UMont archives--John A. Stark ms col. 46

diary pages photocopied:

Aug 17 '34

July 4 '34

Aug 27-Sept. 2 '33

Sept. 11-17 '33

1939: May 23-30
June ~~1mix~~ 10-16

July 3-9

Aug. 12-18

rec'd 4/2/83

~~AP~~ May 17, 1983

Hi Fuzz—

My Sister Miss Jo. Miklich Passed Away Aug. 30, 1981.

Our Family was not Raised on a homestead. My Father Came to Montana in 1901 & worked in the Coal Mines. My Father & mother were married in Bozaman in Feb 1904. We Came to Klein in march of 1913. There was seven of us & we were raised in a Four Room Companyhouse. My Father, my Brother & I All worked For the Republic Coal Co. the Coal mined there was used by the Milwaukee R. R. The mine Closed in 1956. I have Lived in Mussel Shell County For 70 Years.

Yours Truly

John G. Miklich

JOHN G. MIKLICH
612 3RD W.
ROUNDUP, MONT.
59072

17021 10th Ave. NW
Seattle, Washington 98177

Dear Jo Miklich,

I'm at work on a book about Montana during the homestead era, and I wonder if you'd be game to help me out by providing a few of your memories. My own memory doesn't go back far enough; it was my grandparents who homesteaded south of Helena, and the Depression had wiped out the place by the time I was born. As I've been casting around to find people who have first-hand homestead experience, a friend who grew up in your home area of Montana -- Ken Weydert, whose father once managed the sheep-shearing company in Ingomar -- loaned me a copy of the history written for the Ingomar-Sumatra-Vanada reunion in 1976. I hope you don't mind my getting in touch with you; the only way I can be accurate about what I write is to ask people who know.

You may have heard of my previous Montana book, This House of Sky, which is a memoir of my father and my grandmother and myself when we worked on ranches in the White Sulphur Springs country, and later ran sheep on the Blackfeet Reservation out from Browning. The book I intend now will be fiction -- which means that names don't matter in any stories you might be willing to share with me -- but I want it to be truthful to homestead life. I'd particularly like to hear from you if you have any details on such topics as these:

-- Living arrangments in a homestead cabin: where everybody slept, what you ate, how you passed the evenings, what games you played with brothers and sisters or neighbor kids.

-- Chores: how old was a homestead child when, say, he or she got the responsibility of gathering the eggs? Filling the woodbox? Milking the cow? Did you help with the farming, and if so, at what age did you start?

-- School: I myself boarded out during most of my school years, but always with some other family -- not at a boarding facility as I read that Ingomar had. I'd like to hear any memories of what it was like to live there. Also, anything that particularly sticks in your mind about school days: a memorable teacher or fellow student, for instance.

-- Finally, I'd appreciate any information on how the homestead life ended for your family. For mine and a lot of others, it simply was done in by weather, lack of money, or the rigors of the work. Those things too are part of the story of where we came from.

Thanks for your time,

Ivan Doig

IVAN DOIG

over

23 May '83

Dear John--

Thanks for responding to my letter to you sister Jo. Sorry to hear of her death. I took her address, and some others, from a list at the Sumatra reunion in 1976, and knew that some of them would no longer be on hand.

Your years in Roundup and in the coal mines caught my attention. By coincidence, a few months ago I was at the university library in Missoula and came across the diaries of Dell Stark. (John A.--for Adelbert--Stark; had an older brother, Ben, I think; Dell himself I suppose would have been 10 or so years older thanyyou.) Did you know him? If so, would you mind telling me what he looked like--about how tall, what weight, what color hair, what shade of complexion, and I guess anything you remember about his behavior. Specifically, did he ever tell you, or people generally, that he wanted to be a writer? He says so in those diaries he left to the university, and I wondered if he made it known at the time. I'm a bit interested in him because his diaries of his World War Two service might be worth publishing someday.

This has nothing to do with Dell Stark or anything else, but I wonder if you knew Lenona Cramblit, of the Roundup country. I was great friends with her aunt, Kate Badgett, when I was growing up in Ringling.

best regards

p.s. Did Dell Stark have any nickname besides "Dell"?

2 April '83

Dear Dale--

Photocopies came today--thanks for the promptness, and for all the help from you and your staff. This stuff is beginning to stack up like a book.

Which doesn't mean I can't hunger for more. The Dell Stark diary material is proving unexpectedly helpful to me, and I think I'd do well to shop around in his sheep-raising years. Accordingly, I'd like to ask for these diary portions to be photocopied and sent:

John A. Stark Papers, ms collection #46:

The month of April, 1938.

July 10220, 1938.

June 1-9, 1940.

August 1-11, 1940.

Am enclosing a $7.08 check for the photocopies you sent, and until I descend on you again, best wishes.

Ivan

P.S. Hi to Kathy!

July -10- Sunday 1938
At Home

Rolled out with a rather mild head about seven and found a lovely day but getting rapidly warmer. We got lined up and had our breakfast. We were just getting up and around and ready to go again when Jack drifted in and we had a talk. I was going to get the tractor ready when Jenkins drove in and had his two little boys and his daughter a fine Hershey girl of about fifteen or so. Had a talk and then Bill went on up to camp to see Dad while we tried to find something to do to amuse the kids and we had a lot of fun with them. Had a lot of rhubarb that we picked up in the garden and it is fine. Helped to get things ready for lunch and had an opportunity to establish the spirit of comradeship between the girl and myself. We took it easy and about twelve - thirty the meal was ready and we sat up to eat. Had some beer and fixed the kids some orangeade so that they could drink with us. Done feeding we all took it easy awhile as it was just too warm to do anything active. Was showing the kids how to start up the little maytag engine when Ben got back and he wanted to take her down to the well and pump awhile. We took the outfit down and set her up; first a quarter [illegible] but she just [illegible] the pump

We soon had her going and she worked fine but she just couldnt run the pump when we put the water up till. When we had her going awhile Bill got back and was ready to go home again so they pulled out. Was about ten-thirty so Jack and I got the barber tools out and we got trimmed up. We need some tractor fuel and oil so thought best to go to town and get it before Ben takes the car away. Was after four when I got ready but decided to pull out anyway. Nobody but Jack would go with me so we pulled out. Made it to Cassels and got 30 gal. of fuel at .10¢ a gal. and a gallon of oil at four bits. All set we drove down to the Rainbow Inn and started in to drink Drewrey's Ale and boy is it great dope. Cool, fresh, and with a fourteen percent wallop costs twenty cents a bottle but worth twice as much. We took on a couple of them then went up town for magazines and papers then back to the Rainbow and had two more ales so felt pretty good by the time we pulled out. Wheeled right along and dropped Jack at his place and then on home again. Was about nine-thirty or ten so we held a pow-wow and got ready to turn in again. I sel like the devil again just too much booze these days as I always feel rotten as hell when I keep drinking. Sure feel like hell and how little we get accomplished; nothing done on the hay yet and soon the grain will be ready to cut.

July - 11 - Monday
At Home

Crawled out just shortly after five o'clock and soon had the breakfast over. Helped Ben to get ready and start for the chain gang. A lovely day but getting hot so about six-thirty Von and I beat it over to work on the spud patch; hustled up a couple of hoes and we gave her hell for awhile; stopping now and again to rest a bit, the ground is hard but we keep at it and got most of the weeds as we went along. Got about half done by ten o'clock so we came on over to the house and had a good bottle of beer and boy does it go good when you are really thirsty. When the rest was over I went back to work but it was too hot to hoe so I filled the tractor up on fuel and gas; then got ready to grease her up. Was about noon so I called a halt and came on in to rest awhile and get ready for dinner. Had some writing to do and then the feed was ready and we sat up again. Had a real feed and as usual I was really hungry and took on a man sized portion. Lunch over I took a few minutes to read and rest before I hit the ball again. Got the engine and the grader all greased and adjusted then we spent a few more minutes resting up before we got some water and looked after the goats as we have another pair on hand last night and they

are doing just fine. It cooled off a bit and the breeze came up so I got busy again on the hoeing and staid with it until I was called in to supper again. Ate and as it was still hot as hell we sat around for awhile. Finally all hands got ready to go down to finish the weeding and just as we reached the garden our brother Bennett drove up and boy were we all glad to see him again. Took him for a look around the place and then as the mosquitoes were thick as hell we came on in to get away from them. Percy brought me a letter from Shirley and she has a cute hobby as she is collecting locks of people's hair and desires one of mine which I shall be only too glad to send her. We had a good visit and got all the news. Things are slow in town but the politics seems to be warming up considerably. We had a fine visit and it was ten o'clock when the good brother pulled back to town. A perfect night with a fine full moon and heat lightening over the mountains. Had a few letters to write so got busy on them and got all three of them out by eleven thirty so we got all set and turned in once more. The pup came home from camp again so will have a nice job to start out on in the morning. Wish I could get all lined up and make a few backs before the mine starts going again but our times do drag.

July - 12 - Tuesday
At Home

We all turned out about seven and soon had the breakfast ready. Ate awhile and then we got out to check up on things and found our goats and everything in fine shape. Von and I cut some wood as it was cool and nice out with a light south west wind so felt in fine shape for the day. Decided to go to town and when the mail came had a card from Ressel and Aunt Lil is seriously ill in Chicago so the folks feel they should go back as she is asking for some of the folks. I took some grub and the dog up to the camp and had a talk with Dad; he is getting along fine and the sheep sure look swell. Von came up after me and when we got home we picked up the women and headed for town again. I drove as I wanted to get accustomed to the car as I shall drive it back from town tonight. Reached the city about eleven-thirty and I found it hot and dead as ever in the old burg. Went at once to the Elks and had a sandwich and some beer before we went up town and got busy on our errands. Cashed Ben's warrant and sent the three bucks to the Benevolent society again and had a few more odd jobs to do about the city. Went up to the White Garage and had a talk with [illegible] and then I went up

to see the Percy once again. Sure had a good visit with the old boy and when lunch was over we walked up to the Court house and talked until Oscar came up all loaded up and ready to go. We got the ice cream and we were on our way once more. I drove and we wheeled right along; decided to run up to the Duckpond and see Ben for a few minutes; found a lot of culverts out and the road all washed to hell so had to take it easy. Got all mixed up on the roads and wound up at Kombolo where we stopped for a drink and directions; finally got organized and eventually reached the pond and it looks great. Went on up to the well and she sure looks great. No one there but we left some grub and a note for Ben. Headed for home again and we really made good time. Home and we got things all lined up and then we had some supper before we started making arrangements to go on to town. The folks got all packed and we sat around and talked awhile until it was about eleven when we got all set and beat it to town; a lovely night with a full moon and a cool breeze. Went down to the La Moore and got filled up on wine, Mac the cook was there and we really had a fine time. Got pretty mellow before train time as it was over an hour late. Got hungry when we were pretty well filled up so went up to the Diana and had some coffee

July - 13 - Wednesday
At Home

Was a little after three when we rolled in and I was really tired. Slept until about seven when I heard Pa telling Ma not to wake me as I'd be too cranky to work with any way today and he'd rather not listen with me; so I got up and got busy. We had some breakfast and then carried water and got the outfit ready to go again. Hot as hell out and my head gave me hell but we cranked up and got going once more. Pa had a hell of a time trying to run the grader but I said nothing and let him blunder along to suit himself. We made fair time but the water started working thru into the tires and we had more trouble than I felt for all morning. Went as far as the top of Roses hill and did a fair job of scraping her down level; sure was glad when we swung back again and lucky for us a cool wind came up; the old outfit ran pretty hot and we need an air cleaner but we get by. Home for noon and I was just dead tired and how I did ache all over. Ate a good meal and took a half hours rest before we got under way again. Cooler this afternoon and the old outfit ran a little better went back the same way so we could fix the middle of the road up first a little better. Went faster today and the engine gave very little trouble. So we were done and

back in right good season. When we pulled in at quitting time I was plenty glad for I feel almost dead today and my head isn't much better. Got the sheep watered and then we had our supper and was hungry as a wolf again. The meal over I went out to try and fix up the old harrow as we need three sections instead of the two we have been pulling. Was hard at it when Ben drove in as he has his shift in again; got a double shift yesterday when he dropped the tractor in the creek when the creek bank broke off with him. We talked awhile & got all the news then had some more coffee and came in to sit around and read awhile. Was pleasantly surprised when Percy, Bobers little girl, and Elizabeth drove in about nine; we made a big talk but I was just to dead to be very good company. Percy had a letter from his little daughter Coleen and she asked especially to be remembered to me so had another pleasant moment on a rather weary day. Took the folks down to see the kids as it is a beautiful moon lit night and could the mosquitos be eliminated it would be almost perfect tonight. All hands pulled for home about a quarter to eleven and we came on in to get ready for bed. Wonder where the folks are tonight and how they are feeling; sure do miss them and would be in a bad way indeed if we didnt have so much work to do and be able to busy ourselves steadily occupied

July -14- Thursday
At Home

The goddam dogs kept pestering me until I cussed them out then they sat in a circle near the bed like a pack of hungry wolves and watched every move I made until finally I had to get up and let them out: couldn sleep anymore so I got up and at it; was close to ass. We had our breakfast and then got busy. Put the sheep out while I fixed up three sections of harrow and rigged a hitch on them so I could cultivate the Cane. Got the coffee and cookies about nine and then cranked up. Hotter than hell today and to top it the Carburetor wasnt working any too well so the engine ran hot and erratic but I kept pounding away. The weeds as well as the cane are well started so I Couldnt do a hell of a lot of damage to one nor good for the other. Jack came up and on out to see how I was doing; after a word or two with him I kept at it steadily and made good time. It was just about twelve twenty and the tractor was boiling when I called it a day and came on in. didnt think it advisable to cross harrow the cane as it is pretty poor in spots. Went down to the well when I got in to see how Jack and Ben were coming. They had the little engine pumping to beat hell and the water was going down quite rapidly. Was just a little after one when

we came on up to eat. Jack had some long and rather interesting stories to tell so the time went quickly. We finished cleaning the platform and I stripped off and went down to clean out the well; she was filthy again with six inches of silt and fine mud in the bottom and plenty of mud on the sides. Got it washed down then being no very coarse debris the pump took her down nicely to where we had to start on the baling. We finally got her out then staid at it washing the sled baby out thoroughly and kept cleaning it until her flushing was complete and the water came out almost clear. Took a shower as the water was warm as milk for the sun has really poured it on today. Came on up for a few minutes rest and some coffee. Jack invited us over to his place to help him kill a pic-nic bottle of Sheridan beer he had over there so we took him home and had a talk while the beer was cooling in the spring. He had cheese and sausage so we ate and drank until we were satisfied and the beer finished. Home again to get things ready and take some water up to Dad at the wagon. Ben took it up while I finished my odd jobs. We had another lunch and as we were all weary as the devil we called it a day and to bed about ten.

July - 15 - Friday
41 F. 71 C

Woke about seven thirty and felt like a putrid corpse - sick all over and mother of the slaughtered lamb but I had a head. Moped about until breakfast was ready. Done eating we got busy and as it was a cool and cloudy day with a brisk north wind I got busy on the wood pile. Cut away at it until nine - thirty when we had our coffee and hit the ball once more. I gave Ben a hand in repairing the mower as it needed a lot of fixing. Had to dismantle it and clean the parts so we could see what needed to be skimmed, bushed, and washed up a bit. The gears are quite worn but if deeply meshed should cut what little hay we will have here. Ben made a bushing for the drive shaft and he tried to pound it in to the frame and cracked the portion that holds the bushing so I had to rig up a clamp on it. We were busy getting all the necessary washers hunted up when Ma called us in to dinner. Ate a good big meal as usual and had three cups of coffee while I was reading and resting for a little while. I felt so weary I almost fell asleep while trying to read so gave it up and went back to work. Colder again and the wind was brisk as hell.

Got the gearing all back in the mower and then checked up on the wheels and the rachets. Had to make some plates for the sickle head and we finally got her conquied up. Hunted up the old binder trucks I brought down from the Dawson place these many years ago and we put them on; makes quite an outfit out of the old baby and we had quite a time getting things all together so that we could rig a hitch on the damned outfit. Got one hell of a sun and wind burn today as I worked the whole time without a shirt on; going to be raw as hell I can see that so will have to try a little tannic acid solution on her. We picked around until supper was ready and then did eat again. Such a fine cool evening we just could not waste it so went out to hoe in the garden (Ma and I) had just a little of the north side to do and were anxious to get it finished as it looks very much as if it would rain again tonight; clouds low and heavy, the wind down; and the doves and rain hawks all close to the ground and very audible. We quit about eight o'clock and came on in to wash up and rest awhile before going to bed as I'm tired as hell and ache all over just can't seem to feel like myself anymore and I'm always tired out when I'm out here on the old homestead -

July - 16 - Saturday
At Home

We lay abed until about seven and then got up with the usual head. Got some water in and had breakfast. We went to work on the mower again and spent some little time tinkering with it. Decided to get to town and see how things were lineing up so got busy and we were soon shaved up; got some pants that had a rat in them and we were on our way to town. Saw a big rain between us and the city so when we got down to the gravel bench we found her wet and as slippery as hell from then on in. Stanglands were right behind us but no accidents so we all got to the city without further trouble and soon had the flivver parked and made a sashay around to see who was in the city with us. Got the mail and then went on up to the court house but failed to find out very much. Saw Bennett and had a talk with him before we went on down to see how things were going at the Stockman where we had a beer and then as we passed the Palace Inn Werner Carlson stopped us and we had to have another one with him. Went over to the office to see about the wool contract and we found things all fucked up then as usual so we did what we could and went on over to the Elk to take a look around a few some

lunch. Brother Peavy joined us then and we all had a big visit before going on around town for a ride with the kid. When we got all set again we went down to the elevator to see about some odds and ends then went back up to the "La-Moor" for a nice glass of wine and a visit with Harry. Finally wandered back up town and soon had the social amenities performed with a number of old friends. Went down to see Eddie Sos and finally talked him out of a fair 30x5 truck tire he had for $2.50 will do nicely until I get something better. We were all set to go home when we met a few more old friends and the time passed very quickly. We finally got all set and Ben got a sickle for the mower ($3.20) and a drum of fuel oil ($1.00) then we headed for home. Wheeled right along and by the time we were getting tired weary we were home again. Unloaded and then I got busy putting the tire on that we got in town. Soon had it on and hied up then we had our supper. Was Cleaning the old can up and working on it a bit when Dad came on home; had a talk and he is very much disgusted about the wool and the mess the contract is in. We held a confab, had some coffee and then about nine o'clock I took Dad and the pup back up the wagon. Putting the track-layers back to work Monday so it looks as if we might get back to work soon.

July – 17 – Sunday
At Home

Up at seven oclock and found a fine day; got busy at once and soon had things lined up; got breakfast over and the ford ready; then we pulled up to the Camp. Dad was out on the Corner of the Cramer place and the sheep were doing fine. I took over and then Pa and Bee headed for the hole; the sheep were doing very nicely so I strolled around enjoying the beauty of the distant mountains and the wavy grass that sweeps away to the horizon; one of the finest things I have seen in years. The needle grass is frightful to walk thru and the poor dog is so full of it that he is in Constant torture. The sheep headed back toward the water and I saw a couple of sheep get lost from the rest of the band in the long grass so I had to get them together and work them slowly back to the bunch and hold them out awhile. Ira Contouring has done wonders in holding the moisture and it shows on the feed too. Found some fine ripe squaw berries over in the rocks along the Puckett place and and they were not bad eating at all at all. The sheep worked down on to the water about noon so the pup and I went on in to the wagon and I fried up. Took a look around the wagon but found Dad pretty much out of grub. Spotted a can of spaghetti so cooked that and a pot of coffe

and when she was ready I sat up and fed. Gave the pup his lunch and then took him out to read the papers and look around a bit. When I had rested for awhile I got busy again and took a walk down the rim; found a lot of squaw huckleberries dead ripe and good eating so I fed up. Finally went over to the dam where the sheep were all camped on the water and the old baby is full clear to the spillway; a fine body of water and it is a really fine thing for us. The water looks fine and the sheep do great on it. I sat around the rims awhile then lay and dozed in the shade of the little jack pines for several hours. Saw some pack outfits drive up to the Pucketts binders and start pilfering off of them so headed up that way to see what was going on, but before I got there the outfit pulled out. Was sitting on the wagon steps reading when Pa and Ben got back; they went on down home to do some things so I went on out with the sheep as they were pulling off the water. They fed better perfect until almost eight o'clock when I went in to camp again and got my supper. Pa and Ben got back just as I was finishing up so we washed the dishes then Ben and I came on home again and had some writing to do before we got lined up and turned in again. Sure a fine day and with the feed and water herding the sheep is a picnic these days.

July - 18 - Monday
At Home

Crawled out about seven - thirty and I felt just as tough as I usually do; wish I could feel like I should and get some of the lead out of my system. Hot and smokey today and already oppressive as hell. Got a pail of water and then we had some breakfast. Decided to try and get the mower finished today if possible. Hunted up a couple of bearings for the pitman and I had to scrape the babbitt to fit and it was just one hell of a job; took me almost two hours to get her fitted up. Jack and Fitz came about ten - thirty and we took time out for some coffee and then hit the ball again. Hot and a few heavy thunder heads rolling up out of the northwest so made me feel a bit nervous as I wouldn't really care to see any hail just now. Ben made good head way and soon had the old baby in pretty good shape. Knocked off about twelve and came in to rest awhile before we ate. Glad to wash up and sit down as it was so hot and unpleasant. Had dinner over in a short time and then got busy again. Young Dave Jenkins rode in just about one and he is looking for Carlson's cattle as they are lost again. Had a visit

with him and he seems to be quite a nice kid. after he left we went at it again but my pep and enthusiasm left me for he said they would have seven or eight hundred bushels of grain to thrash as well as plenty of hay so when I think of our crop my joy in the day has departed. Ben never gave up and was soon ready to go again. Got the Fordson going and we soon had her hooked up and gave it a trail run or maiden voyage; ran a bit stiff but we soon had her going very nicely. She cut fine but when we hit some really heavy going she has a tendency to pull sideways on us and makes it just a bit awkward but she will work fine with another hitch we made out of an old Ford front axle. Fid her up and had a few little odds and ends to rig up before we called it good. Ma had some coffee ready so we sat up and ate a bit. I cut wood while Ben cleaned out the shop. Dad got home about six-thirty and we had some supper then had the usual bull session over many and sundry things far into the night. Saw a big storm rolling up out of the north-west and it looks as if we are in for something of a shower tonight. Hope it don't rain enough to flood the bush nor hail enough to hurt the feed for we sure do need it now.

July -19- Tuesday
At Home

a bit earlier than usual when we hit it up the morning; plenty of sunshine and the vistages of last nights shower soon evaporated. Got breakfast over and began making preparations for town. Sacked and labeled some lunch for sending to the general freight office of the C. M. and St. Paul and Pacific railroad as they are trying to help us all it so they can get the tonnage. Pa and Ben loaded up what sheep pelts we had and they pulled out about nine. Had some sheep out up near the Kinder place so I beat it up to see how they were doing and had some little time in getting them back in and getting the fence fixed again. Got back and soon was shaved up and ready to roll. Pumped for the sheep and we had a bunch when done. Jack and Ma were ready when I got ready so we took the Chevolet and headed for town once more. The old kettle ran nicely and we made fine time. Stopped at the Court House but found that the poles would not be open until afternoon. So went on down town and got busy on our odd jobs. Saw Matzke and he says we will soon be hitting the ball again which is indeed very good news as we are all pretty hard up now. Met Pa and Ben at the Central and we went on

down to the Elks for some beer and a lunch. Took a turn around the town and Ben got the float for the air cleaner; Cost a nice $2.40 so then the money goes always expenses and nothing coming in. Went over to the old Britton Lumber yard and cast a full democratic ballot at this the primary election & just as I got done Jack came in and we were talking it over when the judges ran us out or rather tried too. Went on up town for another drink and then the folks came by and picked us up and we were on our way over to the store to load up again. Was about three when I went over to the garage and got some gas; met Floyd's brother and we had a talk he sure is one swell guy too. Headed for home and made good time just about four when we got here and the sheep were just pulling away from the well. we took a drive around the pasture but no sheep out so came on home and got busy on the pump again. Ben and Pa got in and we soon had things going. Supper was soon over and then Ben took Jack over to his camp while I put the new float in the tractor and got it ready. Finally called it a day as night came on and we all got set for bed again. Had some notes to make and things to get lined up as Mrs. Neal wants me to go over to Hines for her and get some spring Chickens and take them to town so she can get ready for the Drum Corps banquet.

July-20-Wednesday
At Home

Up about seven and felt weary and out of sorts. Dad corraled the sheep and we lugged out the six bucks; four old ones and two yearlings. This done we got busy and had some breakfast then went up to look on the car a bit. Took the Ford and pulled out for Hewes' a place; stopped at the camp and left the grub then beat it on over to Lewis and found Mrs. H— there alone as the men had taken the chickens and gone on in to town in jig time. Had a few minutes to spend with Mrs. Hewes visiting and then went out to look over the chickens she is raising and they are beauties. Headed on to town and she was hot and heavy going but I made good time and was at the Elk by eleven; caught Jonny just scalding the chickens as he had already killed them and they were ready to pick so we got at it and made time; had another kid to help us so we made good time; soon had the chickens done and then we got busy on the grub and other stuff we needed out. Had some coffee and when done I took a stroll around the town. Back to the Elk and had some dinner before I got busy helping out on the kitchen again. Was getting on toward one o'clock when Percy came down to lunch and I had a conference with

Reim. Took a walk up to the house with the boy and took a look around; back again to the town and ran in to Pany Clark at the Ford garage and he was trying to sell his 1935 Ford 8 Sedan for $375 and it has an over drive and a radio in it too. We had a long talk and Pany seems to be pretty well up against it for money and has a job down in Utah to go to as soon as he can raise the necessary cash. Greener bid was up but he couldnt do much and was too unreasonable to deal with so we went up to see Alvin Sangsather and took him out for a little drive in the car; he seems interested & may try to buy the car. Went back downtown and we had a long talk before going for another ride around. I had to leave Pany as it was getting late and I had to make the stores and get my monkeying around done. Down to the Elks and I soon had the damned car ready; had a beer & then went for home. Reached here to find the folks pulling out as word had come in that an airplane had crashed somewhere up near Elliots so we drove up to see if we could find it; we went on up to Emory and took a look around and stopped for a visit with the people who live in the old Lynch place and they are a poverty stricken looking outfit for sure. Home again and we stopped for a visit with Dad at the wagon and then home and to bed about ten.

June ~~1st~~ – Sat 1940

At Home

Rolled out about the usual time and found another hot day well started. Pumped some water and we had breakfast. Went down to count out the sheep but couldnt get the sons of bitches to go thru the gate and as Ben didnt show up I gave the whole thing up and then went on up to the house. Had three more Jambs last night so got them branded out and then Von and I started work on the shed door but as we needed three bolts so decided to go on to town and get our groceries and the stuff we need right away. The folks wanted to go to town to the show tonight so Von and I took his car and went in the morning. Already hot but we wheeled right along and made good time. Reached the city and got busy at once: left Oscars car to be greased and went on town to do our shopping and we soon had the groceries and such things purchased then hunted up a Cattle for the pump we wanted the other day and that cost us about forty cents. Got my check and had it over to the bank and cashed it – then we went down to the La Moon and had some beer, next to the Hub and so about the town. Finally got the car and got busy loading up – ran into Finco and some more of the boys from the mine and we went over to the Sideboard Inn for another beer and I was feeling pretty good. Was getting close to noon so Oscar and I soon got our stuff loaded up and got ready to go once more. Then we went out to the "Airport Inn" and began drinking again. Hunter, Left, and a few more of our pals were there so we got busy and I felt good so began buying for the house and of course I was drinking "Tom Collins" and was really going to town when some of the Montana Power boys and big Jaggy came in and the fun really got started – they were drinking a mixture that

looked like a whiskey coke to me but they called it a "brown bomber" and it seems to raise hell when it gets in its effective work. We all got pretty well organized and were soon all drunk and boisterous Big Jaggy and the big boy from the Montana Power were always going to fight so I offered to whip the winner and we really had some fun; another little guy with them and he kept things going nicely. I had a real time and kept eating a few sandwiches and killing time until I was just about blind drunk when Oscar suggested that we go home for it was getting quite late and we were really cockeyed. Made good time until we got to Neihart's Corner when either I or dozed off or something went wrong as we shot across the corner, crashed into the fence and rode down the wire for a few rods tearing out posts and wire and just missing a telephone pole. Had to cut the wires loose from around the wheel and found only a fender bent and the paint scratched off the right side of the car. Was so drunk I had a hell of a time getting up off the ground. Got about half way home when I got sick to my stomach and boy but I did heave and twist as I was really desperately ill. Finally came out of it and we came on home. Don't remember much about what the home coming was like but took one armload of stuff in and collapsed on the lounge and must have passed out. Came out of it about ten o'clock and boy but I was feeling rocky. Had just had a hail storm and a shower so I felt a little relieved for it has been hell to see the country drying out: one reason why I drank so much. Saw George Morgan today and he tells me to get out while I'm still young enough" for age creeps up on us in a hurry and you sunk.

