

Riedel Mont. Apr. 7, 1918.

Dear Folks at Home:

Well, Mamma, this is to be
your birthday letter, but you
won't mind me including Papa
and Ivan in on it too. I would
like to be there to help you
celebrate. I was helping you
celebrate thirty years ago. I
imagine I was keeping you
pretty busy about that time.
Does it seem a long time ago,
when you were 32 and I was
tiny? I suppose as usual
I have made a mistake on your
age. Is it 61 or 62? I am just
taking Jim's word for it, and you

know how unreliable that boy is.

Do you remember the time we got the dishes for you and Ray had them hid in the barn? And was that black hat we thrust upon you a birthday present too? I remember we had a way of choosing your hats for you and never succeeded in getting anything as becoming as you get for yourself, since we woke up to the fact that you might like to pick them out yourself. It would be nice to go back about twenty years and all be out on the old farm again together and not know that such a thing as this world war could ever happen. But things are apt to be better in a year. I wish we could get

B. J.

Ivan your
cow is a good
one. She gives
a gallon or
more of milk
and there is
a nice rich
cream on it. I
think it is better
than the spotted
cows, tho of
course nothing
like the Jersey. When
the calf is learning
to drink. Jim fed
the cow some. She
looked kind of thin.
Might.

the news as promptly as you
do. The next few months
may mean a lot for the allies.
I hope we will hear from Rob
to-morrow. It was a little over
a week ago we heard, and he
said he might be put in the
remount, whatever that is. I
wonder if Ivan is still home.
We will include him in our
these letters anyway. Next
spring at this time I hope the
boys will be back here.

It is a nice day, but rather windy
and cold. The first two days of
school were very disagreeable as

to weather. It snowed some but it didn't stay on long. My fur coat, and those fur mittens you made for me, papa, helped to keep me warm. The school house was cleaned and there is a nice pile of wood there for us. After getting up at seven all winter, it seems rather tough to crawl out so early and get breakfast and start to school at 7:15 but I suppose I will get used to it. We get up before daylight and last week it was always ten or after when we got to bed. I have nine pupils and may have three more. I have two beginners. I like my children and they like to come to school so I think

I will have a pleasant summer.
The district is divided and so
is the money, but I think I
can hold the trustees to the
contract for six months
if they have to borrow the
money to pay me. When the election
comes off to decide where the
school house will be in our
new district, there will be some
big fight on, and we are all
going to vote and try to get it
as near here as possible. Junior
isn't old enough to go to school,
but the school house will be
left to stay for awhile where

ever it is located. I doubt if I will
ever want to teach there. In fact I
am getting tired of teaching and am
thinking of taking up a more perman-
ent occupation in the future some time.
Mamma, I havent any birthday present
to send you, but if you would like
to have another son, I know where
there is a real nice boy who would
like to be your son-in-law. You know
you always liked nice boys and
you and papa both never thought
you had too many sons. We have
been engaged for two weeks. I wasnt
going to tell anyone for awhile, I wanted
to be able to realize it myself before I
published it, but Janes has found
it out and it doesnt seem fair not
to tell the rest of you. I was kind

of afraid to tell you because I didn't
know how you would take it.

I hope you will be pleased, at
any rate you mustn't worry about it.

I did ~~three~~ weeks of hard thinking
before I gave him his answer. Of

course being engaged isn't like
being married, and I will have a
chance to know him better yet
before that time comes. He wanted

me to promise that I would be
sure to marry him within a year
but I couldn't quite bring myself
to do it. If I was sure the
corp would be back here by that
time, I wouldn't hesitate. I was

expecting to help keep things going
all right here until they could come
back. Next spring I will be between
two fires but I won't worry too
much about what I will do
until the time comes. Frank
has rented a 1400 acre ranch
about four miles from Mulline. It
is the Smith boys ranch, I am.
So he will be very busy this
summer and also next summer.
He will put in quite a lot of grain
and there is quite a lot in hay now.
He has 65 head of cattle and some
horses. He isn't afraid of work
but he has undertaken quite a
lot for one man to handle.

I found out how much I cared
for him when I thought he had

to go to war, and when I found
out how glad I was that he
was exempt from the draft.
We have had some good times
together and are looking forward
to some more. He is good natured,
and frank and honest about
everything. Everyone seems to
think well of him. James knows
him pretty well and he thinks he
is all right. He is part English
and part French. I was kind of
disappointed about his French and
he was about my Irish, so we are
even. He is about Jim's size and
has blue eyes and dark brown hair
and a big nose.

