when I got up which
was about seven o'clock. It isn't
near that cold now but I guess
winter is here to stay. When it
does get cold here it stays cold,
so I am told, and I guess I will

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find out for myself before long.
Well enough about the weather
& wonder what one could talk about some-
times if it were not for the weather.

as you say Christmas will soon be
here and we will be able to see & be with each
other again.

Its too bad that you lost your packages
of the car especially after you had given
quite a lot of time working on it. Were you fixing
something for yourself or someone else? I'll
bet its was something very nice anyway.

I have enjoyed myself up here this summer
but I would have liked it much better
if you could have been here also.

I got a letter from Beulah the other
day & she said that she is getting along fine
in her beauty work. Said she had fine
days experience in a shop in Verrington a
week or so ago.

I am getting long fin with my work
here. I just finished the payroll yesterday
for the new boys we gotten last week.

I guess my folks are all OK. I haven't
heard from them for about a week. I will probably
get a letter from them to-morrow or
the next day.

It will surely seem strange to get away
from here. There ~~is~~ always a large bunch of
boys around talking & trading around.

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I imagine I will miss being around a large bunch a lot for a time. It will be a treat though to get home & get a real home-cooked meal once more.

I am getting real hungry for some of your cooking, but I have the pleasure of knowing that before very long I will get to eat your cooking all the time, at least I hope so.

I have been having a slight cold the past two or three days but I am practically over it now.

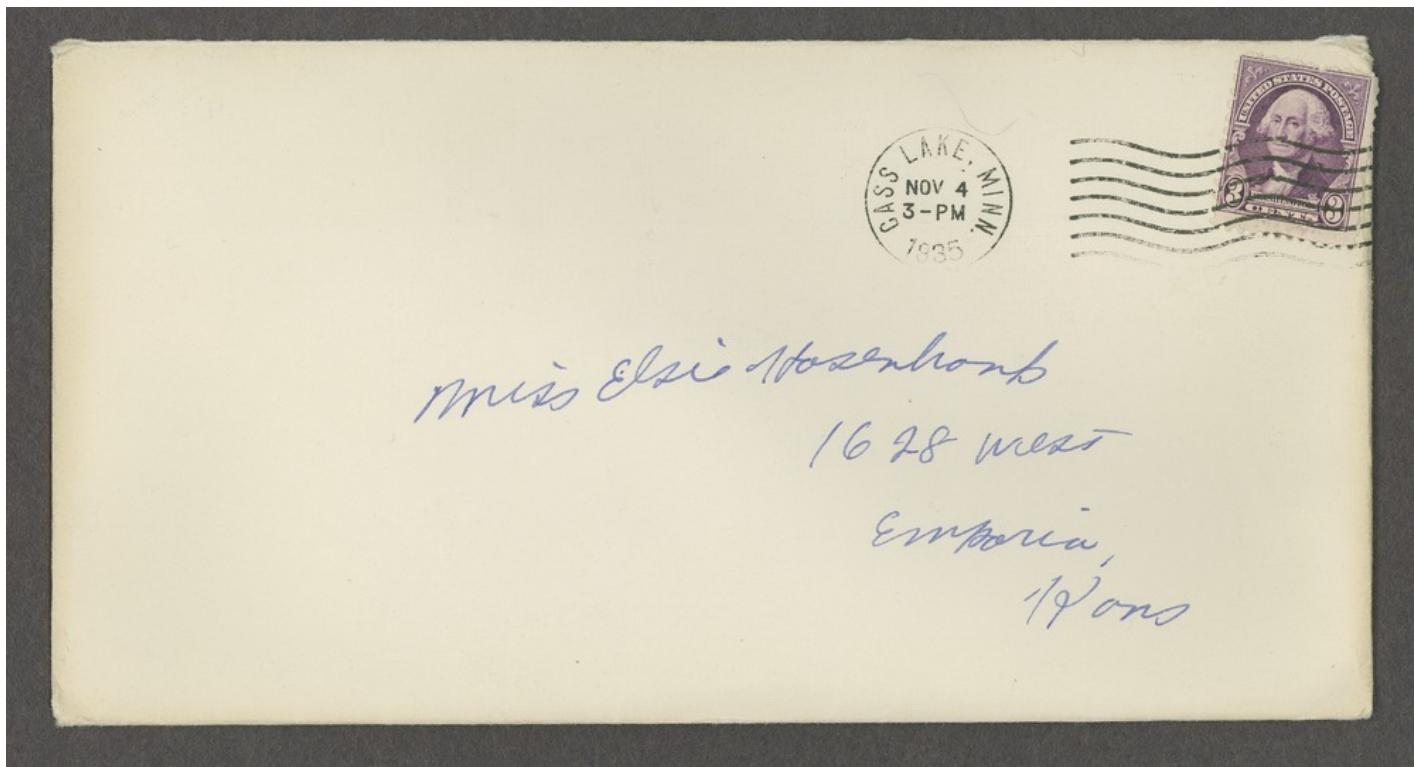
Its about time for lights to go out so I will quit for now.