June — 2 — Sun
At Home

Woke with a series of night mares and wild dreams and really felt tough. Got up, pulled some clothes on and then went out to retch and twist and vomit as I am too empty to have anything left to vomit. Got eased down a bit and then came on in to take on a real breakfast and as it all stayed down I really ate a big meal. Cool and wet out as we had a pretty nice shower last night. I helped Ben gather up the sheep and we put them out on Prewitts and it was just 7:15 when we got them on the feed. I came in back and got busy catching up on my notes. Was rather surprised when it began to rain again a very slow and easy shower that was warm and fine and really did soak things up in nice shape. Too wet to do much of anything if we had felt like it so I took her nice and quiet - read for a short time but was too sleepy to do anything but tried to read as I'm getting so far behind that I never will catch up again. Tried to find the booklet and letter from the Universal Credit Corporation that we got with the Ford but to save myself I can't find it: that is one of the most serious drawbacks about this place: the fact that once anything is laid down it is lost forever and for always. Gave it up eventually and went back to my reading and to the sheer luxury of hearing the rain on the roof as it slowly soaked up the earth. If we could only get about a week of this it would really do us a lot of good. Ma got dinner ready at twelve and we really had a fine big meal and how we did enjoy it. I ate until I felt stuffed then took the Buick and the Ford and was on my way. Found it pretty slippery getting up the hill but I finally made it and found Bert on the SE¼ of section 31.

Took over and found the sheep doing splendidly; it warmed up and the sun came out nicely for a few minutes but it soon clouded up again. Had a magazine so lay in a quiet place and read for a couple of hours then got up and made my rounds but the sheep just didn't seem to care to travel so I threw the stragglers back and went back to my reading but got so sleepy I can hardly get my sense out of the written word - I'm always afraid to sleep any for fear that I wont wake up and the lunch will scatter all over hell. Had a sick lamb but couldn't find anything wrong with the little devil. Had a hell of a time holding the pup down as he was determined to be busy all the time and romps around all the time. Saw a few cars on the road so it cant be too muddy but as usual we don't have the time to go anywhere. about eight o'clock Ben came out and I drove home to a big supper and as usual I over-ate and felt thoroughly miserable. Had a good time with the Jello program and the war news is encouraging as the allies seem to have the Germans checked again and it begins to look as if the star of Hitler is about to be eclipsed and here's hoping that when they get thru with Germany the time there will be no chance of it ever bidding up to a world power again. We sat around and talked until about ten thirty and all of us were dead for sleep but have to get our work done before we can turn in. How I wish I could sleep again until I can get rested up and feel like I used to some ten years ago - perhaps I never will feel that old snap again - no doubt this is old age and nothing can be done about it.

June-3-Mon
At the Elk

Rolled out at the usual time and as weary as always - lost no time in getting the water pumped. Breakfast came in due time and then we decided to count the sheep so I got out my little counting machine and we got the sheep together and put them out the gate over the water and the tally outfit works like a charm: five hundred and forty one head in the bunch and with what we have sold makes us about five fifty all told so we are not doing too badly. A cool fine day and well clouded over so the sheep wanted to run and I held them up so they didn't get too badly scattered before May and Aunt Rose came out to take them over as they were going to head while we went over to Rosie's to fix up the pump. Ben had the pick-up loaded with tools and we were soon on our way. Was raining a little by the time we got there but it didn't bother our fixing the pump. Wasn't long in getting the tackle rigged up and then found that the joints were plenty stiff and rusted but finally got her broke loose and we put a few half hitches on the pipe with a chain and used our wire stretchers to pull the pipe with: pretty heavy going but we soon got the first length up and apart: screwed together until hell wouldn't have it and the rods were screwed up until the threads were stripped. We had one hell of a time getting the pipe all out but then was over eighty feet of it and she was really rusty as hell: finally made it and found that the piston rod in the cylinder had rotted and corroded in two. Cleaned up the leathers and the cylinder while Ben cut and threaded a piece of rod to fit. Then we reassembled the outfit and got busy putting her back in again and this proved quite a little slower than raising it as we had trouble getting the chain to slide and the jack to work smoothly. Was about half done when Otto Knoll drove in and he stopped to watch us for awhile as he was needing some help and piloting

to check up on Rosies wheat as it is to be measured and checked over for the wheat allotment program again this year. We made good time and soon had the pump back in the well then I rode up around the wheat with him and we soon had her lined up and ready. It was about one oclock when we headed for home again and made it in fine as it had quite raining. Was astounded when Aunt Rose came out to meet us, burst into tears and said Aunt Lil had died this morning - Percy bringing a telegram out to us from Russell - Poor little Lily she had such a hard time of it and has suffered so much - yet it is hard to think of her as being dead. We came on in to eat and talk things over but the folks decided that neither Mahon Aunt Rose will be able to go back to the funeral as we are all busy and rather pressed for the necessary funds as well. Lunch over we had a lot of timbering around to do then it began to look pretty stormy and we were pretty much afraid of the rain so the folks decided to have me go on in and send a telegram to poor Russell and let him know that they couldn't get there so I shaved and got cleaned up just a little before I pulled out for town about six oclock. Rained on me most of the way in and I made good time. I was too tired and felt lonely and despondent so I didn't look for any boon companions on any booze and the time went by quickly. Had supper at the Elk and did a little visiting with the bunch before I drove up to Bennetts to leave him his beer bottles as he wasn't at home. Sent the wire to Russell and about ten had a big malted milk and beat it up to my old room and to bed as I'm completely worn out and feel very, very sick and low-

June — 4 — Tues
At Home

Woke about seven but decided that as I had the opportunity I would lie in bed for awhile longer so it was about eight when I got up and washed. Jony was awake so we had a long talk and then I went down to breakfast and had some toast and ham. It was a clear and lovely day but promising to be plenty hot before very long. Done eating I was just about ready to go up town when Eleanore came in with a telegram for Oscar so I took it in charge and then got busy. Went up to the office and signed up for another week of unemployment compensation — Mrs. Veal had a couple of errands for me to do; so I made the rounds and of course there was plenty of people to meet and the time slipped away too quickly. Met Alec Wilderman at the Central and he told me of a Fordson tractor that the Brown kid has so made up my mind to go down and see about it as soon as possible. I was worried about Oscars telegram & Mrs. Veal kept me waiting around while she made up her mind what she wanted me to do next. There are times when she really gets me nervous with her monkeying but she's such a good friend and I think so much of her that I can't turn her down. I finally got organized and about eleven-thirty I beat it for home and I really wheeled along for the roads were dry but not dusty: felt lousy as hell for I've been talking to the boys about the Air Corps and the velvet I'll get that the government pitches up for those lads and the money they are paid for what little that they do is pitiful and here we are the poor bastards that have nothing, work so hard, and make so little have to pay the bill and keep these lousy lads in luxury but suppose that's the way it will always be for that is how it has always been. Got home shortly before lunch time and found the folks all hard at it and lunch just about ready.

Fois telegram was identical with ours and told of Aunt Lil's death so all my haste was unnecessary We ate and decided to go back to town as Oscar wants to get his Car fixed and ready for the trip back to the Coast so he went on in ahead and when the women folks were ready I took the pickup and we headed for town - made it in to Jimmys and filled the flivver up on gas and she held thirteen gallon again sure has a thirst on the old baby. Had a long talk with the bunch at the Kobuk then Von headed for home, Nya went up to the Knieppis while Aunt Rose and I headed out east of town for Brown's ranch. Found things pretty quiet around the place and when I found Alec he said that the kid was out in the bull mountains moving sheep and he doesn't know what the boy would want to do about the old outfit. Trip for nothing but we had a ride out of it anyway. Rolled for town again and stopped at Knieppis to pick up Nya, down to the Elk for some ice cream and soon had things lined up and beat it up town. Met Percy and several friends up town so we talked until about six before we finally got headed for home again. Jim flew and we hurried right along but still it was a bit late when we finally got home and got busy on the chores. These were soon done and then we had supper. I went down to water the sheep and Ben came on in to eat. Damned if we didn't have three more lambs today and all big husky babies too. Got done with the water about nine o'clock and I came on up to read and talk with Von awhile but he went to bed a bit early today so after a talk with Rose we all turned in. The folks are grieving over the loss of Aunt Lil now and I feel for them as it is pretty tough to loose the youngest sister of the family and tho she was so sick.

June — 5 — Wed

At Home

Up at five to go down and pump for the sheep and found a raw cloudy day with a cold north west wind. Got the well pumped dry and then came up to find the gang all set for breakfast. Finished the whiskey and pineapple juice then we ate and took our time as this is our last meal together for a year or so I suppose. Breakfast over we helped the folks to get all loaded up and ready to roll then at eight o'clock they started and we all felt pretty tough for we always feel bad when they go and I know how badly they hate to leave here even if they don't have much fun around the old place. After they had gone we sat for a few minutes feeling the empty loneliness of the old place and how quiet and sad it feels - just as if someone had died and left us forever. Went out to get busy feeling rather sad and very lonely. Watered the sheep and got things all in shape and then decided as it was raining and cold to leave the sheep in the back pasture and fix the door on the big shed. Hunted up our bolts and the tools and in a short time we had her up and all hung nicely - the west door was in worse shape so we had to hunt up some irons and brace it up a little before we could call it any kind of a job. Got to get ready for shearing so we took out our lambing jugs and pens and soon had the place pretty well cleared out - then got the hay, and manure dug out and threw it out in the middle of the shed so it would be ready to haul away as soon as we can get a quiet day and the time to work on her for awhile. When we had things pretty well lined up we called it a day and came on up to eat as we were both of us plenty hungry and always we are tired out - can't seem to get rested up or regain any of our old pep or drive anymore. Time passed quickly and back at it again at two -

Decided as it was cold and windy that we couldn't haul any dirt out of the shed so we got the big wooden pump we had recalled loaded up and got what tools we needed then shot it up to the spring on 31. Pulled the Iowa pump out and after a little rearranging put the wooden pump in and she really makes a nice job and does it throw the water but one side is cracked so badly that it leaks so if it doesn't soak up we will have to caulk the old baby. The pump set us cleaned the troughs and it was a mess of a job as an old bear I left out on the range had come back and got down in the trough full of water and passed in her chucks. She was rotten spooked and a bit high but still I got her skinned. Had to fix the troughs up a little and carried some rock to calk the old outfit up with: got her done about four o'clock and then we gathered up our stuff & came on home again. Was busy feeding the cats and dogs some rabbit when Carl Stadgland rode in looking for his bull as a buyer for him came over from Billings the morning and the bull got away last night so the poor devil had to drive home empty as Carl couldn't find the damn bull anywhere. Had supper and then I went out to make my rounds thru the back pasture and found a couple of Hereford asleep in the brush the dogs caught one of them for me and I tied him down but they let the other little devil get away on us but he may make it in anyway sometime tonight. Done about dark and as usual I am plum tired out. Lonesome as the devil with the folks gone but we soon will be with each other again so must keep going "Carry on" as the English say. All hail up and to bed at ten - thirty for we are always pooped out lately.

June – 6 – Thurs
At Home

The weary flesh was resurrected about six and was soon busy with the breakfast. Done eating I beat it down to pens for the sheep as we thought it a good idea to fill them up before going out on the range. Had a family round the issue argument and we failed to make up our minds as to what we wanted to do about the Fordson but the wrigley found Ben out disking the truck patch in the back pasture with the Hudson while I with dogs, stones, and curses got the sheep out on the Pickett place again: they were all set to run all over hell but I soon took the old foolishness out of them in a hurry and they settled down to feed while I got my inevitable magazine out and began to read again: the time passed quietly as it was a cool and cloudy day and the sheep fed well. Saw a nice big shower coming out of the southwest so I beat it to the shelter of the big rocks on the north side of the central butte. Settled down to eat my lunch, rest, and wait for the shower to pass. It lasted only a few minutes and really didn't do us much good for it was only a light shower but as usual it gets plenty cold. When the shower passed I went after the sheep and paraded them down toward the water as they seem never to get started or offer to go to water. Got almost down to the spring when another pretty heavy shower hit me and I took shelter alongside of a big rock and read as the water spattered down on me: got pretty damp before the storm passed: came out of shelter to find the bitches had pulled away from the water and were headed back up to the hills again – made me really angry so I went out after them and this time we really made the water: but as I had expected they didn't water very fast nor seem to care very much for a drink due no doubtly to the wet grass and cool day. Held them in around the well for a couple of hours until I was definitely certain all had a drink that wished it then let them pull northeast again.

Came up on the hill to see how the sheep was making it and a car drove up - proved to be young Hamilton and a couply of shearers out looking for some sheep to work on but our job is already promised - talked awhile and I said a lot more than I should have and cursed this County plenty for its lack of rain. After the boys pulled out I went on around the sheep and found them doing just fine so I went on up to the wagon as I was cold, hungry, and very much discouraged with life. I tied up and soon had some supper cooked and while we ate another heavy shower came on and lasted quite awhile. Ben came up and took over so I beat it on home, ate a bit more and sat down to read for a little while - Ben got in about nine as he said the sheep were so near the gate he put them in here and then is another heavy shower coming on - the old boy looks bad - he seems tired, and sluggish as if he had a heavy cold or was about ready to drop from weariness. Too much grind I'm afraid with no rest or relaxation to help out he is about worn down to the thin edge - He has us worried for I'd sure hate to see the kid get down now when he is just getting buried up in the money. Ma is very blue and unhappy tonight as all news broadcasts are pleading for americal funds for red Cross relief for millions of Europeans while there is a pitiful plea for the families in America that can do so to take some of the children and make homes for them here in America: how can we help anyone when we have so many millions that need help right here at home - it is impossible even to think about it. Busy until about ten o'clock and to bed feeling just a little better as it is raining again and things look pretty nice again: fortunately the moisture came in time to save our oats - Ma and Ben put in quite a little garden stuff again so it will get a nice start.

June – 7 – Fri
At Home

Cloudy and I could see fog along the river: sure fun to see things wet again and the grass looks fresh and fine once more. We had breakfast and then I got my outfit together, packed a lunch and got ready to get out on the range but the sheep didn't leave the bed ground so I got some tools and took the trunk off the Hudson as I plan to use it for a trunk up in the sheep wagon as we need a mouse proof container so we can leave some clothes and supplies up there. Got her off and then took it easy until the sheep finally pulled out and I tailed in behind them. Was soon out on the range and they headed for the wheat grass but I was just a little bit afraid of it as she was plenty wet so held them until they got a little other food in their bellies and the grass dried up just a bit then let them go. Had a couple of true detective magazines with me so the time passed very nicely only I had to take a walk around the sheep occassionaly as it is plenty raw and cool out now. Had a shower come up on me suddenly so I beat it down to the bridge on the Pickett place and sat under it out of the rain but the breeze was plenty cool blowing there. Read until the storm was over and then gathered my pets up again and found a good patch of grass where I could sit down and ate my lunch. The dogs stuck right with me and had quite a time dividing up with them. Just as I read until we got hit with another shower then dashed to the bridge again and put in a good hour or so under the leaky bitch reading and when it quit had to get out and stop around again. Great to have these showers even if it is momentarily disagreeable. Had the sheep nicely settled and was reading avidly when Bob, Grace

Calvin Monfield drove up and we had quite a long visit - the kids amuse and refresh me with their chatter of love and excitement and all their affairs of the heart. After they had gone I finished my magazine and it began to rain again. Could see the heavy grey blanket of the storm lower all around us so I began pushing the sheep toward the gate in the back pasture. Began to rain harder and harder so I got plenty soaked before I made it in home. Supper was all ready so as soon as I had changed into day things I ate a good meal and got a big shot of muscatelle. The radio was fair tonight so got the good news and the French have stopped the Germans but a fierce battle rages over the 125 mile front and the loss of life is horrible - how long this carnage and slaughter can last is a matter of conjecture but it really is astounding in its proportions to say the least. Feel a little better tonight but I'm still fearfully tired and can hardly stay awake when I try to read - how disgusted I used to get at those old farmers that fell asleep while you talked with them and now I'm just as bad - much as I hate it I just can't seem to come out of it. Busy until it was about ten and then prepared for bed once more. Wonder when the Bulgars do tonight and if Janet made it to Roundup yet hope I can get to town in the morning and see what has transpired. These rains are just what we need however and should find no fault if they continue for the next three months but then it just couldn't be like that no matter what change was made in the world. War news and still more war news as the bloody conflict rages on -

June - 8 - Sat
At Home

Woke about six to hear the rain slicing down on the roof like a real old time storm and did it sound fine. Could hear the water pouring down in the kitchen like a shower bath and then damned if a couple of good sized leaks didn't develope right over the bed and I had to get up and hunt some cans to catch it in. Jesus what a hovel it just leaks like a sieve and there isn't a damned thing we can do about it unless we rebuild the roof which would take a lot of time and money. Breakfast over it had quit raining a little but a raw hard wind was roaring in out of the northwest so Ben made up his mind to take the sheep out south in the pinecales on the Hendee place. I had several odd jobs to do and then being too wet to do much I got busy on the wood pile and wasn't long in getting some wood cut. Wish we had invested in a buzz saw but we still are pretty good at the primative old methods and can hack away nicely and at that make a pretty good showing in a couple of hours. Too cold and windy to be very comfortable so I finally gave up the wood pile and came on in to rest a bit. Had some coffee and lunch then sat down to read awhile. I'm really getting lazy these days and can't seem to get much sleep or pep developed - just tired all the time and try as I will I don't seem to feel like even moving unless absolute necessity requires it. Had made up my mind to get on early dinner and then go out to Ben and give him a chance to come in and warm up but just before we were ready to eat he came on in and said that the sheep were nicely settled down up in the Points out of the wind so we would have plenty of time to eat before we had to go back out again. It was about twelve - thirty when we ate and then all gathered around the fire trying to get warmed up again: Sure one cold son of a bitch and no foolin'.

would have liked to run down town to see if Janet had by any chance reached our fair city but we knew the roads would be terrible so decided we had better let it dry up until tomorrow morning and then try it. Ben got the truck ready and we drove out to where the sheep were scattered like the lost tribes of Isreal and both got busy gathering them up. Ben scares me with the chances that he takes on those woolies but some how he seems to get away with it most of the time. The sheep settled we selected a fine dead tree up on the Smith place and tipped it over - fine dry wood and it cut fast and easy so we made her up in three stove lengths and got it loaded - picked up what small stuff we could use and then Ben took the truck in and I went down after the sheep they were all over hell again so had to get busy and gather them up - Really got cloudy and cold again with the wind still raw and very unpleasant all the time. Fed the bunch feed and spent my time hunting up Magpie nests and killing the young ones - Burning the brush out of the dead and down timber and so was busy until about eight-thirty when the sheep went on in and I came home. Found all the Andersons here and they had just come over to bull-shit with us awhile as it has been sometime since we made each other a visit. I ate and then we spent the time talking, drilling, herding sheep, and discussing the neighbors and the time went by in a hurry. It was after eleven when the folks pulled out for home - we had a couple of chickens to pick and a few odd jobs to do before we could call it a day and both Ben and I beat it to bed like a couple of loafers and left Ma up still moping and cleaning up the place - always tired -

June — 9 — Sun
At Home

Rolled out as usual and it was a really cold and windy morning so got the breakfast over as soon as I could then cleaned the chickens and did up a few odd jobs. Shaved and as soon as Ma and I could get ready we pulled out for town to see if Janet was in town. We made good time and found the little lady at Knieppis and found her looking better than ever and twice as lively. We soon had the line up and I went down town for the mail then when Janet got ready we pulled out for home. Stopped at Carlson's for some fruit and then at the Airport Inn and found Jack on the job and a few more boys in there drinking. Janet and I had three tom Collinses and Ma drank Cherry pop then we got the Wurlitzer going and danced a few times in the new dance hall and it's a really nice little floor. Jay had a nice time with Jack but Ma was all for going home so we pulled out and rolled right along — had shaved up and warmed quite warm out so the sheep were coming in to water and Ben soon got in and we had some lunch then sat around and talked for awhile before Ben went out to the sheep while I helped Tommy and Gio pal load up the model A ford on a big trailer he had and he pulled out for town with it. So she left us for the last time. I washed my hair and Janet trimmed me up a bit as we plan to go back to town again this evening for a little celebration. Cleaned up I listened to Mc Carthy on the radio. and then went out to Ben and the sheep at the lower end of 33. They fed in slowly and it was about eight-thirty when I got in: ate a bite and was soon washed up and ready to go: didn't have a suit at home that I could locate so had to wear my white cadaroya and they don't look too tough. Drove in to town in a jig time and soon had ourselves in the Airport Inn and there was quite a crowd in there so the fun was high. We started in drinking Tom Collinses and soon Janet and I were dancing again.

and our old sugar pie can dance as well and even more fun than ever. Felt like a real homecoming to have the kid in my arms again. That is a real dance hall and as soon as I had a couple of shots into me I felt the old urge to step it off again and we had a lot of fun. For some reason the drinks didn't seem to have their old potency for I didn't get as drunk as I usually do. The time flew past as we danced and drank and as in the dear old days I could not help but make love to Janet for she has always been very dear to my heart and always will be. Between dances we would razz Brown and tell stories. Janet kept demanding cherries on her Dom Co's but Brown was out and assured her there wasn't a cherry in town. He told the kid had been busy all winter. Things quieted down after awhile and we sat by talking, telling stories and having a lot of fun with the bunch. Went over to the Chicken Coop and we had a good lunch and of course had no end of fun over there. Back to dance awhile and have a couple more drinks then the time crept past and it was

June -10- Mon
At Home

Ran into a Consolidated truck driver and he was pretty well lit up so he and Ben had a lot of fun talking things over. We all drank together and the hours flew past. Jan and I went for a ride around the town and of course had to steal out for a few moments of delightfully heavy petting for I dearly love to neck our darling. For she really knows her stuff. Back to the airport and found Kirk had just come on duty and he was really lit up in a big way so we had to have a few drinks and razz him awhile. Was getting

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April -1- Friday
at the Elk

four o'clock. Undressed and went back to bed where I slept until about eight o'clock then rolled out and got busy. Shaved and cleaned up a bit and went down to clean out the stoker and get some breakfast. The new cook can make some great hot cakes and I really did enjoy them. Breakfast on I made a trip or two up town and while up there went up to the office and drew my pay. Just $13.46 and was I really discouraged with it. Went over to Neitzels and then got a shirt and a couple pair of gloves. On down the line and got my magazines and my pay was pretty well shot and no mistake. On down to the Elk and gave Mrs. Veal ten dollars on my board so did what I could to keep things going. I went upstairs to read awhile and the folks came in just then so we had a family chat and finally went down for some ice cream and a big talk. Decided to do what we could toward buying the land when it comes up for sale and spent a pretty busy couple of hours at it. The folks had to go on to Hunt office at one-thirty to see about fixing up the papers on our loans for the sheep so when they went I came on down to eat some dinner and give Tony a hand on the stacking of spuds & apples.

Everything lined up so I got the car ready and when Kelly came off shift about three o'clock I took her up home and she wanted to drive around a bit so we went for a little ride out north of town & met the folks going out. Took a drive here and there around town and finally wound up at Kelly's about five-thirty. Left the kid and came on down to the Elk where we got lined up for the evening. Was going to take Joe up to Lewistown tonight but he doesn't care to go tonight so we made arrangements for tomorrow night. Went for a ride with Percy and he picked up a guy named Beckett who is a state auditor here for a short time and we had quite a visit with him. Back to camp about eight and I had some supper as I was getting plenty hungry. Helped with the dishes and odd jobs then we went for another ride and was all around the country taking in the prize fights on the radio. Got some good stuff and finally wound up at the Elk once more. Frank, Beckett, and a bunch of the boys were making whoopee so joined them and we told a few stories before we called it a day and got things organized and got ready for bed. Feel pretty tired for all that I didn't do much today. Getting colder again but we think it will warm up again before long. Turned in about eleven-thirty and had plenty sleep indeed - Two days this week -

April - 2 - Saturday
at the Elk

up at 5:20 and soon had things in shape for the morning run. Ashes out and breakfast over I got my lunch and headed for work. Soon changed and ready to go down. Got in about a quarter to eight and was very pleased to find our place cut and shot again as the night shift had cleaned it up and put her in shape. Got the rock picked and was all set when Ted brought us our first car. Hit the ball and we really went after it. Was pleased indeed to find that the bottoms came up very nicely so took her up as we went in. The diamond room has been steadily widened out until it is all of thirty feet wide now. Was pounding away at it when August Baldini came in to join us and we were glad indeed of the help. Hit it steady as Ted really poured the cars to us this morning. Had eight cars gone and the ninth one partly loaded when the old call for lunch sounded down the slope and we all knocked off for lunch again. The usual heated banter and the telling of stories while we were taking it a little easy. Had a lot of fun with the lunch before it was time to hit the ball again. The coal was well shot and came handy so we made good time. Didn't keep Ted waiting but a few minutes and had our cars

all used up by two-thirty. The rest of the crew from the slope cleaned up and came down to help us a little while. Too many men so Jed took some of them up to the seventh and when we cleaned up our place we had eighteen cars out and a half hour still to go so had to go up on the sixth and load part of a car out of room ten. Glad when quitting time came and we could roll for the top again. Washed up and rode home with Harry. Found Percy, Joe, Beckett, and Frankie all waiting for me to go with them to Livistown so ~~I~~ hurried thru supper. Threw my clothes on and we were on our way. The boys had the usual horse play and story telling so the time passed quickly and we found plenty of snow as we neared Livistown. Found the town dull as hell and full of snow and slush. Got Joe up to his place and then took Beckett to his hotel. Wandered around the town awhile taking in the sights then about eight-thirty we picked Joe up at the Green Lantern and were on our way home by 8:40. Beckett staid in Livistown to work. Had the barn dance on the radio on our way back and had a real ride. Rolled in to town about 10:20. Had a lunch and a spot of coffee then I got my chores all lined up and about one o'clock I called it a day and rolled in. Got plenty snow out for home trip with us from Livistown also.

April - 3 - Sunday
at the Elk

Rolled out about eight and felt rather weary but soon had things lined up again and wasn't long in getting the stoker lined up and breakfast over with. Came on up to the room and caught up with my notes before I went after some of the stories I've been collecting and got them all down in the book and ready. A swell day out so I went down to see how things were coming and found Percy here so I had a talk with him and then we went for a little ride in the country and around the town everyone and his brother out looking around and enjoying the glorious weather. Back to the Elk about two o'clock and I was hungry as the devil so took on some dinner. The boys were anxious for a ride down to the fair ground so I filled the old car up on water and took them down. They practiced pitching and catching and boy do they put them in. They had a hell of a time telling each other what was wrong and why. Back down to the Cafe and then took Frankie down to Newton's so he could go hiking up on the mountains. Back to the camp and I had some odd jobs to do before it was time to take Kelly home again. We went up and she got her new blue slacks and do they fit. Like the paper on the wall. Talked awhile with her folks before

we went out to ride around awhile. Got ambitious so drove down to the old flour mill when we stopped to look things over a bit then went on down to Gage where we stopped for some candy. Headed back to town thru the hills over by Casto and up by no. 4. Drove in and stopped a minute to look at the place when we used to live up in Barnegan Coulee and find it all shot to hell now and pretty well cleaned out. Toots tore her new slacks while we were investigating & felt quite badly. Back to town and down to the Elks for a spot of lunch; then Dr beat it upstairs and changed clothes. Took Kelley up home so she could get her things and then we came on back down town and went to the show. Saw "Wells Fargo" and it was really a great picture that I really did enjoy. The show over we went down to the La Moor and met Bob M— and his wife both badly lit up and feeling great. We all went up to the Grand to look around and have a beer but Kelley wouldn't drink anything but pop. Left there and went for a little ride around the town and finally took a turn up by the golf course. Back to Kelleys and we sat in front of the house and talked until about three o'clock when I came on down to camp; got the stoves and everything lined up and then went to bed about 2:30 very well tired out. Had quite a day today at that.

