May 13 - 1900

My Dear Mary Frances —

I got a pup for MacElvain and he is a sassy one, - I don't think he and Becky would do well together at all —

I heard you were sick but that you were better, - its too bad, and I want you to keep fine, - what was the matter? — I have not been feeling very good either, and this is my first day out for awhile —

Did you get those last two books I sent you, you didn't say anything about them — How does Becky do with her spelling lessons? I gave Jack MacLure a little sister pup to the one I sent MacElvain, - he wanted to know right off if Cap made it, - he was afraid of it at first — but his daddy called me up and said they were moving away from here and wouldn't I please give him to somebody else — so I guess those Sullivan girls will get it —

I suppect I will have to go to Uniontown sometime soon - anyhow to Harlowtown - and I am going to try to see you as soon as I can.

I hope you are as nice as ever and that you are well and eating everything —

With love from your Daddy —

When is Becky going to write to me ?

May 2 - 1920

My Dear Mary Frances -

I was sure mighty glad to get your nice letter - How did you happen to write to me — It was strange, because I had just come back from Butte where I had got your some books - I didn't know whether you had read the "Prince and the Pauper" or not — I also got Becky some games to help her spell — Is she still a lot of trouble to you? I am glad she has got another man, but you didn't tell me how you were doing in that line — Bert still remembers you and says - "me, good boy" —

Old Cap is still my pardner and we are thicker than thieves - he is acquainted with everybody and so far has all the dogs in town bluffed out — He can't go in the prison and when they shut those big gates on me he knows the stuff is all off and every day, he seems more surprised to see me come out — He can't understand it — As soon as he left old Bruce, - Pard got Bruce and gave him an awful licking —

I see the Bullwinkle's pretty often and they are fine

I wrote to that Saint Nicholas magazine to send your copies to Lewistown - I dont know why they dont do it, so you had better write to them

I am sorry about Beckys rarache and it would have been alright if she went to the hospital - Does she still dress all up and think she is the whole thing? I had a little girl the other day that looked a lot like her and she had the raracle — She was quite a bit of a crank, though - You didnt tell me anything about Mrs Ainsworth — I will send your books tonight and I hope you will like them — If you want anything I want you to tell me and I hope you will write to me often

With love from your Daddy -

May 7 - 1920

My Dear little Becky —

How is you? I got your funny letter alright and showed it to Old Pap and he sniffed and wagged his tail pretty hard - He is sure a dandy.

I saw Mrs Elvain and held her hand - she tells me some funny things about you, - I am real glad you dont swear any more —

Jack McAmis is just the same - he rides his velocipede all over and the other day he come up here and said "Say, Doc, do you think you've got enough money to get me some of that candy down stairs" —

Helen Bolton was down here last week - she was to come today but it is snowing — she wants to see you —

I am going to give Holloway a little pup - I didnt see your rabbit but I know he is doing well Write to me again

With lots of love from your Daddy

April 11 - 1920.

My Dear Mary Frances —

How are you, - I hope fine — Are you going to school and do you still get "stars" — I suppose Becky is as proud and pretty as ever, - I am taking care of a little sick girl now that looks and acts a whole lot like Becky — Did you get many Easter presents? I am sorry I couldn't get you anything nice here in Deer Lodge but I am going to Butte one of these days and will try to send you some books — Holloways were up the other night and I have a little puppy to send them. — Cap and I have been moving and just got straightened around. -

Give my love to little Beck and be a good girl

With love from your
Daddy.

March 10 — 20

My Dear Mary Frances —

It has been a long time since I have heard from you — How is Becky? Jack McCuck and I are going to the Wrigleys today — Shall I send Becky her rabbit? McIlvain, Holloway and Joe Murphy came down to see me Sunday — and I saw one of Becky's letters —

I am enclosing a check for your mother — The other night Charlie Chaplin was here and I wish you had been too —

Be a good girl and write to me

With love from your Daddy.

F. W. COTTOM, M. D.
LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

Sunday - Dec. 31 - 1922

My Dear Mary Frances -

This is New Years Eve and I am very glad for I had your letter today - I am glad also that you had a nice Christmas - I got Mary Rhodes letter too, - she must be a pretty fine sort of a girl, for she writes a nice letter - How old is she now - Margaret Hilliard was in the other day - They had a fire and burned up all their clothes, - she was all rigged out in a new sailor suit and new shoes (I spit on them) - also had a big boil on her neck which I had to open, - she went out visiting and the folks asked her about it and what the doctor said to. and she told them I said "Shut up or Ill kill you with a rock" - Now, you know I don't talk that way - The fire started early in the morning and Clarissa woke up first and I guess they were lucky to get out of the house: Walter had to throw Pat and Rolla out of the windows and none of them had any clothes - Les cut his arm pretty bad and I had to go out and sew it up. - Bryants were

F. W. COTTOM, M. D.
LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

in the other day and are fine - expect Coolidges home in a day or so
told Jimmy about his present - She is getting fine and walks now without
a cane - We are going to a show tomorrow afternoon; Harold Lloyd, I guess.
I know about your watch and will send it soon — It was hard to fix
and I think Harlow sent it away to the factory —
Things are very much the same here. - I see your sisters at the school twice
a week and they are all fine. - do you write to them? The weather has been
warm and we had a chinook that took off almost all the snow. — I was
out in the country this morning, up Hanson creek; beyond the Big Spring —
Well - it is getting late and I am supposed to go up and fix Cydes star
on Line at midnight, - guess ill have to give him a pistol too — Its lucky
you're not around here now, for he is still crazy - Grat goes back to the
Falls Wed. - she is having a great time here with her vacation —
Must stop now - be a good girl and write to me often.

With love from your
Daddy.

F. W. COTTOM, M. D.
LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

Monday - Dec 18 - 22

My Dear Mary Frances — am sending you some gifts and wish it could be more, - I had very little idea what to get for you, but did the best I could - I know you would have liked books but they are hard to get here so am sending you some money and I wish you to buy some, those that you want. —

I hope you are well, - getting along well and have a Merry Xmas. -

With love from your
Daddy —

F. W. COTTOM, M. D.
LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

Dec. 18-22

Dear Mary-

Am sending you some money. That you can know it is Christmas. - Things are very much the same here, but this morning has been unusually bad. - one of the Carr children just died of acute tuberculosis, had a bad operation at the hospital and a fire at Hancocks and Warren burned his hands and arms —

The winter has been worse than ever, - about 20 below and lots of snow

Coulds has been sick again - Coolidges are better —

Will close hoping that you are well and have a merry Christmas.

Yours

JWC.

F. W. COTTOM, M. D.
LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

Monday Dec 18-22.-

My Dear Becky—

Santa Claus fixed things so that you can keep yourself looking pretty - and you must stay that way—
I am sending you some money and you can buy yourself something and go see the shows.- The weather is awfully cold here and lots of snow — Jack dog is still in the country and taking a rest—
I saw all your sisters yesterday and they seem to be fine.
Be a good girl and a Merry Christmas to you

With love from your
Daddy

F. W. COTTOM, M. D.
LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

Dec. 9-22

Dear Mary Frances & Becky—

How are you getting along. I hope you are real well. I thought you might need some money to help out Santa Claus so am sending you some—

There isn't very much new here; has been bitter cold and lots of snow. about like last winter. Coolidges have all been sick but are better now. Dorie has been selling Christmas seals and will have her send you some—

I see your sisters at the school every week (and John Swan) they are all fine.

Jack dog stayed with me for awhile, but he got so good with his singing I had to send him out to Bryants. He is doing fine. I had a letter from Jack the other day. She is getting pretty

F. W. COTTOM, M. D.
LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

anxious for Lee vacation to come - Clyde is "studying" to be a sheriff after the first of the year —

How are you doing with your violin - anything? If you want to take lessons, will you let me know and I will arrange it for you, some way — Please write to me

With all my love — from your
Daddy

F. W. COTTOM, M. D.
LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

Oct. 1-23

Dear Mary Frances - I was mighty glad to get your letter this morning - Becky must be getting awful small - That communication of hers was such a dandy - Everything is going good out here now - and feeling good, and things seem to be picking up quite a little — We had several dismal rainy days but the weather is fine again now — It was a part of the heavy rains they have had in Wyoming - it must have been terrible there and I am anxious to hear from Coulo - have tried to call them by phone but wires are down - They work to have driven up and arrived here yesterday - regret to hear that their summers work on the railroad grade is washed away — Coolidge just missed that bad wreck by a day or so - Mrs C's mother is quite sick again and she had gone to Rapid City and he left Casper to meet her — The girls are fine and so is Jimmy - He walks down town almost every day, but still complains quite a little - He and old Charley had it out this summer

F. W. COTTOM, M. D.
LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

Jimmy got down his rifle and told him where to get off - and out - and all about things - you know how he could do it - Wiegfuedas' are back up there again for the winter - they have a fine youngster - Bryants have a boy now, too, - about 5 years old, a child of the Haderli girls - It's about a toss up between the boy and Jack dog with Frank - He will probably go to work as mine foreman at the gypsum plant at Heath and I would like to see them do it -

I have been reading quite a book that I am sending you - "The wrong twin" - I thought pretty well of it and I want you to tell me what you think of it - Do you remember the funny faced woman that thought it was so wonderful that you could read?

I am sorry to know that things are unpleasant there and I am asking you to come out here for awhile - you will be more contented, happier, and I believe better off, - and I know that I will be -

F. W. COTTOM, M. D.
LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

Your bring Lex will not increase any expense, your school will be better, or you can go to the Ursalines, as you wish — That is something I would expect you to do soon anyway —
Have a nice room with Pick Lundle Burke who has bought the Bright and fixed it all up, - a girl couldn't have a nicer living arrangement and I know you would never be lonesome — a lot of cattle are going to Chicago now and some of my friends could arrange to meet you there and come home with you — Bill Sullivan and Jones from Square Butte, Deaton, Sedgwick and some others will be there during the next few weeks — you can telegraph me if you want to come until Christmas, and I will wire you arrangements and money — Grace will probably be going East too — Have been trying to get Lim to take him away - she is almost blind — I will be looking forward to this until I hear from you and I hope so much that it will be possible —

F. W. COTTOM, M. D.
LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

I am sending a check and some money for yourself - go to a good show - I haven't been to one for a long time - Will send some more the middle of the month -

Give these pictures to Becky. I forgot to get them in her letter yesterday - (taken in Grass Range at Shaws)

Must close now, and anyway - write to me long and often

With love

Daddy -

F. W. COTTOM, M. D.
LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

Sept. 17 - 1923 -

My Dear Mary Frances -

I am sorry to have had to delay writing to you for so long but it has been impossible for me to send you any money before. - Things have been so bad here that it has been a question of getting along at all — However, while almost everyone is broke, this part of the country has never had so wonderful a crop and things should be a little more prosperous in another month —

We have had a nice summer, without any hot days to speak of, and some that were real cold. - on Aug 1st there was several inches of snow at Bryants - They are fine, and I went up there several months ago with Mr Hancock hunting - had pretty good luck and the Jack dog is the finest hunter that ever was, I was surprised at him. - Della has some pictures she sent to Becky —

Clyde Combs was here last week and I guess they are getting along all right. - They almost lost out on their contract in Wyoming as the work

F. W. COTTOM, M. D.
LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

shut down and for awhile it looked pretty bad — Gertrude is back in Great Falls in school and Hilliards folks are in Portland — I understand their women folks had some sort of "spat" — was up to Coolidge yesterday running and they are all fine — Les Coolidge is in Wyoming quite a bit, and Sonny runs the ranch — Jimmy is still up in the mountains, but I suppose will be coming in soon — He called up the other day to hear about the prize fight and said it was snowing then — am leaving this morning for Roy for some life insurance examinations, — they are shipping a lot of cattle from there today and if my papers did not come in. I will have to go on to the Missouri River. Was down to St Leo's and they have a big school this year with several new sisters — The Hospital has been busy and there is considerable typhoid here this year —

How is Becky getting along — I am certainly anxious to see you but can see no chance. Hasn't been anywhere, and don't expect to be able to leave. I hope you will write to me and that you haven't

F. W. COTTOM, M. D.
LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

git along too badly – am enclosing a check and some money for you girls – will mail you a check like this the 15th of each month –

must close now and git started to Roy – Please write to me

With love to all

Daddy –

F. W. COTTOM, M. D.
LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

Jan 17 - 23 -

My Dear Mary Frances -

I am sorry not to have heard from you as I thought I would. - I sent you and Becky birthday gifts and your watch - did you get them - Everything is very much the same here, have been quite busy and the weather has been like summer - there is no snow except in the mountains - Have it seen any of your friends except the Coolidges for a long time; they have all been sick but are better again. - Jimmy is doing fine and gets around real well - Was talking to Bryant yesterday and Jack dog is having the time of his life - am sending you an ad. of the Helga Dramatic Club. - Clyde is sore because Margarets name is not on the program. - He is going to have her perform at the Judith - We are having some real good shows come here now - expect to go to Jimmy Adams lawyer tonight - There is a big murder trial on now. - I think men that held up the Roy bank. - do not know how it will turn out -

must close now and get this in the mail, - also have Deal just write by -

With lots of love.

Daddy -

Be good to Becky -

204838

Walker-
Fidelity

Dec. 20 - 1924 -

Dear Mary Frances -

Christmas is almost here again and I hope you have a nice one - I suppose Becky and Santa Claus will perform as usual - She wont remember her Christmas gift of the tooth I pulled for her - I think that was the night Gert stayed with you and entertained with "Up on the Housetops - the reindeers paw" - She is coming here to spend the Holidays and is due in tomorrow night - She has got to be big, and isn't much improved in her walking - uses a cane now, but she is as nice as she can be and is certainly a fine girl - Clyde and Mrs Combs are here and are just settling in the winter, - they made a trip to Sheridan a few days ago and came back in the storm and the bitter cold weather we have had - as soon as he got thawed out, you can imagine the line of talk he had to give out -

Coolidges were here for a day last week, They had visited here for a few days on their way to Los Angeles and stopped over on their way back - They are all very fine, and Coolidge has been arranging his affairs, so that I expect him to locate down this way, or in Denver - Haven't heard from the Bryants very lately, but the last I heard, they were very fine, and Frank and Geo Wierglenda were taking a mining lease over near Maiden — Jack dog was the same - Isaacs are very much the same and I think I told you about her eye trouble - She has been operated on and was better, - That niece I forgotten her name -

came in one day and Ill have you know she is an actress,— but a very poor sort of show she could put on — She seemed "dumber" than ever —

Fred Leonard was pretty badly beaten in the election and isnit doing very good - They have a baby girl now and Betty is working in his office so as to get all the money possible before his term is out.

Dr Deal is slated for the job at Warm Springs, but Mrs Deal is afraid to take a chance on going there -

I just heard that Dr Murphy at Fort Benton was dead - a suicide - He has been pretty despondent for a long time and in poor health — Havnit heard any of the particulars about it - Ike Rogers who was sheriff there is located here in the oil fields —

About the Christmas time - I sent you a package by American Express, which you have probably heard from by this time - I had borrowed a book that I hope you will like - by Willa Cather — I am anxious to hear what you think about it - She has a brother here that I know quite well - I ordered a copy for you but it didnit arrive, so when you receive it will you send that one back — Casper is a worse place to buy books than Lewistown — I ordered the Saturday Evening Post and that Nature magazine for you and St Nicholas and Child Life for Becky so that Christmas will "string along" through the year.

The freight from Lewistown arrived here in pretty bad shape and I will forward it just as soon as it is repacked — Your old desk and chair cant be repaired, but will send on the papers in it, with Beckys art stuff - She will be glad to see some of her earlier efforts - Please write to me

With love

Daddy.