Well maybe you will think I have
written enough about him. He
didn't even want me to teach
this summer. His folks live in
Mich. His father owns a farm and
his brother is a farmer. One of his
sisters is in Western Mont. Frank
has been away from home for nine
years and has worked in several of
the western states and Canada. His
mother died when he was ten yrs. old.
Considering how much he has knock-
ed around I think he has done well
to keep as straight and clean as he
has and I told him so. He is coming
down next Sunday.

The pressed flowers you sent were very
pretty. That spring beauty took me way back
home. I wish I could hear the frogs and crickets out in
the sand ridges. Mamma I wish you were any happier
birthdays Robert Love

for each. Worth.

been farming the
the wait come again
for 3 wks. 22 miles
is quite a ways to
ride home in the
night. He that he
had to be there Mon
mornings get to
work. I hope
I am home
yet. Take
care
of yourself
lots of love
My dear

Dear Folks at Home:

It is 9:30 but will try to
write you a little for you got
slighted Sunday. I just got through
supper about 15 min ago. I ate
2½ half graham biscuits and
4 potatoes and some peaches. I
am rather lonesome for I am
here all alone. James is
hunting horses. Seven head
are gone, the boys Volkman mare
and their colts, Polly, Raven and
the horse of Sam's that Herin
had. From it is Jewel and the
saddle cayuse, Polly I guess you
call her that are gone. James

looked some Sunday and all day
mon. Tues, and to-day. He went
down to the bench to-day. He
was quite hopeful of finding
them there. He had scoured
the country all around here
for them. They may have
tried to go back to Volkman's.
He was anxious to get in
the field to work this week,
I that the boys would put
the horses all in the pasture
when the fence was done, but
I guess they were afraid some
of them would fight. When
Jim gets them they will put
them all in the pastures to
save riding again. Everyones
horses seem to be wandering

last week, I was under the weather Thurs. & Fri. Spent Thurs. a m. sleeping and did some mending Friday. It snowed last night yesterday on the way to school. my fur coat saved my life. Frank was down Sunday and we had a nice visit. He is so

away. I guess it is on account of the grass getting green they are hunting for better places all the time. We will write Sunday and let you know if he found them. To-day has been an awful windy day. The old school house shook, and coming home I had to brace my feet sometimes for fear of being blown off. I hope we won't have another like it. James went to a sale last week, the Smith boys sold out. He bought a grinder for \$1.50 and a sewing machine for me for \$5. Now don't give

I was about me buying a sewing machine already. He went horseback so didnt bring the things home. Frank is going to keep the sewing machine for me until sometime, and I dont know when Jim will get the grindstone home. James saw Henry Volkmann at the sale and he that your note was not due for awhile yet. Probably James will see him before he gets back from this trip and find out for sure. Henry said he wanted the money. Jim told him how it was and that we would pay 50 or more. Maybe we can pay 70 and the interest. Will let you know. Jim also got some lumber located and

Burdick and Thompson haven't
money enough to
contest a claim
anyway. It
would sure be
great to have
him out here again,
but if you think
it best for her
own interests to
stay back then
we will get along
without him.
~~He~~ ^{He} ~~will~~ ^{have} more days
and my first mor-
ning school will
be up. I had
two days vacation

He has spoken for quite a lot now.
It is over near Warick and is
selling at \$22 per M for the best
and \$12 per M for the feathered.
Herm was working on Sadie's house
to day. He made a door and put
it up and will soon lay the
floor. Herm has a hired man,
one of the boys ~~of~~ who was
fencing. We pay him \$50 per mo.
and board. Herm wanted to pay
him in stock but he said he had
to have cash so I bought Beauty
yearling colt of Herm for \$45⁰⁰ ^{and Herm will pay him the} We
may have to keep him longer, if

Jim doesn't get the horses located
to-morrow. Herbie's ankle where he
sprained it hurt him some last week
but is better now. He came up and
milked for me to-night. The
little calf is growing fine and the
cow is a dandy. I made about
2 lbs of butter last week and will
churn again Sat.

Probably Sadie has told you about
the letter we wrote her about
Burdicks spying on her land, and
we told her if she wanted to join
the Red Cross, we would get along
without her. Persuade her not to join
if you think that work will be
too hard on her. How is she feeling
now? Herbie thinks maybe she
ought not to undertake it. Probably



Mr. J. N. Crosby,
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