April - 4 - Monday
At the Elk

Up at eight and felt plenty weary but still couldn't sleep so I rolled out and went down to rig up the stoker and have some breakfast. Done eating I had a couple of errands to do for Mrs. Veal before I went down to fill the flivver with oil and water; made a dash up to the court house and when I got back Joe, Jong, Frankie and I piled Joe's suitcases in the old chevy and Mrs. Veal gave me a couple of dollars for gasoline and we were on our way to ~~Leadstown~~ Lewistown. Drove right along and had a lot of fun listening to Frankie sing and raise hell while he drummed on Joe's bags in the back seat. Made good time at that as we held around forty all the time. Stopped at 'Fisli's' for a glass of beer and then was on our way again. Got colder and windier as we rolled along. about ten miles out of the range we had a flat tire so had to stop and put the spare tire on. Rolled on again but could feel the steady bumping of the boot that I had on the spare and it was plenty tough going; we rode along holding our breath and hoping for the best but about ten miles out of Lewistown she blew out. Tried to fix our first flat and found it in a hell of a shape; all full of holes. Hans patched it but had to use all the patching

material we had to do it. Got the pumps out and the first stroke Frank broke the pump handle so we were indeed s.o.l. Used the spare tire clap as a handle and managed to get a little air into the tire and got it on. Did we pull for left nut and pray for luck as we rolled slowly and carefully along: got a knot in my guts from the strain. But miraculous as it seems we made it to Swistown. Took Joe up to his place and then went back down town and began the rounds of the places looking for a used tire at a price we could afford to pay. Finally spotted one and Tony got the tire and tube for three dollars; also and extra tube for six bits. While the boys were putting the tire on we went over to the "Green Lantern" and had a bite to eat. Had a couple of bocks and then I went out to rustle some tires patching and then rejoined the boys and we took a turn around the town looking the place over. About four o'clock we pulled out for home and wheeled right along; clouded up and was spitting snow when we reached Grass range and stopped for some potato chips, beer, and music. On again and Tony did a smooth job of wheeling us along; rather enjoyed the ride home even if it was cold and stormy. Reached town about eight and beat it right home to supper. Was surprised when Mary Keeler quit on us tonight so things are going odd on us. Everything lined up and we went to bed about midnight. Really turned out tough

April - 5 - Tuesday
at the Elk

Woke about eight thirty so rolled out to shave and get cleaned up. Had my ashes out by nine o'clock then a bite of breakfast and made a trip or two up town. Cloudy and overcast with a raw east wind blowing so was glad I didn't have too much wandering around to do. About ten I slipped up to Maylon's and had a talk with the boys then, then went on up to the Court House where the land sale was being held and I found quite a jam there and all bidding to beat hell on the worthless damned land. About eleven the bidding died down and then I went in and had McCleary sell me the SW 1/4 of 32-7-23 and paid $24.00 down on it and then got the contract made out so was all set again; felt pretty much elated so beat it back down town and stopped in to pay a few little bills as I went back to the city. Glad to get things squared up. Back to the Elk and found we have a new dish washer already and she seems to be a pretty nice kid at that. Tried to pay Tony back for the tire that he bought for me yesterday but he just wouldn't take the money; some kid that one and I really appreciate him too. A little prowling around the place and got my notes made up before I beat it back up town and sent my order to Sears, Roebuck, & Co. Storm as hell out so went back to camp and met

Percy at lunch and when done eating he took me out for a ride around the town. Had him drop me off at Vonholts office and I went up to see the doctor for a few minutes to see if he could do anything for me. He had me standing on my toes, etc. for awhile then said I had bad arches; Slipped a wide piece of tape on my foot and sent me over to get some arch supports over at Hambles. Back to camp and I got the old chivvy ready so I rank and I could go down to Jeffs for a shower. Just as we got done Pete McMullen and Dick the timberman came out so we waited until they had taken a shower and then took them up home. Was about four-thirty when I went up after Kelley and brought her down to the Elks to work a couple of hours until seven; when I took her back up home. We drove out on the gravel stretch and had to run out of gas just over the big hill; was debating what to do when a bird I know came along and I got enough gasoline from him to get on in to town. Where I stopped at the Harper station for some more. Drove down to the Bungalow for malted milk, coffee and chocolate cake. Took a ride around town again and we were all over before we finally stopped in front of Kelleys where we sat and talked until almost one-thirty. when I beat it back to camp to have some tomato juice, fix the stove and to bed. Percy got a five dollar and fifty-four cent refund on that land lease so that made the price of it a lot less indeed.

april - 6 - Wednesday
at the Elk

Bounced out sharply at five-thirty and soon had the stokes lined up and breakfast over. Then I beat it down to the mine with my bucket on my arm. Found the boys all getting lined up so I was soon in my pit clothes and ready to go. Jack told me to go to the sixth when I got down so as soon as we were in away I went. Spotted a car and was about all set when he came up and told me to go back to the slope as we were short of men up here so I beat it back to where I had been working and we gave her hell. Four cars out and then we put in some track and got it all set. I was working the middle today and found it not too bad. We pounded away until lunch time which seemed to come quite suddenly today. While the boys were at lunch we had to record argument over Bolich's muck and then it seems that after Lawrence Robinson committed suicide that his folks sent his card in to see if this local of the U. M. of A. will pay his burial expenses - so now we are up against it to decide whether or not he is a member of our local; this battle lasted until time to go back to work and then we hit the ball once more and loaded to beat hell about two-thirty Jack Boyle came down to see us and he was checking up he said on the men that

were loading only four or five cars per day and when we told him that we loaded five apiece he began arguing and wanted to know why we couldn't load six; he and Bolick really got into it before he pulled out. Finished cleaning up the place and had fifteen cars and about half a car to throw back. Caught the man trip out and took a good wash up before I caught a ride home with Harry. Stopped at the La-Moore for a few shots of wine and I got pretty well filled up before I got thru. Came on back to supper and was really hungry. Borrowed Percy's car and went up after Kelley and while she was working I shaved up a little and got cleaned up a bit. At seven-fifteen I took the bed up home and she got her slacks then we came on down to the La-Moore where I had a few more shots and got all set for the night. We went to the show and I was really feeling good. Saw Bull Dog Drummonds Revenge and another looney picture then got ourselves down to the Bungalow for some lunch. Was about eleven thirty but we went for a ride around the country anyway and it was about twelve when I left the kid at her old homestead and came on down to do up my chores and get ready for bed. Helped the boys clean up the stove and the stove pipe before I beat it up to bed at two o'clock and rolled in feeling plenty punk. Forgot to take my clothes off and slept until it

April - 7 - Thursday
at the Elk

was five - thirty. I felt like hell so I pulled my clothes off and went back to bed. Mrs. Veal called me at nine and asked me to take young Hunter home. Got the car ready and on the way out I picked up Mary Krevic and took her along out. Back to find I had a couple of phone calls so I got busy at once. Ate some breakfast and beat it up to Cameron's; found her busy trying to get things lined up so I gave her a hand at once. Moved all of the furniture out and then took the old linoleum up and moved it out. This done I got the floor all swept carefully and we washed it up and also the base boards. Put down three thicknesses of newspaper and then the new and very beautiful linoleum. Had some trouble making it lay down but we managed and finally got it set. Nearing lunch time so Mrs. Cameron sent me to the Elk for some beer and sandwiches. While I was down here at camps I had a couple of bowls of soup and quite a line of bull with Oscar the cook and we had no end of a jolly time. Couldn't stay to take Kelly home so I gave her the keys to the car and went back to work again. Got Frank down and we had some lunch and drank our beer. He is the usual pile of shit and I get weary listening to him. Finish I moved the furniture back and got busy on the kitchen as the walls need washing down. Had

plenty of soap and warm water and washed hell out of them. Mrs. Cameron says this is the cleanest they have ever been. Got done about five-thirty and cleaned up the place. Went down to the White Garage to see what Tommy wanted and found he has a new book keeping system he wants me to keep for him. We talked it over and then I got it all set and took her down to camp to study up. Cleaned the stoker and had some supper as I was about starved. Supper over I helped with a few of the dishes and then got busy on my notes. Time to take Kelley home about eight so took Tony for a ride up thru town first and when we got back I took Kelley for a ride around the town and we had quite a visit at that. Parked in front of her place and spent a couple of hours talking and playing: saw her mother open the door as if to come out after her so advised her to get in ahead of trouble as it was about eleven-thirty. Drove all over town before I found out that there is to be no work tomorrow. Back to the Elk to give a hand on the dishes and then had some ice cream and came up to bed. Tony came in to find me laying on the bed fully clad so he pulled my shoes off for me and I fell asleep. Mrs Cameron gave me the old linoleum, a box of old Edison records, an ice chest, and a box of junk for my work so I didn't do so badly at that. We ate almost every meal on the belly log.

April - 8 - Friday
At Home

and put my shoes back on and was ready to go one more. Cleaned out the stoker and got the ashes out and then went up and had some breakfast. Everything lined up I got the book and went up to the White Garage to fix the account book; this proved to be quite a job as we couldn't find the February bills. Some woman came in that wanted to go out to Congers at Klein so I took her out in Tommy's car and had a fine ride; got back and got busy at once on the books again. Went to work posting the bills for the last couple of months and then had to figure out a lot of odds and ends that I couldn't settle up any way. The time passed plenty quick and it was getting along toward two thirty when I wound up the job as far as I could go on it. Went over to the bank and cashed my refund from the land sale and beat it to the Elk for a bite of dinner and I was really damn hungry. Done eating I got the car ready and then went up town on a few errands for Mrs. Veal. Had a lot of fun as Oscar was ragging me about running a free taxi. He said there was a couple of ladies getting off shift about now so I should rush up there and haul them home. Had a lot of fun with him. Went up town and stopped at the garage and got the tank full of gasoline and got all set to pull for home. Back to the Elk and we had

a few more errands to run; so it was getting almost to five oclock when I grabbed a bowl of soup and then went up to get Kelby and soon brought her down to work and then finally headed for the old homestead and I stopped at Cameron's to get the Old Edison records and then pulled for home. Had to buck the sun but I made time all the same and got along pretty well Found Ben had just got in and we all had some coffee then I unloaded. Found that Pa has started to lamb last week and has about twenty-two lambs now. He got Jack to help him and they have been doing just fine up to date. Helped Dad line up the sheep for the night and then came up to find Percy and his mother here. We had a big visit and really did enjoy the visit. Coffee and Cookies about nine-thirty and then Percy and his mother pulled for town and I beat it down to help Pa with the sheep. Got my notes caught up and then read over the mail and we hired things up for the morrow. We got all set and turned in about eleven oclock feeling very, very tired indeed. Things are coming up too fast on us and I don't know just what we should do first to get things going good as we should. Dixie was all set to go to Billings tonite but the car was not in shape and we didn't have the necessary funds to do much. Needed sleep so we rolled in just a little earlier than usual as I have to hit the bally tomorrow as we have plenty to do and not much time to do it in.

April - 9 - Saturday
At Home

Up and at it around five-thirty, rather cool but when the sun came up it warmed up rapidly. Dressed and went down to see how the sheep were doing and found them fine. Have some nice big lambs and had a pair of twins last night. Got things lined up a bit and came on up to breakfast. Soon done eating and I got some wood and water in and pumped some for the sheep. Pa got them out while I got a bunch, a pint of water and a couple of magazines and taking Lizzie with me I took the drop band out. Lambing again and just a month too early to suit me but we've got it to do so may as well try to enjoy it. Rather pleasant to feel the warm spring breeze against my face again and to see the grass getting so richly green in the low spots. Among the sage brush the grass is a good two inches long. The sheep were determined to scatter on me so Lizzie and I were quite busy keeping them spotted. Spent most of the morning day dreaming and circling the band. Finally they settled down a little in a warm spot where the feed was good and I had time to read awhile. Like old times to be out herding again and have the peace and quiet in which to read and dream awhile. Found a sunny spot about twelve-thirty when Lizzie and I could eat our lunch. Took a few minutes rest before I began to work them the bunch working for more lambs

Got them rather settled down and was taking it easy when Dad came out and insisted on taking over. Hoofed it back to the house and soon had some coffee and a lunch. Had a few minutes so went after the Chevrolet. Pulled the spare apart and put a couple more boots in it and the good tube that Tony got for me. Had one hell of a time as the rim is a 20 in. and the tube only a 19 but I made it after just one hell of a time. Ma came out to help me and we put the covering on the floor. Didn't get quite there as I heard the sheep coming so I knocked off to go out and give Pa a hand as he was "tolling" a couple of ewes and lambs in. Got everything tinied up and was just getting done when Jack and Ben got back from town both pretty well lit and laden with presents. Jack sure is a good egg and free with his money. Had a few drinks and then ate supper. Had a lot of fun when Ma and Jack got going "ribbing" each other as they always do when they are together. Supper over I persuaded Pa to go to bed and let me take the night shift as he has had a big day and is dead for sleep. Sat up and read awhile ate a bite, and wondered how things are coming at the Elk. So sleepy I have to walk the floor to keep awake and my feet hurt so its a misery to travel. Can't help but feel that this is indeed a sore-ass way to make a living. Made the rounds about every hour and a half. Clear out but not blowing to beat hell - bottom off if it is not cold.

April - 10 - Sunday
at Home

Had to warm up a lamb or two in the oven to keep them from getting too badly chilled: the hours dragged slowly by and eventually it was daylight again and the folks all got up and busy. Got the sheep out and things in shape; so when everything was lined up. Ben and I got the ford going and went up to Stanglands to get a fanning mill so we can clean Dans seed wheat. Found the Stanglands at breakfast and sat down to talk with them awhile before we went out and loaded the mill; an old "One Minute" and in good shape. Carl and Sadie insisted that we get some winter onions and a nice batch of horse-radish out of the garden so we stopped long enuf to dig the stuff. Home again about eleven and had to take the damned mill apart to get it into the bunk house. Got her all set and went on up to the house and I helped Ben fix his tire and worked some more on my car doors. Getting time to eat so we came on in to wash up and after I had eaten I lay down awhile as I was plenty weary and felt the need of a little sleep. Sure feel tough when I don't get enough sleep and I'm always hungry as hell when I go these long hours without rest. Got a couple of hours sleep and woke when Ben got in about three o'clock or a little after. We had a long talk then got ready to go up to Lindsays

as our glorious Elizabeth has the kindness to give a party on the Mama whose birthday it is today. Had all my clothes down at the Elks so had to resurrect the tan suit I got in '28 and it looks very much as though I had wrestled in it. Got all set and about four we headed for Bills. A nice ride over as it was a lovely afternoon, clear, warm and beautiful. Found the Spikes at home and we all settled down for a good visit. Had some music and a lecture or two before we sat down to a meal of magnificent proportions and delectable preparation. Concentrated on the pleasures of such fine food and really did enjoy it. angel food and golden cake to finish up on so we really did ourselves proud. Eikhoff is working for Bill again and we had a big visit with him. He is some guy and I got a lot of information out of the old boy when he gets going. The time passed rapidly as we were all taking our ease and enjoying ourself. Was after ten when we finally made the break for home. Colder but the moon was out and it looked fine. Percy brought us right home and then pulled out for town. Found Pa and Jack still up and about and busier than hell as the lambs were coming pretty fast. Had a big drink and then feet sore weary I called it a day and turned in with Jack. Talked for a few minutes and then fell asleep. The lambing seems to be going pretty fast and I'm surprised how strong and healthy that the lambs are now. The two sure misrepresented them to us.

April - 11 - Monday
At Home

Woke about five and rolled out, another swell day but just a bit too cold for comfort. Found Pa busy with the sheep so gave him a hand. Went down to help Ben get organized and as soon as we had eaten he pulled out for the duck pond and we got busy on the sheep. Jack pulled out south and then we watered our bunches and got them out. Took the oldest bunch out to the corner of 33 and in the low spot the feed is pretty good. Have a few tough lookers but they seem to be coming along just fine. Pa took care of them while I came on back to do the watering and to get things all lined up for the day. Cut some wood and filled the wood box and then did a little cleaning up and some odd jobs on the old car. Was back on the wood pile when Norbert drove in, he was on his way to Roundup and said Ges has things in pretty fair shape up in the hole. Had a visit with the kid and he seems to be in the best of health and spirits. Ma got dinner and we convinced him that it would be a good idea to stay for a bite to eat. Dinner over we all had to get busy again. The kid rolled on for the city and we went back to our sheep. Found them nicely settled down and doing just fine. Ma and I went to work on the seats in the car and we tore the upholstery all off the seat back and had to clean and wire it up

enough so it will do until we can get another one. Jack gave Ma a big sheet of velox so we can use it to cover the seats nicely. Worked on the damned car until about four o'clock when we had to knock off and get busy with the sheep again. Got our days drop bunch together and took them down to water and found a few lambs that needed attention. Pumped some water while Pa got the lamb band and we watered Jacks sheep and got them corraled up; then put the others down on the water and when they were done corraled them & gave them the once over: a few little jobs to do and then went back to the other bunch: had a lamb that wasn't doing good so caught him and when I got there we found that she had a spoiled leg so she can't raise it. A big fine boned lamb so took it up to Ma as she is going to raise it on the bottle: she calls him Tony and he is a real sheep. We had our supper and when done I went back to check the sheep over once more. Sundown so came on up to rest awhile. Pa went to bed about eight-thirty and I'm taking the night shift for a hitch or two. Looks as though it might be a pretty nice night as she is clear and fine out with just a fair wind blowing. Went thru the sheep at eight thirty and nothing showing up but we should worry as we have had nine today and they are all doing fairly well. Read awhile and did a little writing but really feel too tired to accomplish very much these days. Tried to catch a nap now and then but it's pretty hard to do and not disturb things-

April - 12 - Tuesday
At the Elk

Set the alarm at one hour and a half intervals as the night was warm and fine so had no trouble and had three singles and a pair of twins before five o'clock. Got enough sleep so I felt pretty good when I finally staid up about five thirty. Had breakfast and then got the sheep all out and watered everything. Jack took the band south while we took our ewes and lambs out east of the place. All settled down so I came on in to cut wood and get things lined up a little for the day. Ma got the mail and I got my order from Sears. Had the things for the car so lost no time in getting them on. Had Gene Autrey's torch song 'Nobody's Darling but Mine' and we got quite a kick out of playing it. Things went pretty slow and I was looking things over when Norbert drove in to tell me that we are working tomorrow; sorry that they couldn't wait until the last of the week but so it goes. Ben won't be home until tomorrow night so that leaves the folks plenty short handed for tomorrow. Norbert had brought the linoleum and all the stuff from Cameron's so we had all this to unload and place before we came in to talk awhile. Persuaded the old boy to stop in long enough for lunch and then he was on his way again as it clouded up and looked very much like rain. We made good time and soon had the sheep all lined up. Got the wood and waters all ready and piped things

up for the night. Took a couple of hours off while the afternoon was still young. Then at four o'clock I went out to see about the days drop. Found Jack straight south of the place and only one lamb today. So after a few minutes talk I went out and picked the lamb up and began the slow process of leading the ewe home with him. Windy as hell and plenty slow going but I got along all O.K. and by five-thirty I had the little fort in. The sheep came on in and I pumped for them; corraled up our bunches and it was close on to chore time again. Went up to supper and about this time Knieppe drove in and had a chat with us. He was followed in a few minutes by Percy, Tony, & Frankie. None would join us at supper so we ate and then I took the boys thru the sheep and they seemed quite interested in the business. Gus went on to the city and I changed clothes and got the car ready then about eight o'clock we headed for town. Frankie and I following the boys on in. Was surprised at all the things that have happened since I left town. Loren Milby dead from pneumonia and various other changes. Had a cup of coffee then Percy and I went for a ride around the town again. Back to camp and had another cup of coffee then I got the stove cared for and we had a big talk. Glad to see the gang again and they all seem to be glad to see me. Helped a bit about the kitchen and about eleven o'clock I came on up to bed again and I was plenty tired and much sol-

April - 13 - Wednesday
At Home

Woke at five and couldnt go back to sleep so got up to shave and dress. Went down to fix up the stoker and then Tony and Oscar fixed breakfast for me. Mrs. Veal came down about the time I was done and fixed up my lunch Back to the room to make my notes and study up until six-thirty when I got ready to go to work. Felt weary so I took the car today and drove down to the mine. Was the first one in the wash house so changed & took it easy. All hands then by time to go down. Jack told me to take Vic Polick with me and go to the seventh east and drive the entry. Reached there; cleaned up the rock and got everything all in shape; loaded one car and ms buddy is started on the second when Jack came in and I told him that I had no helper so he got busy and came back in a few minutes with a couple of boys for the entry and I was glad as then was plenty of water and boney then. He took me up to the Sixth and I went to work in a room next in the sixth east had Eddie Burbett for a buddy and we work well together. Had a bad place however as the top rock hadnt been taken down for some time and we had it to do; took a lot of work to get it down and throw her back but made it. Got four cars out of her and it was time to eat. Was hungry as a bitch work so was plenty glad to stop.

Took it easy over the rest period and hit the ball again at twelve. In spite of the unhandy place we had to work we cleaned up the room nicely by one-thirty and Athel sent us up to work in the left-hand side of room thirteen. Found two cuts of very thick bottoms here and the coal a good thirty feet from the car. Loaded out one car then worked a sledge and wedge and got busy on the bottoms: Ed is a real hand and can get them in a no time. Pounded away and just kept loading: Jack took Ed back to show him some cutting he wanted done and while away from me he told Ed that it was a pretty good little buddy that he had. We got our twelve cars out and the bottoms pretty well up by quitting time; felt great to get a good hot bath once more. Drove up to the La Mode for a glass of wine with Harry then went down to the elevator for a couple of sacks of ground feed. Up to the grocery store for a little grub and then up to Kelly's for Jootsabella. Took her down to the Elk and gathered up my junk while I was waiting for her to get off shift. She was ready to go home at seven-thirty so I took her for a ride and we went up to the airport and slaid there until about nine-thirty when I went back to the Elk gathered up my junk and headed for home about eleven. Home by 11:30 and found Ben here and things going just fine. We talked awhile then to bed about twelve - very, very tired.

April - 14 - Thursday
at Home

Woke about five thirty and felt pretty weary but heard a fine rain pattering on the roof so lost no time in getting up and busy. Cloudy and dull but not so cold, things were going very nicely so I got some water in helped look the sheep over and we breakfasted. Hunted up some heavy clothes. got my bunch and about eight o'clock I started out with the sheep again. Let them go south and we had a cold snappy little shower so they had to scatter all over hell for me. Got them in a bunch again and we worked slowly southward once more. Just a bit sticky but not yet muddy enough to bother. Got under the shelter of the rimrock when I could but held the sheep up a little as the lead was wild to travel had to keep wrapping those old wind burned pelters around the drag most of the forenoon. About eleven Ben and the dogs came out to see how things were going. Had a ewe and lamb but decided to keep her awhile longer until she would dry up enough to handle all right. Had a warm spell occasionaly but it would soon be followed by a raw wind and then a shower. Got pretty chilly but kept moving and managed to keep from freezing. When Ben left the pups wanted to stay with the sheep so I kept him. Found a warm nook in the rims and ate lunch. Felt the cold more after I had eaten so got out and traveled again: had a nice pair of twins happen along about this time so held

the band up a little. The lead kept me busy every time I turned them they would go right thru the bunch and head away Bell bent in the other direction but I staid right with them and they finally settled down to feed and headed toward home. Had time now so started working the days drop toward home. Was rather surprised when Ma came out about four oclock. She insisted on helping me move the ewes and lambs in and as we had a pair of twins it was a big help having her. Worked slowly in as night came on; still cold and raw but not bad. Ma says that Percy, Lorraine, and Mary were out to see us today and of course I had to be away out on the mountain and they didn't have time to stop. Ben joined us shortly after five and as the lambs were beginning to get tired we had to carry them most of the way in. The sheep wanted to feed after running all day so we went pretty slow. Was after seven before we got in and corraled up. Was so hungry that I could hardly stand it until supper was ready. The meal over we made the rounds and got everything straightened up for the night. Pleased to see it clear up and the moon come out as clear and lovely a spring night as one could wish for. More twins again just now; can't understand why these sheep should keen so much to twins; should keep these ewes and try to make it a steady and lucrative thing. This raising twins and triplets as one [illegible] did [illegible] they just bawled out lambing last week.

