

Dear Leslie and Anna:

This is such an entertaining letter from Dane and such a surprise I have made copies for all the family. Probably he has not taken the time to write everyone, but if so maybe this copy will contain a dittle different news. We are all well here. I saw Malcolm's house the other day. They have two attractive new rooms in their attic and also a bathroom.

Love,

Jessie.

Willcockson, Ark.
May 12, 1932

Dear Sister:-

Do you note that address up above. Thru a lot of unpaid debts, bankruptcy and other things I acquired title to about 552 acres of mountains here in Arkansas. We have been doing absolutely nothing in Lake Forest for about two years except eat up what we had made previously. So I came down and looked at this place, liked it, and am building a cabin on it to live in. I am still financially interested in the Lake Forest Plumbing Co. but would like to get out and will as soon as it is possible, as Lake Forest will be one of the last places to get over the depression as it is a place that will not go ahead until two or three prosperous years have passed. Charlie Fitzgerald, my partner, will be able to make the grade I think as he is quite a politician and between what he makes as a politician and what little the business will clear he will have a living. Maybe he will be able to sell the business or conditions may make it worth while keeping. If so I may go back.

However my stomach etc. have been badly on the bum and I imagine roaming around the Ozarks will do me good. I have only been here about a week but the new interests outdoor life etc. have made me feel ten times better already. So by the time the depression is over ought to be in fine fettle.

This place is certainly a beautiful spot. I am enclosing a few snap shots of a feature or two. The springs and waterfall are the big features. The picture of the falls don't show them very well but I am in plain sight. Will get a better view of falls as they are certainly beautiful. The one marked two is a view of the stream just above the falls. The three ducks (count them) were thrown in to complete the deal. No. 3 is a view of the larger spring, it and another not quite so large furnish all the water that goes over the falls. It was impossible to get a picture to show the beauty of this as the spring is back under a bluff 80 or 90 ft. high, and everything was in deep shadow. I appear as usual.

At one time there was quite a prosperous town here my land completely surrounding it. For that matter I own all of it except 8 parcels consisting of two or three lots each and one piece of 5 acres. Ark. State highway #7 goes through it from end to end. This highway is to be the short route from the north to Hot Springs and is completed except a strip somewhere a 100 miles south of me.

#4 is a picture along the road through the town (?).

#5 is the postoffice I am in evidence again. We get 4 mails every day some days 6 except Sunday when we get none.

And last you see the church Methodist (North) where they have service every other Sunday and Sunday School every sabbath. Every hill you see is mine, some landed proprietor I must say.

I am building my cabin around the bluff from the

I am building my cabin around the bluff from the spring about 300 or 300 ft. Will get water with a ram and have all modern convenience, shower, lavatory, closet, sink, water cooled foodchamber, etc. The cabin is 18 x 20 one story and basement. The building is on the hillside and the basement is ground level in front while the 1st floor is ground level in back.

The veranda will be the roof of my garage where I keep my Chev.--pickup. Am building out of cobble stones of which I own an unlimited number. The only things I will have to buy are cement, nails, shingles and lumber to finish inside. Every thing else is on the place. Labor is only \$1 a day for ten hours and though they are very slow they work continuously and do pretty good work as they are all farmers and fairly handy. The plumbing I get thru the shop and naturally is cheap to me. So all in all my cabin wont cost very much and will be the classiest thing in the county.

Willcockson is half way between two county seats Harrison (Boone Co.) and Jasper (Newton Co.). So I am just 10 miles from town either way I head. I am rooming in Harrison while the cabin is under construction. But will move out as soon as I can get a roof over my head. Am having more fun than I can remember. Certainly better than sitting around watching everything you thought you had crumbling away. I have quit worrying and discounted the worst and started in to enjoy a few years. This piece of land is one of the oldest settlements in No. Ark. and has many interesting things and possibilities. The stream is a trout stream and I had a 3½ lb. one (a piece of it) for supper. although the trout season doesn't open until the 15th for anyone else if they get caught.

There is not a nigger in either county. Most of the children have never seen one. Both counties are Republican in politics in a Dem. State. They have community schools with bus service and all kids get to school although not for 9 months every year. They keep the schools open as long as the money holds out, 6 months this year.

There is a marble quarry included in my holdings (not in operation at present but since we have the highway for transportation now may be worth reopening). The interesting thing being that the stone Arkansas furnished for the Washington monument was taken from this quarry, and it is said to be the prettiest piece from any state (by Arkansasans) so the next time you look at the monument look at Ark. contribution. I have a mountain of it left and will break you off a piece some time. It really is of number one quality and very pretty. Transportation being the cause of the quarry closing down.

There is lots of pine timber on the place some of it has been cut over 35 to 50 years ago but the growth since then is large enough again. Lots of cedar. Some wanut, hickory nut etc. but mostly oak. The people who owned it last were cotton people of Memphis and they were only interested in a couple of cotton jins they had. Cotton price went down and they quit cotton here in the hills and moved the jins away. For many years there was a flour mill at the Falls with a water wheel 35 ft. high for power. But the railroad went through Harrison and they got a Roller Mill so there is nothing left

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but the old axle of the water wheel.

The name of the place is really Marble City Falls but as there is another town of that name in Ark. they named the P.O. after the first Post Master.

Well I could rattle on indefinitely about this place which you will have to come and see.

Will write you more as I seem to have something to write about.

With love,

Dane.

Address
Willcockson
Newton Co.
Ark.