Oct 6 - 1924

Dear Mary Frances - I couldn't write to you, for I had no money to send you - I only got my license to practice last week; and when I couldn't practice medicine, I found myself under quite a handicap, towards making a living — I hope things improve now — Everything has been dull here all summer, but seem to be getting better — Coolidge was here for several days and we had quite a visit - They were here for a day in August and Irma was taken sick with appendecitis just as they returned home, - was operated at once and I guess she had a pretty hard time of it — I phoned to Clyde last night, - he has been pretty sick this fall, and I was up to look after him twice — He is much better, and they are closing down the work for the year, which was quite prosperous for him - Hilliard was away, and probably made things easier, but is on his way to Casper now — Combs expect to be here about Sunday, and Clyde is to take some treatment, so they will be here for awhile. He asked me to look for a job for Jim Slater, as he was expecting to add himself to the Combs family. He seems to be a first class sort of fellow, but it don't seem possible that Agnes would be getting married, - Old Girl is just the same, and is a mighty fine girl — With all her trouble, she isn't asking any odds from anybody. — I think this is all the Montana news worth while: I believe I wrote

you that Cy Buck was dead - I am sending another Harry Leon Wilson book; - Merrlon of the Movies, and I hope you havn't read it. - It is pretty much like all his hot air - I went to see the "Covered Wagon" - did you ever see it, and do you want the book? Am sending Becky some Halloween plunder, and I hope she can enjoy herself - I wish you would send send me her "dimensions" if you will, and if she needs a winter coat - I will send her one, and some shoes if I knew her size, - I wish she hadn't grown any, but am afraid she has - just so she is "horse and buggy style" will suit me, though -

I am might anxious to see what sort of a girl she is getting to be - I suppose you are much interested in the air races that are going on there now - I've been in the "sticks" for so long I'd be all out of place, with a lot of people -

Havn't heard from Bryants for quite a while, but am mailing some pictures to Becky - a dandy one of Jack dog "at his work" and one of Maiden -

Please write to me soon and often -

With love

Daddy —

August 6 - 1924

Dear Mary Frances -

It has been a month since I received your letter but it was so sorrowful and I have been the same way, I could not bring myself to write to you. I have had no money to send you, I was so hopeful when I wrote you that things were going to be alright, that I am afraid to be cheerful any more, - for when things seem brightest, is the time everything seems to go wrong. I did not take the examination to practice in Wyo. and have had no end of trouble in getting registered and could not do anything until I did, which at the time, seemed like I would have to wait until October — however, after all the idleness, worry and travel I think things are to be alright again. I have made an arrangement whereby I am allowed so much a month and money is what is necessary, so that I think in in several weeks I can send you what you need.

This has been a dismal summer, and so different from what I expected — When I learned I was ineligible to practice I had to go to Sheridan, which was in July - visited with Coulds for a week, and then returned to Casper and did what little I could — Mr Coolidge came in about two weeks ago and went to Cheyenne with him. Clyde called me yesterday morning and I look for them down in several days, and the Coolidges promised they would be here the last of the week, so I

think they may be here together — Luisa and Gert have grown up and are fine girls — Gert had a letter from you while I was in Buffalo and I enjoyed it —

Buffalo is the nicest place to live in summer that I ever saw. It is very pretty and old fashioned, at the foot of the Big Horn mountains, many creeks and trees and the finest swimming pool I ever saw — Clyde has a contract building a road over the Big Horns, — the Black & Yellow Highway, at the highest place, — Immense ice and snow banks and the Powder River has its source there and crosses the road no bigger than my arm — the altitude is 9966 feet and not so very much lower than Mt. Rainier (or Tacoma) — Clyde couldn't stand it at first, and fainted twice the day I was up with him, but a letter from Agnes said that they had a camp up there and he was doing better.

I never thought there was such a wild, untraveled country left in the world — Buffalo is the town where the Virginian eloped & Trampas and they made their honeymoon in those mountains. When Coolidge went to Cheyenne, he had come oil land to look up and we drove to Medicine Bow, which is the town on the U.P. where the author left the train — it is the same trail they took and as little traveled. and there is one house and one sheep camp in 100 miles and I suppose Medicine Bow looks just the same, tin cans and all. — From there we took the Lincoln Highway through Laramie into Cheyenne, and it was like going from one world into another — I wished so much and often that you were along — There is a divide about 9000 feet high out of Laramie that we crossed at night, and could see the big gas well on fire

near Fort Collins, Cols.- about 60 miles away -
Cheyenne is one of the old towns you read about, and spent the day there. Fort Russell is on the edge of the town and took my army physical exam while there. It is the end of one of the air mail divisions and I saw them come in and leave again mighty quick for the east. I dont believe you would think much of this country though, for it is almost a desert away from the mountains; it hasn't rained for months and the days are desperately hot - there is plenty of wind or things would die sure -

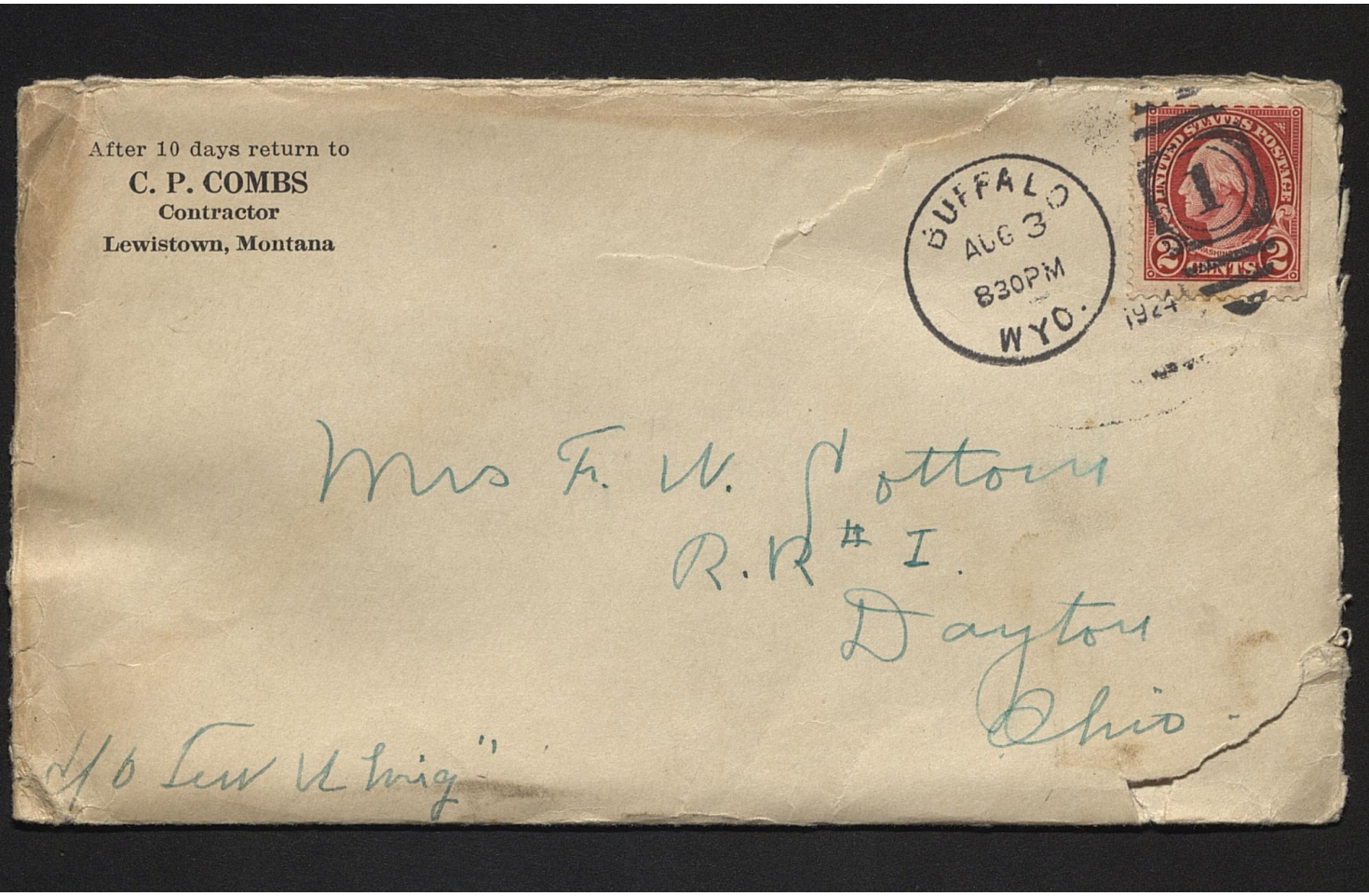
I have a room to myself now at the hospital - it is a little cabin, away from the building and is quite nice, but a long ways from the office and where I do most of my work -

Had quite a letter from Stiles several weeks ago and an offer to go to Seattle, but could not take advantage of it for financial reasons - Do not hear much from Lewistown although there are many Lewistown people here and in the oil fields. Things are very dead up there, but they are supposed to have a wonderful crop this year.

Will you let me know what you want to do about school this year? I dont know what the arrangements are any more, after you graduate from the grade schools -

I hope Becky is fine and that she writes to me - Will write to you again and send you what money I can, which I hope will be soon -

With love
Daddy -



After 10 days return to

C. P. COMBS

Contractor

Lewistown, Montana

BUFFALO
AUG 3
830PM
WYO.

1924

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
1
2 CENTS 2

Mrs F. W. Cottom
R.R. # I.
Dayton
Ohio.

"To Lew Whig"

June 20 - 1924 —

My Dear Mary Frances -

I received your letters a few days ago, and that Becky must be quite a character - The newspaper was sure a dandy - I am here with another doctor who has quite a large practice, a private hospital etc. and he has been away for a week and so have been very busy - Combs were down again - they will be leaving in six weeks, as the railroad work has been called off - Do not know what they will do, but talked of going up to Polson to Mrs Combs folks about August 1st, by Casper, Lander and then through the Jackson Hole country and the Park - I would like to make that trip with them. - Had a letter from Coolidge and he is going to visit their folks in the Black Hills and will be coming back, to make the same trip and at about the same time — Do you suppose you could come out and visit me and go along with them? I am undecided for the next week as to what I shall do, or rather, can do, but I wish you would let me know if you can come; and you don't know how bad I want you - Anyhow, it is something for me to look forward to -

Did I tell you Hilliard was back in Oregon and is figuring on an "amusement" camp etc along the Columbia Highway - He wants Clyde to go in with him - probably to run the dance hall and teach the latest modern steps - It is an idea, about like the big stone house with the lake and swans in front of it - Coolidges seem to be fine, and that Sonny is a whirlwind, - He is a pretty good kid, but you never saw anybody so busy -

July 1st the air mail service starts and letters to and

from you should not take over a day and a half - Cheyenne is a large station, but didnit see any of the mail fliers - There is a big army post there too - I know you wouldnt like this town at all, for the country around here is a desert, and last week was the hottest wrather I ever saw anywhere - There is always plenty of wind, or a person would suffocate - There are mountains all around in sight, but I havit been to them yet - This town is full of Mexicans, working in the hot refineries, and they are a delightful people - I spent most of night before last sewing one of them up, for they fight mostly with knives - I thought I knew almost everybody bid they are brand new to me -

Have you read anything worth while lately? Did you ever read any of Bill Nye's stuff, - He used to publish a paper in Laramie - the "Boomerang" he called it - you may be able to get some of his, there, but there isnit more a little book store here in Casper - or I would send you some

Do not hear much from Lewistown, except that it is very much dead, and I dont see how they get along at all - They are holding a grand jury now to see who to blame it on, I guess - Casper isnit as lively as when I was first here, and I hate to look forword to spending my days here, but I can stand it, if things get going right.

I must close Mary Frances for my eyes a begining to go "kaywix" - I hate to get glasses but I know it will soon be my turn - Please write to me often, and see that Bicky does too - With love from your

Daddy

I made a mistake the other time - my P O Box is 1452 and your letter was several days late for the birthday - The fault was mine, - so thanks just the same -

May 30 - 24

Dear Mary Frances -

I have not heard when your school commencement is but I hope this reaches you in time - for hair ribbons - or is it bobbed too -

This has been a dreary, rainy cold Memorial Day here - went to a church ceremony but there was no parade - Clyde, Mrs C. and Agnes were down last week, and the week before I went to Buffalo They are fine but haven't started to work on

their railroad contract yet - I had a letter from Coolidge the other day, and expect him down soon - It was pretty hard hit, too - I am getting started here pretty well, and hope to do alright, - This is quite a good size town and a stranger gets started pretty slow.

I hear from Bryant and George Bell occasionally and that country is still quite tame. - Bryant tells me about Jack dog and I guess he is fine - He has an idea that those mountains belong to him, and so for

he hasn't met defeat. - Ted's dog is about the only one left around there to whip -
Am sending Becky a little book. - it is hard for me to pick a gift for her - also a photo for her and Mary, - they're very pretty, - but I had to have some for this State Board which comes the 10th, I wish you could do my writing for me -
Since Becky is so good at "ciphers" I am sending a clipping I saved a long time ago I thought it was a pretty good one -

There isn't much news that I can tell you except Dr Ballard and old man Eckley have died — John Cravens oldest boy the idiot shot him and killed him, as they were going home from church in Spokane - you remember the half idiot kid —

Have you been to any more shows - there isn't anything else to do here, and they have no good ones —

Please write to me Mary Frances, and tell me about Becky

With love

Daddy.

Box 1453 -

It is a little difficult to feature the ever serious Elihu Root, former secretary of state, as a humorist, but here's a little story told by him that is not only funny but likewise very clever, in the latter respect comparing favorably with the best of the feats of the widely advertised Solomon. It seems that a farmer in Clinton, Mr. Root's native village in New York, died, leaving among other items, 17 live turkeys to be divided among his three sons as follows: To the eldest son, one-half; to the second, one-third; to the third, one-ninth. This would figure out 8½, 5 2-3 and 1 8-9, respectively. The outlook for some of those turks was decidedly sanguinary; but before an ax was raised a local lawyer, Cornelius Husk, was asked to try his hand at the problem. He settled it neatly and without bloodshed. Driving one of his own turkeys into the yard with the seventeen, he called out the brothers and bade the eldest take his half, which he did, taking nine; the second for his third took six, and the remaining brother for his ninth took two. Thus each son apparently got more than he expected, and the lawyer drove his own turkey home again.

Follow[illegible] first [illegible]

Casper, Wy

May 6 - 1924 -

My Dear Mary Frances -

I got your letter several days ago and you will never know how glad I was - I would have answered it at once, but I had burned my eyes and yesterday and today are my first "out of the dark" - Clyde and Russ Combs came down last night and started back to Buffalo this noon - It is about 150 miles and the roads were bad for most of the way - They are doing pretty good and expect Gertrude home in about five weeks - She has got to be big and is doing fine in music in the Academy - They don't know as yet about the railroad work, but if they don't get the

contracts, they will probably move here - Coolidges are very much the same and he is respected down - Had a letter from Bryant and he is better - had another sick spell and went to Rochester - Hilliards are in or near Portland and Ree is in Buffalo - I dont know whether Margaret is still teaching in the High School or not - Macis are just the same, - Mrs Ladd her eyes operated on for cataract with good results, but she was blind for quite awhile, before he got interested - Your friend, Mrs Dral is still in Lewistown, but understand they intend leaving I have been here about a month and cant say that I like it, but it was about my only chance to do any possible good - Montana has surely missed from what you remember it - It didnt seem possible that as fine a country as that could go so completely bad -

2/ Wyoming is a disappointment to me, for it is bleak and desolate, - very little grass and miles of sand and sagebrush and more wind than anywhere in the world! - There are mountains close by, that look like they might be alright, but I never have got out of the town yet - Casper is quite a bit of a city, and I've been in the country for so long is probably the reason I'm not fond of it - It depends mostly on the big oil fields and refineries and is very prosperous - The Tea Pot Dome is between Casper and the Salt Creek field, and the slump it has caused, has slowed things down here a little -

I am surely pleased to hear how well you and Becky are getting along in school - Poor little Becky - I would like to see her - She always was a pretty good little "figurer" - Do you suppose you could get her to

write to me sometime - I have her letters and drawings and they are rare works of art - Her hair isn't bobbed yet is it? - I hope you will write to me real soon, - tell me when you graduate, what you are doing and about your friends - I am looking forward to seeing you as soon as it is possible, but I do want to hear from you - Keep Becky good. -

With love from your

Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

Dec 20-26.