April -15- Friday
at the Elk

Rolled out at five-thirty with a heavy head from sleeping to heavily and long as I was all poopd out last night when I rolled in. Found it cold with a raw west wind but she was clear and warmed up rapidly. Got things in shape and came on in to breakfast. Done eating I got my lunch and a whiskey bottle full of water as I like them when there's just enough liquor to taint the water. Seven-thirty when I turned out and they pulled south in fine shape. Held them together as best I could and didint let them spread much until I got out where they were easy to see then I lay flat in the sunshine and soaked up some of the delicious warmth of the spring sunlight. The grass certainly is coming and the sheep can get all the feed they need. Took it easy and the sheep handled nicely so I read a little & as my head ached I did as little traveling as I could. The pup staid with me and he is learning to mind like a Christian and we get along fine with him. Took time out to eat lunch about twelve and was really hungry as a wolf so enjoyed the provender. The sheep swung east on me so I had to get down around them. Had a nice pair of twins dropped just about one oclock and as they were doing fine I left them alone and took my ease on the Hell-top. Saw Pa and Ben come out with the old truck after a load of wood via the old bed ground so I went

up to help them and Ben and Ma had ben to town and Bennie said that Lee Simpson went baserk the other day and killed two of the Mc Donald boys and the deputy sheriff of Golden Valley County; sure will make the neighbors all happy to see him headed for the gallows. The boys went on in with their load of wood, and I went back out to the shop: Held them in pretty well and they settled down on the range and did fine. Worked slowly toward home and about six Ben came out to help me in with the lambs. Got them corraled up by seven o'clock and was so hungry I came on up to eat at once. Was pleased indeed when Bennett and Hook drove in to see if I was coming to work tomorrow. We had a long talk with the boys and about nine they beat it back to town. I changed clothes, hunted up my outfit and got ready to get down to the city. Left home about nine fifty and it was a lovely night: Warm, clear and moonlit. Wheeled right along and reached the Elk in good time, found Tony home but Frankie has gone east now so it is pretty quiet around the camp. Lined up the stoker and gave the folks a hand on the dishes while we talked things over a bit. Felt plenty sleepy so about eleven fifteen I came on up to the room and turned in. Sore all over and have quite a head: how I wish I could get things caught up once again and get back into shape. Everything to be done and we keep getting farther and farther behind every day. Too much stopping work too early in all

April – 16 – Saturday

Oscar woke me at 4:45 when he brought the clock in and Jony called me at 5:15 so I rolled out finally at 5:30 and washed up. Fixed the stoker and soon had breakfast over with and was ready to go again. Picked up Cartwright and were soon at the mine. Changed and we were ready to go down again; was surprised indeed to see the whole night shift out as well as the day shifters. Once inside I went back to the sixth east where I quit last time and hunted up my tools. Took a look around & found that big Katherina was short a buddy so went up to work with him in thirteen; we were using check No. 4 and found the place narrow but a hell of a tough shot as one side had failed to shoot and had to be 'popped' later. Got at it and then they had trouble on top so we lost a lot of time and sat around for some little time. Got only four cars out before lunch time then ate. Felt pretty weary so spent the lunch time resting and taking it plenty easy. Back to work at twelve and Jesus but I was stiff and sore. Katherina got drunk yesterday to celebrate his naturalization as an American citizen and it was plenty tough going for him today. Could see that he got well pooped out by the time we got into the tough coal. She was just set down in one big chunk so we had to cut them both corners and wedge the damned stuff down as best we could & wait for

Pounded away, raving and cursing until we cleaned her up at three o'clock. Was taking up bottoms in the cross-cut into number twelve when we saw 'Smokey Joe' pulling some coal down; the coal caught the bar and threw it back against him driving the inch square point into his leg a good inch or so; sure a tough goal and it must have hurt him to beat hell but he stuck the shift out just the same. Loaded out eleventh car and it was time to get out on top again. Washed up and then came on up town. Hany and I stopped at the 'La-Moor' for a glass of wine and had a couple then felt a lot better & went up to the office to get my $11.20 in wages that I had coming; went up after Kelley and we had a visit before we came on down town and she went to work. Percy was here and he took me for a ride around the town before we rolled back to camp at seven-thirty. Shaved up and changed clothes then when Kelley got off shift we drove up to her place and she changed into a cute little outfit and we rode around town until three o'clock when we went to see 'The Last Gangster' and it was a great little picture. Didn't stay for the midnite show as we were both dead tired. Had some coffee and then took a ride around town before we drove up to Kelley's again. Sat in the car and talked until about two o'clock then came down town. Took little Domonick home when I met him up town. Back to the place about three o'clock and turned in; was so warm I could hardly see-

April – 17 – Sunday
At Home

Lay abed until ten oclock and was still weary as hell when I rolled out and got dressed again. Down to check on the stoker and get some breakfast. Found everyone feeling O.K. and we had the usual fun. Mrs. Veal needed some groceries so I went out to rustle around and finally got them down at Zupans. Took a little time out to get caught up on my notes and went down to dry the dishwasher and give her a hand on the dishes. About one oclock I changed clothes and got ready to get out and go. Had a malted and at two oclock went up to the Baptist church to Loren Millers funeral and the place was full; all the boys had turned out and things were doing. Drove out to the cemetary and saw our brother laid away; his folks all took it pretty hard. So on this happy Easter day we laid another good lad under the good green sod. After the services I drove back to the Elks and was going to go in for coffee when Kelley called me, she was just coming off shift so I took her up home when she changed into her Easter outfit and did she look classy when she got all set. Drove on down town and fortunately I had just seventy cents so we could go to the show. Hated to lay all the chicken feed on the bar for the tickets so got a dollar from Kelley and gave her all the change. Just about four oclock when we went in and then was a

good crowd even for a matinee saw "You're a Sweetheart" and it was passable some rather good songs and dances at that. The show over we drove up and down the main drag for awhile and picked up Norbert Knieppe and shortly thereafter we picked up George and took them up home. Stopped in for a cream puff and a chat then Norbert, Kelley, and I rode around until about six-forty when we took Kelley home and went on down to the Elk so I could gather up my stuff and get ready to pull for home again. The Perry was there so had a talk with him; Norbert went to the show and I went down to have some supper and then took a ride around town with Bennett. Was getting close to nine o'clock so I stuck around and when the dishwasher got off shift Bruce and I took her home and had some fun bedding her along while we were at it. Back up town and at last I loaded up and pulled out for home as it is partially cloudy and acts a lot as though it might try and storm a little on us. The wind is in the west and almost a chinook. Pounded right along and was home by ten. thirty. Found all in bed but Ben so we had a talk and at 11:15 I called it a day and turned in. Jack is here too so we should have plenty of help at least and we must be getting close to finishing up on that Archer bunch so should be done before very long. Sure feel weary tonight and so sleepy that I can hardly keep on typing any longer but we must—

April – 18 – Monday
At Home

Woke about six-thirty and felt immeasurably tired but rolled out and got ready to go. Found it cloudy but not so cold out. Helped get things lined up for the day and then came on up to breakfast. Done eating I got the water pumped and Jack took the drop bend out while Pa and Ben got the lamb bands out. I went down to the bunk house to get ready to clean Doris seed wheat. Had to move a lot of junk and get it in shape then swept out. Hunted up some strips and tacked the fanning mill down then hunted up my buckets and rigged a sack holder. Got busy fanning and the old Cockshutt works pretty nice at that. Put ninety pounds in each sack and Dan wanted it so Gus can check the acreage when he seeds the hole. Gus pretty slow and is a dusty and unpleasant job, there is something very irritating about the dust from grain that sure makes one's skin itch. Dad and Ben helped me when they could but it is a damned slow business at that. The wind came up and blows a devil of a gale couldn't see a thing over in the Lake Mason country for the dust fog that envelopes the whole country down there. Stayed away at it until about twelve o'clock then we came on up to get washed up for dinner again. Hungry as hell and can eat anything and all the time. Hatch. Lunch over we took a little rest before

Went back at it again but it is discouragingly slow. The day grew steadily darker and the wind worse. Had a few sudden gusts of rain and about four o'clock it began to look as though we were in for a blizzard so we tied up the wheat cleaning and went out to work our bunches of lambs. Had to rustle another jacket and a heavy cap as it got plenty cold on us. Made the rounds and then we got things pretty well lined up by six o'clock so came on in to eat again. Had a little shot and then we ate supper. Went down to the well to water the sheep and get the lambs bunched in for the night. Found Perky here when I got back up and was delighted to see the kid again. He bought the house and two lots for us in Roundup so feel pretty well pleased. Two good lots and a nice little two room house right on the main drag so we can really get organized. Bennet wouldn't stay as it looked too much like rain. We got all lined up for the night, things seem to have slowed up a bit as we had no lambs on the range today which helped as it has been hell all day. Built a big fire and sat by to read and listen to the wind roaring and shrieking around the eaves. looks much as if we were in for a touch of weather. Pa insisted on taking the night shift tonight so I called it a day about ten o'clock and then I rolled in feeling very very weary and too sleepy to stay up and read or write

April -19- Tuesday
At Home

Woke about six. Thirty and I was still dead weary Found it cold with a raw wind out of the south west but fortunately it was clearing up nicely so the day promised to be warm and fine out. Got some wood and water in and then had breakfast. The rest of the family took care of the sheep so I went ahead with the seed wheat. Had a little patching up to do on the fanning mill before I could get going again. We made good time once Ben joined me and had only a few stops for repairs. Experienced a little trouble with the drive chain but finally got it to stay on and kept pounding away. Noticed that the dust from the grain and from the mill gives me sinus trouble right away and my head starts to bother me again. Stopped once in the forenoon to come up to the house for a drink and as the mail was in we stopped long enough to look it over. Received my contract for deed to the old Hunter place today so feel a bit better about that now. A few ads and the 'Readers Digest' and 'The Popular Educator' but we are much too busy to stop and read so we got filled up on water and hit the ball again. Got nice and warm so the sheep settled down very nicely and we didnt need to work with them very much. Called a halt around twelve and hauled the chicken feed and 'litter' from the fanning mill down to the chicken house and put it all away then up to lunch.

was plenty hungry and after a glass of beer we had a real meal. Took a little time out to read a little before we hit the ball again. The wind was blowing like hell again and could see they were having a big dust storm over east of us. Pa gave us a hand when he had a little spare time but she is plenty slow and tough for the mill is small and runs hard. We kept at it however until after five and must have at least sixty bushel out by now. Cleaned up the place and we knocked off for to do our chores and get lined up for the night. Watered Jacks bunch as they came in and then came on up to supper and was I hungry. Supper over I gathered up the Lamb bunch out of the west pasture and they seem to be all here and all in fine shape. Corraled up, filled the troughs and we called it a day. Pa built his hell roaring fire as usual and drove us all out into the kitchen. We talked awhile then all hands got set to read until time to roll in once more. Feel too sleepy to do very much and as Ben is taking the first part of the night shift I turned in about ten. We seem to be doing a hell of a lot of hard work for what we are getting accomplished out here now but it is better I presume than to be around town idle and disgusted. Jack has rheumatism in his left shoulder now and is having quite a time to keep going. We gave him a rub down with some Sloans liniment before we rolled in. Hope he gets all right before the other bunch starts Lambing on us.

April -28- Wednesday
At Home

Cold as the devil when I woke to find a dull hard day with a cold wind blowing out of the north. Dressed and tended to the wood and water before I sat down to eat breakfast. Had no trouble with the sheep as everything was nicely lined up and we soon had the sheep out in the pastures. Pumped the water and got everything lined up then I split a nice pile of wood while Ben put a big tank for fuel in the old truck. We got things lined up and then I helped Ben Ben pumps up the tires on the old truck. Takes a lot of good hard old pushing but we got them up in due time and put in some oil and some tractor fuel as Ben was that instead of gasoline and uses a squirt can to start her with. Cold and windy so went out to see how Jack was coming and found him doing nicely as the sheep had pocketed in the little draws and was doing fine on the feed. Had a couple that were in the process of throes of labor so I left them and after a talk with Jack I beat it back to the house again. Helped Ben get his tools and junk all loaded and then we went in to lunch and I was really starved. We have plenty of chuck but we are out of spuds and Jesus how I do miss them. Lined out Ben and I got the old kettle going and he pulled down to the bunk house and we put on twenty four packs of wheat which is thirty six pushed or two thousand one hundred and sixty pounds

Got Ben going and he took Bridger with him and left for the hold. I got some hot coffee and a dough god then set out to see how Jack and the sheep were coming. Enjoyed biking over the Hunda place looking over the trees and the grass: feel an unholy joy in possession; its rather nice to own things however and it is forgivable to be proud of things. Found Jack out on the South place and we had a long talk. Ewes we had a fine lamb and he was bouncing all over the place but the other was still trying and having no luck. Talked awhile with Jack and then took the ewe and lambs and worked them almost home. I went on up to the house for a cup of coffee. Slang Land drove in to bring us some butter and onions and we had a little chat. After they had gone we all got busy again. Got the chores done and then started working the ewes and lambs in and got in ahead of Jack so I could pump some water for him and we got the sheep all in and set for the night. Ben got back and we all sat up to supper. Was pleased indeed when Percy drove in and gave us the news: he brought the contract for the house and lots that we are buying in town so I could sign them: hope we can get things paid out and hold all the stuff together. Supper over we tied up our sheep and called it a day. Read awhile and wrote a bit before we called her off and went to bed. Promises to be a little better tomorrow as it is warm and we want

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April - 21 - Thursday
At Home

Woke about five-thirty and was all tied in a knot from freezing in bed. Rolled out and was soon dressed and went out to take a look around. Clear out but plenty cold, ice on the water and everything nicely frozen up. Got things lined up and then came on in to breakfast and I was plenty hungry. The meal over we got all set and hit the hill. Jack took his hand out and I helped Pa get his bunches out. We got the old truck going and pulled down to the old shed and we put another thirty-six bushel of wheat on the old battle. Ben left for the hole and I got busy on the fanning mill again: a slow and dusty job but Pa came down to help me and we made considerable headway and got about fifteen bushel out by the time we knocked off for lunch. Helped Ma get dinner as she was busy washing and needed some help. Ben got in about twelve and shortly afterward Warner Carlson drove in: he was looking for some cattle he had lost so Bacon he was hungry and we invited him in to eat a bite with us. Had lunch and hadn't stopped to cook much but all hands seemed to make out all O.K. Lunch over we visited for a short time then all hands had to get busy again. Helped Carlson through the gates and he went south to look for his stuff along Pole Creek. Ben and I went back to work on the wheat and

we were just nicely started when we remembered that we hadn't done the dishes so went back up to do them; found Norbert here and he says no work tomorrow and perhaps not Saturday; had a visit with the kid and he had to pull out for the hills so we went back to work again. Dirty job and we itch all over from the damned dust but have to keep at it. Had some trouble with the fanning mill but made repairs and kept on going again. Got our twenty-four sacks which makes another load by 5:15 and then we knocked off again and came on up to do the chores. The wood and water in & got busy pumping as the band was soon coming in with a rush and they were stamed for water. Got everything watered and then came on up to supper. Getting close to dark so went out to help Pa gather up the west bunch and they were scattered like the tribes of Isreal. Pa had some lambs out so we had to run them down before we got them home and had one hell of a time. Walked the breeches and it was night again. Felt pretty well pooped out by the time we got done so came up to rest a bit by the fire and had some letters to write & some notes to make. Quiet tonight and not so cold but still plenty chilly. Had one lamb on the range today and it's sure is a beauty too. Wish I could get caught up on my letter writing again as I'm many months behind it seems and there is no catching up once you fall very far behind—

April - 22 - Friday
At Home

Woke about five-thirty and felt weary as when I had gone to bed. Found it clear out and warming up very nicely. Helped Pa a bit in the corral and then got our breakfast over. Pumped some water and got the sheep all out. Loaded the fencing tools into the old Ford and Ben went with me up west to fix the fence between us and the Puckett place. The weeds had blown against the fence and broken the wires in several places. Had to burn out what weeds we could before we got busy stretching up the fence. Didn't take us long to get the wires all up then loaded up our tools and went over to the dam to see how the water was. Have about three feet of water in the old hole and she looks good but it is a bit muddy around the edges and make it bad for the sheep to get up to the water. Back to the house and the mail was in so stopped to read awhile: had a letter from Janet and the newspaper: not much excitement outside of the Simpson case: Jan is doing fine and is busy as ever. Took a turn up around the west bunch and stopped at the Hendee place to look over the house and the feed; things look just fine and the grass is really coming to beat hell now, especially in the draws and low spots. Got home about eleven - thirty and rested until

lunch was ready. P one eating Ma and Ben beat it to town while I got busy on the odd jobs I had around the place. Took time out to fix up the tire for the Hudson that I have here and it was quite a job. Wood and water to get in and then fed the lambs. Busy until it was about five o'clock, then Jacks bunch came in and I had to pump for him; he had just one lamb today and it was clear down almost to the lower place but it looked cloudy and stormy so I beat it down and got her. Had to carry the lamb about half the way but made it. Was just going after the west bunch when Pa had supper ready. Ate and then went after the other sheep while Ma and Ben got in from town. No work until monday so that's that. Had some coffee and sat around for a few minutes. We were about ready to call it a day, when a car drove in and who should it be but Percy and Kelley; sure pleased to see them and we sat in the car and had quite a talk as the kids couldn't come in. They left us at nine-twenty and we got busy once more on our odd jobs: no lambs yet but it is a warm and windy night so it doesn't require such close watching. We took it easy for awhile and then we rolled in about ten-thirty and boy was I tired. Sure glad to see Kelley and she looks just swell, great little kid and no mistake. Just another day shot and nothing much done otherwise.

April - 23 - Saturday
At Home

Crawled out about five - twenty and beat it down to pump some water for the sheep. Breakfast over we got the lunches all out and then I helped Ben get the truck ready and we put another thirty - six bushel on the old bottle and Ben pulled out for the hole. I finished watering the sheep then cleaned up around the fanning mill and sacked up the stuff: Cleaned the screens and had some repair work to do on the mill itself. This done I came on up for a cup of coffee and as nothing was pressing got busy fixing the glass in the left side of the chevy as it is cracked and had quite a large hole in it. Took some little time to hunt up the necessary bolts and washers then got some apple box boards and cut a piece to fit the broken part. Used Ben's hand drill to make the hole and soon had the job done. Getting late so I beat it out to take a turn around the west bunch; found them doing nicely as the wind was blowing a good gale out of the west and it kept the sheep down off the hill - top. The feed is coming magnificently so we have'nt much to worry about outside of the fact that we are running this outfit for exercise as I can see we will never make any money out of it. Got back about twelve and read until lunch was ready. Ben got in just in time to join us and he says things are coming very nicely in the hole now, only two more

A short siesta after lunch then Ben went down to work at the lower place and I got busy greasing up my flivver again. Stripped the threads on one of the grease guns as that Marfak is putty heavy stuff and the old fitting hate to take the grease. Got too windy so had to knock off. Split wood awhile and about four o'clock Bill Hunt drove in with the little road grader as he is done with it for awhile. Had some coffee and a visit with him then it got cold and windy so had to get out and gather up our lunches so lost no time in getting busy. Watered and corraled up Jack got in and brought on ewe and lambin for the days drop. Counted up tonight and have a hundred ewes and a hundred and twelve lambs that makes 112% which is wonderful indeed I think We had supper and all were indeed hungry. The meal over we gave the sheep a final check over and came in to rest awhile. Can't understand what is the matter with me, here I only work twelve or fourteen hours and I'm all played out. Milked out the old ewes and came in to read and rest for awhile. Finished "The Coronet", made my notes & got ready to call it a day as I need the sleep for we have quite a day ahead of us tomorrow. Wish I was in town with the pair so I could take Footsibella out for a nights rampage around the town. Sure fell to be broke all the time & working like a dog for boot, what a two-bit son of a [illegible] on a country like this turned out to be

april – 24 – Sunday
At the Elk

Woke after a night made ghastly by weird dreams and found the door open and we were about frozen. Got up and beat it in by the stove to stand and soak up heat until breakfast was ready. Ate and then gathered up the tools and junk to get ready to take over to Spichers to fix the tractor with. This all done I got the wood and water to take care of and then took time out to shave up a little and get cleaned up. Sat down to read a minute but Ma needed some apples peeled so I got busy and soon had them out and took time out to read awhile. Was sitting on my fanny taking life easy when Percy drove in and was all in his working clothes and ready to go. We had a chance to visit while lunch was cooking and sat around awhile then we sat up and we took on a real feed. Percy insisted on taking his car so I put the tools and the battery out of the Ford in and away we went. Cold, cloudy, and a raw northeast wind blowing; just a really nasty day out and a poor one to monkey with the tractor but it's now or never. Reached the Spicher ranch to find the folks there and also Earl Eickhoff and Charley Tomlin; so we had a lot of fun razzing the boys before we got busy the tractor; she was almost buried in the dirt that had blown around Bill's shed; so we got busy

Cleaned things up a little and we drained about a quart of water and a half gallon of thin oil out of the Crankcase and then we got the old baby hooked up but could only get it to hit on one cylinder. Elizabeth called us to dinner and insisted that we sit up and eat a bite; serve a fine cake and coffee. Had a lot of fun and quite a visit before we got out and got busy. Finally cleaned the plugs and got her going. Pulled out and stopped to pick up the buggy and I headed for home. She didn't hit very good but I kept her rolling on made fair time. Got clear down almost to the red barn before she pooped out on me; we finally got her going and a half mile further on she quit again; but of fuel so we had to beat it on in again to the old homestead and get some oil got her going again and made it almost home before she quit again: got going and the heat we got inside the gate before she quit again: about seven. Finally so I drained her and left the damned thing; Percy and I were both pretty well tired out from Cranking and toiling so Came on in and ate a bite then got my stuff together and got ready to go to town. Left home about 8:30 and rolled right on in; went in with Percy and left my fliver at home. Reached the city and had a cup of coffee before we took Edith for a ride around and then home. Back to the Elks to help with the dishes for awhile, talk with Frankie and about twelve o'clock I rolled in as I was really tired out and felt the need of sleep. Little man sure had a busy day.

April - 25 - Monday
at the Elk

Woke about five and couldn't sleep any more so I rolled out and got busy. Found Tony hard at it and I joined him: plenty of ashes to take out and lots of dirt so was busy awhile. Had breakfast and got my notes caught up before I got the old bucket and set out for the mine once more. Cold with the wind in the east again and looking bad but I am not ranching today although worried about the folks. Got changed and we went down at seven-thirty. Up to the sixth east to work again and was I tired before I started. Had Abie Wooten, room fifteen, check eleven and the coal was plenty tough but we got her coming and Abie is a real digger so didn't have much trouble. We pounded along and in spite of the tough coal made a pretty good showing. Had five cars and a half out by lunch time and both of us were feeling pretty well pooped. Boy how we do sweat when we're soft as we are and the sweat stings and itches to beat hell. Cool off in a hurry when we sat down to wait for lunch and felt a little more stiff and sore when it was time to hit the ball again. I was glad indeed to get the last half of such a tough day going. We cleaned up our place in seven cars but five seven and then went

to the dip in the sixth and worked there about half a car. Done here and we came on up to room eleven and here indeed was tough coal but as usual Olie knew how to get her started and we got along just fine. Both of us were getting plenty tired however and were glad when three thirty final caught up with us once more and we could come on out. Jack told me to come out with the night shift tomorrow so I see where I catch an idle shift which will help like hell. Took a good bath and caught a ride home with Nick Golob. Had supper right away as I was really hungry. Several errands to run and then it was time for Kelley and she is cute as ever when she came on the job. Percy came down and after I had peeled the apples and some spuds he took me for a ride around the town again. Went up to Blairs to get some magazines and I'll be damned if he didn't pay for them while I was looking for some other stuff. I sure a real pal that old boy. We took Kelley home about seven. Then and took her for a ride around the town before we did so; she was feeling good and had a lot of fun with Percy. I was so tired that I came back to the Elk and went to bed at eight ten. Slept until midnite when I went down to help a little with the dishes and have a snack then came on back to bed and am more tired than I have been in many a long hard day-

April - 26 - Tuesday
At the Elk

5:45 when I woke and a few seconds late Mac. Veal rushed down the hall calling Tony and me to tell us it was six o'clock and we had overslept. Lost no time in getting into action. Cleaned the stoker and had breakfast in jig time. All set to go by six-thirty and do I feel muscle sore and tired today. Can hardly keep moving but walked out for the shine about a quarter to six. Found the night shift gathering so we lost no time in getting changed and set to go down. Bob dropped us in car far as Greasy hoist so we walked from there on in to the sixth. Paul Christian and I loaded a car in no. 12 and when we dropped her out she wrecked on us so we had quite a busy time of it getting the old baby back on. Cleaned up no. 11 and then Jack took us all down to the seventh east and we got busy cleaning room 8 and 7 up. Sent Paul and I back up to the sixth for two 14 foot 6X6's and we had one sweet hell of a time dragging them down to the seventh where the boys were timbering up a ten foot fall of rock in the entry sure a wild looking place and plenty dangerous. Finally got back loading and he sent Jimmy Houston to help us. We loaded out a couple and it was time to knock off for lunch and boy were we weary and I'm muscle sore I can hardly go any more. Took it

easy until time to go again. Cleaned up even by one ten and went on to eight when he had three men loading out of the face and we three loading out of the cross cut and loading two cars at a time. Really poured it on and we made time. Glad when we cleaned up the and found it to be three-twenty. Put the tools all away and hoofed it back to the hoist when we caught the trip and rode on out. A good bath took some of the weariness out of me and I hoofed it on back to the Elk again; raining just a little but not heavy enough to hurt anything. I had supper and then ran a few errands about the town. Had a small banquet so I gave Tony a hand with the dishing up and it went fast. Percy came down and we went out to post some 'close of Registration' notices. Went up Goulding Creek and out to hay basin a nice drive and we got a chance to see how things are greening up and how the farmers are all well started with their work. Night caught us but we finished up; killed a big bull snake on our way back to town. Back to the Elk and had coffee about eight-thirty; killed time until nine and was all set to go for a little ride when the ground cable went to hell so we had to get under the old baby and put on a new one before he could get rolling. Gave the folks a hand with the dishes and filled the stoker when I got all set finally and called it a day — We was about eleven-thirty

April - 27 - Wednesday
at the Elk

Woke about five and called Tony then lay abed for a few minutes longer bfore I rolled out and hit the ball again. Got things all lined up and soon had the breakfast over with and my outfit gathered up. Cloudy and raw with the wind still in the northeast. Headed for Jeff's hole again about 6:45 and was all changed and ready when the trip went in. Went with Paul Christian to room fifteen and we used check number eleven. Paul seems to like to work with me and we make an odd team the biggest (225 lbs.) and the littlest (125 lbs.) man in the mine. The coal was really tough and all the boys had been dodging this place whenever they could so Paul and I knew we would have a tough time of it. Rustled some tools and began the arduous task of getting some coal loose. Picked, wedged, and pounded away until I was drenched with sweat and the water poured off the end of my nose but we got some coal; needed track but Pete was too busy so we had to shovel back in addition to the hell of trying to get the tight coal down. Couldn't hold them so the drivers had to skip us occasionaly. Was getting pretty well pooped when Pete came in and gave me a hand in getting her down; a car or two later Red came in to give me a little hand and boy but it did help as I was all sweat and so weary I just couldn't put any real pressure onto my blows—

Got five cars and a half before time to knock off for lunch and was I glad of this momentary respite. Had worked until I didn't feel very hungry so gave Paul part of my lunch. Back at it again and we worked like "hi-lifed" beavers but just couldn't keep the turn. Finally got fifteen and went over to give sixteen hell again. Was getting plenty weary but we stuck with it. Ached all over and got so muscle sore I could hardly make it but hung on until we nearly loaded the twelfth car but quitting time caught us. Just was top. and saw J. W. Newton there so had a few minutes with him before I went in to wash up. Caught a ride home with Golob and I really needed a ride too. Came up for a few minutes rest before I went down and ate. An errand or two to do up town then felt so sleepy that about ten-ten I came on up to the room and lay down awhile. Slept until it was about eight-thirty. Up with a thirst for beer so went down to drink one and felt better. Had a round or two with the kids and gave Tony a hand with his vegetables. Didn't get to see Kelly tonight but having no car I couldn't do her any good anyway. Hundred around the kitchen until it was almost one o'clock before I came on up to bed. Tony was hit up again tonight and he and his mother were going round and round again. I ate all in but my shoe strings tonight so rolled in and went to a little sleep. Plenty that must be done tomorrow too.

April - 28 - Thursday
at the Elk

Woke about five but knew I didn't have to get up so I lay back again and dozed fitfully until about eight o'clock when I rolled out and got dressed. Found a swell day out and I lost no time in getting the odd jobs done then I went up to the shoe maker with Anne's shoes and ran a couple of errands around town. Kelley gave me Bennets keys as he had left them with her and walked up to the office so I could have the car to take the tire and stuff out to the car. Was eleven o'clock before I finally got going but went up anyway and put the tire on that I had fixed up out home; then took the other front one off and took it down to Harper's service station to air it up a little. Got her back on and then took the right front one off and took it with me when I went down to the court house to see when Percy wanted to go to lunch again. Staid to talk awhile with the old boy and then about twelve o'clock we came on down to the Elk and had dinner. Was really hungry so I took on quite a feed. When I had the lunch over we drove around town until we found Ma and Ben as the birds said they were in town again. Found them up at Tommy's and Ben gave me a couple of dollars to get a gallon of wine so I told him to meet me at Pollard's and went

after the gallon of muscatel. Percy dropped me at the tire off at Polichi and I got her back on in jig time. Backed her out and pulled up to the pumps to fill up on water. Got all set and took Mary, her sister, the dog, and a girl friend for a ride up the hills and back. The old car ran O.K. so when Ben came up I gave him the extra tires that I had and we were all set; had a couple of drinks and then Ben pulled out for home and I drove down to the White Garage and Tommy and I pulled her on to the grease rack and we drained out a couple of gallons of sludge and corruption before we were done with it. Drained the transmission, and differential then we refilled her with good grease and put in some fresh oil; greased the old baby all up with marfak and it was supper time. Took on a real feed with the Boyles before I took the old car and a bunch of kids out to ride around a little. Let the kids drive and we had quite a time. Up to Kelly's about nine and when Jolly got back from work I took her for a ride around and we picked up Percy and had a little drive. Took him back to his car and took Kelley around the block again. Back to the Elks about eleven and gave the folks a hand before we called it a day. Was pretty well pooped out when we headed for bed about two o'clock. Fiddled another day away I guess but we've got these things to do and may as well get them done as we can at all. More tomorrow.

