

Billings, Mont

3 Jan 1943

Dear Erlene,

It is 9:00 A.M. & I am alone in this city. Sunday school doesn't start till 10:30 so have a few spare minutes to use some way or other. And an answer to the two letters ^{you sent} should be as appropriate as anything even if it is on a leaf of my little Note book.

Elder Marble & I have been in Billings since Saturday afternoon. We rented a hotel for \$10 & hit the bed at 12 midnight. 4:00 A.M. we arose & met the train that brought his girl friend from North Dakota - the one that he met since he's been on a mission. He requested that I do the disappearing act till 11:30 tonight. Therefore that is what I did!

Sorrowful day - He & ~~she~~ she is in the room of the hotel. What will happen? well your guess is as good as mine. It has been nine full weeks since he saw her & they just couldn't stay apart any longer. I have been told dozens of times that

he wished ~~to~~ that he was married, & that ~~3~~ months that he has left is way too long to wait. I might get in trouble for leaving him ~~and~~ alone with the girl, but finally we worked things out so that the District pro. knew of his plans & he didn't say too much. Well here is hoping that things work out for the best good of all concerned.

In regards to the idea that I had of coming back to Montana to work. Remember that that was ~~a~~ nearly a thought - one possibility out of dozens probably. so don't worry too much about coming up. There are lots of positive & negative sides of the thing.

Perhaps a fellow working in a strange place among strangers with an 'X' missionary or Personnel manager would stand a better chance of getting an essential to War work job, which would defer one from the draft.

That is one advantage against dozens of disadvantages. One of them is the thought that you

advanced in regards to raising
a family in a non-Mormon
Country. I have been thinking along
that line myself but I have been
thinking that the first three years
wouldn't be effected by environment
to such large extent. & by 3 or 4
years the war will be over then
a step could be taken to get into
a community of L.D.S. people.

Another disadvantage is the
power business. There is electricity in
this full section but the war came
on before it was put into the
houses. As a result the kerosene
lamps are still used.

Probably when I end up I
will be back at the smelter
or in the army but I suppose they
are both good places.

Well I will sign off for now
but don't worry too much about
coming up to this forlorn &
desolate country. We can talk
things over later.

Love to you,
Lester