Always take good care of yourself for me. I love you dear and always will.

Yours always
Wesley

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Cass Lake, Minn.

11-5-35

Dear Elsie,

Just a few lines to-night.
Just got Santa Joresome
for you to-night so will
just write you a few words
as next best to seeing you.
Nothing much happened
here since I wrote last except
that we have had some more
snow.

I ordered my overcoat
this morning, I will get it
in about ten days. It is offard
grayish color, which is almost
black.

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I guess this will be all for this
time. Just wanted you to know
I was thinking of you & wishing I
was with you.

Lore
Wesley

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1628 West St.,
Emporia, Kansas
November 7, 1935

Dear Wesley,

The weather surely must be cold up there. It is colder here not too now, but about the coldest it has been here was 20° above. We are having another very dark day here, which makes one think it may snow. I hope it doesn't get too cold up there and that your cold doesn't get worse.

I am O. R. and I guess my folks are too. The folks brought Alvin down Sunday afternoon, so I got to see them for a couple hours. Lora said she saw Mary in Manhattan with the other teachers. I guess Berlak enjoyed her job. I guess she is still in Emporia, but I have not seen her lately.

I guess if the girls want to see

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me while I am still here they will have to come soon, because Mr. Gregory resigned as manager of Newman's store last week and as far as they know they are going to Oklahoma City December 2nd. They are sure they will be in Emporia until that date, but they don't know yet how much longer. Mrs. Gregory said she wanted me at least that long and if I couldn't go along to Oklahoma she would leave me the best of recommendations and she was sure I wouldn't have any trouble getting another job here.

I would not go out of this state for a job of such low wages as I am getting, because if I couldn't get another one here, it would be better to go home and help my mother, although I am almost certain I can get another one here without any trouble. I plan on staying here until Thanksgiving.

Fairall, I just called and found out that they have my pictures finished, so I will try to send one to you this afternoon. I then know that the rats and mice will not eat you.

I went to the show last night. It was bank night and someone got \$75.00, but I wasn't the lucky girl. I went Tuesday too. I didn't go the other week, so I guess I was making up for it, by going twice this week. The one I went to Tuesday was "The Last Days of Pompeii." I liked it, but surely didn't like the one last night. Alvin had to teach the German Class in college yesterday. I guess he got along O. K., but he only knew it about fifteen minutes before it was class time.

I can't say I have a little brother anymore because Raymond is about three inches taller than I am and weighs 160 lbs. I think, he grows an inch a month. I am the baby of the family now, so far as size concerns, but not age.

It won't be long until time for mail so I won't write much more now. I received the letter from you yesterday P.M. I was gone so

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so I did not get to read it
until about ten o'clock, when
I got home from the show.

Well, don't get too cold up
there or freeze to death, because
I want to see you Christmas
and again in Spring too. I
will let you know if I change
my address, but I plan to be
here for a while yet.