April - 29 - Friday
At Home

Woke about seven - thirty and lay in bed awhile until I heard action downstairs then rolled out, shaved and got all set to go again. Found Percy drinking a last cup of coffee before he pulled out so I grabbed a cup full and climbed into the car with him as soon as I had drank it. We headed down to the Gage and Delphi districts to post the Close of registration notices. Went out the number four road, thru Gage up thru Delphi and then up the Cattle Creek road as far as Chandler's posting, swung back to the highway and then on in to Roundup was back in town by nine ten. Had a few errands to do up town before I beat it back to the Elk and got some breakfast. Tony needed some bread crumbs so I got them out for him, ran a couple of errands for Mrs. Vreeland about ten - thirty got the Hudson going and slipped out of town being very careful not to run in to the traffic cop. A lovely day, clear and warm with now and then a sudden gust of wind from the west. Wheeled the old bottle right around forty-five and prayed for good luck as I had no tools with me to do anything in case of trouble. Reached home by eleven and soon changed clothes; found things in fine shape and I got busy helping Ben fix a fence down by the well so we can let the sheep go down to water all nite if they wish; they kept us busy until Pa called us in to have lunch and I was [illegible] again

we had dinner then I read over the mail. Had a few letters and the folder or cover for the popular educator magazines and it makes a most handsom volume indeed. Back at it again and I took the ford and a can of water and went out to bring the tractor on in. Had to take the battery out of the car to get her going but she ran all right and I got her in by the shop where I could work on the old baby. Went back and got the ford and then had to take a run up west to see if we could see Alden anywhere on our range. No one in sight so we came on down to the dam and Ben went for a swim before we came on back. Got busy tearing the tractor down and had her pretty well stripped by the time Jack and the sheep came in and we had to pump for them; they were really thirsty and took on a big fill before they were done. Supper ready so came on up and we had another round with the knives and forks. A couple of lambs out on the range so Ma and Ben went after them while I finished up on the chores. Night caught us so we knocked off for awhile and I had time to make my notes and catch up on things one more. Read awhile and about ten called her good and turned in very sleepy indeed. Dad is very anxious to get the tractor fixed so he can get a little crop in but it looks pretty day to me to be putting in any grain. Wonder how the Isabella is getting in the night: wish I was in town and had the old River bump again —

april - 30 - Saturday
at Home

Some damned old ewe had lost her lamb and was raising merry hell so we couldn't sleep any longer. Was about five when I got up and got busy again. Found a wonderful day coming on so got the water pumped and helped get the bunches all out. Had breakfast and Jack said he was taking a few days off as he feels pretty tough so I took the shop band and went south with them. Seven-forty when I pulled out and the sheep settled down to feed very nicely and gave me very little trouble after I bunched them up a couple of times. They went up in the draws on the North east corner of the Wunder place and the grass is really fine in the low spots and along the draws where the snow banks lay on heavy and long. Had a tablet and a pencil with me so wrote a letter to Janet while I was out under the jack pines and taking a few minutes while they fed. The wind stood in the east and blew up a pretty stiff gust now and again but it was always warm so it didn't matter. Got up on top finally and could see over on to section five and saw the Anderson sheep out there and could see the 'gut' wagon with them so knew they had started to lamb: they were busier than hell and could see them drive all over - watched old Charley as I was afraid that the old boy would work over on to us and get what was he could I mean. F.R. sheep camped in the

brush for awhile so I lay down in the shade and took it easy too. Ann we lumbed and as she was nicely spotted I left her alone and held the few sheep that wanted to travel in close. They began feeding out at two-thirty so I let them spread and they did fine. Ben got back about three as he had been up to the Duck pond to look the tractor and the outfit over. He brought me out some hot coffee and we had a talk while the sheep worked on out again. The rain was out of them and they settled down nicely on the feed. Had another lamb dropped and as all was well left it to work in after supper. Ben took the first ewe and lamb and headed in while I got the sheep together and they worked slowly homeward once more. Was just six ten when I got in so had the babies on feed for ten hours and thirty minutes today. Came on up to supper and was plenty hungry. We ate, watered the sheep and then went back out to get the rest of the lambs. These are the 2nd bunch to lamb; ramblets and touchy as hell but we got them in by using plenty of time and care. Just nicely dusk when we got everything done and came on in to read and rest awhile. Feel plenty tired even though I had a very easy day of it out on the range. With the grass coming as it is we will be all O.K. if we can only get a little rain and that within the very immediate future. Am apple a glass of wine and to bed at ten thirty but slept plenty soundly and was much sore

August -1- Thurs 1940
At Home

Woke at four-thirty and was soon hoofing it over the ground looking for sheep. Went clear down to the lower end of the place but couldn't find a single sheep so headed back. As I came on back and walked up on five coyotes hunting rabbits on the big hill south of Henders - they were up wind and didn't notice me so I got up close enough to them to throw a stone at them before they saw me & scattered - found a little rabbit they had just killed but dropped in their excitement - must be one litter for they all looked alike and were great pals. On up to the sheep and just had them outside the gate when the boys came up. Hotter than hell already and how my head does ache and my nose burn it is really hell to have a sinus headache like I have. Had breakfast and looked over the mail before we got the feed out and went up to Davis to see if we could still get a little feed up there. Stopped at Spichers to give them some magazines and have a few minutes chat with Elizabeth before we went on up to the hole. Saw a couple of cars over on the north side so we drove on over there and found young Jim Elliot and a sheep man from over west Salting on the hill above Graces place - so we stopped for a short visit with them before we drove on down to Davis. It is hot and burned

to a crisp down there but there is still a few loads of feed we could get if we get at it right away - took a look around but nothing much there so we took the magneto off the Wattle boy and came on down the country. Shot a few rabbits as we came in and reached home about one and boy but I'm really sick for my head is giving me hell for sure. ate lunch and then it was so hot we took a few minutes rest and when it clouded up we went out and at it once again. I fixed up the bunker a little as it was all bent out of shape then had the lever to raise the sickle bar to fix on the mower and as usual we didn't have the necessary repairs so had to get an old lever off a disk plow that was handy and of course had to do a lot of sawing and conjuring to get the damned thing fixed so we could use it. A couple of big and heavy showers caught us while we were at it so lost some time but was delighted with the rain. Supper about seven and when done I cut wood while Ben went out to bring the sheep on in from the bed ground as we want them at home today to get things lined up before we go up to the hole to make the hay we plan on. Was dark by the time we quit and as usual I felt terrible and was so weary that I turned in pretty early - must see the doctor for I know that it isn't normal to feel so worn out and exhausted all the time. So much to be done and still I never feel like doing anything just have to drive myself all the time to even keep moving it seems. Still stays hot and the thunder showers keep sweeping up on us.

Aug - 2 - Fri
At Home

Up at five and found it partly cloudy and we had sevral really heavy rains last night. Caught up on my notes and then we had breakfast. Snuffer and I got ready about seven thirty and headed for town again. Found Pole Creek running to beat hell and water standing everywhere so they must have had one hell of a big rain up north. Six miles out of town it was dry and staid so all the way. Reached town about 8:30 and went to the Post office and sent our car payment and life insurance first thing then gave Snuffer a five spot. Met Percy and he took us down to the Elks to have some coffee before we went back up town and went up to see Dr. Stocker about Kyles teeth but find that the Doctor has gone out of business so we had to go on down to Dr. Peirson and made an appointment for 10:30. Had some time left so we went out to Snuffers place east of town but could find no one home so went back to the city and got around visiting with a few old freinds and we had quite a talk with some old acquaintenes. Was in to Blairs and found some travel syrup pitchers full of bath salts so bought one each for Anne and Mrs. Veal and they seemed really pleased with them. Had a sandwich and some beer then the

Bid got back from the dentists and we drove down to the fair grounds to see Dad and talked with the boys awhile. Back to town about one and ran around a bit before we went back to the Elk for some dinner. I ran a few errands about town but didn't get very much done. Mrs. Veal is busy rustling a job for me so I have very little to worry about it seems: she is trying to get a job thru the politicians where I won't have to work so damned hard all the time. Had quite a talk with the folks before Byrd and I finally got busy and gathered up our load of stuff and of course made numerous stops to talk and visit here and there about the town. Went up to the Court House for a little while and then out to the Airport Inn for a few drinks and find the Chicken Coop closing up as things don't go like people expect it to and then they throw up their tail. Had a little talk with Jack and finally headed for home again and we made time getting home. Felt tired as hell when I finally got in and we unloaded. Had coffee and made up my accounts. Spent about thirty dollars today and didn't get a hell of a lot either but so it goes. Worked on the mower for awhile and then ground the sickle as we must get busy and make some hay. We had supper about eight thirty when Ben got in and after a pow-wow we got things lined up and got ready for bed again and as usual I am always dog weary and just a little bit discouraged too.

Aug - 3 - Sat

At Sherlocks Ranch

Devils Hole, Montana.

Woke at five and found it cool and very nice out so got up and got busy. Hunted up tools and got stuff together until Ma called breakfast and then all hands ate. Snuffer took the sheep out while Ben and I finished getting the mower ready and got it loaded up on the truck from which we had removed the haypack. Got her lowered down and then loaded up our other equipment before we got all set and headed up to Kendres for the Chevy as we needed some of the bedding in it. Got our grub, bed, and camp equipment all packed and then it was time for lunch again so we sat up & ate a bite. Was about one o'clock when we set out for the hole Ben in the lead with the old truck and me bringing up the rear with the ford and the food. Pretty hot and windy with the breze so hot it would singe your beard. We hauled right along and Ben made fine time but up on the section east of Ewbanks and about three miles from the hole I developed trouble so we stopped to investigate and found that the bolt that the back spring had broken and the body of the car had slid over on the spring until it was riding the left back tire. Tried to pull it back but no can do. Boy how I cursed Henry ford and his half assed acme of all junk.

couldn't do anything with it so drove on slowly until I got over in the section by the big rocks and by this time the tire was squealing and smoking so I stopped, jacked her up and tried to block it on but just couldn't make any headway as I couldn't get one nut loose - worked for about half an hour and then Ben came back and we got busy on her got the body over enough so that by driving with one side in the wheel track and the other on the prarie I could get on back to the Sherlock place: was so mad I could hardly breath but nothing else we could do but go to work on it again which we did and found all the nuts and bolts were frozen with rust and almost impossible to turn - broke a few off and chiseled some of the others and all the while we were really cursing Henry and his two bit outfit out in good shape. Tried a dozen different ways but couldn't get the spring out so finally we had to break some bumper bolts and take one wheel off before we finally got the damned spring out of the old heap. By this time it was almost dark and a few small pink clouds like drops of blood on the black storm clouds behind them told us it was going to be night soon and as yet no camp made so I cut a bit of wood and I took a ton or two of ashes out of the old stove: like old times to be back in the dusty vermin infested shack. threw out a couple of old mattresses all mouse eaten and put on fair one on the bed then we started supper the old stand by fried spuds and bacon with eggs

on top and bread with peanut butter and black coffee - the same meal I have eaten here for God knows how many times in the past. almost twenty years ago now that I camped right here with Otto Drake and introduced him to this same dish. How bitterly I resent the fact that I'm almost in the same situation that I was then only now I have my future behind me instead of ahead. How we have to strive for what little we get and it seems that even what pitifully little junk we have to work with is always on the bum and it's no damned wonder we never accomplish anything. Would have had a couple of loads of hay cut if the car hadn't gone to hell or no but as it is we only succeeded in wasting the day and losing up grub and gasoline. We washed up our dishes and then read and I made up my notes again. The wind howls dull and lonely around the shack and a vast and empty loneliness seems to fill the hole. How it would be like old times if Janet would only come striding in now but she is smarter than I am for she left this god forsaken ass hole of all creation while she was young and reasonably unencumbered but me like the dull witted ass that I am I have to stick it out and always make it the hard way - hell would even be too pleasant a place for me I'd have to have it tough or I wouldn't know what to do.

Aug - 4 - Sun
At Sherlocks

Woke just before daylight but was so sleepy I could hardly move: a skunk has moved in under the floor during the night and what a stench he has set up you can hardly breath but I was too tired to get up and look after his case. Was about six when I finally got up and got busy again. a cold clear morning with a brisk wind blowing. Soon had our breakfast ready and when the dishes were done we got busy on the ford again. Found a bolt we could use in the spring and soon had her back into place and the Clamps on but we had one hell of a time to get the hangers on the axle and worked cursed, and sweated for a couple of hours before we finally made it: had to use an old plow bolt in one hanger but finally got the damned thing in place and were we pleased but no one will ever sell me another ford for those damned springs are a mistake and a nuisance say what you will and beg no stretch of imagination could they be made to last very long. Piled up our tools and got them put in place then Ben put the magneto on the tractor and I got some gasoline for it: found the gas tank leaks and she is all to hell in a dozen places but snapped right off and we pulled down to the well in the coulee that is full of brackish water and dead rabbits and got

the radiator filled and Jesus but it stinks. Unloaded the mower and put the buncher on then it was noon so we took time out to cook some lunch and when we got ready to go to work it was raining a little and a cold wind was blowing out of the northeast. Made a couple of rounds in the weeds and sweet clover north of the house but she got too wet so had to shut down for awhile and fixed the governor which we were tied up as it is all to hell now. Read awhile and as soon as it had cleared up a little we cranked up again and pulled over to the east end of the place and got busy in the wheat as there is a couple of pretty good spots in it. The engine idled along nicely with the mower and we really made good time but the damned buncher doesn't work so hot all the grain just lays on the sickle and refuses to slide back into the buncher and we have a hell of a time. Lose almost all we cut off and drag the rest down most of the time. The wind and the dust were terrible so we were both red eyed and awful with a pail of dust in no time, sure a dirty bitch to work in but we kept at it but we were loosing more of the grain than we were putting up so finally had to shut down and went in for a sharp sickle: got a lunch while we were in and when we got back and put the sharp sickle on we found it no better so then didn't know just what to do: we cut away at it until about eight when we pulled in

and we were really down hearted for it seems that try what we will we are doomed to failure and having nothing to work with we can't get even a lousey little two bit job done without a great deal of trouble. Started a fire and began getting supper as usual I feel tough as my sinus headache is a constant bother now and it seems that I'm just always tired out. We sat around in the dim light from the small kerosene lamp while the stench from the skunk filled the whole place- Lord Lord to what sorry conditions can thou reduce thy servants- We washed up our dishes and then got ready to read awhile but I was too weary even to finish my notes and soon had the old carcas in bed where I lay in a blue funk for a few minutes before I went to sleep. Ben is really getting fed up on the situation and just plinty disgusted with the whole thing but it doesn't seem to make much difference what we do or how hard we try we still just don't get anywhere with our diddling around - if it wasn't for leaving the folks to fight this thing out alone in a mighty tough world I think I'd do the smart thing putty quick and get out of this mess for about all we are doing is to maintain life in a body that is slowly dieing and must of course die in the end so we just can't win no matter how we play it. Really tired and must admit we have a good bed here in camp if we have nothing else. Cold again tonight with a good brisk wind blowing from the north west.

Aug - 5 - Mon
At Sherlocks

Woke about five thirty but lay in bed to nearly until seven twenty then turned out feeling like something long dead that was been fished up from the deep. Clear, lots of sunshine and a just moderate west wind. Foggy as hell but we got busy on the breakfast reading and writing while it was cooking. Breakfast over we got the old truck ready and drove over to the old Colbert place where M. D's. hay rake was sitting and we found it a rather decrepit and sorry piece of machinery with the power lift and most of the other stuff gone off it but even with its sad case of pyrohea it had enough teeth left to do what we needed of it so we loaded her up and headed back to the hole with it soon reached Davis and lifted her off. Took the bunches off the mower and hooked the rake behind: used the bed rope to dump her and about 10:30 we pulled out into the field. Didn't take us very long to get going and the rake would pick up most of the wheat if we cut only in the draws where the grain was heaviest: a hot and very dusty job but we stuck her out and really made good time. Would change occasionaly to give each other a chance to get up and out of the dust. Plugged away at it and made nice time. But once the draws were cut out it was

pretty sorry picking so we called her good about one - that and pulled up to the house: I serviced the outfit while Ben got lunch and as soon as we had eaten we got under way again. The draw north of the shack had quite a little weeds, sweet clover, etc. in it and we mowed that all out before we went on down the little draw thru the field. Went over the entire north and east sides but could find nothing that was worth cutting so we pulled on up to the house and got busy cutting the gully bottom that we have west and south of the shack. Much to our surprise we were able to mow the bottom with its dead grass and debris and it piled up quite nicely at that so we cut all we could get in there and it was rather difficult making some of the turns but we managed and when we finished mowing the sun was well down and the cool of the evening was upon us. We dropped the mower and pulled the rake alone for a few rounds to get it nicely raked up and just at dusk we called her a day. Tried up and in jig time we had some supper ready and we were ready for it as well as both of us were quite hungry. When we had the dishes done we took a few minutes to read and rest before we beat it to bed once more. At least we accomplished a little today if not such a hell of a lot at that. Wish we could get the hay hauled now and wind the jilby old job up as it should be done - but suppose there will be a snag in our progress somewhere in spite of hell.

Aug - 6 - Tues
At Home

Was after seven when I woke and found it just plenty hot with the sunlight pouring in and no wind blowing. A couple of sparrows were having one hell of a fine time on the rafters over the bed and kept the dust showering down on us steadily. Lay in bed awhile until I could muster enough ambition to get up and start the fire then we read while the breakfast cooked. Done with the dishes we loaded M.D.'s rake back up on the truck and beat it over to the Colbert place and unloaded it at the buildings. Went over to the house and shot a weasel and a packrat - the buildings are a ruin and things are really sad and deserted looking. Felt rather much discouraged after looking things over so beat it back to the hole and loaded up the mower and got her chained down and ready to go then as it was too early to start lunch we beat it up to the cooler and cocked up the hay that we had cut last night and it piled up nicely. This done we went to the draw and cocked up all the sweet clover and weeds that were there and saw Vic's sixteen milk cows come down to the corner and one of the old bitches had to come thru the fence and we had to run her out and fix the fence. glad we are not down to the til pulling act yet to get by like that bastard Vic.

about one - thirty we wound her up and we came on in to the shop and fixed up; had a couple of Geographic magazines that we had rustled at Colbrin and had them to study over while the lunch was cooking. Pretty hot but we enjoyed our lunch and after we had finished all the coffee we washed our dishes and then went over on the east side to cock up the grain we had cut: forward we had done the best work was where we had raised the rake and it does seem like we should get more hay than we did off of this field but unless we use the binder and use only the platform canvas and reel and let it run into a windrow and tow the rake behind the binder to bunch her up. Finished our cocking up and came on in to camp to gather up some of our junk and then pulled out for home. I was driving the old truck and Ben followed with the Ford. I had some little trouble with the mower shifting around but I got it home without much trouble and we soon had it unloaded. Ma was all O.K. but the coyotes have killed one sheep and another has a bad head due no doubt to needle pass infection. We soon had some supper and then when Snuffer got in we had a big talk before we went back to our books and notes again. The time soon slipped away so we called her good about 10:30 but don't feel so tired tonight. Sure hain't accomplished much for all the time that we've got in and the fuel and stuff we've used up. Such a warm tonight.

Aug — 7 — Wed

At Home

Up about six and soon had things going we got breakfast over then Ben and I got the truck ready put the hay rack on it and got ready to go again but had several odd jobs to do which sadly delayed our start. Had a sheep with a huge swelling on its head and her eye gouged out from trying to scratch with her foot so I shot her and we hauled the old baby along as we headed out: pretty hot already but now and again a little breeze which came up and helped just a little. Rolled along without much trouble and stopped a couple times to put water in and then on to the hole. Drove then by the shack to get our forks and then out to the wheat patch to get loaded up and found it hot and heavy going as the sun was really blistering down and it was still: dusty as the devil but we got our load on without much trouble and we were on our way again: had a pretty fair little load on at that and it handled not too badly: got out the east gate and was just ready to wheel along again when the motor bracket on the right side broke and down the motor dropped. We felt quite chagrined but not at all non plussed for all we did was jack the old bitch up, cut a few feet of wire off of Elliots fence and improvise a hanger under the old baby and she

held nicely even though a bit lop sided at that. I nursed the old girl along and we made it for home in nice shape. Had to stop several times for water but outside of that we got along just fine. Home again and while Ma fixed us some tiffin Ben and I unloaded the little dab we had and at that it made a nice little pile when it was all unloaded again. Ate up to eat a bite and get things in shape as we had to put a bracket on the dash and and the old bracket from back under the motor and it took a little contriving but we got her done. Was getting close to sunset and I was cutting wood when Ma decided we needed some butter so I got the old ford out and Ma and I drove over to Andersons. Found the family home and Bess and Jack there so had a talk. Adolph took me out to see his shower bath and it is quite a rig at that and while I was out there I took a good hot shower and boy does it make you feel like a christian. We sat around the house to visit awhile and I was surprised and just a little envious when Adolph tells me that he has purchased the Black Mike place (497 acres, four wire fence - for $2,237.00) and got it for about forty seven cents an acre, boy but that lad is really a promoter and seems to get an unlimited supply of money out of that bank at Swistown. Wish I could learn to pull the good ones that he does and get away with it. It was about eleven oclock before we got home and to bed again.

Aug - 8 - Thur
At Home

Didn't feel very chipper but I rolled out anyway and was soon under way again. We had some breakfast and then Ben and I headed for the hole once more and on the way up shot a half dozen or so rabbits and I spotted a rattlesnake asleep in the sun and gave him a nice blasting with the hollow point bullets: getting so I can shoot pretty fair at that. Reached the hole and it was really hot up in the field then with the sun sizzling down on us but we got at it and I pitched the load on and Ben really loaded her on and we managed to clean up the field and not have too big a load at that. Put the old girl full of oil and water again and we headed for home just about eleven when we pulled out of the field and she was really hot so the old kettle really waked up a temperature and we chugged down the road wheezing, boiling, and now and then spouting steam but just kept right on rolling. Stopped to kill a couple of rabbits and to fill up on water once or twice and then on in home in good shape. Just 12:10 when we reached here and lunch was on so we took time out to eat. Lon Byrd was almost in tears and had a real case of blues as the sheep had run all over the

morning and the dogs wouldn't go with him so the kid was really down hearted. I felt sorry for the lad as I recall how often I have felt the same way for when we are young and emotional life can be very bitter and my cruel. Told him to forget the sheep and go up with Ben for a load of hay this afternoon and I would take the sheep over myself so helped the boys get going then had a couple of cups of coffee and was on my way again. Found the sheep all scattered out around the water but they were feeding nicely: hotter than billy ole Hell and the sweat poured off me but I poked on around the band and just as I had everything set heard a great shouting, thundering of hoofs and the roar of a pistol and over the hill toward me came Mowfold in full cry and pursuit of a coyote and as it shot thru the fence and past me I blasted away with the 22 but he showed us all a clean ass. John came on down to the fence and we sat down for a big talk and I really enjoyed a couple of hours with the old boy. Saw our sheep getting pretty well scattered so we got up and at them again and I found some over in 33 and all over hell was busy gathering sheep until almost dark. Shot another rattlesnake and he came almost getting one of the dogs. The sheep fed along slowly toward home and it was well after dark when I got in and Bryl came out to meet me - he seems a bit cheered up and I'm glad for I like the lad a lot. Busy until about ten thirty and then to bed pretty well petered out -

Aug – 9 – Fri
At Home

Up at the usual time and we soon had things lined up and our breakfast over then I got busy on my letters and we made up our range popcorn and sent it in to Herb Seifert. The writing done I got my head washed and we shaved then changed clothes and got things shaped up so we could roll to town. Boyd had the sheep up on Pricketts and they were really doing a nice job of it so we took the kid his lunch and then rolled for town. Already hot and bad but we didn't notice it much going in. Reached the Airport Inn and stopped for a drink: Hank was on the job and we had quite a visit while we were there and first the Billings beer and then the Utility man arrived and of course they were setting them up steadily. Drank until about one o'clock and had quite a buzz on by the time we went on down town again. Stopped at the post office and we got the mail and had the dope from the wool and it ran from 27 to 30 cents according to the grade and quality. On down to the Elk and as usual when I am drinking a little I was hungry as hell. Had some braised short ribs and felt a lot better before we finished. Mary Polich was just off shift so we took her home and stopped at Jacks for more beer

Went in to see Marys baby and he really is a man: Square fin shoulders and a straight smooth back that will really make a man of him, he's about the huskiest little chap that I've seen in a long time. Back down town and took the Ford over to the Ford agency to get the spring shackles put in and a brake rod put on. While there I saw a lot of the old gang and we had a big talk with Ira Bell and the bunch. The mechanics around the Ford are indeed slower than the wrath of christ and we waited and waited around the garage while they worked on our car and about a dozen more before we finally got the flivver out about six oclock and the bandits had a bill against us for $6.35 which really took the wind out of my sails as I had expected to pay about two or three dollars but nothing like that. Got the groceys together and we were ready to go so up to the White Garage for gasoline and Boyds were back so we had a big visit with them and I got all the grass they had cut on the lawn which we brought out to fed the lambs. Blowing a hell roaring gale by the time we had finished the preparations for home so drove all the way in a roaring wind. Got home just after dark so we were soon unloaded and then got ourselves some supper and I was both hungry and tired. Done eating we looked over the mail and then I got the old Chevrolet ready as we had the sheep camped up on the Hendee place. Ben went up to stay with them and I got ready for bed - brother oh brother but I do feel lousy.

Aug -10- Sat
At Home

Already hot, still, and glitteringly bright when we got the breakfast over and had things lined up for the day. I took the Ford and went out to the sheep as I wanted Byrd to have the day off to help Ben a little. Drove all over the Hinder place and finally found the bid over on Prichetts southeast corner and the sheep were really doing nicely so I held them on the corner and they really settled down and fed very nicely for a couple of hours then began working toward the water and they were really doing fine. It was so hot that when I sat down the old overalls would get hot enough to blister once so kept moving from one shade to another as we worked in to the dam. Had some letters and a copy of the readers digest with me so kept the mind as well as the feet occupied. Plenty easy getting along with the sheep when they handle like they do now and I was just weary from poking around when they finally went to the water about twelve. Boy what luck to have the water in the dam & get away from the pumping in such hot weather and the sheep seem to do so much better when they can have all the water they want whenever they want it. Found a good shady tree up on the rimrocks and soon had my shoes off and was stretched out. Ate lunch but wasn't very hungry.

Really pleasant to be indolent with everything well in hand and listen to the wind whistling in the pine tops and the cool rock beneath me. Couldn't sleep so I read most of the time and watched the birds as they flew about and raised hell with each other. The time passed and it was four o'clock before any of the sheep began working away from the water and about a quarter to five before I pushed the drag out and they went north up on to the wheat grass and fed along very nicely. Went around them a couple of times to throw the stragglers in and it was really warm work just walking around but fortune favored us with a little breeze and we got along very nicely. Up almost to the timber on the north end before I swung back toward camp. A really warm and very lovely evening which I enjoyed for already there is a touch of Indian summer in the air and smoky haze in the distance. Can see quite a large forest fire out in the bull mountains south east of town so may have considerable trouble before they get it under control. Sun down and a fine evening with a quarter moon out and everything very beautiful a real night to be out and about but I'm too tired to do any running around. Staid with the sheep until after eight as it was a moonlit night and I was very much afraid they wouldn't stay on the bed ground. Home and in a short time I had supper and listened to the radio awhile but was too tired to get much kick out of anything so beat it to bed and Ben went up to stay with the sheep —

Aug - 11 - Sun
At Home

Rolled out again to find a smokey day still and very hot. So dry that our nose and head burn and one is always thirsty. I pumped some water and got things lined up before breakfast was ready. We ate a good meal and then Byrl decided on up to relieve Ben while I got busy on my odd jobs and before long I had the old shoes fixed up and then took a load of stuff down to the bunk house this was soon taken care of and we hauled a load of water then we took a shower and got ready to go out and visit around the neighborhood. Was about eleven but decided to pull out before someone should come and spragg us up so Ma, Ben, and I got some clean clothes on and then we pulled out. Took the dogs up to the bid and they really hated to go as it was so damned hot and dry. Rolled north at a good clip and went thru by Spechers and up to see Benedicts: The old Sawell ranch looks pretty bleak and dreary. We found that the Benedicts were gone as we had expected as they had gone to a picnic over on Pike Creek so we left a note for them and headed on up to the Harris Ranch and the road going up there is still worse than it was years ago and what a trail it really is - wouldn't live up there if Luv would give me the place if I had to drive over that road to get up there to it.