Dear Mary Frances —

I tried to write you and Becky last night; got her letter finished when I was called away, until too late to get yours on the mail train — I could not buy you anything here that I would want to send you so am inclosing some money, that you may get your own gift — My best wishes for a very merry Christmas go with it, however —

When the Lord twice hit this country, it took the small town stores, and since then, with cars and roads it is almost impossible to buy things away from the larger cities. — Have ordered you the geographic magazine and the Saturday Evening Post, and mailed you a package today — With very much that it could have been more — I had a sheep herder admirer give me a scarf, for a Christmas gift, I looked it over, and saw that it would not

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

go so good with my peculiar style of beauty, so sent it on to Becky — she has my consent to pass it along — if she wants to —

Am sending Bryant a rifle — a kind that he has wanted, so will expect to hear much from him — His letters are usually worth while, so will send it on to you —

Am writing to Jack Combs, also — to remind him of "Up on the Housetops the reindeers paw" — That was quite a hilarious Christmas — Haven't heard anything of the Hilliards, or of anyone else much — so there is no news to relate — About all I could tell you new, would be about my Jack dog, and I remember that old Jack never made such a hit with you — This one, also, has much to learn — Must close now and I hope you have a real Merry Christmas — wish I could see you

With love

Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

April 17-27

Dear Mary Frances.

It has seemed impossible to write to you, - Hope you had a nice Easter, but it was not that kind of a day here - the weather has been fierce and is still cold and snowing tonight - 6 above zero this morning - talk about the breaking up of a hard winter — I have been very busy and all of the work now seems to be "work" and takes as long - am feeling fine, myself, - and have planned on writing you every night for a long time, but when I have a chance to write, the bed is a necessity - This winter has sure been a "bear" - everybody is so disgusted and cranky, - all broke, for there has been no possibility of work yet. — all of which has not added any to my gayety, for I am much in debt, - on the dollar down and sheriff a week flaw, - it makes me scratch - at that this place is much more prosperous than elsewhere in the state

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

did Becky like the camera, and when is she to be filmed? I am very anxious to see what she looks like now —

I want to ask you about the radio, - am sending you a cut of this one, and will you find out from some of your friends if it is suitable for that vicinity. or you might go to an atwater kent dealer and find out, — I dont savvy those things much, but this one works all right here, - can usually get from St Paul to Los Angeles and Denver to Calgary - back then, it might not work so good, so let me know and I can trade it in for what you recommend - it has a good Radiola speaker, and is quite a nifty little outfit — I took it as security on an account, and it looks like mine - they are a demoralizing contrivance though, and a vexation —

Am interrupted again, - and must close for now Enclosing V for the vanity — write often

Love

Daddy -

[1927 ?]

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

May 19 .

Dear Mary Frances.

Just got a typewriter And you can set yourself for my first effort.Itis going to be a tedious affair at this end of the line. Your letter came this morning and Iwas Very glad. Last week was a bad one for me Had been going night and day so decided to take atrip and get away for awhile. Drove to the Falls and then on to Lewistown to see old Jimmy.He hasnt been very well lately and wanted to seeme. Got in there early Sunday morning and he was feeling pretty good so took him up to kendall and saw Frank and Della.They are first rate but the world hasnt been so very good to them.Am trying to get Frank lined out on adeal up here.Then went over to Hilger and it is sure pitiful.

George Bell is coming up here and the rest wish they could. George Anderson.Mr Parrent Joe Manos Thompson Matlocks Humphrys Ruzickas-thatis all,that is left,and all on the peck, with each other.Started for home that afternoon and got in about midnight and theh was tired right.Have just got so I feel like moving around.Jimmy is anxious to get back to Maiden and is waiting for Mina to get back.There was afire that burned up most of the town, sothat Jimmys is about all that is left. Judge Wasson has been sick too butis out again though very feeble.Saw the good Mrs.Deal -she wanted me toadvise her to sell out and take Deal away-it seems that he has some sort of trouble with his hand-paralysis,but he is sensitive aboutit. Lewistown is best place I know of for them.

Right after I came home it began to storm,and has been at it e ever since.The roads arre almost impassible again.
The fishing season opens here Sunday and I was planning on a trip up into the Sweet Grass Hills which are right close but

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

it has been snowing up there and I have seen all the snow I want for a good long time.

Stiles sent me adog--a Springer Spaniel pup. 4 months old It is the nicest I ever saw.Jack is going to a training school. A Doctor in Milk River Canada is quite a dog trainer and I am sending him up there until fall. Have named the new one Major He is the busiest prettiest thing you ever saw and as smart as can be

24 Hour interlude

it is still raining hard and very cold-We have had no Spring yet,no leaves on the trees or flowers but the grass is green If it turns out warm there should be a lot of mushrooms here.

Am glad you liked your purse and that you are coming to the front socially.You are still wrong about restaurant steaks,for they are not so good.

Am send ing you some Russell prints that you might like,

Have not seen any new books or shows,and was so short of time when in the Fallsthat I didnot have a chance to get anything

Do you think you can visit me this summer? Let me know,please at once.If you have anyone to bring with you ,it will be fine and you will have a great time.

The new pup is sure adandy but will write about him to Becky

Must quit now or be interrupted again.Please write

Love

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

June 30 - 1927

Dear Mary Frances -

I am way late again in writing to you - went to the rail yard and Reserve camp in Helena and got home last week and since then have been busier than I have ever been - think I will write to you at night and then get no chance and be so dog tired I will put it off until the next day and the same thing over again - things are going very good with me; as for as work goes - have two of the larger oil companies and a refinery at Sunburst added to my work during the last month - am trying to arrange for a private hospital which should make it better, - if it can be done - saw the Coolidges on my way back and they are very fine - Ed was master of ceremonies at a Kendall reunion and Frank Bryant is the only Kendall resident now and he made a speech "the last of five thousand" - am trying to get him to come up here -

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

If you havn't written to Jimmy, I wish that you would; his address is Pine Street and he will be tickled to death to hear from you. about that radio; the cussed thing has not worked for a long time - have had it "inspected" and and told that its the summer weather — if it gets to working will send it, or if not will send you another. - I was so sorry you can not come out, but wanted to do something for you. had ordered some books and ordered you also a set of Mark Twain, and as usual things got balled up, and they were all sent to me; will express them to you tomorrow and hope you will like them — want to get Becky something and will you tell me what? I wont have time to write to her tonight but am enclosing $10 for her — hairribbons. will write her soon and tell her about "major"; he is such a dandy and lots of company but havn't had much time to fool with him - 6 months old today

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

Want to get down to see Bryant if I can arrange it, - would like to get him here and also get Della to work for me if she would - I hope you can come out and if you can write or telegraph me and I will send the wherewith - You would surely like it. -

Please write.

With love

Daddy

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

Aug 5 - 27.

Dear Mary Frances -

It is a long time since I wrote you, but had planned for quite a while on a trip to Lewistown and wanted to have something to write you - Got through with a case that held me up Sat. night, and drove to the Falls Sunday, - visited with the Cooledges, - Miss and Dester were in Madison with Jimmy - Pop stayed with me Sunday night at the hotel, - got him a "Jiggs" book of cartoons and we had quite a session - went on to Lewistown Monday noon and while going through Belt, I picked up George Mack and went on out to Andys that evening, - They are just exactly the same as I last saw them, - Andy probably a little more "bald on" but Mrs Mack is looking better than I ever saw her - Andy can think of nothing but work, although he

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DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

is figuring on a trip up here this fall to see my duck dog perform - We have had a cold rainy summer and the crops all over are wonderful, but right at Macs they have had no rain and things look worse than any I have seen - so he is figuring on selling his cattle again - afraid of a feed shortage - They went to some celebration - Kendall, I think, and were caught in a rain, - stuck in the mud, and spent the night in the car, with no light, - so I am sending him a trouble lamp and some cigarettes. Coolidge and Pep had driven over to Lewistown so met them there that night. The next day I went up to Bryants and took them over to Lewiston, - Jimmy isn't at all well and I don't know what to think of him, - wish you and Becky would write to him, for he certainly gets a lot of pleasure out of being remembered - Lewiston has had a fire and looks more ruined and deserted than ever - Hilger would make you sob and is about the dreadest that it can get. - I saw that dog "Smut" he is old and a little delapidated, but at that, I got more pleasure out of him - that the rest of the inhabitants.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

The place has gained a little however. For the Ruzickas have left — Lura Matlock and Reid Hall are teaching school and Esther Humphrey has got to be quite an aesthetic dancer - a Ruth St Denis - I guess its all right, but Hilger has hardly "the scope for her activities." — The Bryants are pretty much in a rut and Frank is not well at all. - was not much improved by his operation, and his condition, to me is suggestive of a cancer - They are coming here soon and Bryant and Wiegluda are going to prospect in the Sweet Grass Hills, near here, for "Shelite" a rare mineral used in making radio tubes etc. - I saw some ore samples and am quite sure that is what it is — Coolidge was leaving for the Falls and broke his car, so I had to cut my visit short, when he phoned me at Malden, - Livingstown is like a country village and is no place to be, - everybody is crabbing and nobody has anything but hard luck — On the way back stopped at Clydes. they are very fine, - Clyde is better this summer than usual, - had quite a bit of hard luck

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

When he first moved up - cost a great deal to move and the first 60 days he was on the job it was nothing but rain, - he lost about $5000 that he didn't have before he ever got started - He is going to make it alright, though - Dot is very fine and came on to the Falls with me, - the road was bad and she insisted on singing me the latest jazz songs, - I got a little nervous - reached the Falls too late for a show, but I was plenty tired and the bed looked very good, - she is going to try to get a job as stenographer in the Falls - Coolidge was to have drove up with me early Wed am but couldn't get away, so brought up an old timer a friend of his from Spokane who is here now and who is very insistent that I come out there and visit him during the air mail next month - Would sure like to -

Aug 14.

This has been an installment letter for sure - a dismal rainy Sunday and have had a fire all day.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

There has been nothing new, only very busy and the roads have been terrible — it takes forever to get anyplace, and then mostly turn around and go right back again — Heard from Coolidge yesterday and Jimmy is better - told him to bring him up here, - there is a nice furnished basement apartment under the office and he could get along fine there, and he could and he could get along fine there, and be close I could look after him, - if he comes and it seems indicated will try to have Della come and look after him too, - It would do them both good - Will send you that autobiography for it seems that I will not have a chance to read them - they are fine and I would like to. - Will you tell me something I can get Becky?

Must close and go to Kevin yet tonight, - Have a driver sometimes which helps a lot, - There has been many auto accidents, new babies, sick babies and lots of foolish folks, - sometimes I feel like punching

FJ.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

Didnt have much fun on my trip but wished for you, - must make a call to Fort Benton as soon as I can and would like to have you along.

Tell Beck to write me soon.

With love
Daddy

Major is still very fine - just broke off a ~~nice~~ good front tooth on the seasons first sweet corn - bask you

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

10/17/27.

Dear Mary Frances -

I am long overdue in writing to you and just have time for a hasty note, for I am just now leaving for a few days - Have it heard from you or Bucky for the longest time - Jimmy had a letter from Bucky that had been around the world - He is doing pretty well and seems to be enjoying himself - Does his own cooking and has been living on ducks since the season opened - makes a stew which he calls "duck soup". Major on all such occasions, throws in with him and they make quite a comical pair -

I have been very busy and there have been quite a few bad accidents in the field - I have some beds in the building now, - almost a small hospital, and it keeps me on the go

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

to keep things working - Heard from the Combs' awhile ago but they didn't know their plans for the winter - The Coolidges are fine - Anna has gone back to school - Sonny got a black eye, - that he doesn't care to hear much about - and Mr Coolidge just left for Canada -

This country is looking more prosperous than it has for years - had a very fine crop and wonderful weather to take care of it, - the first real nice weather since I came back to Montana - Things are not looking good at all in the oil field and the future is pretty uncertain -

Please write to me - did Becky get her red ring ?

With love

Daddy.

From- LeCotton
Buffalo, NY

Dec 13, 1927



For

Dear Mary Frances:

Just a card with words to rhyme
But it means a lot at Christmas time
Merry Christmas

With best love
and a good hug and kiss,
Your Uncle Levin
and aunt Myrtle.

not be satisfactory try to trade it
I send on the bill
in on one that is, — there are several
of that sort in the field that are good
but no radio will perform here in town
too close to the railroad block system
and a leaky electric light plant. They
are a fine thing where they will work —
was to Henry Coolidges for Thanksgiving
dinner and heard Cincinnati — it
was quite a startling thing to me and
seemed for a bit, that you were not so
far away after all — Have you a phone —
if so, I wish you would send me your
number. — Shay want to talk to you
sometime —

also sent a Christmas package, but I
couldn't get away to go to the Falls, and
long distance shopping isn't just the thing.
Would like to be with you, but it isn't
possible, — could spare neither the time
or the money — Turned to get away from
here for awhile pretty bad, and my leg

Dec. 14 - 27.

