

Columbus, Mont.
Box 566
27 Dec 1942.

Dearest Erlene,

Stand by this sundy evening for a few words from this section of the the Lords Vineyard - first of all allow me to express my gratitude to you for the five things you sent for Christmas. I appreciate them very much. and want you to know even if I am not there to tell you verbatim so will scratch it out on a paper.

Thursday Afternoon we hitch hiked 40 miles to Nye Mont. and helped clean chickens, and baby and dozen of other other odd jobs. That night we helped with the dishes then Bro. & Sr. Monk went to town while Art, Marilyn, Abbie, Arnold, Elder Marble & I stayed & visited & played games till 11:30 P.M. Then we went to bed. Oh yes, there are no electric lites in monk house ~~so~~ so we used the lamp. Elder Marble & I slept ~~in~~ ~~the~~

with out in the bunk house in a bed that swayed in the middle from both sides and both ends.

Was ever glad to see daylight which stayed away till 8:30 A.M. but the Moon was big & pretty all night & came ~~shining~~ through the window on high unto all night.

I went in from the bunk house to the regular house a little before the rat did and tossed the ox about with those in the house. About 10 A.M. the presents were opened & when Bro. & Sr. Monk opened the pkg. we gave them Sr. Monk walked over joyfully and hung a big kiss on me. Was I ever surprized. We Elder Marble & I went together & bought them a book. "Gospel Standards" 5th edition. It runs \$1.25 a piece & was worth every cent because they have been so good to us lately, all the time we have known them in fact.

Xmas afternoon well from 10:30 till 2:00 Allan who is 16 & I fed the pigs

then hauled 3 loads of gravel for their road where it gets bad when it rains. 2:00 - 3:15 we ate dinner - Chicken, dressing

Sweet spuds, spuds, Gravy, Celery, Ice Cream (Homemade) Pie, Cake - & all the trimmings.

I helped Abbie with dishes. I washed for 1/2 hr straight then she washed for 1/2 hr while I wiped - just as we were 1/2 done with dishes our white Xmas began & when we finished there was 2 inches of good white snow with more coming.

It was about sundown 4:30 or 5:00 so we decided to have a stroll. We walked upon a knob of the hill abt 1/4 mile above the house that looked over the house. Pine trees, with snow ^{falling} no wind. By the time we reached the top it was nearly dark so we headed homeward. The snow made things slick so we locked arms as we descended the hill side. Like they do in a dance when the music stops. I think I'll be safe in saying that that was the closest I have been to a girl for two years, since I was in Dayton at least - except to shake hands.

Well so much for that just

so long as you know that folks did
all in their power to make this Xmas
Merry and I believe they did a good
job but it wasn't complete as ~~if~~ ^{it would be} if
you had of dropped in. But Next Xmas
I hope that we will be able to be together.

May I take this opportunity to let
you know that my heart is full of
love for you.

So long for now,

Segrand

Happy New Year!

Smile—