Reached Harris to find all at home but Jorge who came in later. The boys were painting the house and having quite a time rigging up a scaffold. We had a very nice chat with them and then dinner was ready about two oclock and we sat down to a real meal. Had a nice chat and a good feed then out to the porch to take our ease again. Had a lot to talk over and then got the guns out and did a bit of shooting - the whole bunch is sold on the 'over and under' gun of ours. Got to talking things over and Harris told us it had been eight years since we were up then and coming to think it over they are right. Lord how we do fiddle away the time. Really did enjoy our visit and it was about six oclock when we finally made up our mind to pull out for home as it was getting late and we needed to get going again. Down over the wild and rocky road again and found Bradleys at home so we stopped in to see them for a few minutes and as usual they were putty busy but so glad to see us that they took time out for a nice little visit and we had a very pleasant couple of hours - hearing about old friends and acquaintances and what each was doing and where they lived. Knew that the time was flying but just couldnt get going until after ten oclock. An almost perfect night with a soft and lovely moonlight over everything and so warm and balmy it was beautiful. Found when we got home the Byrd had come in and got something to eat and gone back to the sheep so we got a good cup of coffee and so to bed about eleven. Has been a very pleasant and quite profitable day -

1939

May - 23 - Tues
At Home

Re-read

Woke plenty ~~but~~ early but lay in bed until 2 heard Ma getting the fires going so rolled out and got things tied over - everything O.K. and the day fair and warmer but still pretty wet out. Breakfast was soon over and I turned the bench out and helped Ben get a can of water to take to camp. Then went out to collect the bitches as it doesn't take them very long to get scattered out. They went to feeding quicker than usual so I found a nice sandy spot to take five in and read awhile. Kept turning the lead back so I could get the sun out of them before I left them to go in to lunch again. About ten - thirty heard the old truck up on the bench so I wandered over there and found Ben and Smithy cutting down another dead tree. Soon had her down and then I helped cut it up while George honed the axe with a bit of rim rock and did the limbing up for us. Went pretty fast and had a load cut up in jig time. Ben pulled down to the wood pile and we got her loaded up. Have been cutting it in just as large pieces as we could load and hauling it home where we can cut it up at our convenience. Left the boys to finish their load while I went on down to throw the sheep pretty well together and then go in to eat lunch. The mail was here but nothing much of importance. But a check for the folks from the govt agency for two hundred and ninety bucks for running expenses: pretty smooth I call it to

get the necessary funds for operating expenses before we had this loan there was no end of sweat and worry over where the necessary was coming from and when we would get it. Lunch over I read awhile before I beat it back out; found a huge magpie nest in a tall pine as I was going out and try as I could I just couldn't get it down; happened to have a match and a piece of paper with me so made a torch and set her on fire; most certainly got results and as the tree was green it didn't hurt it very much. Found the sheep scattered but not too badly so soon had them together again and sat down to read awhile. In prowling around I found a number of odd rocks and another broken arrow-head which I brought in for Ma to give the wolf kid. Clouded up and the wind got around in to the north east and was quite cold again. Was about halfway in when I found we had a new lamb and it was doing fine so went on in to water the sheep then came on back out and got them. Corraled up about the time Ben got back from camp and we had our supper and boy I was hungry. Just getting so I can smell things again and what a pleasure it is - must get this damned sinus trouble cured up as soon as it is possible for I'm plenty sick of this old foolishness. Supper over we had some music and then read for awhile again. Did a little writing and about ten called it good, had some wine and so to bed - not so tired but feeling dopey.

May — 24 — Wed
At Home

A raw dark morning with the clouds almost on the rooftree: Up reluctantly and went out to see how things were coming, everything O. K. so I pumped a little water and came on in to breakfast. The folks were going to town so I got my lunch and went on out, cold as the devil and the wind was very unpleasant. Got the sheep up on the old bed ground on Hendees and they settled down for almost an hour. Had a copy of "Writers Digest" so the time went quickly. The sheep soon got restless and I had to keep after them for they scattered all over the place. See an abundance of Primroses that have just begun to bloom and they are very fragrant and lovely. Tried to hold the sheep in a bunch and the lousy bitches ran hell out of me — was so damned sore I could bite nails and I cursed until I was weak — sure one son of a bitch to be herding without a dog once the sheep get wise to the fact that you can't put the heat on them. Kept using my cane but they are used to them now and pay very little attention. Finally got really sore and drove them all down to the middle of the pasture and held them in a bunch. Watched the old bunch breakers and they watched me & when they thought I was gone the worst one of the lot took off down a draw at a jig trot and some lambs started after her and so did I; she finally saw me and started to run and so did ewe: was really sore and chased her about a mile before I caught her in a fence corner by the

sheep shed. Gave her a good drubbing and then put a pair of wire hobbles on her until I had time to get my breath and hunt up some sacking. Got her hobbled and turned loose again just when the folks got back. We had lunch and it was about two-thirty when I got back out to the sheep once more; found them well spread but soon had them together again. Read for awhile but the clouds kept getting lower and lower and it looked so much like rain that I started working the sheep home. Got all corraled up about seven-thirty and we soon had supper. The folks tell me that Clark beat the hell out of Cliff Miller yesterday in the back of the Central Grocery and everyone is delighted for they all think that Cliff has had it coming a long time. Supper over I got busy on the notes again and was busy all evening. Have been working on my stories about "Screwball Carter" and have quite a time trying to decide on how to handle it to the best advantage: no doubt. I'll never get at it as I never get at anything else. Feel pretty much disgusted with the whole business for here we are the whole bunch of us monkeying around with a shirt tail full of sheep and no body accomplishing a damned thing. Finally started in to rain about nine o'clock and it was a slow, easy rain the kind that will really do us some good if it continues. It would be an astounding thing if we have another good productive year - but would make us feel pretty tough to certain of the neighbors make good after all they have done that was so lousey.

May -25- Thurs
At Home

Woke about six-thirty and felt very much as if I were on the rack, every joint, muscle and nerve in me ached like the devil and every time I blew my nose it felt as if I had a raw nerve in my back tooth. lay awhile taking stock of my misries and then got up. Had chared up and was warm and nice out but then were a few fleecy clouds in the sky and everything was damp. Breakfast over we got our lunches out and then Ben got the shovel and we went over to where I had found what seems to be an already desecrated indian grave. We dug down to what we think is virgin soil but found only a few pieces of bone and considerable white lime like stain that might possibly be bone dust, but no find of value so gathered up our ships as they were already ? scattered like the seed of a Continental rake and once we had them settled down on the gully bottoms then we went over on the northeast corner of the Hendee place to look over some more ~~Indian~~ indian remains. On top of the ridge are several square or rather rectangular piles of rock with the remains of old timbers under them looking much as if a house or lodge had been built and the stones used for shingles or siding and then the building had been burned down for when the stones are moved then is ashes and charcoal several inches deep under the stones. Four of these are strung down the ridge: we

did some excavating and much conjecturing but arrived at no definite conclusion. Getting close to noon so we gathered our sheep up and drove them down almost half way home then went on in to lunch. Finished our last bottle of ale today and it really went nice. Lunch over we had a little music and then a rest. Warm and muggy when I went back out to the sheep. Found the bitches almost to the west fence and I gave them one hell of a good rounding up before I sat down to rest and study the country for awhile; could see a rain storm coming so I took shelter in the old Hendee root cellar until it had passed. The sheep are bound to work west so kept me busy until about five when they headed in to water and I went on in. Sheep lined up and then had supper. Had two more lambs today that Ben brought down from camp tonight. Got everything lined up by eight thirty and then came in to rest and turn in for awhile. I'm in constant misery and just can't seem to get anything done - must try somehow to get my head cleared up pretty soon or I'll really be sick in a big way. Wish I could find some permanent cure for this sinus trouble it would be a god send to no end of people. The time slipped by and it was eleven o'clock before we finally got strung out and to bed once again. Need more sleep than we get I suppose but just can't seem to get to bed at any reasonable time.

May - 26 - Fri
At Home

another swell day and for the night I put in I didn't feel so badly. Took a look around before we had our breakfast. Looked like a good day to clock so we got our chores out of the way and about eight thirty we corraled up and got busy. Ben did the docking, marking, cutting, and branding while I caught the lambs and held them. Ma kept tally for us but sat several rods away and had her back to us as she doesn't like to see the bloody operation. Rather slow going but we made fair time and both of us were keyed down to the job so didn't have to stop to cool off any. Fortunately it was still and not to warm. Had a little trouble with the lambs getting through the damned old fences but we made out just the same and even with a blind windows outfit like we have we were done by eleven o'clock. Washed up, had a shot of wine and then had some music while we were waiting for lunch. My head still aches and the pus keeps draining down into my nose and throat and I thing that is what is making me so sick these days as all my joints and muscles ache like hell. Lunch was all set and we sat up - didn't take us very long to get it over with and then tallied up our lambs and had eight withers and sixty-four ewes out of the bunch which isn't too bad. Lunch over I read awhile and then went out to get busy. Decided to paint the car top with the top dressing I had ordered

The top of the car was so hot I could hardly hold my hands on her but finished the painting and then Ben put what was left on the Hudson top as it is in good shape yet and holds the finish nicely. This done I cut some wood and made a trip around the sheep to see how they were; we turned them out around the house here as we didnt want them to drag the lambs around until they healed up. Went down to the well to water the sheep and found a fine big lamb dead in the barrel we have for water at the top of the hill- he must have gotten in there last night and was nicely bloated up; always loosing a few one way or another it seems. About five I went on south and picked a lot of juniper berries then home to supper and the chores. All done I got some good music then crushed the juniper berries and poured boiling water over them then covered my head with a towel and inhaled the steam for awhile and it helped my head a little at that. Should have kept it up for several hours but just lacked the stamina to stay with it. Got our notes made, read awhile and about eleven we called it a day. Here the end of May approaches and we have so little done yet of what should be done- Wish I could get the flivver worked over and put into shape so I would be all set to go places should I get a chance to go away for awhile. Need some new piston rings but had better let them go until I get more money I suppose. Hell to be head up.

May - 27 - Sat
At Home

Up about seven and found another lovely day out. Got the sheep out and then had our breakfast. Ben had to go to town to attend the grazing meeting so I helped him get started and had him take the old Chevy. After he had gone I gave the sheep the once over and found them doing nicely so I came on back to cut some wood and tidy things up around the place. Had to water the little bunch we had in the back pasture and then the others were coming in to water again as it got pretty warm as the day wore on. Clouded up but there was great rifts in the clouds and long hot spells between the cool shady moments. Didn't feel very ambitious but tinkered around at odd jobs. No end of things that should be done but we just don't get at them as we should and how rapidly the time passes. Nothing much doing so gave Ma a hand getting lunch and we ate about eleven-thirty. Sat by to listen to a few minutes of radio and read a couple of good articles in Esquire then went out to find something to do. Decided on the clean up of our rhubarb and horse radish bed so weeded and hoed it thoroughly. Nice and cool with a good breeze blowing so I got busy on the hole for the new "Crapaumus" or "privy" and found it nice digging for the first twenty or so inches then hit hard going and in a very short time struck rock and as it was ledge rock got along fairly well for awhile but the layers soon became thicker and the digging

Consequently harder: tried various tools but none of them gave any too good results so just plugged away at it the best I could and worked until about five o'clock. Went out to see how the sheep were making it and found them doing just fine so came on it to look after the wood and water. Lost one ewe lamb from docking, either the shock or the loss of blood but it seems odd that it should be a ewe instead of a wether lamb. Read for a few minutes and then we had supper when Ben got home. Got the news and things are all quiet as hell in Roundup with very little chance of any excitement to come it seems. Supper over we gathered our sheep up and went thru the bunches to see that all was O.K. Everything set we lit up and sat by to read awhile Ben had several copies of "Life" and the new "Coronet" so we who all sit again: great little magazine the "Coronet" and I really enjoy it very much. Read as usual until quite late then turned in feeling pretty well frazzled out but not very tired. Ben tells me that the 'Bonanza' boast of having docked out four hundred and fifty lambs - would worry me like the devil if I thought the bastards had really made a lambing like that: but what the hell his expenses will get the most of it anyway so we should worry. Must get over my indolence and get out and rustle up a job again or summer will be on and I won't have made a dime again as is usual with me it seems of late; wish I could land a job around Billings somewhere-

May - 28 - Sun
At Home

Crawled out even as roused and soon had things lined up again. We got things out and then Ben had his breakfast and went on up to Slaughlands to dock a few more lambs while I got busy on my odd jobs. I felt like working on the car but it was so hot and I felt weary as hell so didn't do much of anything but wander around the place. Came in to read awhile but felt too restless to accomplish anything much at that. The time passed quickly and before long it was lunch time again and I helped Ma get it ready. We ate and took turns out to listen to the radio awhile. Watered the sheep and they were really thirsty as the day was terribly hot, dusty, and a warm wind all the time right out of the west. Tried to work on my experiment excavation but it was too windy and the rock was too hard so gave it up and went to work on the wood pile again. Was at it hard bowed and weary when a car drove in and was surprised indeed to find Jim Popovich and a load of friends and relatives: we had a talk and about this time Ben got in and we persuaded the folks to come on in awhile; they were very enthusastic over Bris carvings and we had a nice little visit - I like these foreigners as they have a fine sense of friendship and a full and hearty way of looking at life; had a nice little talk with them before they insisted on going home. When they had left gone I went back to my sawing and cut wood for the night. Wasn't

long before time for supper and we rigged us up a bite to eat. Supper over we gathered up the gunfor camps and headed up the country: got half way to camps before we discovered we had forgotten the coffee so we had to make a turn about and lay in a stock. Found Dad doing just fine and the sheep in good shape; had a yearling with a lamb so we brought it on home with us: was all dusty and have a two weeks growth of beard so I decided to get busy and clean up just a little so got some water on the stove to heat and then came in to get some music and read awhile - was taking it plenty easy when the Andersons drove in and damned if they didn't have an freezer of ice cream with them - really peculiar people and they do the damndest things which always surprise me very much. Had quite a talk and the girls gave us the dope on the situation in town. Poor Clarence he has nothing to say and sits like a living dead man and looks on while the rest of us talk: Adolph is the same old bull-shit and optomism and he gives me always a hearty pain in the ass. Ate the ice cream and then visited until midnight with the kids and we had quite a talk. They beat it home and we closed up for the night. Ma is sick again as she has the hives, a heat rash or something of that nature as she itches like the devil and is covered with the inflamed and minute water blisters. We all went to bed but I heard her up and around most of the night trying to find some means of relief.

May-29-Monday
At Home

Woke about six thirty and jesus but I was weary and worn out; got up and put my underwear and shirt on then felt so badly I went back to bed again and rested for another half hour then finally had to get up and at it again. A lovely day with a most balmy breeze out of the west. Pumped some water for the sheep and then came on up and helped Ma get breakfast as she is feeling pretty tough today; didnt get very much sleep last night and is liberally covered with the rash this morning and she suffers as it itches like fire. Breakfast over Ben and I took the ewes and lambs up through the back pasture and up to the Puckett place. Shot-gunned them on up so we would be there before it got too warm: It was such a lovely morning that they handled like a bunch of lambs and we got along fine. Left Ben when he got them in the clear and came on back to help around the house awhile. Things look good now and the grain is coming along nicely but we do need a little rain and no fooling. Got hot and the wind went down; felt so lazy to do very much so spent the time taking it easy and loafing around the kitchen: felt sorry as hell for Ma as she really suffers - any pain or sickness seems to get her endurance worn down in a very short time and she goes to pieces very easily. Ben didnt show up for lunch so we ate a bite and then took time out for some music on the radio. Went out for a glance at the thermometer and found it ninety above

in the shade and getting warmer. Was going to do a lot of things but just didn't have the pep to get at them. Ben got back about three and said all was well at camp and Pa was doing fine with the sheep. Felt a bit better so went out to plant some of the sweet corn that Bill had given Ben and found that most of the place was already planted so I put some corn between the rows and put in enough so if it grows we shall have plenty for all our house use. Cooled off a little so I went down to take a shower and found the water in the barrel almost luke-warm and man did that bath really feel good to me; was surprised and no end delighted when for some mysterious reason my nose readjusted itself and I could smell the wonderful tingling pine odor and the flowers - what a delightful sensibility it is to be able to enjoy all the fragrances and odors once again - we miss so much when we lose the use of one of our faculties. Was just getting lined up for supper when our old pal Pesey drove in and were we delighted to see the old boy. Had a real old visited and he told us about the situation in town and how he and his blondes were getting along. Had enough top dressing left to fix his car up so slapped it on. We had a gab-fest that lasted up until 9:15 and then the kid beat it back to town and we got our chores lined up and went to bed about eleven. Today is a holiday all over the state; called by Gov. Ayres as the Norwegian royalty are on a visit to this state now —

May - 30 - Tues

At Home

Woke to find another fine day and I was soon up and at it. Watered the sheep and then came on in for breakfast. Ma feels considerable better so we feel much relieved. Breakfast over we got the old truck ready and rustled our tools then went on up the country and stopped at the camp and left the water; met Dad and he had the mail so we stopped for a few minutes to talk then on our way again. Made good time until we got up to the north end of the Devils Hole and there we saw a car and two men where we had staked out our bentonite claims so we stopped to see what was going on and were we surprised to see Dutch Hendy and Comstock there and they were looking for some bentonite as Charley is going to use it for roofing he tells us you put a thin layer on the roof then cover it with a layer of mesh wire and then put about an inch of bentonite on top - makes a good fire proof roof and is water proof. We had a nice visit while we were there and helped the boys to sack up a dozen sacks of the ore. Loaded it in the car and then pulled up on top of the ridge. The boys insisted that we have lunch with them so we sat down. Charley had a nice roast of pork; a loaf of rye bread and a cherry pie so we really had a nice feed and enjoyed the talk while we were doing it. Was almost one when we parted company and drove on up the well to see how things looked. Was very much surprised to find about a thousand head

of sheep down around the well. Went down to talk with the herder and he tells us that they are Harises sheep and as we might have expected the old son of a bitch has been cageing grass from us again - sure a hell of a neighborhood when you don't have to turn your back for it's either Harris or Lewis eating you out of house and home all the time. Told the herder where we were and asked him to keep off then went on down to the old building and gathered up a load of old 2X4's and a few old boards; took us quite awhile to gather up a putty fair load but we made it by 3:45. Headed for home and made good time. Got to the top of timber butte and then found our right rear tire flat and it must have been flat for some little time as the valve was pulled out of the tube; already too far gone to fix it so we went on home on the flat and was in about six. Felt very weary and quite sick from the reaction of our rage over the cookin' neighbors feeding us out. Unloaded and put our truck up and then came in to read a little before supper was ready. When done eating we got our chores done and then it started in raining and for once we had a really decent rain one of those slow lazy rains that came down nice and steady and kept it up most of the night. We read awhile and at ten-thirty called her good and we rolled in once more: glad to see such a lot of moisture for this will mean that we may have a bit of hay once again and that is what we need if we are to keep going at all in this loosey country.

1939

June – 10 – Sat.

At Home.

Renewed the struggle with existence about six-thirty and it was after seven before I got up and about. Went down to pump the troughs full and get the sheep lined up before breakfast was ready. Ate and then got busy. Ben helped us get the tractor going and then went on out with the sheep while George and I got the fresno going. Pretty sloppy but we soon had her down to when we could handle it. Ran low on the water and pulled down to the well to fill up and while there the damned old engine quits on me: had to get the Hudson down and hook the battery on to get her again: Just nicely started when the soft plug shook out of the block and away goes all the water and with it the last vestage of my patience. Had to rustle some tools and take the exhaust off and put a piece of cloth under it and drive her back again. Finally got it repaired and was ready to start once more and then George had to stall and fool around instead of helping me to get going and I was really ready to blow up. Back on the job and we got along without much more trouble until Mrs hailed us down for lunch. Came on up and I find a couple of shots to bring Ben in so we could eat. Lunch over I went out to work on my tire and was giving it hell when Jim Elliot, wife, and Bill Newton stopped in for Bills things as they were on their way to Billings

Bill looked a little better but still looks pretty peaked. They were on their way and when I finished my tire we went back to work on the shed. Didn't take us long to finish up and we cleaned out the corrals at the same time; called her about two-thirty and wound it up - Pulled the stuff all in the clear and shut her down - God was I glad to get them with the damned thing. Gave Dad a hand on the toilet he is building and the old lumber and stuff we are using sure makes a slow and heavy job of it. Had coffee and a cinnamon roll at four - thirty then I went out to play with the pup awhile and he is getting used to us now and will come up and lick on my hands now. Had a hell of a big shower about five and water was soon running everywhere - Finally cased up and we worked on the crappy until time to get busy on the chores. Gathered up the sheep and sat down to supper just about the time another big rain hit us. Rained all evening and the water was coming down the creek to beat hell again - looks as if we are in for a real hay crop again this years. Had some splendid radio programs tonight & I worked on my story "Snowball finds Treasure" until time to hit the bed again - Wish I could really get in there and study, work, and stay with it until I could get to selling and then good bye old manual labor.

June - 12 - Mon
At Home

How anyone could wake up feeling as tough as I did and still be alive seems to me to be almost miraculous; took considerable time to get organized and about but we eventually made it and I watered the sheep & had some breakfast. Had the lambs to dock so Ben and I got them behind a couple of panels and soon had them docked out and had seventeen as total. Put the sheep all out and then Dad and I went back to work on the can. Had all the old 2X4's and quite a lot of boards still full of nails so plugged away at it and worked steadily until a heavy shower came up and gave us hell for awhile. When it passed we had our mornings coffee and then hit the ball once more. Dad has to rest quite often as he is weak and very unsteady; and tires so very quickly. While I was helping him today he said "You'll just have to be patient with me, for I can't work any faster." It has me really worried but what to do I know not: for I'm afraid he is too far gone for the doctor to help him very much. Made a pretty good showing before Ma called us in to lunch again. Ben got back and we were soon eating. The lunch over we took a little rest before we all hit the ball again. Finally got all my nails out and straightened up then took some of the posts and stuff that we don't need and piled it out by the wood pile.

have a lot more stuff than I thought we had picked up but it will always come in handy when we build something else some of these days. Gave Pa a hand putting the roof frame work up and got a window made out of an old windshield glass. The afternoon moved along quickly and before long it was time to gather up the sheep and water them once again but this didn't take long and we were soon back on the old job and worked away steadily until supper time when Ben got back in. Ott and I went down to water the sheep and help to gather them up: the bastards are full as loads of hay and they really look fine - Ben remarked as he came in tonight what a wonderful stand of feed we have now and how fine things look for us. Was monkeying around the place and pulled up the little dead elm in the yard and made a nice knob stick out of it and got a big laugh out of the idea. Worked on our odd jobs until about dark then came in to our radio and our notes again. Worked on a story I have had in mind for some time and made the notes on a story I am planning called "The Black Shepherd" a tale of Sherwood Forest and the morris dance. Headache and all I plugged away at it steadily until about eleven o'clock when we called it a day and beat it to bed: we stay up too late I know but how to get our work done any sooner I know not ——

June – 13 – Tues

At Home

Daylight and about seven oclock I got up and about didnt feel so tough but didnt feel like a new born babe either. Pumped some water and then came the breakfast and we were soon done eating. Ben got the sheep out while I put the other bunches out and then got busy helping Pa with the construction work. We were putting the roof on and I did the nailing and Pa cut the lumber for me. Made putty good time but about ten we took time out to go up after the mail. Pa and I went up and stopped at the wagon on our way back to get some of the grub out of it. Found the mice eating hell out of things. Got busy and I must have killed about twenty-five or thirty before we left. Think that some one stole our tin Snips as I left them laying near the wagon steps with the time we were going to use for patching up the mouse holes – but should have expected it as I should know better than to leave things lieing about. At home and we went thru the mail and glanced over the paper – not much going on but got some dope on the unemployment Compensation insurance – it will start about July first but we dont get any money out of it until about July twenty-second. Wish I could hold out until we start getting this wubly check and then could put up the hays stays here at home and still get my hands on some

cash at the same time. Plugged away at it until lunch time and then knocked off to eat. Ben got in and we all lunched together; he had some really interesting field notes and sketches on the flora and fauna of the range. On the job again and we got the front of the can in and I got busy hanging the door. Coons came over to get some tobacco and milk as he is running out. We made arrangements to go to town tomorrow. Had quite a time but eventually got the door hung and the usual heck had it so it would open and close without dragging on the floor anyway. Hunted up a hook for the door and some clothes hooks, etc. for the inside. Before we were aware of it; chow time was upon us again and we had to get busy, watered the sheep, cut some wood, and then Ben got in and we had supper. The sheep all corraled up we got a lot of odd jobs done and called it a day as we saw a big storm coming from the northwest. Just about dark George Smith rode in and how Ma did rave and snort; thought she would blow a gasket- he affects her like jews do Hitler. Made some candy and about the time it was ready the storm struck and for a few minutes we really had a rain. Didnt last long however but was heavy while it lasted. Finished my notes about ten- thirty and called it a day. Pa feels pretty tough these days and he sure looks peeked today; he had better do something soon.

June — 14 — Wed

At Home

Up at the usual time and all hands were soon at breakfast. Done feeding I got the car ready and when Pa was all set we pulled out for town. Met Jack down by the road and he went on in town with us. Found it pretty muddy in spots and a slightly sloppy spot or two thru the gumbo. Made good time however and we met Gus just a few miles out of town and had a talk with him; he was on the way up to the hole to see about Dans crop. We left him and a couple of miles farther on we found his span tire so we took it along with us on in to town; left it at Knieppes and had a visit with the Mrs. before we went on down town again. Met one of the sheep shearers and we had a long talk, things have been going pretty tough for them but they still stay with it and keep trying to make her go. Pa got his check cashed and we went up to the Doctors office but there was such a bunch Dad didnt feel like waiting so we went on down to the Elk to have some lunch. Ha stuffed hamburger loaf and the beer went fine and I really did enjoy it. Had a talk with Anne and with Mrs. Vest. Lunch over Mrs. Veal had me take her out to Klein and on the way we picked up Mrs. Prusha and took her with us; had a nice visit with the folks and then back to town again and the ladies insisted that I come on in and have a few glasses of beer which I did and felt fine. On

the spur of the impulse I paid up my board and as it and the lunch was about nine dollars I was broke when I got done; or almost. On up town and met Zoeback he took me up to the Arcade and we had a few drinks then met Barton, J. W., and Jack and of course we went round and round I really began to get lit up and was feeling a bit tiddly when we finally got together and made plans for going home. Loaded up Jacks groceries over at the Safeway and got ours over at the Central; the Motor Transit was in and I helped unload some machinery for the boys and was drunk enough so I bruised and battered myself all to hell but we got it done finally. All loaded up we went back to the Rainbow Inn for another drink and then we headed for home and really rolled along. Stopped in at the Casa Granda and unloaded Jacks stuff then on home and we were soon unloaded and had things in their place. Cold and stormy looking so we hurried thru our chores and got tried up for the night. I was feeling pretty dopey so spent most of the time laying around and dozed off and slept fitfully until time to turn in again. Ben had things in shape so we beat it to bed about ten. I'm getting pretty good at that Can't seem to go to town any more without getting drunk before I get back and as usual I forgot everything I went after - forgot shoestrings, grub and all the items on my list but what the hell I had a good time while it lasted anyway.

June -15- Thurs
At Home

Woke with only labratory traces of a hangover and was soon up and around. Raw, cold, and cloudy with a northeast wind whipping over us like cold water. Had some breakfast and then got the sheep out and got busy. Got the old truck around and we soon had the bulk of the lumber that we had piled up around the can and hauled her all down to the sheep shed where we are building up the shearing pens and fixing her up. Cut off one of the posts that had rotten off and got ready to stip her in on a pitch stub post. Had one hell of a time as we got the wrong start. Ben had to leave me and Dad got her all bollixed up when he tried to fix it; but we finally got her patched up in the usual blind widow fashion and then got busy setting the posts and fixing the uprights for the shearing pens. Using the damned old trash lumber that we have had around here for the last twenty years and it sure makes a hell of a mess but it will serve the purpose if we don't handle it too rough. Would like to have enough new material some time to do a real workman like job when we were fixing something around the place. Finished away and had to keep busy as it was too cold to do much monkeying around. Ma came down to give us hell as it was after twelve - thirty and dinner was long ready.

Ben got in about five minutes after we got started and we were soon all busy. Lunch over we had a few minutes to read before we hit the ball once again. Began to get lower and lower and the thunder was growling and muttering so I got busy rustling a supply of wood as I knew we were in for a storm and that not too far off. Went back to help Pa for awhile after we got the wood ready and made pretty good headway with the old job before we got around to chore time once again. Feel pretty weary tonight so was glad when supper was ready and we came on up to eat a bite. Ben got the sheep in and I pumped for them then we came on up to do some cleaning up about the place and play with the pup for awhile he sure is a clever little lad and is just getting so he can walk now and what a time the boy does have, he is so cute that I just can't leave him alone any more and he really keeps me on the move. Got dark so we came on in to get busy on our note books once more and as usual I worked all evening and still didn't get a hell of a lot done at that. Here it is time for shearing and as ever we just haven't got a damned thing ready as we should have. When I got to tired to keep her up any longer I put away my junk and we beat it to bed once again. Radio was pretty good again tonight and we really enjoyed it.

June – 16 – Fri.