So - long
Elsie

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Sunday

NOV. 10, 1935

Dearest Elsie.

How is my darling to-night?
I am very much alone & feeling fine
myself.

I got your next welcome letter
yesterday. I always read your letters
two or three times before I put them
in my trunk and then I get them
all out every so often and read them
over again.

I had quite a lot of fun to-day. We have
quite a lot of snow now, & some of us took
a toboggan (a large sled) and went down to
the lake store and rode it down its bank.
It is really lots of fun especially when five
or six get on at the same time. We also
have several pair of "sis" here at the camp.
I rode on them a few times but I
was laying in the snow more than I was
standing up.

Haven't you had any snow in Kansas yet?
We have had about six inches altogether, of
course some of it has melted, but we have
about 4 to 5 inches on the ground now.
The temperature to-night is 3 degrees
below zero.

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I hope you are able to get another job when Gregor's man.

I don't believe it would pay you to go with them to ~~that~~ Abkhazia unless they would pay you more money which I probably would not do. Do you say you would be better off to help your mother.

I think you will get another one or

Before long I hope to give you a ~~#~~ permanent job.

I haven't been to the store for more than a week now. There hasn't been any good ones so far this month.

To-morrow (Monday) will be a day of rest for most of the boys here. It being a holiday. My work will be just about the same as any other day.

I can remember 17 years ago to-morrow real well even though I was not very old. I can still remember how the people refused to believe the war was over. It seems to be quite a lot of talk in some of the papers now about war but don't forget that this country is in no danger of getting into war.

Well "Sweetheart" I guess I will have to kiss you good-night for the present time. Take good care of yourself & write soon if not sooner.

It will be only about 5 weeks now until we will be able to see each other again. Since you are coming to give you when I come back.

Yours forever
Wesley

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Monday night,
Nov. 11, 1935

Dear Elsie,

I got the picture this morning.

Yes! "Honey" I sure am proud of you. You mean all the world to me and I am proud to know that you are mine.

Thank you a thousand times for the picture.

I kiss your picture which is next best to ~~to~~ kissing you.

We had a real beautiful day here to-day. It wasn't so very cold and the sun was shining bright, which made an ideal

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Winter day. To-night the moon is very bright and with the snow on the ground grapes are almost as light as day animals.

I guess I am going to have some new relation before. My two brothers who are married are back expecting a new arrival sometime within about two months. one of them lives in Arizona & the other in Louisiana. I already have two nieces & one nephew. My oldest brother has three children.

I have been an uncle for about 15 years now and when you and I get married you will be an aunt, won't that be wonderful.