Dear Mary Frances —

You are "miffed" with
me for not writing to you. — Have
been so gloomy that I could never
get in the mood or bring myself to it —
This cold weather don't do with me
at all any more, — It has been very bad
and tonight it is getting worse again
Word just came in that the worst
blizzard of the year was on, in Browning
and we are directly in the line of march —
Had a bad one awhile ago that almost
finished a lot of folks — lots of snow
and very cold — Have been busy too but
the roads to the field are impassable
tonight, and I can breathe easier when
they are that way — There isn't so much
news either — wrote Becky that Bryant
had been with me for a few days — he
is like he always was, and quite a bit
improved in health — left Della on the
hill to look after the cow and dog —

He had some mining plans, and I guess he is coming out alright - He had stayed up there so long that he had apparently lost all ambition - He is sure good company and if his plans do not work out; will probably come up here to work and I want to get Della on my payroll -

The news of Combs is mostly hard luck, - he is in such shape that it will be hard for him to get along They are spending Christmas in Casper with Agnes and Gert, - Agnes husband is a "dud" - Think they plan on going back to Lewistown, and try the saloon game again - Had a letter from Jimmy today that I enclose, - Poor old fellow is getting pretty feeble mentally Would like to have had him here, but the sort of winter and all, we are having, it wouldn't have been so good. The Coolidges are very fine from all reports, - haven't seen any of them, but Ed, lately - got a dog for Pep - coming from Seattle - if he is anything like Major they should fall in a faint at about the same time

Did Becky split that 40 with you for Xmas money - I should register those letters but I suppose you get them alright - it isn't such a good plan to mail money that way, but I usually mail them with the hotel clerk and they get away on the fast night train - Geo Wieglenda and Sellers found quite a mine in Maiden and heard they had sold out for quite a bit of money -

I took title as well as possession to that A.K. radio and sent it to you today for a Christmas present, by Am. express - It will be necessary for you to buy batteries etc, so will you get some radio hand to fix it up for you, - they say it will work on an indoor antenna; am enclosing a blank check for whatever expense it comes to, - please write me that I know the amount of the check, but have it fixed right, and should the thing

now they are planning on going
to Lewistown; unless I can give the
twins Chickenpox or something — New Year
is Majors birthday, so that will be filled
with a lot to do — He is fine as can be,
the cold weather has not bothered him —
I have tried to get Mace some "Twist"
for Xmas, but it can't be bought here
They must be snowed in right, and
will spend the winter as they were —
The promised blizzard did not
materialize, and will get this on the
train, — it is one of the wonders that
these trains go at all, the way things
have been — will see that you get
another letter before Christmas —
Write often and don't hold it so
against me that I didn't write, —
somehow I just couldn't get strung out

With love
Daddy —

needs some fixing, — have been putting
it off, and may go to the Falls during
the holidays, — it shouldn't keep me in
bed very long, but don't like the idea
of putting in a shift on crutches, etc —
Am very glad to hear that you are
getting out and enjoying yourself at
shows and that you like good music —
It isn't necessary for you to deprive
yourself of anything you want, and if
you need more money please let me know.
Things have gone as good as I can expect
them to and the future doesn't look so
bad — especially for you — I wish you
wouldn't consider this your last school
year, — If you will plan on your college
course, I will see that you are taken care of.
All this leads up to a statement, to you
of my circumstances, a thing that I
should have told you of before, — I had just
begun to do well in Wyoming when I was

told by my good friend Coolidge that it was time to leave, - it was a very fortunate thing for me, as his predictions for that field came true, and it has gone dead, - was very much in debt when I got strung out here and I will soon be out, - put in quite an equipment, and have one of the best offices in the state. - Those illnesses I had in Wyoming everlastingly taught me what it meant to be clear up against it, so as soon as I could, I took out indemnity insurance that will take care of me in any event with an income of 300 a month — With this same outfit I have $6000 life insurance with you as beneficiary, payable at once. Last summer I arranged for insurance for you and Bucky, so that on my death you will each receive 100 a month for five years, - This I figure will care for you until you are of age and allow you to plan on completing your education, - five years, should also put Bucky quite independent — I also took out a bond for her that will take care of itself should I die, and I consider it quite good. - Now with my govt compensation, I feel that you will be taken care of — To know this, is certainly worth a lot to me, for you will never know the torment that was all mine, when I was sick, and things looked very much otherwise — Will you put aside all reserve, and tell me what you think of things, any of your wishes and your future plans - I am not asking much of you, and all that I can do is to see that you get along — Tell me also if anything I should know about Bucky —

I have been invited to Cheadle for Christmas but

Lewistown Dec 13 22? (1927)

Doctor Cottam

Dear friend just a few lines am feeling better this morning than I have for three years I had my last night sleep in three years and feel rested but still quite nervous I am still taking the Biodol

and feel quite happy
our friends here are
all quite happy
Kindness regards to all
your Peopel about the
House - I often think of
our Rest Ducks - and
the major Youss with
the greattest Respect -
to nervous to rite
J L Seals
Frank Cuningham
Comes in each Morning
to see me -

his Doughter was Married
on thanksgivin
oh yes I take a littel gin
each Morning and night
I here from mina quite
often
Jim

has more friends than anybody – He is quite a character and has many ways of getting what he wants –

I have just taken out quite a bit of insurance – life health and accident that you girls would be taken care of, until you are through school, in any event – It is a great relief to me to be free from the tormenting thoughts I have suffered from, for months. See any such case Mrs Coolidge will have a pretty good knowledge of my affairs.

I would like to get the gossip on Becky – there should be a lot to tell – wont you please have her write to me. – would she like a book called "Dr Doolittles Circus" – He had for me to believe she wouldn't care for Mother Goose anymore –

I wish you would write to me and I hope you will hear from me often

With love

Daddy.

Ans. April 15 –

Easter – 4/4/26

My dear dear Frances.

I have wanted often to write you but couldn't do it, because of my apparent neglect – until I sent you some money – I wished very much to do this for Easter but it wasn't possible until almost too late, so I had to wire it Friday night. – Hope it reached you in time to make your Easter a little happier. – and you could fix Becky up a little – I can't tell you how distressed I have been at the way things have gone – am just beginning to see my way here and am feeling hopeful again of doing well. I had a very fine letter from your uncle last fall just as everything went bad for me. – I appreciated it very much and will write him a soon

living in Casper and last week Mrs Combs and Gertrude moved there and Gert is taking a business course - she has got to be a wonderfully fine girl, but her surroundings have got to be pretty distressing, for one of her sunny disposition - Clyde is now working a road contract on the west side of the Big Horn mountains - The weather has been so snowy and stormy that I am afraid he will not do so well - The weather was miserable here all winter but Montana had summer all winter -

I hear very little from Lewistown, but I know it is very dead and they are waiting patiently for good crops - It is hard to understand, when you see the rest of this desert western country why that part should be so "broke" for it is a Paradise by comparison - Had a letter from Bryant a long time ago, and he was still lost about Jack dog dying - They were dismantling the old Kendall mine so suppose they will soon move - I have quite a partner in my Steve dog - a big fat Irish setter, that

as I am in a better position to -

This is a new town in the Salt Creek oil field, so you can let your imagination have full play and picture for yourself about what sort of a place it is - Like Becky said of the prison - I don't believe you would "like it very well" -

I had a very nice days visit with Mrs Coolidge several weeks ago - had a letter from him yesterday and he wants me to come up there, which I may do about the first - I have been poverty stricken for so long, that I dont like to be away - his folks are very fine with the exception of Destie who had a very badly broken arm - Dr Deal was not so satisfactory, so she was taken to Great Falls - This incensed Mrs Deal and a wonderful friendship was broken - I understand she is gaining in every way - except mentally -

I see very much of the Combs - at times - Clyde has "deteriorated" quite a little in the last year, and only occasionally shows a flash of his old self. Agnes and her husband are

May 20 - 1926 -

Dear Mary Frances -

Well - some Lord luck overlook me again but I'm not complaining for I have got well - came home yesterday but will be in bed for a few days more - only those sicknesses are coming a little often than bad ones in less than a year - had a badly infected right arm about a year ago then a fair sum of typhoid and now this - am insured for enough now though, to almost make it pay for me to be sick and will send you some money in a few days - as soon as I can collect on it -

Tell Becky I was delighted with her letter and I will write to her soon - just as soon as I can think up some good words - like John Strong when Clyde was saying him to swear and he went in to his bed and told him he had a dandy new one - and blew out with "you cock eyed Clyde never got over that quite - He was out to see me but don't remember much about the visit -

Think as soon as I am able to travel I will go to town for a few days with them - He seems much better again and is working just took a road contract between here and Casper -

When I got sick I had been pretty busy and a Dr Mitchell who had a big practice here in the field came back from a winter in Calif. and moved in with me - he was taken with pneumonia and I was taking care of him and his practice and my own and the weather was miserable and the roads desperate so I got caught with it just a week after he did but have beat him out. - it will be necessary to lay off work for about a week yet -

Coolidge was here since I last wrote you but haven't heard from him lately -

There isn't any more news except some that was bad - for my setter Steve had trouble with some wolf hounds and they stretched him out and left him for dead - he was just all tore up and made about half my practice for a few days - he got along alright and seemed very much relieved when I came home

As soon as I can will get some Kodaks of us to send you - am sorry I can't send you money for I haven't any but will in a few days

With love

Daddy -

ver on a

* * *

Dr. F. W. Cottom, formerly of Casper, but now practicing in Edgerton, is seriously ill with pneumonia at the Midwest hospital.

* * *

W.

June 5 - 1926 -

Dear Mary Frances

I had expected to hear from you and to write you before this -

I think I wrote you about my associate Dr Hinchel being sick - he didn't seem to be getting along so had to come back and get to work before I felt able to - he had an empyema develop - the same affair as that men in Ward 81 and your friend Bates of Barnes Circus had - I operated him about a week ago and he seemed to be coming along - I hadn't been able to sleep well and was pretty nervous so went to the govt hospital at Fort Mackenzie near Sheridan for an rest and came back yesterday - he had developed a peritonitis and died this morning. All this has not done me much good.

There isn't much worth relating about this place - I see Clyde Combs quite often and

they seem to be about the same
Tell Bucky I am writing her at my
first chance - I had some stuff I was going
to send her but will get around to it soon.
I have my insurance money but am
sending you some to do until I get it -
I hope you will write to me and tell
me about yourself and your plans
for this summer.

Will love -

Daddy -

Noon
Sunday July 11 - 26

Dear Mary Frances.

Your letter came in just now together with this card from the post office - I think I had the clerk mail that package - that who wrapped it for me - Im sorry if the address was not sufficient for Im sure I gave it to him, - if I didnt write out the address myself -

no - Im not recommending a hair cut for Bucky, but whatever she wants, should be right - Her Lover and buggy style hair was very satisfactory -

I am enclosing Mr. Coolidges letter if I can find it, - will try to leave here Thursday, but as soon as I hear from you, I will wire you about the arrangements we can make by night letter - I had to make a hurried trip to Billings to see him about a month ago, and I suppose it is very much the same condition with him.

He has been going under an enormous constant strain for quite a while, - organizing a new company etc, - too many irons in the fire, lots of head work and worry, and all the while not living right - I suppose a lay off will be all that is necessary, but will probably have to take him someplace. If I take him to other doctors I will try to get him to Portland but

if a rest is all that is needed, - will get him out of that country into the mountains. I don't like to leave here now for I am getting strong out here very well, but I can afford several weeks now, better than later - I am sure I am many day dreams and plans for your coming, - can't bear to think of your not coming - and will promise you the best time and you can go East anytime the West palls on you -

You must be sophisticated enough to travel without a tag on you, but if you can't otherwise - why wear ours - Will also see that Clyde Combs doesn't tease you - He phoned me last night that he was sick and if he doesn't come out today I will have to get in to Casper to see him tonight - I had him over here with me while the flood was on.

Have been pretty blue, for my old dog Steve was killed. - I feel mighty bad about it, for we sure thought a lot of each other - I wanted you to see him.

Hope you don't have much trouble getting Becky's package, - am afraid her doll will be all bust -

Please let me hear from you

With love

Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

Dec. 16 - 26.

Dear Mary Frances.

You will be much surprised to hear from me, but it is now possible for me to send you some money to help with your Christmas shopping -

It is just lately that I am able to do it, for my finances have been of the worst - Was very glad to get back to Montana, and things are beginning to look brighter - Anyhow, its home to me, and the blizzards will have a familiar feel to them - It is bitter cold for the last week and last Saturday this whole country had the worst storm in its history for a day and night -

Will you let me know if you can I something I could send Bucky? Have planned on going to Great Falls but have not been able to get away - it is not feasible

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

to get anything here - Montgomery Ward is the store in this country -

If you will tell me about your music, I would like to arrange for your lessons as your Christmas present - who would you care to go to, rates etc -

I expect Christmas to be blue enough - but it is sure to be a great improvement, to what they have been — I would be too pleased for words, if I had letters from you and Becky.

With love
Daddy

Box 767
Shelby Mont.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

July. 19 - 1928

Dear Mary Frances -

I recd your letter yesterday and am not going to let it go unanswered long - Have been very busy worried and blue, for quite awhile and sure have been in no mood to write letters -

It was necessary that I have some help, and had been put off by a young fellow back in New Jersey, who couldn't come until July 25th - so I arranged with Conrad doctors to look after things here and went to Minneapolis while the American Medical Assn convention was on; was there just a day, and arranged for a young fellow who was through with his internship the 1st & paid his way out here and then had him all me, he had some visiting to do back in Indiana and couldn't be on the job until Aug 15th -

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

I have arranged for a Dr Cotton who was at Camp Lewis and who took my place in Edgerton to come up, so that I now feel more cheerful -

I would sure have liked to come on East, but it could not be done - the work wouldn't allow the time, would have been so worried about things I couldn't have come, and also my expense is about $5 a day, and without someone on the job to create an income, - it wouldn't be long — 2. One of my pet worries is how I could afford to get sick or hurt with this outfit on my hands - things are going excellent as long as it is possible for me to make it go, but I don't believe I could handle it for another month alone I have had sixty some hospital cases already, - with four pus abdominal patients (that make me grayer) - all the

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

work so far has been of necessity or emergency and have quite a lot piling up, such as tonsils etc — had two baby affairs last night, which helps some, but not much- for I have it more to look forward to, soon-

My birthday was~~n't~~ very unsatisfactory, for besides being a year older, spent it on the train and it was the longest day of the year, - was very glad to get the presents, and they were very timely — those sock holders have helped greatly — I was very disappointed that you couldn't come out — I had looked forward to it so much, - Please try and come next month for a short while, - I will be free to leave and want to get away for awhile, - it will not be any expense — for I got the job of district surgeon for the Great Northern and transportation is furnished, - the Pullman rate is

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

two thirds of the regular charge, and you would have to eat wherever you are - wish you would -

Was pleased at what you said about the school - I do not know a thing about it, except that I want you to get the best that you can, - I intend to allow you $100 a month and you can have more if you need it, - I want you to live very comfortably and have no financial worries, for they do not help you acquire knowledge or pleasure - Do not choose Wittenberg because it is cheap - dont know what course you want to take etc, and dont think I would offer you any advice, but would like to talk it over with you, - I think you are the competent one to know what you want to do, and if it isnt entirely wrong, it will be alright with me - If you dont come out here

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

You will be needing money, so let me know when — Not much news - Bryant was up for a few days - Ed & Nina were here last week and Pep and Ed were here this evening but didn't have time to visit with them guess Jimmy is doing pretty good - Ted Leonards family were in the other evening - want to go to Lewistown as soon as I can - Dr Cotton will be here the 1st - am just going to lay around for awhile and listen to Bryant talk - He thinks Grace would want to see Becky - wish you would encourage her to write to him and to Jimmy —
Suppose you have had hot weather there - this has been a cool wet summer, with the exception of awhile in May — The crops are wonderful and the outlook for a prosperous season are good - Haven't been anywhere, haven't had time

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

and the roads have been bad - Major is fine as can be - getting to be an old dog, and full of wisdom - Have some pictures of him and his young son, will have to send to Bicky.

Heard the train whistle - so good bye - Write real soon and let me know about coming out for awhile

With love
Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

5/18/18

Dear Mary Frances.

Made out this check for you and forgot to enclose it, - and for Judge anyway. Becky may find something smart in it -

5/19 -

Was interrupted by a girl baby being born in the hosp -
Coolidge came in last night from Canada - he is very much on high again - has had considerable bad luck lately - dry well & water wells etc and last week 200 quarts of nitroglycerin blew up while they were shooting one of his wells - killing the shooter, a very good friend of mine and one of his tool dressers - Coolidge by a lucky scratch was not killed - He just got a leash on the largest gas well ever, - it is northeast of here on the Canadian side -
Today is the nicest day ever, - and wish I could go somewhere - Am very anxiously waiting to hear from you

Love
Daddy

Mary Frances Cottom



Class of

Nineteen Hundred and Twenty Eight

Fairview High School

announces the

Commencement Exercises

Thursday evening, May seventeenth

eight-fifteen o'clock

Grace Methodist Episcopal Church

12____Excellent 10___ Good

11____Above Average 9___ Passing

8__Deficient

The average grade of any class is 10; 11-12 are above the average and 8-9 below.

It is urged that the parents have a consultation with the teacher frequently about the work of the pupil. If any deficiency occurs in deportment it will be indicated by a red check mark.