At Home

We rolled out bright and early for us at six-thirty as a matter of fact and soon got going. I pumped the water and then we had some breakfast. Ben took the sheep out and I got busy on the shed. Pa was busy putting the floor in the shearing pens and I got busy gathering up the stuff around the shed and loaded up the truck. Pulled a load up to the place and soon had it unloaded and took time to pile the lumber carefully so it would dry and we could keep it for future use. Back to the shed and we soon had another load gathered up: Took quite a lot of monkeying to get the damned shearing floor laid out level so we could get it the way we wanted it and got it tacked down. I got the pens lined up and in a short time had the thing lined up as we are going to use it for the shearing and it will be a putty good outfit at that but as usual we didn't have enough decent lumber to do a good job but we should give a damn as we can get by with it and that is all that really matters. Plugged away until time for lunch and then brought up a load of lumber and went in to lunch. Was busy as beavers when Donald Rose rode in and we were all glad to see the little fellow once again. He is a swell little kid and such a

a good little worker. Dinner over we got busy again and I soon had the load of lumber off and then made a panel to put in as a gate in the lower end of the chute. Doney gave me a hand and we made good time. Finally got her lined up and cleaned up around the shed, set the packer up and in damned short order now we will be ready to shear if the shears can get here. Wasn't long in getting our chores lined up and was pleased when John got in - he was having a big laugh on the shorts and bran that he received as cereals when he got his commodities at the relief office. Had supper and quite a talk then when we saw a big rain coming we beat it out to gather up the sheep and got them corraled up just as it got started to rain again. Jacks had already gone home so we sat by to read and listen to the radio for awhile and was surprised indeed when the Morfitt kids and Earl Anderson drove in - glad to see them and we had quite a visit with the bunch. The girls are prettier than ever and we had no end of fun with them. Popped some corn and the time went quickly: it began to rain again and we had a real storm. About twelve the kids got ready to go home and we took the car down to the shed to change a flat tire and put the chains on again. Felt sorry indeed for Earl as he was saying he gets a dollar and a half a day over there but said he might as well be working and making a little instead of sitting around as he can get [illegible] for the kids. At least and that helps some.

Feel very, very sorry for that poor kid - it isn't right for a lad like that to be stuck with a family and loose all his youth and the fun out of life waiting on someone elses kids and making a sacrifice of the best years of his life. Not me - I make no sacrifice for no one - selfish to the core I live as easy and as well as I can - but of course I take most of the credit to myself for I have always been careful to keep out of any messes that would interfer with my way of living. Life is too short and sour a business to spend much time suffering over it. Kenneth tells us that his Dad has just sold their sheep as soon as they are sheared the owner takes them over as he has leased the Mayfield range until October: they got six dollars and a half a pair for the ewes and lambs but the kid didn't say what the singles brought: John sold because he heard that a lot of sheep were being shipped in from the drouth areas of Oregon and Wash. and he is afraid that the sheep will really go to hell here - May not be such a bad idea considering the grass-hoppers and other conditions. Sometimes wish we could sell what few we have or get enough of them so we could make some real money for a change. Went to bed finally and the rain was really coming down and with that slow, heavy, and very monotonous drumming that means we are in for some real heavy weather again. Dorothy is getting to be a swell little hand - saw a jacket she made for Ken out of an old overcoat and that kid can really sew - Earl says she is a real cook too - that gives me ideas.

For the year of 1939

July – 3 – Monday (continued)

At Home

Lunch over we sat around awhile and rested up a bit. It was plenty hot and a few big clouds kept rolling up out of the mountains so began to look for a hail storm. Finally went back to work again and thot I might try to find the leak in the radiator but had to plug up the openings so I found some small pieces of board and a piece of truck inner tube: lined things up and bored the holes then put the gaskets on and when I pulled the bolts down the damned things held which made me very very surprised, got the water in but had one hell of a time trying to locate the leaks so finally gave it up and as I felt so dead tired and worn out that I decided to give it up for the day and take it a little easy awhile. Don't know why in the world I feel so tough but it must be from overeating and not enough exercise. Got our chores done and then supper came and took on another good feed. Had a can of papaya juice so made us a high ball and it was pretty snappy stuff so think we will lay in a stock of such stuff as I always was heavy on a mixed drink. We sat by and listened to the radio awhile and then had quite a talk but we were all so weary and sleepy that we kept dozing off and finally all gave it up and beat it to bed again. The pup stays in the house with us these days and I can hear him raising hell all night – dragging shoes and socks around; and trying to find something he can pull down and chew up. Looks a lot like rain again so it may rain hell with the celebration in Roundup tomorrow; but we should worry.

July – 4 – Tues

At Home

a clear fine day; with a cool breeze and everything perfect. finally got my chores done and we got busy on the breakfast. The folks were all going to town but Pa and I so while they got ready I fixed up my lunch, got a bottle of water and a book then put the sheep out. The folks left and the sheep finally got under way again so Lizzie and I trailed along with them. Jack came by and stopped to visit awhile and he is just a bit piqued because he didn't get to town for the fourth but he staid to visit with me awhile and then beat it for home again. The sheep were really on the move so we had to give them hell awhile to get them settled down but they finally did and we sat down to rest awhile; notice that Lizzie is getting full of spear grass and they are working thru the hair and on in to the hide; there is a possibility that they may work on in to the flesh and cause serious injury and even death. Had to keep picking the damned things out of my pants legs and socks for they are thicker than hell these days. Got so hungry at eleven oclock that I had to eat my lunch and fed Lizzie again. Made a circle or two around the sheep and they settled down and then I took a hike thru the Coulees to see how the long grass was coming as we must get up all the hay we can; found some likely spots but in so many places we have the rock and brush to contend with and it will be quite a job to get her done. Clouded up and got pretty cool so was lucky I had the jacket along. Read my magazine and then moped around.

Got the old girls settled and they did pretty well until the wind came up and it began to rain so I had to start gathering as the damned sheep were traveling again. Got fairly well soaked so had to get out of the wind as she got pretty cold. Lizzie tore up an old girl on me when I put her around the bunch; she is hell on grabbing the sheep in the nob of the front leg. Raining again and I got pretty well disgusted thinking what a damned fool I am to live such a life; standing around in the rain when I could just as well be living like a white man. Got to be seven oclock and I was wet, cold, and hungry so I brought the sheep on in. Came on up to the house and found that the folks had already had supper and they had the table all set for me. A tall candle was burning in a beer bottle, and beside my plate was a big bag of pop-corn, candy, and a fine meal. The folks had only staid in town until about noon and they said the show was a wash out; not very much going on and no drunks to speak of. Rained to beat the devil so we gave up the idea of going back to town tonite. So passes another fourth and as usual I don't feel very much like celebrating; getting so I'm very much ashamed of my ignorance and poverty: must get busy and do something and not at any too future date either. We spent the evening just reading, talking, and taking it easy. The boys had some beer so we had a nice big drink before we called it a day and got to bed about ten fifteen. Took a lovely head cold today and that makes me feel even more disgusted and morose. Lord how the time goes and what little we have accomplished in all these years that have passed. The Von Bussis won't know what to think of this country for it is raining every damned day and in the old days we never had a drop of rain when Cyrus lay-

July — 5 — Wed
At Home

another dark brown morning and it took me quite awhile to get up and around. Breakfast was ready when I finally got up. Done eating I took a look around but found nothing pressing to be done so Von and I had a good romp with the pup and then went out to cut a little wood and everything was plenty wet so we didn't rush ourselves. Got tired so worked on the mower awhile and have it in pretty fair shape these times. wish we could get organized and at the haying pretty soon now as it is getting late all the time and not a damned thing even started. Von and I have a good time talking things over and we have some great plans for the future but something will happen I suppose to keep us from making good at it. Puttered around until it was about time for lunch and then when Bun came in we all sat up and took on a good feed and I was hungry as the devil. Got pretty warm and we had a time sitting around resting and then all got at it once more. Makes me restless as hell when I get to brooding over the time that I am wasting and what little we do get accomplished. Clouded up again and boy how it did rain when it finally struck: knew that Bun would be all O.K. as there are plenty of rocks that he can get under for shelter. When it cleared up a little we got busy loaded some tools and things in the flivver and beat it up to work on the wagon as it needs cleaning out and repairing as they are going

to take the sheep up to the hole putty soon. While Dad put some new linoleum down inside I worked on the boot and got the rest of it in shape again and boy but she is a job as the old baby is putty much wracked to hell. We put in a putty busy couple of hours and then saw another big rain coming and made tracks for home; was coming down like the devil when we got in - much to my surprise the roof holds putty well as Dad patched most of the holes and did a putty good job of it when he worked on her. Read until the storm was over and then we hit the ball again and cut wood until time for supper. Ben was puling putty good as he told us that while he was out on the hill side tobing it slow and easy and watching the sheep he had his hat lieing beside him and a spider had come along and made a web in the crown and he thought that that was plenty slow motion. Supper over we got a bit of radio and tried to read but we were all drowsy and I would keep going to sleep over my book so at last I gave her up and we all got set for bed once more and how I can sleep. Wonder how the Bassis stand this so dull and quiet life that we lead around here: wonder how people that are used to the more abundant life ever stand such a sore ass country as this is. The pup was giving us merry hell again and we had to get him putty well played out before he would tame down and get to sleep once more. He is getting some putty kushy teeth now and has us all putty well lacerated and chewed up - but shows only the normal signs of temper-

July - 6 - Thur
At Home

Pa pup was making whoopee again this morning and when Ma let him in he came over and I had to put him up on the bed. Breakfast ready so I rolled out and we ate; really felt like hell but ate anyway. Breakfast over I washed up, clipped off my side-whiskers and then shaved up; some clean clothes on and we got the old flivver ready to go to town once more. Rose, Oscar, Pa, Ma, and I all went so had quite a load for old Dollabilly but she hammered right along and we had a nice cool ride going in and reached town at 9:40 and went on down to the Central Market where we soon had our groceries purchased: went down to the La-Moore and had a bottle of beer and it was great: strolled on up to the Mint Inn and had a second bottle and a good talk with the boys: we were getting a bit hungry so we went on down to the Elk and had a couple of glasses of beer and then had a good big hamburger sandwich: was telling Mrs Teel added Anne not to give us away to the women folks when they walked in on us and we had a lot of fun with them. All had a lunch and then I took the laundry up to Krusicks. Got our groceries loaded and then went down to No. 3 to see Mrs. Aat where Dad got a half loaf of gluten bread and we had a good visit with them before we went back to the Elk for a lunch and then headed for home again. Still cool and nice so made

good time and rolled in just as Jack and Ben were finishing their lunch. Unloaded and had a sandwich then as Von and I were still feeling pretty good as we had a little booze in us we took his car and went out for a ride. Went up to the Wheaton School house and then on out to see Spichers for a few minutes: found Bill and his hired man home alone as Flora isn't home from the fourth of July celebration yet. We had a good little visit with them and a cup of coffee that helped snap us out of it. Bill looks good and things are in fine shape on the ranch so Spicher is quite enthusiastic. Headed for home about five and wheeled right on in. Found Jenkins here and Bill is going to throw his sheep in with ours next week and take them up to the hole: He staid for a little while and was on his way before long. I got my chores done and then took a check on the tires. Pulled another tire off the ford and found we had a good tube in it so I heated up another standard tire for the chivay so I put her on and she makes a good looking job of it too. The gang all got together once more and we had our supper: a really nice meal and we all did it justice. Spent the evening reading and writing as usual: Pa is feeling a lot better now and has gained five pounds in the last week so if he keeps on improving he will be in pretty fair shape before long. We all are feeling a bit bloated and dreary from so much over eating and too much indulgence in the convivial fluid—

July — 7 — Fri
At Home

up a little earlier than usual this morning and found a hot day well started. Breakfasted and then the folks got ready to go to Billings while I got the sheep watered and out but the damned old girls were not hungry and it was decidedly hot so they just lay in the shade of the little jack pines. I read awhile and then when the folks pulled out and I went out to the shop and was going to work when Percy came roaring in and had two gallons of beer and a gallon of ice cream and he was feeling pretty blue as he is having woman trouble again. Pa wasn't home and of course he can't drink beer any way so we bought a picnic in and drank alone as Perc doesn't eat it either. Got to feeling pretty good and W. P. got restless he wanted to go over to Andersons so I took a chance on the sheep hanging around until I got back and we sailed over to the Andersons. The girls and Clara were home but had to go out in the hay field for Adolph. We had a lot of fun and drank up two picnic bottles, had to refuse Clara's invitation for lunch and W. P. brought me on home again. Would have liked to stay and make a little whoopee with the kids but had to keep moving as I had sheep scattered all over hell. Hotter than a bitch and I was so full of beer that I was dizzy. Found Pa had lunch when I got home so I sat up and took on a real feed. Saw a few of the

sheep working out so I staggered out to see what they were doing. Got but it was hot and just as I got nicely started the sole tore of my shoe and I shuffled along with the bogon smiling at the mouth and falling all over everything. Finally found a little jack pine and lay down for an hour or so; the flies and mosquitoes fed on me until I came out of it. Really hot and when the sheep fed out and got going I had to go around them; got thirsty as hell and was tortured for a drink all afternoon but I just didn't have the pep to hoof it in for a drink. The sheep finally settled down and I had to keep circling around until they settled a bit. Took it easy as it cooled off and about eight-thirty I came on in and found the folks home and my supper ready. Drank until I was about sick and then ate a bite but didn't feel any too good so ate some fruit and called it a day. The folks had a swell trip they say and things are in fine shape in Billings. Ben left his carvings for Bill to sell for him so hope he can get a pretty good price for them as it will be a big help to the state of our finances. We had the usual long talk and a lot of fun before we got all set for bed and it was about eleven o'clock once more. Have been full of beer these many days now and I feel dopey as hell all the time. Looks as if we have another big storm coming up and the day has been so hot that I'm just a bit afraid of a hail storm now. Tomorrow I must to town and make my weekly report

July - 8 - Sat
At Home

Cool and fine this morning but I woke with a terrible headache. Got my chores and the water all finished up and we breakfasted. Von got his 410 and we went down the creek below the house where he shot three rabbits for me; I dressed them and then we beat it back to the house and I got the old sedan ready for a trip to town and had to put another fan belt on her and a little more oil. All set so I shaved and had Oscar cut my hair and at the same time I gave him a good trim. Dressed and about nine - thirty we headed for town. Picked up Jack down by the road and he was all set to go on in town with us. Made good time and we were in the city by ten. I beat it to the bank and the post office then we got our groceries and when done; drove down to No. 3 and gave Mrs. Aust the rabbits and got the bread she had baked for Dad: she gave me the dope on where to get the gluten flour and we beat back up town again. Hunted up John and had a glass of beer before we went on over to the Elks and had another bottle of beer and then took on some fried chicken and man but it was really good. Dining over Mrs. Veal asked us to run out to Wasteo for her and get a chunk of ice which we did and when we got back had to have still more beer. Was close to two o'clock when I finally beat it up to the reemployment office to

make my report- everything soon lined up and I beat it back to the Ha-Moon where we met A.C. Hines and later H.P. joined us and we held a big pow-wow. Argo is doing the serving job of the County house and he really is getting out a nice job, too. Had a few more drinks and then saw I was getting a flat tire so we beat it up to the white garage and I fixed her up. Freida took us out for a little ride in her new Buick and boy but that is a real car and how I do enjoy to ride around in it. Got some ice cream and went up to Boyle's for lunch then it was getting late and we had to pull out for home once more and found Jack at the Rainbow and pretty well cocked up too so we got organized and headed for home once more and we really made time. Jack was in a quarelsome mood and I got him going on the moral obligation of a parent to its child and via versa and he almost shot when he got going and I nearly died laughing at him. Finally got him home and then we beat it back to our place and got about our business. Watered the sheep and came on up to eat supper as I was plenty hungry again. Ma, Aunt Rose, and Ben went to town to the owl show tonight and I would have enjoyed going but I'm too tired and too well filled up on beer to feel like going anywhere tonight. The radio wasn't so hot but I kept at it and we got a few programs and it was ten-thirty again so I got ready and beat

July – 9 – Sun

At Home

Woke feeling just a bit weary and under the weather and found a really clear hot day. We got our chores all done and then beat it out to turn our sheep out. Breakfast over I got a newspaper and started out with the sheep. Was just south of the house a few rods when H. P. drove in and he wanted me to take a little trip around with him. Changed clothes and Ben like a prince and a scholar emptied out his pockets and staked me to all the money he could spare. We were on our way about nine o'clock and drove over to see Spickers for a few minutes: had a nice visit with them and Bill showed me how to line the mowers up for the best results. Close to eleven when we rolled for Roundup and it was really hot and bright out. Stopped at the Elk for a little lunch and then Mrs. Veal asked me to take down some of the decorations in the bar parlor; got this done and then she gave me three glasses of beer and I felt better. Percy and I were going to Billings so I borrowed two and a half from Mrs. Veal and when Tony got ready we were on our way. Hot and lots of traffic but we made good time. Picked up a dim-witted girl who was bumming a ride to Billings said her name was 'Julie' so we took her along with us. Thirsty work fine thru the country with the haying started and the hay coming on rapidly. We reached Billings at 1:45 and parked near the Fox theatre. Took a walk around and then went over to the Heidelberg and had a glass of beer. Tony bought four bottles and we took it back to the car and and sat on the lawn

in front of the Methodist church and drank the beer while we watched the crowds go by. Tony insisted that we go to the show so went in to see "The Hardys in Hollywood" and "Road to Happiness" not bad and when the show was over we went on down to "The Golden Pheasant" as we heard that Charley Belknap was over there on the tail end of a big bender. Found the usual motley throng around the bar and had a few more drinks then went down in the basement and found Charley there with the usual number of prostate drunks and had quite a talk with them: Charley was just sober enough so he knew me and seem very glad to see me again: had to go up and have a few drinks was feeling pretty groggy and it was hot as hell out so Percy and I went out for a walk around the town; went down thru the district and saw all the girls sweltering around the rooms in a vain wait for a little business. Had a lot of fun talking with the girls and killing time; saw a little slim nigger woman with a very abbreviated skirt on so went in to see her; she was slim as a well rope and boy did she do a wicked jib of it; she did her best and the sweat poured off her; three times she reached a climax but I was too full of liquor and in spite of her skill, efforts, and all the novel tricks she knows I just couldn't make the grade. Paid her for the cleverness of her efforts and went on my way and boy but it was hot and unpleasant out. Went back to the joint and found the boys still at it. Decided to go back up town to another show and took Charley with us. Stopped at the bus station to see about Charley's luggage. Had his suitcase checked and

had lost the stub, and when he tried to get the suitcase the agent wouldn't let him have it and Jesus how mad Charley got he gave the boys hell and refused to ride on the bus again. Had to get Casey to do the identifying and Percy paid the charges on the valise and we left it until we could make the arrangements to get going. Hundred around and bib longer and then we went over to look for the boys again and finally got ready to go home as it was about nine o'clock and we were anxious to get going. Had to coax Bib Bell to get Tony and Charley started and if the law hadn't given us a hand loading the old boy we never would have gotte going. Percy really did pour it on the old hack and we made good time; saw a big storm up north so we really did hurry to get to town. Left Charley and Tony at the Montana House to rest and sober up; then got a couple of sandwiches and hi-balled it for home. Made it in and the wind and lightning were whooping it up but it soon eased up and as it was so damned hot Ben and I got the lantern and went down to the well for a good shower before we came back up to the house to get to bed; was close to midnight but I didn't feel very sleepy: Heard that the Swan boys had a fifty-five percent hail loss and as the Dad handles the insurance I can see how very nicely it worked out. We should get into this grain and hail racket it beats the sheep business when we get to studying things over. H. P. sure is a restless lad and how he does get around but boy what a pal he is to see that I get around occasionaly ——

1939

For the year of 1939

August — 12 — Saturday

At Home

Blowing again when I rolled out and as usual I had a pretty good head; soon cleared up when I got busy and before long we had breakfast. Blowing a little but we got the old truck and went out after a little more hay and when we got busy discovered there was much more of a breeze than we had anticipated. Pa had a hell of a time pitching her on but he stuck with it and we soon had one jag in and got it stacked. Had a cup of coffe and went back after another only to have a still worse wind blowing up - both of us got pretty well disgusted for it's sure one sore ass bitch of a country when you can never tell what is going to happen nor how. Was getting close to noon so we decided to knock off for awhile and rest up before lunch. Made a few minutes so read in the new Popular Educator and boy but it is a real book so much better than I had expected that it delights me. Washed up and got things in shape before lunch. No hurry about getting in today as there isn't much to be done but it is too windy to do anything in the field and I don't feel for getting the work done on the fences, etc. So we got ourselves all set and it was about one thirty when we pulled out for the city and it was really hot; the west wind made it almost impossible to keep the car cool so had to ramble on and let her run as hot as she wished. Got to town at last and found quite a few in the city. Beat it down to the office and soon had signed up for another week. Came out to find Peary waiting for

me and he took Ma and I up to his place for a drink. Had a quart of muscatel so really did enjoy myself. Had to get back down town and get busy on our odd jobs and of course met no end of people. Peacy caught up with us again and we went out to Gibtown and picked up Mary and boy she is looking great: went for a little ride to get some ice cream and soft drinks took Mary home and we went back up town and got busy. It was about five oclock when we finally got the damned mess all straightened out again and got together. Met the Andersons and Adolph was in pritty bad shape: Percy took us all back up to his place and we opened the gin and we all sat up got to feeling fine and when we all had enough to drink went down to the Elks and had lunch and did we have a time raising hell around then. Done feeding we all went back up town and I took the bunch to the show saw "Tarzan finds a Son" and "Maizie" neither one a very good picture but it was a pleasant way to pass the time. Played "Spin and Win" after the show but as usual none of us won anything and we had the relief of getting out shortly as it was poisonously hot in the theatre and it was jammed. Felt sick and mean as hell when we got out so went up to the Bennetts for the cars: no one would go down to the La-Moore with me and I felt very much disgusted as I was anxious to get started on a good bender but Ma insisted on going home so back to our lousey homestead we came. Boy do I get sick of the life we are leading out here.

Aug - 13 - Mon
At Home

We rolled out bright and early and as usual I felt like the devils half brother. Wasn't long in getting the odd jobs out of the way and then we had our breakfast. Done eating I unloaded the car and got her cleaned up: put it in the shed and went to work on the Hudson: soon had her lined up as best I could and it was already getting hotter than hell. Shaved and changed clothes then took some time out to read the new magazine and I am intrigued with it; here we really have something all the beauty and culture of the ages; all of mans pain and his ecstasy thru the centuries: read for an hour or so and then we got the lunch ready. Ate and took on a really good feed. Was about twelve-thirty when I got the rifle and the camera and we got under way: nice hot going but it makes the fuel oil burn that much better and the Hudson ran just fine for me. Took her about twenty-five to thirty miles per hour and she rolled along nicely. Went thru by Spichers to see if I could borrow a grease gun and touch up the reniversal joint just a little and to return Bill's newspapers. Found Lew Neves then alone and the Spichers were away visiting: I had a long talk with Lew and he is feeling putty much discouraged with everything in general as he no longer has a job on the WPA and things don't look so good. I staid to visit with him until about three o'clock then he had to go out to the sheep and I got busy on my big boiler; got going again and went up thru the

Swan place and on west again, a hot wind, a hot day and does this old sheep country look burned out and bleak. Reached camp and was soon unloaded. Parked the car on a little hill so I could get it started again and then made the bed and fixed the wagon up a little. About five when I headed out to meet Ben - he had left a note that he was over watering at the Toby Spring so I met him out on the bench south of there and the sheep were traveling but just beginning to feed again; he is O. K. but has a bad cold in his eyes. We took a good look around for a canteen he had lost but we couldn't find it and after bunching the sheep up a little we pushed along for camp. Had a good visit going in and checked with each other on ideas, story plots, and work since our last meeting. Just heavy dusk when we left the sheep near Hattie's shack and went on in to cook up - We thought Ben had plenty of grub but all he has is three cans of soup, two small spuds, and three eggs. Luckily Ben had some corn meal so we cooked some of that and fried it; made out a meal and then cleaned up the place a bit and sat down to talk awhile; a lovely evening with a cool fine wind from the north and a slow haze sweeping in - must be a big forest fire somewhere in the northwest. We sat up until about eleven o'clock and then we turned in and log but I felt weary but just couldn't sleep worth a damn. The sheep were restless and kept slowly working in closer to the wagon all night. Finally slept after midnight and did pretty well until five or

Aug - 14 - Tues
At Home

oclock but felt too weary to get up until almost six. Went out to take a gander and found the sheep were bedded nicely and damned if I didn't have a flat tire on the right front wheel; just a slow leak so I pumped her up while Ben got breakfast. We ate and swamped out, about seven the sheep pulled north and worked out nicely; got loaded up and Ben gave me a push down the hill; the old wagon started like a damn and I was soon on my way home once more. Made it in without any trouble and soon was having some coffee. As soon as Pa got ready we started the old truck and got busy on our hay again. Hot as hell this morning and breathlessly still, a great day to handle hay but brother do you sweat. We got one load in and unloaded then had to knock off so Pa could rest as he is having a hell of a time just keeping going; took a half hour or so and then we hit the hay again and got the last load of what is cut and Pa wanted to get it all in on this load so we made a really big one out of it. It got hot and hotter and running the old truck on a day like this is like tending furnace on the south side of hell; was really glad when we finally got loaded up and made it on in again. Dinner was ready so we ate and I drank so much coffee and water that I was in misery but one just burns on a day like this. How I would go for a bottle of ale today if I could get one, can just feel it going down.

We rested until after three and then went down to unload and Chrisake but it was hot and the breez was just starting to come up a little, got the last of it piled and then trimmed up the stack a little before we called it good. Wish we had a few more stacks but suppose we should be damned grateful for what we have and let it go at that. The tire was down on the Hudson again so I got busy on it and soon had her patched up and on again but must admit that those rims an hell indeed to handle. The thermometer hangs around eighty and God but it is dry and hot; beps me busy pumping and hauling water took a shower about four oclock and the water is just lukewarm. Busy on the cars until supper was about ready and ate a big meal even though I have a devil of a cramp and a most distressed feeling. Ma hiked over to see what shape Jack had left things at the stack and Dad and I went over after her in the car - much to my surprise John left the place fairly clean and decent and left most of our stuff but took the bedding, dishes and the axe but no doubt the poor s.o.b. needs it and we really don't. The cattle all O.K. and things in pretty good shape so we came on home and soon had the old place lined up for the night again. I got my notes in shape, finish reading the Courant and called it a day as I just haven't to snap and the drive that I need to get in and go on my work as I should. Hear sad rumors that Jiffs are laying off another bunch of men wonder if by any chance this will catch me. —

Aug — 13 — Tues
At Home

Woke up plenty early but just didn't have snap enough to get up and at it again. Eventually did roll out and at the pup in and did he romp and raise hell. Dressed as well as I could abaited by his highness. Pumped the water and could see we were in for one hell of a hot day again. Breakfast over Dad went to look for the bucks and I got busy on the tractor again; she ran very nicely on the battery but would not whimper on the magneto so I put the car in the shed and went to work on the old girl. Drained the crankcase and then dropped the pan but found the rods in fair shape and when I checked her over found so much end-play in the crankshaft that it lets the flywheel magnets run against the field coil so no juice is generated and she obviously can't run. Nothing for it but to attempt some repair work so got the bay wires out and got the rear main bearing loose only to find that I couldn't get it out due to the shaft projection and the fly wheel bolts so had to give that up; got it all back and bayed into place and it was getting close to noon and decidedly hot. Came on in to read awhile until lunch was ready and Dad got back and he hadn't been able to find the bucks anywhere so Ma was all of a flutter and went thru the usual anguish — We had lunch and I went back at it once more; decided to try to hold the end play with a front bearing even though I know it does a putty poor job of it: Got the bearing half off and found the bolbet putty well cracked and broken so

hunted up another that we had and substituted it: Took out a hell of a lot of shims getting her fitted and then began the long and laborous task of filing the holes out so I could slip the bearing shell endwise; was a long suffering job but I finally got it: Dad got back from another look around and he had found the bucks over in a far corner of the place and they were doing fine. Got my bearing set and found that it didn't space the magneto the specified 1/32 but it keeps her from siding: Heated it out but the old bitch doesn't throw any juice so presume we are stuck for an overhaul again. Put the pan on again and just enough bolts to hold her for the time being and it was time for supper. Was busy feeding when Percy drove in and we had a talk. He says the folks are coming in from the east at 4:41 tomorrow morning so that takes care of that and will I be glad to have them home again. W.P. says there is to be another big cut in the W.P.A. jobs so now then we'll be hellappopin for certain a hundred and twenty men are due to be laid off the first of the month so things look bad indeed for all concerned. sincerely hope that I don't get laid off at the mine for awhile anyway so we can keep things going here on the old homestead - if only we had more feed for the sheep I'd be plenty willing to take a long chance on getting them anyhow tough as things are. Busy as usual on the notes and reading while Ma got things lined up so we can get a nice early start for town in the morning.