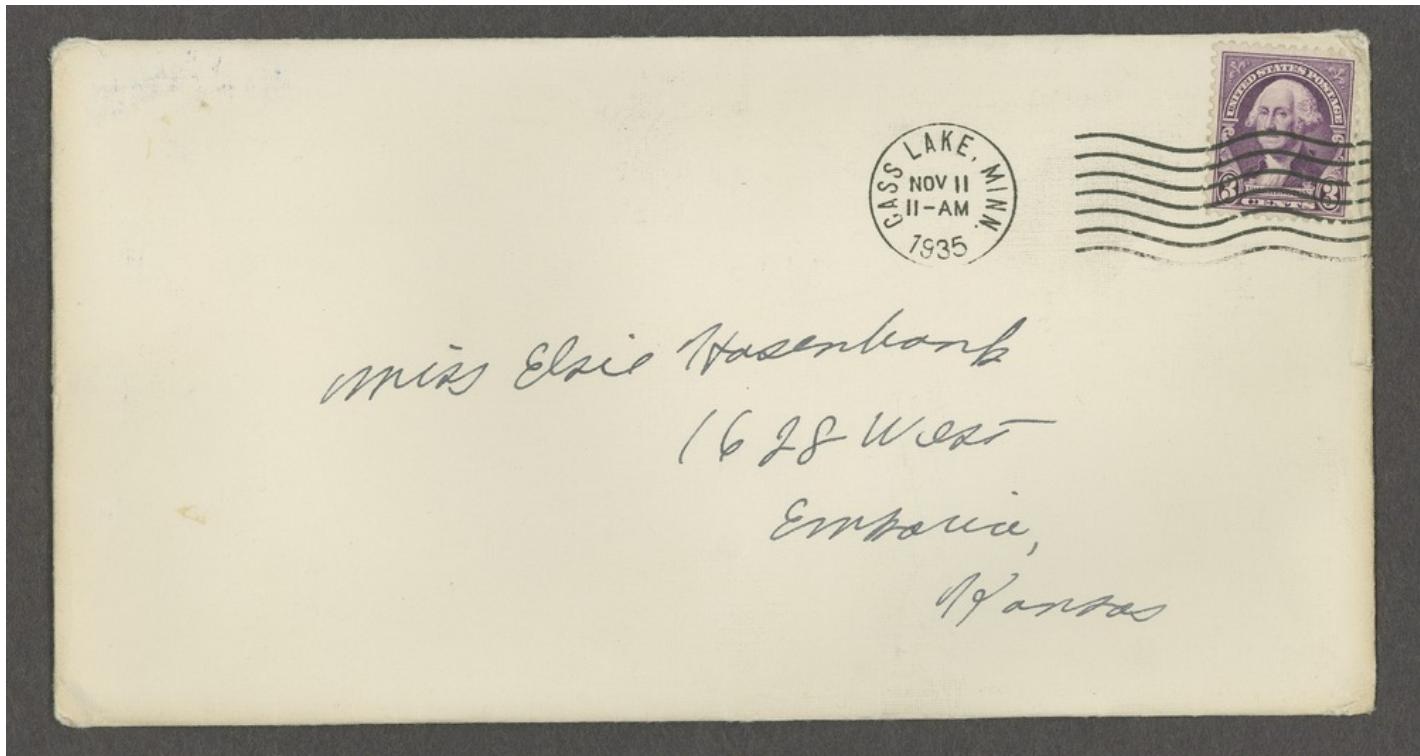
I took some pictures around camp to day. I have several bunches of pictures I will bring with me when I come home Christmas, some of them are quite good while some of them are not so hot.

Good-night dear, sweet dreams and take good care of yourself.