Fairview High School holds a certificate of First Grade and is thereby accorded all the privileges and benefits conferred by the statutes of Ohio upon a high school of that grade. It has also been accredited by the North Central Association, the leading educational association of the Middle West.

Weighted credits are given accordtng to the quality of the pupil's work. These values are as follows:

Excellent	1.2
Above Average	1.1
Average	1.
Below Average	.9
Poor	No Credit

Parent or Guardian Will Please Sign Below

1 Mrs Cottom

2 Mrs. Cottom

3 Mrs. Cottom

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

Credits Received _____

Credits Deficient _____

_____ **Principal**

Home Room_____

FAIRVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

REPORT OF

Cottom, Mary Frances

Senior _____ Class

For the Year

192 7 192 8

Name Cottom, Mary Frances

	*1	2	3	4	Exm	Ave.
No. of Days Absent						
No. of Times Tardy						
Deportment						
English I						
General Science						
Algebra						
Latin						
Early European History						
Physical Education—Civics						
English II						
World History						
Geometry						
Latin						
Com. Arithmetic						
Home Economics						
Manual Arts						
Biology						
Art						
English III						
Latin	12	12	12	12	12	
French						
Algebra III						
Solid Geometry						
Home Economics						
Manual Arts						
Chemistry	11	11	11	11	12	
Typewriting	10	10	10	11	12	
English IV						
American History	12	Inc	12	12	12	
Civics						
Latin						
French						
Physics						
Typewriting						
Bookkeeping						
Stenography						
Economics						

*Six Weeks Periods

Home Room

	5	6	7	*8	Exm	Ave.	Cr.
No. of Days Absent							
No. of Times Tardy							
Deportment							
English I							
General Science							
Algebra							
Latin							
Early European History							
Physical Education—Civics							
English II							
World History							
Geometry							
Latin							
Com. Geography							
Home Economics							
Manual Arts							
Biology							
Art							
English III							
Latin	12	12					
French							
Algebra III							
Solid Geometry							
Home Economics							
Manual Arts							
Chemistry	10	11					
Typewriting	11	9					
B Sp.	10	11					
English IV							
American History	11	12					
Civics							
Latin							
French							
Physics							
Typewriting							
Bookkeeping							
Stenography							
Social Problems							

come so as to be here the middle of June
There will be rates on railroads to the
Park and it would not be expensive —
So let me know as soon as you can
and I will send the wherewith —

Thu P.M.

Well this is your last high school day
and you will soon be doing your stuff.
Your first school day is a very vivid
recollection, - would like to see it again —
You didn't say anything about your
school for next year - wish you would
let me know what you would like to do —
I want you to do whatever you wish
and it will be possible for you to do so.
Do you know anything of Trinity College
in Washington - Dr Cooneys daughter has
had her first year there, and he seems
real pleased with it - Will you try to find
out about it - I used to think I was pretty
well posted on such things, but schools
have changed much - do not know
anything of the University, or how you

May 15 - 1928

Dear Mary Frances -

Received your letter
yesterday morning, - the only one for
a long time, but I think I know how
it is about writing - was afraid the
Easter gift had offended - It is sure hard
for me to write, too - the days are busy
and constant interruptions and if I
put it off until evening, something always
happens and by night I'm too dog tired to
have any ideas, to say nothing of getting
them on paper - Hope you have a
nice Commencement and that you will
send me a paper or tell me about it -
Did you get the bag and Becky; her soap?
Things are going very good here. - have
the hospital open and it is really very
fine - everyone seems very pleased with it
and while it is going to be a financial
burden, it will allow me to make quite
a bit more money, and more desirable work-

had planned on getting away for awhile, but there is just no chance until I get some help, and things stand out in pretty good shape – Do not know when my assistant will come, but I sure need him badly – and it will be some time until he gets his hand in, after he gets here – I do not remember whether I told you much about the hospital – I leased a big building the top floor having five very nice apartments, – using the 1st & 2nd floors for hospital use, – it had to be remodeled and it has sure worked out fine – but buying equipment for a going concern is quite a liberal experience, – also contend with carpenters, plumbers electricians, plasterers, painters and a whole lot of other things, – all the while trying to see where the money is coming from – but it is nearly all over, except the debts, and they will not be so bad for I have financed it pretty well as I went along – there will always be something to buy for a hospital though –

I hope you are able to come out here soon – You will understand how impossible it is for me to get away and I wish very much for you to have a happy summer as well as myself – it would do you a great good, and we could figure out something for your future. – You have not mentioned any – but you must have some girl friends I would like for you to invite one of them to come with you, – will not only pay all of her expenses but pay her a salary if she brings you – we would visit Wades and Jimmy and bring Pat back for trips to the glacier Park which is only about 2 hours away – Then I want to take you for a trip through the Canadian Parks – they are very wonderful, – I could do these things and not be away for more than 4 or 5 days at a time – Would very much like to have you

would like it - unless you have some definite course in mind, I would take a regular college course leading to an A B degree. This summer you should spend in getting yourself physically fit, - and in enjoying things -

Montana is a paradise now, - fine spring weather and things have turned green this last week - Major goes swimming and runs around wet all day -

Just officiated for a new 12 pound girl and that is not so good -

must close now and let this be unfinished - will try again soon. but please write soon and tell me all about things

Love

Daddy.

Kitty Deeping.

Am enclosing 20 - when you need any - sound off

Buffalo.
May 14. 1928.

Dear Frances:

We were very much pleased to receive the beautiful invitation to your graduation - pleased with your grade, and pleased with your kind remembrance of us. We wish very much that we could be with you at that time. I should like to keep my camera busy!

I have recovered from my attack of sciatica - in much less time in this instance than from previous attacks, but while I was ill, the horses we expected to take got away from us.

Our land lady at 242 Elmwood avenue was no longer able to serve dinners (she is over 70), so we found a very nice place about three blocks away in a nicer neighborhood, where we have a nice, large, corner front room with twin beds, private bath, breakfasts and dinners, and where we are very comfortable.

We wanted to send you a gold piece, but thought that you might have some trouble to receipt for a registered package. The engraving on the back of this bill, however, is from a fine, large, oil painting in the museum at Plymouth and shows Myrtle's several-times, great-grandfather, William Bradford, the first Governor of Plymouth Colony, making his historic landing there.

I am enclosing our new address. We should like to have had a peep at a list of things you would like to have, but hope that you may be able to get something that you may like.

With heaps of love from both of us to all of you, and with best wishes for your happiness, I am.

Very sincerely,

Your Uncle

Levin.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

5/11/28.

Dear Mary Frances-

Havn't heard from you for a long time but judged from your commencement card that you were busy - I have been very much so, for a long time, - feel very good, but dog tired - Sent you a graduation gift today that I hope you will like, - also enclosed some "make up" for Becky - Would sure like to be there to see you -

There has been no news of interest at all - Coolidge was just in Lewistown & will soon show up full of gossip -

Must close for tonight but will write you more as soon as I can - Hope you have a fine and enjoyable commencement

With love

Daddy.

I sent by G. Northern Express probably American there.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

Apr. 10 - 28.

Dear Mary Frances -

Your last letter was quite cheery and must answer it. - Just now gleaned the info. that this Friday is also the 13th - Guess I better stay in bed -

Things are going first rate - furiously good, - not so much work, but am very busy otherwise - I leased quite a big building and am starting a Hospital - I can see already where it is quite an undertaking, - it will be very good if it starts out right, but it is going to keep me "on high" for quite awhile - Took the building where I formerly had my office, - a 3 story affair, - the top floor has 5 very nice apartments, that are now all rented, - the second floor is being made into rooms suitable for my hospital use, and the first floor, for kitchen laundry etc, and to be made into rooms later if I have need for them - I had to lease the whole thing in order to protect the

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

Hospital part – It was a necessity for me to do this, as no one else would, – there isn't a hospital in this territory, and all the work of any consequence had to be sent away – it should increase my income and lessen the hard work – the expense will be considerable, but think it will pay out. – Will have accomadations for 10 beds to begin with, and have a lot of very good equipment in the office, to help out. –

Havn't been to a show for a long time – went with Pep Coolidge to "Rose Marie", but got too nervous and quit it very soon – I see an adv. in the great falls paper for his "lost dog" – They didn't let me know but I can sense high doings in the Coolidge family – They all thought "Hidoc" was just the whole thing – Pep is turning out to be just a high class boy, and I like him, – Dexter is all right, too – but just at the age where she is an unknown quantity – Mina will be through with her school this year and is going to work for her dad –

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

She set fire to the U.S. mail trying to get telegraphic permission from Ed to go to West Point to a ball,- which was forthcoming,- but arrived too late to do any good,- for she had been caught in some escapade, and as punishment, her social activities are to be confined to the school campus. I wrote to her appropriately —

Wish you would give me an idea about your graduation expenses, wishes etc. - when is it? Will send you what you want - am very pleased at the way you have done,- your standing will make you acceptable, almost anywhere you choose to continue school, as I understand it, - Do not know about the library course, but it would be fine, if it did not interfere with your health,- or a visit to Montana - I could very much on having you,- I need you,- it would do you much good, and be very pleasant — In any case, you had best devote yourself to getting physically fit, for the coming year - Let me

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

know of anything you might plan and we will see if we can work out something better than the heat back then — Suppose it is spring time right there now. - was 1° below zero at Lewistown Sunday (Easter) morning — Weather is fine though, and when summer comes it will be about 2 days in getting here -

Had a nice letter from Becky - tell her the shirts work very fine - fit fine - and filled an urgent need -

Enclosing #70 and will send you a check soon -

Write soon and tell me all about it. - what you will need and want

With love
Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

4/3/28.-

Dear Mary Frances -

Just mailed you an Easter gift - and am all mortified about it. - I blushed when I saw it, and am blushing yet. - Well - anyhow its a Changing age — I had figured on going to the Falls, and doing business with a gift shop, that has recently opened, and is quite a nifty thing - just couldn't make a get away, - so Sunday afternoon, I decided to drive down late that night - take a look at an "art exhibit" that was on, - do some hasty shopping early Monday morning and hurry home without being missed — It began to snow before I got there - kept it up all night - so I left a note and money for some Shelby ladies there, and told them I wanted some Easter gifts, - Now are what they bring me — I left at daylight, and had a tough vacation all around — Now, if

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

you want to exchange that outfit, - mail it to the Paris - Great Falls
The same goes for Bucky's sweater — I feel foolish about it, for
I wouldn't have chosen such — but make me any comments you please
am sending a subscription and some money for a show, so that
your Easter will not be a "dud" —
Was expecting the Coolidges up tonight for several days, but bad
weather has scared them out - they will be up tomorrow — Mrs Coolidge
is quite excited about "Peps" dog - can you beat it?
Please let me know all about yourself and how you are feeling.
Hope you have a nice Easter.

With love
Daddy

Dear 27-28

Dear Mary Frances -

Better I get some money to you for Easter garments - Do not suppose I will get to the Falls to send you any gifts - am very busy, the roads too bad to drive, and it takes too long by train - the only things Shelby affords for Easter are eggs and rabbits, so don't suppose Buck would care much for them. Had a letter from my sister and she told me something of your ill health - I am very sorry for you, and do want you to tell me all about yourself and how you seem to feel - It may be that I can send you something, or advise you - Hope it is not serious, and if it is a question at all, of your school or your health, let the school go - you have a long life to make that up - Please tell me all your care, and it will be taken care of - I hope you will do this - I plan on going East in May or June - am expecting an assistant, for it is necessary that I get away for awhile -

Had a young doctor, but he wouldn't do, so did not even try him out. - from New York, - when they are "saps" - they're the worst in the world - what made it bad is that he was a cousin of Mrs Coolidges, but I think they were entirely fed up on him —

Had a letter from Jimmy Seals and he said he had heard from Becky - tell her to write to him real often, for the poor old fellow is pretty feeble, and sure does like to hear from her — George Bell was up from Conrad and played with me Sunday night — He had heard that Beaces got through the winter all right. - Had a letter from Bryant. - He is due up here as soon as spring opens up - We had a week or so of weather that seemed like Spring but for the last 4 days, it has been snowing and storming and I suppose the roads will be impossible when it goes off -

Coolidge came up from the Falls today, but went out to the field so have not seen him - I have been up for two nights, - and he will probably come blowing in and make it three straight —

Had a letter from Combs, - nothing new to relate - except he wants to come up here, - Lewistown not so good - I am feeling much better than I did, - ours did feel rotten for a long time, but when the wild geese come into the country, it is time to come alive - The gophers are out and Major has begun to take an interest. Wish you were acquainted with him, - He is fine —

Becky says the radio still performs alright, - This one is good too, but it is very seldom that it works — Too much local interference, - am going to try out an attachment that plays phonograph records, - have never seen or heard one, but they say they are fine —

Coolidge just came in so this is all for now

Love

Daddy -

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

3/3/28

Dear Mary Frances -

I have been sick for a while and did not feel like writing you, with nothing but trouble to send you - am better now and will soon be O.K. - Had lots of work last month and went along with an infected tooth until I had to quit, so decided to go to the Falls for a few days vacation; had the tooth pulled and then my vacation was all over, stayed at the hotel for a few days, and went to Dr Kermans House for a week; - had to come home, or thought I did, and then had a grippy - it lasted a week and broke yesterday morning - feel very good but weak - all I need now is food - Have been very homesick and wished to hear from you - The Coolidges were up before I got sick, but didn't have much chance to visit with them - Will write the rest of the news soon

Hello to Becky With love

Daddy.

Casper Wyoming
January 2 1928

Dear Mary Cotty:

I was expecting to start the New Year exactly right yesterday by writing you a long letter and thanking you for the lovely gift you sent me BUT when I went to the cupboard it was bare i. e. no stationery in the house. It was quite provoking, but I shouldn't have been so forgetful. Mary you are a dear to remember me every Christmas, and I'm a poor sort when I remember you only by cards, and this year you didn't even get that I see,,,as I addressed it Route "2, Mother hadn't gotten here when I addressed my cards and I thought that was the correct address. Excuse me please, you know I always remember you. I was tickled to death with your picture, just the thing I would have asked for if you'd asked me what I wanted. You have gotten to be a "grown-up-lady" now haven't you? I spose Becky is just as "yittle" as ever? And red flowers are my favorites so again I was tickled. Thank you so much, just wait next Christmas maybe I'll have a medium sized pocketbook and then I can remember you. This year it was decidedly flat. I had only been working half days and two weeks before Christmas only two hours, so it didn't exactly lead to prosperity.

This summer I spent in Montana in the large town of Stanford with the Folks. Didn't have a very thrilling time but enjoyed a good rest. I was in Lewistown twice. The kids are

grown up you'd hardly know them. Mother says Helen McLean is going to marry Chester Brew, I don't think you know him do you? The Folks stayed at the Leland Hotel there for about two months, I was in Casper from Nov. 5 on but they had more work right out of Lewistown so went there, and Mrs McLean had a Boarding House right next door to the Hotel. Mother says nobody likes Helen much in Lewistown as she is so hard to get along with.

The Hilliard family are all scattered over everywhere now. Mrs H is in California, Mr H is back East, Clarissa is in Billings working and going to Business College, Thelma is with the Armour Company, Roha is in the "Deaf, Dumb and Blind School" and Pat is in an Orphan's Home. Isn't that a shame the way they treat those kids? I don't know where Walt is but I guess he can keep himself.