Aug – 16 – Wed
At Home

Ma called me shortly after three and I rolled out feeling just a little dopey and weary. Dressed and we were soon on our way to the city. Cool and nice so we made really good time and rolled in to the depot about four ten. Had to wait about twenty minutes and then the Olympian came rushing in. The folks were there and did they look fine and boy how good it was to see them again. We loaded up the luggage and went up to the Vienna for some breakfast. Nice & daylight when we got out and met Jorbeck so he went with us back to the Mint and Von got a pint. Headed for home and we made good time we were home by six o'clock. Had a good talk and breakfast. We all felt pretty well worn out so sat around and visited for hours. The day turned out to be hotter than usual and there was almost no wind the air is heavy with dust now and things are so red and hazy that the visibility is almost nil. Had a devil of a headache and my eyes burn again. Too much dry weather and no doubt we will have a lot more of this before we get our fall rains. We fixed a chicken and soon had it cooking but shortly after twelve we sat up and ate but the fowl was far from being good. Leech over we kept our vigil for Jenkins but he didn't show up and we are all more or less worried because Ben is out of gas and no doubt getting low on water again as the heat makes it hell for everything. Got the water pumped about three o'clock and brother but it was seethingly hot out.

Read awhile and Aunt Rose gave me several good verses and things she had picked up in the east for my note books. Had breakfast again about five-thirty and as Jenkins hadn't showed up we got the flivver out; loaded up and Oscar and I headed for camp. Not going but we made time and reached camp A. K. Unloaded and I got busy fixing up some supper for Ben as I could hear him coming in from the north rims. Nice and cool in camp as night came on; got the supper all set and just before dark Ben got in and he was really glad to see us as he had been going pretty light for some time. He ate and told of how near he came to getting snake bit last night when a rattler lay coiled near the water can and he walked up on it in the dark. We had a good visit and it was close to tenth o'clock before Oscar and I headed for home again and on the way we were shooting at rabbits in the car light. Down in the Des Moines flat Von got out to walk ahead of me to do some shooting and I saw a rattler crawl between the car and him; stopped and yelled at him to stay where he was but he heard me holler and thought I was in trouble so he came running back, right over the snake which fortunately wasn't coiled; scared the very devil out of me but we got the baby killed in a hurry and got the rattles. We were all pretty well scared so hurried on home and took on a really big shot of wine this time. All hands were in bed so we lost very little time in joining them and as usual I was plenty worn out. Slept with Pa in the big bed and was too tired to do much floundering around.

Aug — 17 — Thurs

At Home

Woke feeling a bit groggy but soon was out and about and found a fine day out. All hands were getting set to go to town so we washed up and breakfasted. Von got his car out and we all dressed and got set; headed for the city about nine and had a swell ride on in. Down to the Central and I beat it over to the post office got another check and was delighted: Von and I went up to the Arcade for a bottle of beer and when done we drove on out to No. 3 to see about some lettuce but we couldn't get any so came back up town and made a few more purchases; got my pictures from the photographer and they are fine then we went on over to the Mint Inn for a drink and damned if they hadn't been robbed last night. We made another trip about town and got another gallon of wine and Von wouldn't let me pay for it at all and gave me a couple of dollars for my birthday which is today and by his grace I'm thirty-four years old. Was feeling pretty good by the time we got down to the Elk and had more beer and a lot of fun. Met Percy then and we went for a walk up to his house and here we had a drink of wine. Finally got all loaded up and we went on up town then headed for home and on the way we stopped at the Airport Inn for another good beer before we headed for home again. All feeling pretty wobby but we made it on in all O.K. and were soon busy eating a lunch and boy but we were really hungry too.

Had a lot of fun with all the drunken uproar that we make. Lunch over we took it easy for awhile and when we had things lined up we decided to go up to camp and see how Ben is making it. Took some wine and grub and the 410 and were under way. Not but a good breeze coming up. Stopped at Spichers to see Elizabeth and we had no end of fun visiting with her and the kid looks great and did we have a time. On our way again and stopped a few times for a drink and when we got up there we cut across the Grau place and found Ben up on the back of the Logue place and then sheep were doing just fine again. Sat down on the prairie and had a few drinks with Ben and a lot of fun; gave the kid his lunch and he ate it out on the range so he would be all set when he got to camp. The time flew and before long we had to get under-way again and on the way home we stopped at the Swan place and Von had a hurry up call to the barn; he didn't get his raiment in the clear and got himself quite lacerated and we had a lot of fun with the old kid about it: got home to find that both Mother and Dad had experienced the same trouble so it was undoubtedly something that they have eaten. We soon had the coffee ready and ate a lunch as we were all hungrier than hell. Done feeding we spent the time as usual reading and getting my notes in shape - had a good visit and so to bed again about ten - thirty both tired and dizzy.

Had a lot of fun celebrating the birthday today and it is no end of fun to get the boys all organized at once. So now I am thirty-four and I don't feel but a few years of it, this makes you seventeen years old today diary and I don't think this is such bad going really. Boy what a record I have to show for these four and thirty years that I have spent in this land of sorrow - Not even a pass made at my chosen calling but then there is always tomorrow and I'm having a pretty fair time of it so I should worry anyway but it won't be long until the years will be a very serious drawback to me and then what will I do to keep it going. Yes I am a man with grey in his hair and no woman, no dog, and no walnut tree - I should own all the land that joins me and have both mills and mines, and not a thing have I but a love of good wine, old wine, and a few of the Lords sweet daughters. Undoubtedly the next thirty-four years will be even less exciting but I hope a lot more interesting - really all I ask of life is that it be either Interesting or amusing which it is so seldom, so seldom. All that I have really accomplished in these passing years is the verse that I have written and the background of study and experience I have been storing up against the day I shall write still better poetry and some day I hope to get out a good book that all the world can read: Well diary lets jot in and go for another fourteen years or until destruction overtakes us.

1934

Earned $9.75
Cut & hauled
60 posts.

August - 17 - Friday
At Home

Well Diary today is your twelfth birthday and my nine and twentieth, one more year and Ill be thirty, Half way thru and nothing out of it yet - no doubt the next twenty - nine years will be even worse so no use to get discouraged. It was about five - thirty when I rolled out and made a trip to the spring as usual. Ed soon had breakfast ready and we got all packed up and on our way. Hotter than hell already and it was 7.40 when we got on the job. Got busy cutting and I had to carry the posts out of five mile canyon and she is a steep and unhandy bitch of a place. Cut and got thirty out then took a blow and sharpened up the axes. Pretty hot and the sun glittered down like a flash light beam. Plugged along until we had forty cut and then knocked off for our pancakes and dried apples. Soon filled up and spent the next half hour battling yellow jackets while trying to rest so finally went back to work and fortunately it clouded over and we soon had our load cut and ready to load. Took it easy a bit and then loaded up. Was about one - thirty when we started down the country. Cool and blowing like hell but we enjoyed it after the heat. Got down to Edis and jacked up the front wheels and drove some shims under the felloes as the damn wheels were at the point of collapse with me. Got lined up and was on my way. Nursed the old crate along and reached the flats in fine shape. Stopped at Benedicts to talk for a few minutes with Mrs. B [illegible] down the country again

met Mildred out in the flat east of Spickers and stopped for a talk with her. Sundown was coming on so beat hell so I pushed along. Unloaded the sixty posts at Charleys and then beat it on home. Found Knepps there and busy making ice cream. Washed up and shaved then we had a little pow-wow before supper was ready. Hungry as a wolf and I sure did take on a big feed. Supper over we lounged around awhile and about nine the Andersons drove in. Was surprised by the kids all bringing me a present sure good of them and I know they havn't very much to spare these days poor tykes. We had some ice cream and then sat around and talked awhile before getting a lunch all set. Wanted to dance and play some games but I just couldnt get things going- seems as if I have lost what little gift I ever had for entertaining and all we can do is talk and sit around. The wind came up and blew a terrible gale and jesus how the dust flew. The kids were all dressed up and sure look cute, seem to have a weakness for kids, I get no end of pleasure out of their company. The Knepps left about ten as mrs. K- was worried about getting home again but I persuaded her to let George and Carl stay awhile. We blundered around until about twelve when the andersons beat it for home, then we cleaned up around the place a bit and then rolled in, were tired and all were again. So passed my 29th birthday and now I'm headed for the thirty and how short the years seem to me now that they have passed. So little accomplished so much to do, and so many things that I should

1934

July-4 - Wednesday
at Home

Rolled out at six and we somehow hung on our lows. Dusted the cows and then milked, this done we had a bit of breakfast. Got wood and water in before I shaved and changed into my whites. Kneipps arrived and sure was glad to see them again - Emily fixed Rosie's hair and then she fixed mine and sure did a fine job of it - made a world of difference in my appearance too - We had one hell of a time getting the ice cream made but got her done and then rounded up the outfit and played ball until the dinner was announced. Took on a hale & hearty feed then had a rest. Got the truck out and took the Kneipp kids and drove over to the Dixon Canyon. Found the service berries, squaw berries, and goose berries ripe. There are plenty of berries and we picked a couple of quarts beside what we ate. Wandered up the canyon and on the hills until 5:10 when we headed for the ranch. Found Mordys here when we arrived and all hands joined in on the ice cream and sure had a feed on it. George, Emily, and I took a walk over the Kinder place and had quite a walk. Found Kneipps gone leaving the kids to ride home with Mordys. We had tea and sat around talking for quite awhile. Was about eleven before we finally got ready for bed. Sure would have liked to go to a dance tonight - but as usual no car, no money, no nothing - what a mess and I'm sick of it.

1933

August-27- Sunday
In the Sheep Camp
Devils Hole, Mont.

Didn't get out and around until about 7.30. Found the cows here so didn't take me very long to milk. Chores done we breakfasted and then all got busy. Cut some wood, cleaned up the Chevrolet and put her in the shed. Had my shoes to oil, shaved, and got my brief case and notebooks hunted up. Ma got dinner ready and we ate. Got the old flivver ready and then loaded up. Headed for the hole about one o'clock and found the roads pretty well dried up. Killed a rattlesnake as long as a well rope over near the Freed place. Drove on over to Smithers and found Bill busy in the shop. Talked with him for almost an hour then went in to talk with the girls; found Roy Ickoff there and we had a little chat; he is quite a lad indeed. Was getting late so I pulled out for Ennis again and made time. Passing through by Jim Cops place. Found Ben over in Kalispell bottom and we had a big pow-wow. Blew up a couple of showers but not bad. We came on in at 5.30 and let the sheep work on in toward the camp. Got in about six; was just ahead of another big shower. Soon had supper and what a fill we did take on. Fed the dog and got the dishes cleaned up. A lovely evening and sometimes I had been in camp so we took a walk over around the Dawson buildings and down thru by the oil well for a fresh drink. Had a lot to talk over as this old reservation of ours is conducive to memories. Back to camp and we got rigged up and about 9.30 we turned in. Feel [illegible]

august - 28 - Monday
In Camp

up at five as the coyotes prowling around woke me at last. Got things lined up and before long had breakfast. We ate, I packed my lunch and then helped Ben get started for Samuells. Got the sheep out of the corral but they wouldn't pull out until about nine, at last they started and trailed to beat hell until they got over on the dry lake ridge where they settled down. I killed a monster of a rattler while moping along the rimrocks. The sheep settled nicely so I had time to read a little and to look for arrowheads, etc. Felt a bit under the weather so didn't do much moping around. Ben left me his watch and it sure is handy. About 12.30 I ate my lunch and fed Lizzie. Poked around until almost four before the sheep started working back to camp again. Held them up a bit and it was about 6.30 when I corraled up. A beautiful and lonely site which I sure did enjoy. Fired up and soon had my supper started, was picking out a mess o' beans when Charley Kannen and Billy Lewis rode in; they had picked up one of our "alkalied" lambs and brought him up for me. Sure glad to see the boys and prevailed upon them to stop for supper. Had quite a gabfest with them - purty good kids I could see they eared off on their eating for fear they would run me short of grub. Supper over and our coffee finished they buckled right in and did the dishes while I fed the dog and put things all away again. They staid until about eight then pulled for home. Finished up my evenings chores, wrote a bit, read a little and about nine I called her a day. The sheep handled fine and I had a very [illegible] it [illegible]

August - 29 - Tuesday
In the Sheep Camp

Five o'clock when I rolled out - had a bad nite as the coyotes and the pack rats inside and the gravel and debris in the bed made sleeping impossible. Got breakfast, packed my lunch, and then remade the remade damn bed. Salted the sheep and kicked them out of the corral but it was about nine before I could get them to going again. Headed to the dry lake again as I want the grease wood to dry out well before I work on it any. They did fairly well after I gave them hell a few times. About eleven I got them settled over in the lake bottom but it was so hot they bogged up and didn't feed well. I felt like hell and had a touch of loneliness to add to my misery - God how futile & how wearisome life becomes at times - herding always did give me the jitters and I seem to be getting no better fast. Moped around until about three-thirty when they finally headed out to feed again. But it was 5:30 before we started for camp. Got them corraled about seven and fed all hours out. Started supper & almost fell asleep while it was cooking - woke before anything got burned. Ate my supper and then fed the dog. Was about 8:30 when I got done. Had a pack rat in the cupboard but I did not get him with the broom handle and hated to use the 25-20 as it raises such hell in the house. A beautiful, quiet nite with a quarter moon hanging low in the west. A swell nite to be lonesome in but I'm too damn tired to feel sad or alone tonight. About 9:30 I had everything done so I got to bed to try for a little rest. The damn rat is still raising the devil in his nest in the wood box, a useless supply of wood there so hate to move it & get at the s.o.b. [illegible]

son-of-a-bitch.

August-30-Wednesday
In the Sheep Camp

up a little before five and got things started had good luck with the hotcakes this morning as I left out the egg and used a little vinegar and soda in them. Breakfast over I got my lunch and a muggy of tea the sheep out and by 7.30 we were down in the grass wood. They ran like hell but I kept wrapping the lead around the tail end and they finally settled down. Got over near the east outcroppings and they settled down fine. Took it pretty easy and had a couple of hours rest when they bogged down near the north end of the lake at noon. The heat made me feel a little uneasy but when the wind came up about two o'clock it was fine. The sheep fed splendidly along the north rim and on over on to Kates until about 5.30 when we got started for camp. Clouded over and the blue-a devil of a gale- Cold as hell and the air heavy with pine smoke, 134 forest fires? must have had a big storm in northwest of us for it is hellish cold. Let the sheep feed all they wished so it was about 7.30 when I shut the gate on them and fought my way thru the wind to the shack. Tried up and got the spuds and ham on, then lay and listened to the wind howl and the supper cook. When it was ready I ate; had plenty of cocoa as we still have plenty of canned milk. The meal over I fed Fizzie and got the dishes all done. Tried up, bundled my bed, and as the lamp is too poor to read by and it's too cold to sit up and be comfortable I called it a day about 9.30 and rolled in. Tried as the devil was if I did have a damned easy day of it. could have made it easier if I wanted to. Would be all O.K. to-

August - 31 - Thursday
In the Sheep Camp

Still blowing like hell this morning and damnably cold as well. Al[illegible] before I got breakfast ready and was ready to eat. Packed my lunch, got the sheep reading and then put on a shirt and jacket extra and then the rain suit over the top, made a fine warm outfit. about eight the sheep pulled for the hole and I was right with them or they would have been threw every fence on the place. Used to drop the old ewe I had been having so much trouble with as the cold violent wind made the sheep travel to beat hell. We swung down by Dans northeast corner and up along the lake, was about noon when we came up out of the hole - half a day at a time is plenty on the green feed. Ate my lunch and let the sheep feed over into the north bottom, wind unbearable and my head ached to beat hell but had to stay with it just the same. Held them until at two let them start feeding north again; worked over on to the sloughs and found a couple of arrowheads, one very good one too. Was about 5 when they headed for camp feeding in slowly all the way. Was just seven when I shut the gate on them and came in to fire up. The wind went down for a wonder and it sure is a great relief to have a few minutes of quiet. Got busy and in a short time had supper ready. Ate long and heartily - then had the dishes to do and my mug to wash - etc. The packrat and I had another round to-night but couldn't get him out where I could get a good crack at him. He is still here. Wind keeps coming up in puffs so its hard to tell what tomorrow will be like - clear and fine tonight with a fine three-quarter moon. So this is the last day of august, Lord how winter is coming on, sure hope it will hold off until [illegible] it really has to start in as in earnest.

September – 1st Friday
In the Sheep Camp

4.40 when I crawled out this morning, took a look around and spotted a dead sheep in the corral; beat it over to look at her and found four more, all five of them dead from poison bloat; I felt ghastly, stricken; for a moment I was stricken, looked over the land but couldn't see but one or two more that had a touch of it. Crept back to my fire and ate a miserable breakfast, poached my lunch and then got the file and my pocket knife; the sheep are dead but I can at least save the hides. Just seven when I started to skin & 7.30 when I wound up the job. Didn't see any that needed doctoring so decided all I could do was to take the sheep north on the high dry ridges away from the rain soaked bottoms where the poison grows. about 8.30 when I started out feeling like a lost soul. Rolled a big rather near the Dawson barn and worked the sheep up on the ridge. Had one hell of a time holding them but made them stay and feed. Saw Karren and the Swiss boys a few minutes, ate my lunch about one and worked the sheep over into the Dawson bottom where they fed until about five. Let them work toward home, keeping them off the green stuff as much as possible – sure feel sorry for the lambs that lost their mothers they keep bleating all the time. Got around up about seven and got a fire going. Cooked supper and sure was glad to eat even if I do feel down and out. Saw on bread to eat [illegible] and a couple T steaks that I saved from breakfast. Had plenty of cocoa so made out all O.K. Got the dishes done about nine and then washed up. Had my writing to do and the day was done. Between the orphan lambs and the pack rats I'm afraid I'll be little sleep for me tonite. Turned in about ten, rain howled like mad all night with a strong east wind.

September - 2 - Saturday
In the Sheepcamps

Up at five and found a beautiful day, cloudless, warm, and autumnal. Soon had things going and packed my lunch and selected my duds reading while breakfast cooked. All set by eight so got the sheep out and headed them north again; they were bound to follow the green bottoms so we had it give and take all morning. Saw the Lewis boys a few minutes and spent the morning reading and writing a few verses again. Worked on the damn sheep until I finally got them over in the Dawson bottom where they settled down and fed nicely with but little handling. Ate my lunch and about completed my magazine. Had to keep working around the damn bastards to keep them on the feed but I held them there until about four o'clock when I let them come over to Miss Ellises place for water. Held them up until five and then let them work in. Corraled just at sunset and as the beautiful full moon rose, a lovely evening. Built a fire and put my kettle and coffee pot on then beat it down to the water hole and took a bath, and a very chilly one with the cool evening breeze blowing and the moon shining down; sure felt swell when I rubbed down. Soon had supper ready and eaten, cleaned up the shack and did the dishes. Thought Ben and the kids might come and we could go to the dance, so I got ambitious hunted up Dens straight razor and went at it. The fair- way went fine but the corners and assholes were hell - managed a fairly decent shave without a scratch, about nine when I got done so I straightened up the dump brushed my teeth and read until the kids down in about ten all set to the dance.

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September -11- Monday
In the Sheep Camp

Up about six and got the chores done. Dug a bucket of Spuds while Ma got breakfast. She fed over I packed my grub for camp, reluctantly got the car out and finally was on my way - sure hate to go herding again but sure got her to do. A lovely day and just crisp enough to be a delight, the first of the fall days. Arrived at camp all O.K. Unloaded and put things away then filled a can of fresh water and put things in shape around the dump. Gathered up a load of posts on north and it was noon again. Fixed up a bite to eat and as soon as I could get it into me I beat it up on the west bench to find Ben. The sheep were doing nicely so we sat around & talked things over for awhile. It worries him to have me herd as I know I don't like it, and I grieve because he has to. Each feels sorry for the other but what the hell can we do about it. We worked the sheep around the Vernish place for awhile and about four Ben pulled out - loneliness settled over me when he left as the sea sweeps over a mollusk at high tide. The dog and I battled the sheep until sundown and even now I am not sure who won the honors. Corraled just about seven, sure easy to notice how short the days are now. How brief is a year and how little one gets accomplished in a twelvemonth. Cut some wood and soon had a little supper ready and eaten - feel really tired and I got in only a scant half-day with the flock. Washed up, mended my overalls - had to cut the patch out with the butcher knife as I have no scissors in camp. Read awhile and about nine thirty I called it a day and by Jesus I am really tired.

September - 12 - Friday
In the Sheep Camp

up about five, put in a bad night so have a headache. I got breakfast and cleaned up the place and got the sheep out, as I expected three was almost dead (as soon as I get near the corn-o-latch they start to die) I gave her a dose of salt and then headed west with the band. Took them up on the bench and we went round and round for awhile. I felt miserable, sick, and lonely; my head ached and I tortured myself thinking about how successful and happy should be my old schoolmates for they are accomplishing something while I here just frittered away my time and am still at it. God how I have wasted my youth - the thoughts of it fill me with rage and disgust. Left the bench and held the damn sheep on the feed until about two when I let them work down the bench. Spotted another sick one held them off of all possible green stuff. Bedded them until 5:30 when I let them work down over the bench and head in toward camp. They worked in very slowly so it was getting pretty dusky when we got in and corraled. Salted the sheep and gave the sick one a dose of salt and soda and put her up near the house for the night. Got busy then and in a little while I had the supper ready. Ate, filled up on cocoa and sat down to rest my head - shouldn't have eaten anything tonight but was so damn hungry I just couldn't resist a feed. Turned in pretty early - hope I can sleep and feel a little better in the morning. This herding is a nightmare and a waking horror with me - entirely too much opportunity for introspective thinking - and envious and [illegible] - but what can I do to [illegible]

September - 13 - Wednesday
In the Sheep Camp

Beat the sun up again and was ready to go by seven o'clock; got the damn sheep headed north and we made good time. They did well until about ten and then started running and raising hell all over the country so I put them up on the top of the Red Butte. Just about twelve when I got up there and we were all tired so I left them rest a bit while I ate lunch and rested awhile; they were bound to keep running but I held them down - took a hell of a lot of walking but I made up my mind to hold them in spite of hell. About 4:30 I let them come down off the butte and work toward the camp. Was coming by the Dawson place when Roy Diddoff rode up - sure was delighted to see the old boy. He had brought up some medicine for Dad's ears and I think that is great of him to ride clear over here to give Dad a hand like that. We talked until the sheep were watered and then corraled the bastards and got busy on supper. Took on a big feed and then sat by visiting and drinking quarts of coffee and cocoa until far into the night. Did the dishes and then sat around and talked. Sure enjoy the old boy's line for he is a most interesting and entertaining conversationalist. We waited until the moon came up shortly after twelve and was bound to beat it for the -X but I talked him out of it. We turned his horse (saddled and bridled) into the corral with the sheep and then we had some more coffee and at 1:30 went to bed. Kept talking until Roy went to sleep. I tried to sleep but kept waking up every few minutes the mice were bad and of course the horse kept the sheep more or less nervous - Managed to catch a little shut eye before

September - 14 - Thursday
In the Sheep Camps

Rolled around again and 2 fired up, when breakfast was all set I got Roy up and we ate, talked Limp over with our coffee then got the dishes done and he pulled out for camp, sure hated to see him go. It busy and soon had my dead sheep skinned then made a few more odd jobs about the camp and got ready to take the sheep out. Was a little after eight when we started. Kept them bunched and going until I got them up on the bench. They are bound to travel so I let them go over on the west side of the crater and they sure fed fine. Had to keep after them awhile then ate my lunch. They finally settled down and fed splendidly until time to come in again. Read awhile this afternoon and the time passed fairly well. Saw a big storm working in from the south so I gathered the sheep up and about 4.30 started them for the camp, they fed fine all the way in, got them bedded up about 6.30. Cut wood and got my camp ready - looks like we were in for a real storm so I got plenty of wood in. Got supper on in a hurry and cleaned up the place. I ate pretty good but have that nasty pain in the region of my appendix again - it may be only gas but it feels like hell all the same. So tried I can hardly see so I got my shoes oiled and made ready for bed. Blowing like hell and frequent sprats of rain - may be a real shower before it is over. Boy how good the old bed looks tonight - didn't have a hard day but muscle sore as hell all the same. Had them on good feed with quite a little green stuff in it. Sure hope we don't get [illegible] as much wanderings -

September – 15 – Friday
In the Sheep Camp

Woke at 4.05 to hear it raining so figured I was in for a wet and nasty day. Went back to sleep and didn't come out of it until about six. Got things organized and very soon had breakfast ready. Packed my lunch, ate, and got things lined up around camps. 7:40 when I got the flocks under way. Headed north and let them suit themselves as they stand nicely bunched today. They headed over into the Dawson bottom and settled down on the green feed there so I left them alone and they did fine for several hours. Had a magazine so got along fine. Cloudy and a devil of a wind blowing so it was pretty cold. Ate my lunch at noon and poked around trying to keep warm. About two or a bit later the sheep broke out and I let them trail over on to the Graves place. They worked steadily toward home so by six o'clock they were in the corral. Was surprised as they didn't want any water tonight and beat it to the corral. Sure a poor bed ground as it is fully exposed to this cold and violent west wind. Hope they don't pull the bed ground on me tonight. Got the supper started and it is almost impossible to get any heat as the wind pulls it right up the chimney. This dump is as cozy and as warm as a good corn crib only it hasn't such a good roof. Shivered until supper was ready, the warm grub helped like hell to get some warmth into one. Wiped up after supper and read awhile, did a little work on a couple of verses I'm trying but it is too cold and airy for comfort so I turned in rather early. Sure wish the wind would go down and we could have a pleasant day tomorrow. Had a very easy day of it for some unaccountable reason the sheep bunched very nicely.

September -16- Saturday
In the Sheep Camps

Started out at 5 to be a fine day - weather lovely but wind high. Got my breakfast over and camp rigged up, everything all set so about eight I got the sheep out and we headed east. Saw I had a blind ewe in the bunch so figured to work down to Graces and put her in the house there until the folks come, however she pulled out of the bunch and I had to dog her down. Her eyes were full of matter so I cleaned them out and tied her down and ran to bring the sheep back. When I got back however she was gone and to save my soul I couldn't find her. The sheep were bound to run and I did my dammdest to hold them down but we went down by the dry lake where they fed long enough for me to eat lunch. On over to Corbins, past the shepherders monument and up to the Dawson bottom, kept bunching and fighting them but they wouldn't feed. Tramped endless miles, and cursed countless curses until about three when I brought them over to the oilwell to water. This didn't help much for away they went again, hell bent and me raging and raving after them. Clear up to the northwest point of the hole and then I held them awhile by dint of dogging and hard travel. Was about dark when I got in so God damn footsore and tired that I ache all over. Sure wish we were rid of the miserable Christ killin' god damn sons-of-bitches, this is about the hardest way I can conceive of making a living outside

[illegible] contemplating suicide all day will be the only way to save my sanity. If I have to work with these damn sheep much longer. Continued my supper, washed up and fell [illegible]

September – 17 – Sunday
In the Sheep Camp

Up at 5:20 and soon had things going. Everything done and about to go by 7 but it is a perfect day, clear, way, and quiet so the sheep lay in the corral enjoying the warmth. Waited until 8.30 and then had to kick them out and head west, was a bit after ten when I got up on the bench. Much to my surprise the sheep fed splendidly so I read awhile, then went down to look over the old steam engine awhile and spent an hour there lunching and looking her over. Took a walk now and then around the sheep just to hold them on their feet. Got along without the least trouble and about four-thirty they got started for camp. Held them on the bench until five-thirty then bunched them and down into the hole we came. Let them feed in and it was about seven when I corraled. Was delighted for good measure to find Ben here and supper ready. We had a big feed and a big pow-wow. He had grapes, tomatoes, cake, and whiskey with him so we really ate. Dishes done we drank and sat around talking until late into the night. Both of us are very disgusted with the life we are leading. But how to get out of it, that is the question. If we could only hire a herder and then we would be free to do a few things and make a little money. The change would be what I would enjoy more than anything else. If one sticks to one business too long he becomes stuck in a rut and grow narrow minded, discouraged and unhappy. We had quite a visit and at last about ten o'clock we called it a day and turned in. Not so hard today as the sheep handled very nicely. Sure wish I could start with Ben in awhile and we could be together again.