Lore,
Wesley

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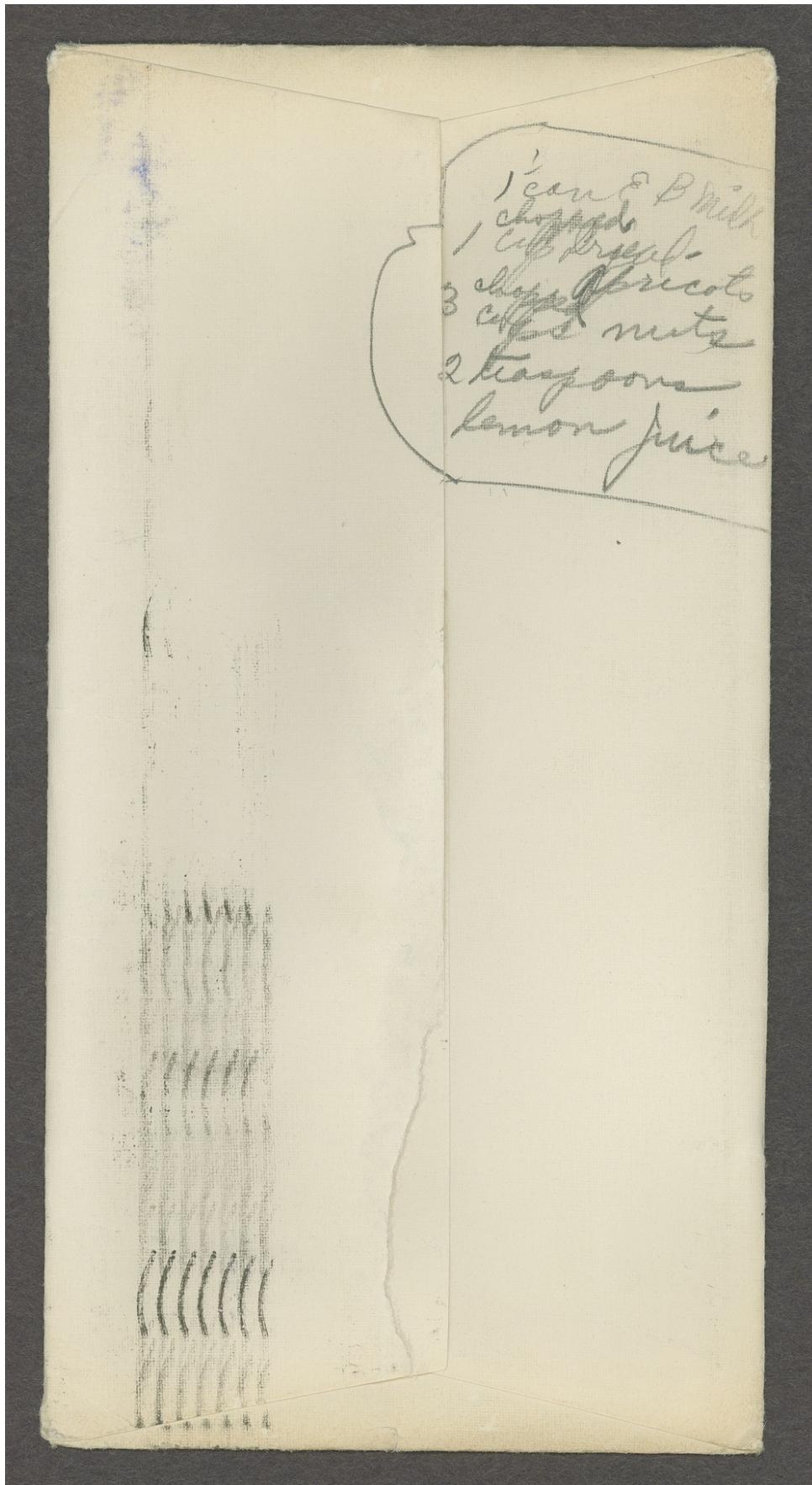


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1628 West St.,
Emporia, Kansas
November 13, 1935

Dear Wesley,

you are having all the snow up there I guess, because we have not had any here yet. a few parts of Kansas have had a very light snow last week, but not any in Emporia. It must be cold up there too.

I went down town this afternoon and took my watch to the shop to have it cleaned. It stopped this morning. I have had it almost four years and never had anything fixed on it before now. It will cost at least \$2.50. I wear it all the time when I have it here, so I surely do feel lost without the watch. Several people already ask me to work for them. so I

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should not have any trouble getting work, I don't know when Gregorj's will leave yet for sure though, I think one of the jobs would be swell, but I don't think I would care to have the others. I probably won't take any other job until Gregorj's leave, because I know I can't get any better place then here.

Thursday. ^{A.M.} We are having very cloudy days here the past week, which makes one think about snow, but so far we haven't seen any. It is a little warmer this morning.

Well, I wanted to mail this letter this morning, but I am starting it for the third time, so it should be a charh. I was waiting on it this morning and Mrs. G. had some sewing she wanted me to do so I had to stop and do that instead of writing. Yesterday evening when I started to write Jack Jr. had some school work he wanted me to help him with and when I finished with him it was bed time, because I had a sore throat, so I thought a good night's sleep would be the best thing to do. It is almost better to-day.

I received your letter this morning and I am glad you received the picture, and that it pleases you. The folks sent me a card tod this morning saying that they got their picture too, and they thought it was good. The photographer made an enlargement of tht picture and placed it in the show window. I think after he takes it out of the window, I shall ask him how much he will sell it for. and if it isn't too high I want to buy it.