Dad went back to Lewistown right after Christmas as he had some unfinished business to attend to and is going to get some work until the weather breaks and he can finish his contract. We are expecting Mother to go at any time whenever Dad gets settled again. I may go, too, if Dad gets settled and decides to stay all summer. I'm not doing so well here that it would break my heart to leave. The only reason I like Casper is because the kidsare here. If I could get a good job in Lewistown I don't think I'd hate it at all. I made a short visit with Katherine Tilzey this summer and enjoyed myself a lot. Mother always said she never wantedto go to Lewistown to live again, but I don't think she'd really mind it as this last time she made some new friends and with her old ones had quite a bit of fun. One of the ladys taught her marceling and she will be

a humdinger after she has had more practice. She only took one lesson and can make a very pretty wave.

We didn't have a very exciting New Year, had a nice dinner and one guest, then we played cards and fooled around generally. Yesterday we all slept lots and fiddled some more and then went visiting some friends in the evening. We had lots of fun, played Hearts and Mother still always gets the Queen.

It has been so cold for the last week, but this morning it is wonderful out, just like spring, the snow is melting and the breeze is so warm. We have really had a lovely winter, the people in Lewistown are freezing, it is 20 and 40 below there, honest and truly, Dad just wrote us to that effect last night. Have you been having real cold weather back there? Or do you ever?

I have just about decided to let my hair grow. I never have had long hair and lots of the girls here are letting there's go so I thought I might too. My idea of wearing it is this: parted in the middle with a few bangs curled and marcelled then brought around in the back and all little curls on my neck, not rag curls but regular bob curls. If the result is satisfactory I'll send you a snap, but I don't suppose I'll have that hair dress until about next fall as it takes a long time for hair to grow out.

Well Honey right away write to me,,please I'd love to hear all about you. Hello Mrs Cottom and Becky, Mother will write soon Mrs Cottom and send her thanks and give you all the news.

Lots of love

Jean.

12/28

Dear Mary Francis -

Haven't slept any so will give you an early morning letter - wrote to Becky yesterday that I had been sick this is getting too frequent - I'm not so bad off but can't get around, and rest in bed is the order of the day, - I don't mind it so much now, but a lot of thinking can take place - I had to go to bed before my Xmas plans were finished so that I hope you will not be too dissappointed in Santa Claus I still have those beaver skins but it will not be possible to send them to a furrier until a 1929 permit is good - there is quite a law about that and I'm law abiding - then I had a large coyote pelt being mounted into a rug and it hasn't been finished - thought you might enjoy it more than an Indian rug - would like to know about having a cape or coat made for Beck, but there isn't much use in asking - you said so much about radios & phonographs in school - I suppose you have someone do it. I didn't feel like a Xmas in Shelby so went to Kalispell - It is very fine I guess but no place whatever to spent Christmas and a stranger sick in bed - came home here Xmas night to get your letter and package and was pleased with both - Will you tell Peter why I neglected them? - I got a set of Owen Wister books and have been looking them over - they are fine - I am always pleased to hear about your school etc I gather that there is very little frivolity, but I also guess that students are still guarded in what they write to parents - Is it possible that your "irresponsible" roommate is careless about who holds her hand?

I sent Major to the field when I left and
from all accounts he had a glorious time - all the
gifts anybody opened were as if they were for him
He gained some in weight, and came back in
with 3 squaky balls, and has done his best to
entertain me - will get him a new collar for his
birthday - Haven't heard anything from Livingstown
people but there isn't much there to hear - saw Agnes
Combs while in Kalispell - her husband got her a job
everything else has gone good here - Dr Spackman has
been fine and wants to go home for New Years so
told him to go and we would lock her up - Coolidge
called me up in Kal. Xmas morning - Jimmy was over
there - said he had heard from you - Ed talked me
out of starting back to Dayton last Thursday - it was
a half headed idea anyway but I wanted to get away
so bad, - I now plan on it as soon as Spackman
gets back and I feel better - Would sure like to visit
with you awhile now - Dont let Becky think that
is a diamond ring - its a sapphire I got from Yogs
up near Utica - Did Mrs Stadel like her picture? Was
all fixed to get some ~~[illegible]~~ Xmas cheer to Mrs Stadel
Peter your grandfather etc but got too feeble too soon
Expect to get a letter from you tomorrow and if I do
will add some

Love
Daddy.



1928

For dear Frances:

Merry Christmas

The ring of cheer and music
Is held within each word.
The thrill of mirth and laughter
Within each letter heard:
So may its music charm you.
Its joy and cheer sustain.
The memory of its laughter
Be New Year's glad refrain.

With best love,
and a good hug,
Aunt Myrtie and Uncle Levin.

Dec. 13 - 28

Dear Mary Frances -

Your letter came this morning and made the day a happy one - I was blue that I didn't hear from you, had decided to write you this morning and was just getting around to it when it came by special delivery. - Letters will come this way faster by air mail, - to Salt Lake City and on to the Falls by airplane - special delivery delays it several hours, as the town idiot has that concession - and "the ways of great men are very mysterious" - I am not going to be able to leave here soon, so my Christmas will be as before - There is so much work and sickness and I don't feel like leaving Spackman, and anyhow he has been away for a week and don't know when he will return - one of his boys had an ear condition; very similar to Becky's and he took him to Calgary - I think I had better plan on grinding right along until you can take your vacation with me - things sure go bad when I am not here - Spackman is a pretty good man but he can't get along with anyone else, and that doesn't do the hospital any good. - Just now there are 15 people who are dependent on my bring on the job, - and about $2000 that must come in every month, before anybody eats - I am planning on letting Spackman go, as it adds 350 a month to my expenses and if I can keep in good health, I would rather be alone - anyhow - I sure hung a millstone around my neck, with the hospital, but just couldn't get away from it - I told you we have had much influenza here for the last month - I see by the papers that it is spreading rapidly East -

thought I was looked on my trip with Lund, but have felt fine ever since - Should you be afflicted, get right to bed and stay - and stay for days after you feel right again - Did my first Christmas shopping today, - for the Stadels - got Gwendolyn a good camera, and Mrs Stadel a tinted photograph of Two Medicine Lake - it is quite a beautiful picture, but I am afraid they will think "it isn't so" - If you think the camera is not appropriate will you wire me as I will not send them until Tuesday - Will enclose them in an express package to you folks -

There is nothing new here, - will answer your letter right away, - just sending this as an "appreciation" of yours - If you knew how much I needed to hear from you; thought you had alloted so much time to me very week -

Am enclosing #5 - this should reach you Monday - Last day - Suppose you pick a pardner - move into town and feed up - I two dont mind being busy and dont like to have many things to do at once - I have quite a few counterfeits that choose such times to do their stuff, and its very "trying" You didnt mention about the music boxes - How come? Write to me -

Love, - Daddy.

You have mentioned "Sister Scandalous" - Do you think some gin would be a suitable gift for her?

F. W. Cottom, M. D. E. V. Spackman, M. D.

Drs. Cottom & Spackman

Shelby, Montana

Sat noon - 12/8/28

Dear Mary Frances.

There is a lull in proceedings and I am reminding you that I haven't heard from you. Things are going good, except that there is more work than I can take care of - a very wide spread epidemic of influenza, with many severe relapses - babies - several cases of meningitis and now scarlet fever and measles have added themselves - Don't think I ever did so much driving as I have lately - We had real winter for a few days, but it thawed and now is just like a day in May - Am in the air about a Xmas gift for you - will you tell me what you would like - are you allowed to have music in your room - a radio or a portable "Vic"? You haven't said about a dress - Major is very fine - Please write -

With love

Daddy.

Read a very nice bed time story last night - by Irvin Cobb - "Red is Red" in

the last Cosmopolitan - know most of the folks, and wish you would be sure to read it - What happened to my archbishop book?

Oct 31 - 28

Dear Mary Frances -

I was very glad to get your two cards written Sat. - on the same mail - you said you were writing Sunday so I didn't write last night thinking I would get a letter this morning, but you might have had company —

Well - I've been through about all the hell there is in this world - that affair of hers hurt was the worst I ever experienced and I'll never get over it — it was the most disheartening thing - She was the second new mother who had died since I came back - both with the same thing - had another maternal death the night I my return from Boyceau but it wasn't anything to disturb me so much - I had seen those women every hour of the day for weeks, and when it was all over I was also about through, - then a 350 mile drive was no rest. - almost everything else went bad in the meantime - neglected the rest of my work, - so made no money - and just a lot of worry - Dr Spackman was a gift from Heaven at the right time - He is quite a fine sort of fellow - an honor man from the Univ. of Minnesota - good student and hard worker, - I am pleased with him and hope I can afford to keep him —

Had a letter from Clyde - he plans on bringing Agnes up for some treatment soon - She would hate to live either - I think Clyde is doing better and making some money at his new industry - it is about all that he can do anymore - Coolidge was through here yesterday but didn't get to see him —

Some time ago I took hold of a new radio - a magnetic but had no time or inclination to mess with it until the

last few nights - sometimes it is fine but when it blows up it gets pretty serious, - so tonight had my old atwater Kent rigged up and it is pretty fair - Havn't read anything seen anything and have very little to write about - when I went through the Falls last Monday - I ordered four framed pictures sent you - did you get them - also found a new story book of Russells I will mail you - Sent you the tonic and a flat iron - Mrs Lund was quite pleased with the card in which you made excuses about preparing myself for a C grade - what was the nature of your recent illness - I crave to know - you are supposed to be there in the interest of your present and future health - that is what I want to get good reports on - I dont care if you dont savvy much Greek - This is Halloween and I suppose you are in the middle of much hilarity - Major dont like the brand of it, they're putting on here - his under the bed growling and pretty mad - He is the finest company ever and I couldnt get along without him -

How is your money holding out? Just say the word when you run short - did you get the pictures of the squaws?

What do you hear from Becky?

Must close now as I'm out of ideas, - am still pretty blue - but eating & sleeping good now -

Write soon long and often

Love

Daddy -

There was $5.00 with this. Did I tell you the four C. Russell pictures came? - not originals but copies. I tattfully mentioned that I don't understand how the med. was returned - that we didn't know anything about it. Alright?

Love France.

F. W. Cottom, M. D. Wendell Cotton, M. D.

Drs. Cottom & Cotton

Shelby, Montana

Sunday night - 10/14/28

Dear Mary Frances -

Your card reid this morning and very pleased - think I will have to take it up with the Dean and have letter writing a part of the curriculum —— things are still going bad.- and worse - Mrs Lund was doing quite satisfactory until yesterday when an erysipelas began - a condition almost uniformly fatal - I am very depressed about it - I read her your card - she was always so much interested - and she said she hoped for one thing - that you would "make many friends and have a lot of fun" — also - about the rug as a wall tapestry - you need not fear it wearing out in several generations — I have an assistant coming tomorrow

F. W. Cottom, M. D. Wendell Cotton, M. D.

Drs. Cottom & Cotton

Shelby, Montana

and while I can't afford it - I surely need one - Do not know anything about him except that he is quite a good looking young fellow and very competent — I have not heard anything of Becky and wish you would let me know - the tonic etc I sent was returned — which did not relieve my mental condition. Will go to the falls as soon as I can - did you get the pictures? Mrs Lund mentioned again about the stocking case - but that is not anymore — Gus Anderson is sick and Lee with me — Major is very fine, but I have had time to pay any attention to him and he is lonesome - looks absurd — Will wait for your promised letter - tell me all about your school, - meals etc and what the Doctor said about you - don't you forget that your good health is more important than all the rest Yours with love

Daddy.

F. W. Cottom, M. D. Wendell Cotton, M. D.

Drs. Cottom & Cotton

Shelby, Montana

Thursday - Me - 9/27/28

Dear Mary Frances -

Mebbe so. I have time to write a little before the morning "classes" begin - It has been a tough long day beginning at 3:30 with an 8 o'clock baby; then my sick women seemed better, but I got calls returns and they had a bad day - another baby arrived at noon - and so goes the story, with many other unpleasantries, in between - and then to think that a child of mine should suggest studying medicine - Mrs Lund is very bad - quite delirious - she has been stewing about you and awhile ago she wished she had something to send you - it seems she had ordered some sort of "stocking holder" and she has instructed Lund to send it to you - it may all be delirium - but we will see -

Major is fine - he seems to know when I am distressed - and behaves accordingly - has been very affectionate -

Had a new radio brought down last night - it seems very fine a Majestic - electric - I had never heard of it, but it is the best I have heard - quite noisy - Phoned to Cotton last night in Wyo but he isn't doing any good there and doesn't know when he will be back - must write to Brady if I can tonight -

How's your department - and the "barracks" - (that word sounds like it might be the "hooge gow") - Use some ink + stuff

With love

Daddy -

"Keep your shades down - - "

F. W. Cottom, M. D. Wendell Cotton, M. D.

Drs. Cottom & Cotton

Shelby, Montana

Thu Oct 4 - 28

Dear Mary Frances -

Just a line to let you know I think much of you - Your Indian pictures were just mailed - the rug weaving squaw - In the one of the log cabin the young squaw is grinding corn, on a sheep pelt. -

Things are going a little better, - had some work that was not all grief. Told you about my Majestic radio - it is very good but haven't had a chance to use it until late at night & then nothing but barbarian jazz etc -

When do you figure you will write to me -

Love

Daddy

Oct 2 - 28

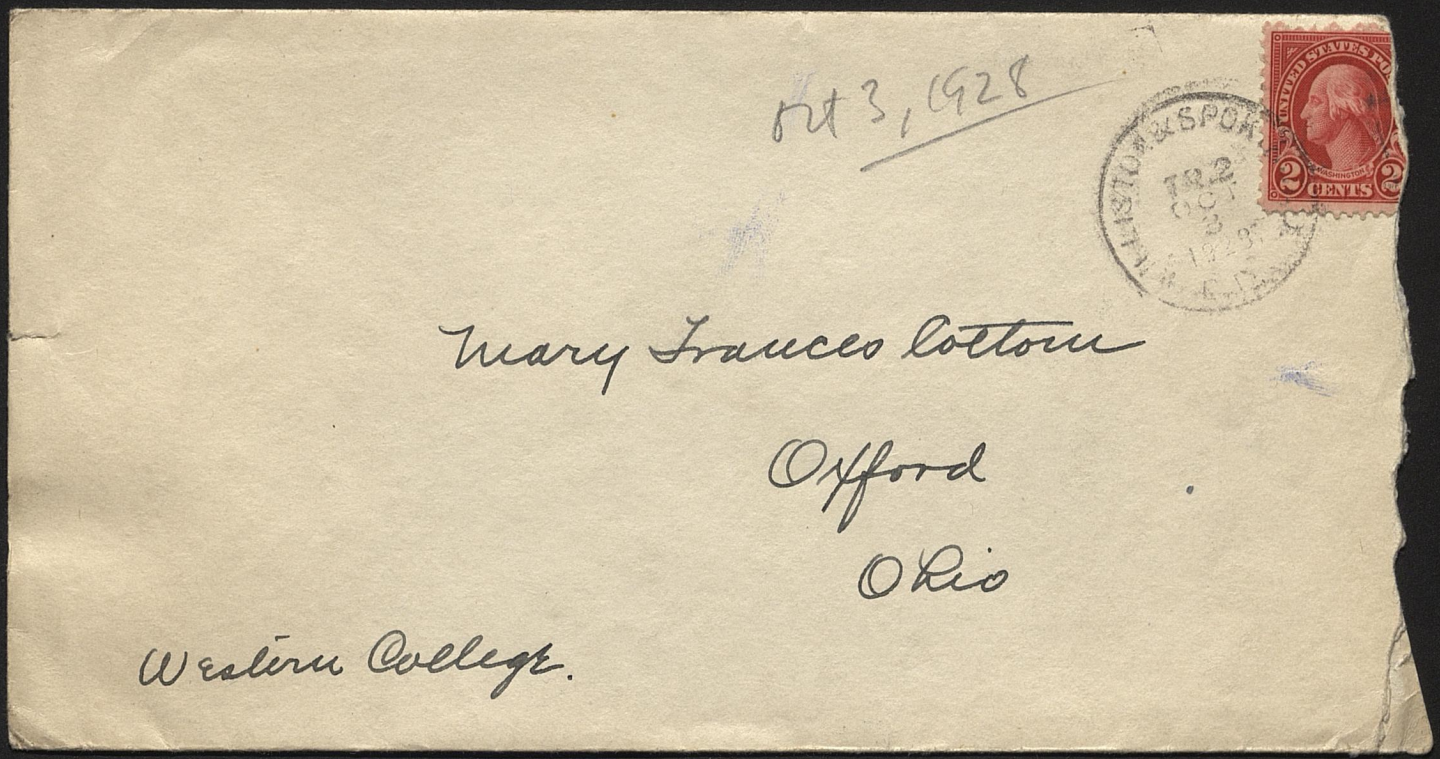
Dear Mary Frances -

Got the catalogue and book of views - thanks - things have been going very badly with me; in all directions - one of my women died and Mrs Lund has been much worse but is somewhat improved today - have been busy and very little sleep with plenty to worry about. - I sure hope things soon look a little better - Havn't heard from Cotton, and plan on getting along without him -

I mentioned to the Lunds once about getting you an Indian rug, and Lund came bringing me down a fine one - They were to give it to me for my birthday but I was away, so they decided to wait until the baby came and make it a three cornered gift. - It is a very good one and I know you will like it. - Had to be someone I thought pretty well of, or I wouldn't have given it up - It will last for many many years - Dont know when I

will be able to get away, - have been trying for days to find time for a haircut - Lund had some kodak films of squaws weaving that I am having recharged - they will help a little until I can get the other pictures, - expect to have some trouble getting a good blanket, but will do my best - Mary Rhodes had a card from some friend there, who wrote that she had met you - I hope you like it better - I spend quite a lot of time wondering about you and what you are doing - I need to hear from you and hope you will write

Love Daddy


Oct 3, 1928

Mary Frances Cotton

Oxford

Ohio

Western College.