It won't be long until lunch time and I

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can not think of anything new to write, so I guess I will close soon.

Two people down around home had appendicitis the last week Mrs. Bell a teacher about 2. died from it and Mr. Ed. Striner was operated and is not expected to live.

Zora has had over twenty visitors in her school already this term. She says she is getting along swell with her school.

Well, I hope the snow doesn't get too deep up there, if it does send a little of it down here Ha! Be a good boy, and don't work too hard. Good-bye, until next time.

your loving friend,
Elsie

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Cass Lake, Minn.

Nov. 17, 1935

Dearest Elsie.

I got your most welcome
letter this morning.

We haven't had any more snow
since I wrote you the last time.
in fact the past three or four
days have been quite pleasant.

I have been pretty busy this
past week. It being the middle
of the month which always a busy
time, but I can always find time
to write to you now and then.

We got 17 new men in this camp
yesterday. it makes the total
number 219 at the present time.

I hope you will get a place to
work that you will like because
~~snowy~~ working conditions

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makes a big difference in your work.

I got a card from mother this morning. She said the lady that took care of me when I was born had died. She didn't say the reason but I presume it was a heart attack as she was getting well along in years. I think she was somewhere near eighty.

Well Dear "I just think ab enough
to write about to-night nothing much
has happened this week except the usual
camp duties

I am still feeling fine and eating every
day.

It won't be so long now until I will
get to see you.

What would you like for me to
get you for Christmas? That isn't very
far off now, only a little more than a month.

I guess I will have to quit for to-night.
I hoped you think of more to say next
time.

Take good care of your self for me.

Goodnight Sweetheart until next
time.

Love
Wesley

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H

1628 West St.,
Emporia, Kansas
November 20, 1935

Dear Wesley,

I just got home from the place where Elvin stays. and I found your letter in the box, so I will try to say a few words before I start dinner. I did Elvin's ironing this afternoon, eight shirts. I had a cold, so I didn't do his washing this week. He had the laundry wash it, and I did the ironing.

I will not have to look for another job before the first of the year, because Mr. G. said this morning they planned to stay in Emporia until this semester of school was over for Jack Jr., which would be in January. Mrs. Gregory told me I could

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go home for Thanksgiving Wednesday and if it was more convenient to go sooner, I could go this Sunday and stay until next Sunday when Alvin comes back. It is so hard to get home now because the bus only goes to Admire, instead of Eskridge. She said maybe it would be easier to find a way on Sunday then it would on Wed. I have not been home since last summer so I would like to go for all week.

Well, we are having a beautiful day here for the first time in a couple weeks. We had a snow storm last Friday, but it was all melted by the next day. It did look like Christmas for a little while though. You were asking what I wanted for Christmas. Well, I hadn't even put a thought as to what I wanted yet. I guess Christmas will be here before long though. And then I will get to see you, which will be better than a gift.

To-night is bank night, at the Grangada, but I don't think I will go. I may go down in front, so if they call my name I can go in and get it, because it is fifty dollars to-night. They seldom have good shows on bank night, so I don't care to spend the money. I already spent almost my week's wages to-day, because I got my watch back from the shop, which cost \$2.50 and had my shoes fixed for 35¢.

I haven't heard from my folks yet this week, but I guess they are all well. I will probably hear from them to-morrow.

Since I can't think of anything else to say I must close and get dinner soon. My address will be 1628 West St. for a month or more yet. So write whenever you find time.
Another lady got the fifty dollars.

So-long,
Elsie

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Cass Lake, Minn.

Nov. 24, 1935

Dearest Elsie;

How is my dearest
to-night? I sat your letter
yesterday, and as you know
am always glad to hear from
you.

I just think "Dear", it will
be only a month or less now
until I will get to be with
you. I am going to ^{to} Marquette
~~so~~ I can be there on Christmas
day.

I would like to bathe for
Thanksgiving too, but what is
not possible this time.