Tuesday - Sept. 25-28

Dear Mary Frances -

I was so glad to hear from you again - I have not heard from anyone, and it was not right at all - everything had gone wrong since I came back - three sick women - infected confinements - in the hospital. Cotton away - I felt seriously like jumping off the dock - but more particularly because you would not write to me - Have sun been quite different since I heard from you - also had a letter from Becky on the same mail - She seemed to be quite good but do not like the news of her being sleepy and "pepless" - I sent Dr. Smith quite a nice framed photograph of a scene in Glacier Park want to send something of the sort to Rhodes but just got their address from Becky today -

I didn't write you any more at Afford, for I was not certain that you had gone, - am glad that you received the packages O.K. - were they in good shape? am very elated about your being there, and will do all that I can to help you. Let me know what you want or need, for I take great pride in you - Haven't had a chance to do anything or go anywhere, but as soon as Cotton gets home, will go to the falls and order your pictures - Have arranged for a squaw blanket and will try to get a rug - how large should it be - I am not displeased at the idea of your being in "barracks" - it sounds like quarters reserved for the "bell raising loose element" - Would like to hear more of your roommate - am quite interested - I knew that Dr. Scandalous thought quite well of me - such things will prove of great worth to you -

One thing that has depressed me so much, - was that the Mrs Lund that I told you of - the confinement I wanted so much to get back for - the young couple I liked so well, and that I gave Majors young son to, - she had rather a difficult time, but got along well until her sixth day, when suddenly she blew up with and infection and for several days I was hopeless of her recovery, - I never felt so terrible, for I liked them so well and was so much concerned. - She is the nicest young woman I know, - we had talked much about you and your school - she is a graduate of the Univ. here - worked her way through, and with many honors - married a fine life long kid friend - now geologist for the Calif Oil Co - I had planned with her on getting you a camels hair coat, but her "flare up," and the fact that you have a coat, put that idea in the discard - Is your coat a warm winter one? Then in order that the bad luck continue, - their dog, Bill, was run over by a truck and killed, right in front of the hospital - I went hunting the first morning for an hour, - got 11 ducks and old major had the time of his life - he is a duck dog - Mary Rhodes and old Jim have been going out with pretty good luck and I am all duck fed -

So you get to go to any shows - Tell me about things

will have to stop for awhile - Wed - P.M. -

Had to get busy last night until after the mail train went - Geo Anderson then came in - he is sure doing fine - Geo Bell has quite a layout in Conrad and getting along very good - my sick folks have been a little better today - Hope it continues -

Now you've just got to write to me - it means a lot to me I work harder - have more to contend with and worry about than anybody I know of - I need to hear from you -

Have some fun With love Daddy.



ST. MARY LAKE

PHOTO BY HILEMAN

GLACIER PARK HOTEL COMPANY

Glacier Park Hotel
Chalets
GOING-TO-THE-SUN
TWO MEDICINE
CUT BANK
ST. MARY

Many Glacier Hotel
Chalets
MANY GLACIER
GRANITE PARK
SPERRY GLACIER
BELTON

Glacier National Park

Shelby - 9/14/28

Dear Mary Frances —

Just a line which I hope will reach you in your new home. Haven't heard from anyone, and am apprehensive of bad news — Things have been going the worst ever here — had several bad ones in the hospital, and nothing to do for them, — that is when I get despondent — They arrive better tonight. Went on up to the Park on the day I got home for Dr Cotton had to return to Chgo, at once, and I much wanted to get up there again. the season closes tomorrow

VISIT THE NEW PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL
WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK

I got you a parchment lamp shade Indian art etc - Hope you will like it mailed it to Afford, for it made such a bulky package for you to pack or carry - Also mailed you that book. - Will not get down to the Falls to git thar Russell sketches until next week, but you should git them in about 10 days from the time you receive this - Will try to get you an Indian rug and blanket - Please tell me of anything else I can send you - I want to hear how you get along - am very pleased with the prospects - Mary Rhodes is doing fine and seems to be having a good time - Major was a pleasd person to see me again - Whined and cried for an hour - am going to get my radio tuned up soon and prepare for a long hard winter -

Please write to me and tell me all about yourself - I will write you often -

With love

Daddy -

Please send me one of those Western catalogues & books of views -

GLACIER PARK HOTEL COMPANY

GLACIER PARK, MONTANA
RETURN IN 10 DAYS TO
Box 767 Kelley-

SHELBY, MONT.
SEP 14
2-PM
1928

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
2 CENTS

Becky Cottom
Dayton
Ohio
61
900 Hillcrest Ave.

$100.00 No. 571 $100.00

Wittenberg College
Honor Scholarship Prize

Miss Mary Frances Cotton
having been certified as the winner of First
Honors in the Fairview High School
of Dayton, Ohio has been awarded this
High School Honor Scholarship Prize of $100.00
as a credit upon tuition at Wittenberg College.

Springfield, Ohio,
8/27 1928

R. E. Tulloss
President.

The following are the conditions upon which the Wittenberg Prize Scholarships are awarded:

A Prize Scholarship having a cash value of $100.00, to be applied on payment of college tuition, is offered to High School Honor Students who are certified as winners of First Honors, or in larger schools, as members of the Honor Group.

1.—In High Schools where the graduating class numbers from 15 to 59 members, this Prize Scholarship is offered to the student winning First Honors in scholarship.

2.—In High Schools where the graduating class numbers 60 or over, Prize Scholarships are offered to members of the class whose scholarship ranking places them in the group of 3% best students, as follows:

In classes numbering 60 to 89, Two Prize Scholarships.

In classes numbering 90 to 119, Three Prize Scholarships.

In classes numbering 120 to 149, Four Prize Scholarships. Etc., Etc.

3.—Each Wittenberg Prize Scholarship contains four coupons each worth $25.00. One coupon may be applied upon tuition each year.

4.—In addition to the cash awards, the names of all Prize Scholarship holders are listed in the college publications, and become members of the High School Honors Society of Wittenberg College.

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$25.00 No. 571

This coupon will be accepted as Twenty-five Dollars toward the payment of tuition at WITTENBERG COLLEGE, if presented during the Freshman year, by

Mary Frances Cotton

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President.

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This coupon will be accepted as Twenty-five Dollars toward the payment of tuition at WITTENBERG COLLEGE, if presented during the Junior year by

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This coupon will be accepted as Twenty-five Dollars toward the payment of tuition at WITTENBERG COLLEGE, if presented during the Senior year, by

Mary Frances Cotton

R. E. Tulloss
President.

FORM T-12-28-5M

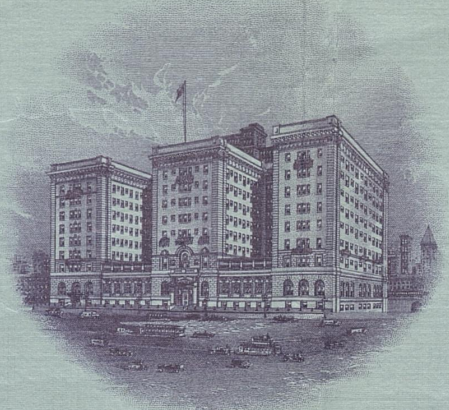
WESTERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

Report of Mary Frances Cottom

for the first semester of the year 19 29 19 30

COURSE	SEMESTER HOURS CREDIT	GRADE	CREDIT POINTS
Biology 1	3	C+	
Chemistry 1	3	C	
Education 1	3	B	
English 3	1	C+	
Greek 3	3	C	
Mathematics 1	3	D	
Physical Education	1	C	
TOTAL			

DATE



HOTEL PALLISER
CALGARY, ALTA.

Canadian Pacific Hotels

Dec - 19 - 29 -

Dear Mary Frances -

Some time ago - I wrote to you - the day I had a very nice letter from you - since then much and many things have happened to me - I do not and should not worry - Came here with Mr Coolidge - dont know what I will do but am sending you a cash Christmas present - and hope it will be as merry as possible - Your plans will not be changed and I am glad about that - I have thought of very little else for a long time - but I dont want you to worry about that - your letter this year have been happier and more cheerful - I do not know why unless it is some love affair which I wish you to stay there - I want and need you here - there is nothing that

would not want with your approval - I
wish I had your promise to come here as
soon as you can next summer - until
then I hope you will send me letters
as often as you will - in the meantime I
am afflicted with arthritis deformans
my fingers are huge - wish Becky
could do my writing - Good Bye and
a Merry Kryss

Love
Your
Daddy

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Wed - Dec 11 - 29 -

Dear Mary Frances -

Got your letter this morning on my return from my first trip out - (vaccinating 187 of the gorillas they send to school) - Am feeling fair again but weak yet, and very old - Taft and I made a trip to Sunburst this afternoon, - lots of snow, - zero weather but very still, - when the wind blows, it will be something else again. It isn't possible for me to leave here now, - had felt so certain of coming East. I am sure disappointed, - Have also given up the idea of having you come out with me, - wish you would finish your year, and then maybe we can make some plans about my Christmas gift, - anything but gum drops or peanut brittle. Every humorist in Montana has brought or sent some -

Enjoyed the picture of the "outdoor theatre" etc - can see where that place might be worth some time, - out here, that would just be: the "head of a coulee" -

Hope this letter reaches you Sat. - am enclosing $5 and hope it will save you from Monday "hash" -

Will send this over to be mailed on the train - nothing very new or worth relating, - Becky said Stadels heard some woman broad casting from the Shelby depot, - that was probably just Wodetzki carrying on a conversation -

Am glad to be around again, - the last month was years long, - couldn't read much, - radio rotten, - and the weather too inclement for visitors -

Let me know what you need: will send you a check for Xmas gifts in a few days, (just as soon as I get out of the red column.)

Hope you write soon - when do you go home

Love

Daddy

glad you heard Frisler and hope you take in more of such - sound off when the funds get too low -

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

12/7/29

Dear Mary Frances -

Came home night before last and am feeling better - haven't been around to do anything yet but it wont be long - was disappointed in not getting any mail from you - did you get a letter from me written from the hosp? - gave it to a rather unreliable fellow to mail and I've wondered if you had geed it. - Things dont seem so bad around here and I guess they will be all right soon & so that I believe I would forget what I had to say about coming here in Jan - you had better plan on going on to school and I had better plan on making some money and making up for last time - Wont be able to come home Xmas and the outlook is pretty dreary - Maj was glad when I came back - he is fatter than a pig -

Weather has been cold and snowy but it hasn't meant much to me - They gave me a couple of horse shoes I'm wearing in my mouth instead of teeth - they are just strictly all - soup and soft eggs began to pall on me quite awhile ago -

Had a letter from Becky and she is very busy

Hope you will write soon

Love

Daddy

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Wed aft 11/27/29.

Dear Mary Dance -

Well - I came down night before last and did it yesterday - Some job - I had some infection of the antrum, and all my head and jaws - had to take ethylene and ether and feel as if they had been very thorough about things - as at the Columbus when you get your start - all Will Rogers said about operations is so - The instructions I used to give so lightly have a meaning all their own - Will be here for several more days - What I dislike most, is that I wont be able to come home Christmas - want very much to see you - Hope you will tell me your ideas about coming out in Jan. - Will pay top wages -

I think I wrote you since your last letter - anyhow I was very grateful for it; for it came as I was in the depths

Tomorrow Thanksgiving - Hope you have fun

Love

Daddy

MISSOULIAN LITHO., MISSOULA, MONT.

HOTEL Rainbow
ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF
FRANK G. HOFER, MANAGER
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

Wed - 11/20/29

Dear Henry Francis -

Your last letter found I had been sick, but such was not the case; until shortly afterward - Have not been on the job for 2 weeks - The last one I was in bed - Tuesday etc - was pretty sick for a few days but am feeling fair again and would have started home today except that the weather bureau very cold and stormy — am sure glad I didn't for I went to a show and it was almost too much for me. Don't feel so good tonight - It was a very fine show though - Gloria Swanson in The Impasse - Did a very foolish thing last night - several things happened to make me very sure tomorrow was Thanksgiving - was very remorseful that I hadn't written to anybody, so sent a night letter to Becky all about it, - found out a lot better today - she will sure think I am goofy Had a patient from Kelby staying here with me and he kept talking about having to be home by Thursday for Thanksgiving - Coolidge was up to say goodbye - leaving for Casper and how much I

MISSOULIAN LITHO. MISSOULA MONT.

HOTEL Rainbow
ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF
FRANK G. HOFER,
MANAGER
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

regretted being away on Thanksgiving and the maid brought in a Thanksgiving menu card etc so I was entitled to be off.

Dont know, Frances, just how I am going to do; am all rheumatic and dont feel good, and will have to have all my teeth out, for I am sure they are making trouble. Expect I will have to go back to Shelby to straighten out some things and have a notion to come right back here, - take either and have the whole works over with at once, - it cant be any worse than dragging it along this way - Think I will phone Henson after while and see how things are going — Just did and plan on going to hosp. tomorrow and have it done - Will send you some photos, - Dont like the idea at all - am eating a large beef steak tonight - There isn't very much to write about I intend coming East Xmas - that is if I can get some arrangements that will pass for teeth - Have been thinking a great deal lately of bringing you back with me - if I do it will be because I need you pretty bad. - Dont think anymore about it until I write you again, but it

might be a fine thing for both Jus -
thanks for the future -
Love
Daddy

MISSOULA PUB. MISSOULA, MONT.

[1923]

HOTEL Rainbow

ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF

FRANK G. HOFER, MANAGER

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

Sunday Nov 23 -

Dear Mary Frances -

I sent you a night letter last night, - feel first rate, but not so very lucky - will go to Shelby in the morning - am sending a small check but will forward another as soon as I can get home and try to fix the bank account - and will try to write you more fully - am very tired of the bed and anxious to get home - Hope you have a nice Thanksgiving - Love

Daddy —

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Oct. - 9 - 29.

Dear Mary Frances -

Things have been pretty busy since I last wrote you - lots of night calls. think I have been out every night for a week. - went to sleep and into to ditch returning from all allright session at Kevin, this morning. - Maj was along and scared to death, - no harm done; - It was just such a drive as I have felt some other folks might make - You could have a fairly steady job driving now. - Have a bunch of scarlet fever in Oilmont now. and it doesn't take much of that to make a lot of work. - Have just about made a deal to open up the Log Cabin for a hosp. - with Drs Williamson & Ridle - this should add some to the income and lessen the work - Woe is still in Illinois, but should be back in a week - Mrs Shiffler was in awhile ago; everyone has moved back into the building and the hospital ready to run, if they had any work. - Dr Olson is back and in charge there - Maj. is fine and very affectionate.

Think I will close for tonight and try to write you later when I feel more like it. - dont feel very cheerful or in the mood, and am getting a sore throat, and have to go to Oilmont yet tonight. - Your friend "Rusty" Powers - the liquor legger from Oilmont has been here with me as a patient for several days; - Becky would be quite concerned at this. -

Hope you are having some fun - Please write to me and I'll get strung out one of these days - Love

Daddy.

Am sending the 3 last Scribners & some bullets.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Oct. 3 - 29.

Dear Mary Francis -

Am delinquent on the letters, - just had your letter of Sunday, - about the tombstones need much, - have enjoyed it for I have been pretty morbid lately - my tastes are quite plain in such matters too, - used to browse around the old burying grounds in Philadelphia, and would like to, again - am glad you have friends that help you to get out of doors, - then isn't so much of it back there, - you can't see far enough but it will do you a lot of good. - How about the isaacson labels? Would like very much to get back there to see you, - am pretty lonesome for you, - but now the idea is out of the question -

Things are much the same here, - up in the air, - have been so busy, and the work has been disagreeable, - it takes streaks like that. - The "new" doctor has gone again; been a regular procession, - the Hospital "fire" has not cleared the atmosphere either, - Wee left for the East a week ago; taking a patient to Rochester and then on to her home in Illinois for a two weeks visit - that gives Reader nurse wants to sell out, but only to her lieutenant, - the large Mrs Rogers - dont want much traffic with her, but it would be an improvement. - Dr Williamson and I are trying to get the county commissioners to buy or build a property for a Hospital, and we will equip and lease it. - Hope we are successfull, and get things back to rank again. - The "nurse" is having trouble getting her insurance, - I think because of the "obscure" origin of the fire. - Shiffler has moved back in and the building is about cleaned and repaired -

The weather has been of the finest, and I have been out but

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

very little, - didn't go hunting the first day, - a little while the morning of the second day, and none since; - plan on going out awhile this afternoon; - put the shot gun in the car and Buj is all enthused, - he is sitting out there with it now, and full of business. - I won't let him out of my sight for a week. - some degenerate spread strychnine poison and killed about half a dozen dogs last Sunday - I don't know what the hell I would do if anything was to happen to him. - think I will try to leave him with Dillons for awhile -

There isn't much other news to interest you, - had a fair, - the county's first. - a parade that Becky would have got a great kick out of. - a new Bank across the street, and they don't seem to be lending anything either, - rheumatism in my good knee, - Harrison just the same - Buj very affectionate -

Have to get busy now - more later -

Love
Daddy

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

#202 Check in this -
Ans'd Sept 29.

Wed. night.
Sept 18

Dear Mary Francis -

Had not heard from you until yesterday morning when I rec'd your letter written night after your return, and posted Sept 12 - It had the notation "sent to Shelby Mich" — so that in the future, for the benefit of some of the Dayton P.O. intellectuals, you had best write "Montana" — full out, like -

Well. things are very much the same here, - wonderful weather, and all hands duck fed - Didn't get out the first day but went down to Conrad yesterday morning for several hours - got ten, - The Major has been working 24 hours shifts and is about all in, - "Taft" and others have borrowed him, and he is always willing, - leaves about 4 A.M. and doesn't get home until late at night, - He is certain that it is all being done for his benefit, - has been too tired to dream any -

Then to m.
got bothered by company - took them to the show — Mary Pickford in "Coquette" - I was there for 5 minutes, when it came to me that it wasn't necessary to do all my penance at once so I drifted - That is no place to relax, anymore —

Bill Hinson got back from a duck hunt, - went up into Canada I told him there was good hunting in the Arctic circle, so he may try it. - always greener pastures farther on -

The first county fair is on today and tomorrow, - the only way I could see more strangers would be to go to Chicago. Just had my first letter from Becky - very sophisticated and reserved -

Hosp afire!

Well - this has been quite a day. The Hospital was ablaze when I reached the above point - it was quite a fire about 9 A.M. Doc & Mrs Skip were just getting up - the building did

not burn down but will take a lot of fixing - water + smoke damage - had a call to West Butte in the midst of it - 50 miles - when I got back Wor + Ship had moved in my spare rooms until they find someplace. - Haven't heard anything about the Hospital - had 2 fracture cases this which were not improved by moving in excitement - Becky would have enjoyed the day - Haven't time to write anymore now but will try again soon

Love
Daddy -

Spruce has dallied around about sending your "stuff" I jacked him up about it early this morning & will do it again —

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Sunday - Sept. 15 - 29

Dear Mary Francis -

Havn't heard anything from you except the wire and Becky's "en route" letter - This is a beautiful day, but havn't anything to do and it seems long - tomorrow hunting season begins, and I hope to be able to go to Gold Butte - can leave early in the morning and get back at noon - was fixing up the shot gun awhile ago and Maj. was all excited - Havn't quite cooled off yet. - Just got through giving that solitaire gamut a lot of hell -

Told Spencer to ring you up a shipment of perfume and what not. - if not according to specifications, [illegible]

Had another star boarder in old Dad Quinlan - He had been on quite a toot, and he and Wes have had a steady argument. - This has been no place for a nervous man.

I got one of Cobbs books with the Russell story in it, - Wes took it on right away but as soon as I get it back will send it to you -

Hope you got along ok. at the school and that you have a congenial roommate - did you get the desk & bookcase?

Let me know about the rifle and if it costs too much to repair, - give it to Pete and I'll send you another -

Will send you the films along with the cosmetics and anything you want, - sound off -

Got the bottles all out of the car, - the radio fixed and are about set for a hard winter - What does Becky need?

Write him -

Love
Daddy

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Wed - Sept. 11 - 29.

Dear Mary Frances -

I received your wire last night, just too late, to get a letter to you one the Empire B- I was very thoughtful of you and made me very glad. Everything is about the same here, - about the same work, but the weather has been cold and rainy - I had a chance to stay home last night, and beat the sol. game plenty - the major has been pretty peppers since you left, - got all burred up and bit me when I was plucking him, - He has done that to me twice, - never anyone else - Im getting tired of it. - Those films have not been finished yet - I keep inquiring and will send them as soon as possible - Monday is duck day, but am afraid I wont get out. - Woo has gone to the Falls for several days, with Mrs Shiffler - no other news, - Hope you get along fine Tuesday - Love

Daddy.

F. W. Cottom, M. D. E. V. Spackman, M. D.

Drs. Cottom & Spackman

Shelby, Montana

Dear Mary Frances - 12/3/28

Recieved your Thanksgiving card - I am forgetful - for such an idea never occurred to me until I got one from Beckys partner - Gwendolyn - Things are going alright and have been very busy - there is and has been, a very wide epidemic of influenza here, - It hasn't been of a severe type, but recent cases seem to be worse, and it is so widespread - all ages and so many cases - have done more driving of late than I can ever remember doing - Last Tuesday, - Lund left for Denver and I went as far as Billings - that was something that I felt I should do - It snowed all the way to Lewistown - didn't get there until late and was getting bitter cold; - had a collision with a Ford near Stanford and it slowed us down - saw Clyde awhile that night and Bryant the next morning - started early for Billings and when I got there I thought I was in for a run of "flu" - Went right to bed and didn't feel so very good the next morning - so

F. W. Cottom, M. D. E. V. Spackman, M. D.

Drs. Cottom & Spackman

Shelby, Montana

decided to hit for Rome - spent Thanksgiving on the train - have felt very good ever since and have done a whole lot of work -

Wrote to Becky last night - Hope you tell me how you found her - must close now and see a new one in the hop - will write you again soon -

Love
Daddy -

Enclosing some show dollars —

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

7/1/29.

Dear Mary Frances -

Your letter rec'd this morning and sure pleased that you will come out. — my "troubles" are still as they were; I guess I didn't tell you much about it. — the hospital nurse, who is a swede and they are notoriously 2 faced. - got "a mad on me" when I went over to Macco several times and has imported a doctor of her own; so I will not have any cases there, and had to rig up some emergency beds etc here in the office, - Have to stay on the job continually or lose my practice; it is all mighty unpleasant and not the way I would have things for you to come out to - wanted to see if it would be possible for me to enjoy myself again — I used to spend a great deal of time planning things we could do — I will have to stick here close, but you can find things to do, to make it worth your while — There were other troubles to correspond but they have mostly faded since morning - One was a bone headed thing I did to one of my best patients; he is going to live through it, but not nice to think about — Under the circumstances you had best come out alone and I am sending you money - could arrange for transportation but it will be better for you to buy a Glacier Park excursion ticket from Dayton and take a receipt for it stating what it is for. - the other way takes too long -

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Wish you would come out at once; - am short handed for help now, - and my garden needs fixing - that dont amount to so much - think they sold me dandelion and wild mustard seed. - and anytime major thinks he needs some physic, he eats some gladiolus - Have been "spoken for" on quite a few confinements in August and in case it is possible to leave here for awhile, would not be able to go on that account - Also if you buy a ticket you can ride the famous "Empire Builder" train - you will have them wire for a birth reservation from Chicago on it; and be sure you have it before you start, - I understand they have had to wait for several days for them - You will use the Penna R.R. to Chicago and they will arrange things for you there in Dayton - unless they are overcome with efficiency & ennui (onway) also - wish you would get at this right away, so you wont be delayed. - for I'm "watching the clock" -

Am glad to hear you have had cool weather - it has finally got hot here. - the mosquitos are sure a pest. - havn't heard from anyone, but am writing to Maces & Bryants to expect us. -

Hope things quiet down before your arrival, and we can do something besides worry - Wish you would write at once, and come at once and wire me when you arrive - that train gets here at 10 A.M. -

Love

Daddy -

- over -

There isn't a thing that you will need, or a preparation for you to make -

F. W. Cottom, M. D. Wendell Cotton, M. D.

Drs. Cottom & Cotton

Shelby, Montana

11/1/28

Dear Dearie Frances - Just wrote you last night & finished in a hurry, as my ideas bogged down - I forgot to say that I got your book and thank you much - also that winter was here - quite a storm on - Sent you that Russell book today -

This morning I played the "addio" and turned to a very fine piece of dance music - as I rule I try to find something else, but this was so good that I listened and to my surprise it was announced as coming from WLW Cincinnati - Gibson Hotel etc - That must be quite a station for I've never heard anything better - Just gave Major a bath much to his disgust - Things are going alright again, I think, - Lucile's mother is here and they plan on staying here - I am glad about that - and now to bed -

Love Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

1929

Sunday June 23 -

Dear Mary Frances -

I received your letter written as you were about to leave school, and find it too difficult to answer - I have had considerably more than my share of troubles lately, and am just about ready to blow up and quit - am very discouraged and unsettled, and it will be another week before I will know anything more, except that I am going to have things arranged so that I can get along with much less worry. I want very much to have you come out, and hope that you will; - it would do us both good - let me know by wire and I will arrange for your transportation - I had wanted to go to Seattle to a convention, in July but it is all off. -

Have not heard from the Macks since I was over there; - or the Bryants; - the Combs are fine, and Clyde much better than he has been for years -

Had quite a birthday gift from Grace Stadel and must write to her -

Must close now to get this to the train - Hope you will write to me soon

Love
Daddy

WESTERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

Report of Cotton, Mary Frances 1429

for the Second semester of the year 19 8 -19 9

COURSE	SEMESTER HOURS CREDIT	GRADE	CREDIT POINTS
Latin 2	3	C+	4½
English 2	3	C+	4½
Greek 2	3	C	3
History 2	3	C+	4½
Literature 2	3	D	0
Gymnasium 6	1	C	1
	16		17½
Year's TOTAL	29		32½

JUN 20 1929

DATE

Alice Hill Byrne

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

April 25 - 29.

Dear Mary Frances -

Disaster overtook me again but in a milder form, - broke my breast bone, - and a rib on each side of it Sunday - it has very effectively put me out of business for the nonce, - its one of those affairs that cant be strapped, and necessitates being flat on the back with a sand bag between my shoulders, - this got old the first hour, and there has been no variations, - except an occasional cough, - havnt had any hiccough or sneezing yet, but of any such, a movie tone would be valuable — Do not expect this to last more than several more days before I get up - Got it, in a dumb way, - was detouring a snow drift and going in the mud, - hit an innocent looking gob of something that turned out to be a very solid stump, - the steering wheel, being an immovable body, - my bosom gave in - am seeing people from an air mattress, so havnt been lonesome, but my conversation and all has been subdued -

Got a letter from Becky the same day I received your last one again Had one from Bryant that is the total of all the news - It seems that Esther Humphrey came back from the East last summer and announced her engagement to Col. Lindberg, - the newspapers deflated all this and one of the Gimkowski boys has taken his place - havnt seen any recent news of her dancing, - She put on a few new steps at some doings in Moore last winter which was reported in the paper but on the third page, - which greatly incensed the old folks - George Bell is over there now having old lady Cunningham fix him up some teeth - expects to visit around quite a bit while waiting and will return full of gossip - Lee Hilliard was back there and full of hop headed ideas, - didnt hear of the family but they are scattered. Ed Coolidge was through here last night on his way to Canada - there is quite a bit of oil activity up there now. -

Would like to have the Bryants come up and visit me for awhile Think he could find something as there is to be some mining in the Sweet Grass Hills near here soon -

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

My garden is a reality, as I found out when I came to pay the bills - am already in favor of relief for the farmer - Hauled in new dirt, - fertilizer, - fence, hose, tools, seed, and the last I saw of it, - it was growing a foot of snow on the level and more behind the posts. - The last two days have been warm so spring may show here one of these days - Have had several severe blizzards already this month -

How did the coffee hunters go and is there a law on cooking and such - Would sure like to see you there - My trip East is now in the distance, but might make it about June 1st if you want me. - Let me know -

Love
Daddy -

519 Linwood Avenue,
Buffalo, New York.
March 27, 1929.

Dear Francis:

I have been at home sick for two weeks and cannot write a letter now, but wish to thank you for your Thanksgiving and Christmas cards. The Tahnksgiving card was the only one I received and I appreciated it very much.

We wish that we could be with you at Easter and we wish all of you a very happy time.

With much love from both of us to all of you, I am, sincerely,

Your Uncle

Levin.

at Stadels
Back soon

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Mar. 21 - 29 -

Dear Mary Frances -

I was very pleased with my morning mail - it lightened a rainy dismal day, and if you knew how much your letters were appreciated, the intervals wouldn't be so long - Your letter sounded quite cheerful and care free - more like you might be enjoying things - you might as well for worrying will not help at all - Am glad you are getting around more, and hope you will do all you can of it. - There isn't anything that will do you more good, than stiff hikes - I am hoping to come East this spring - want to see you at school, and wish you would tell me when best, - There is an epidemic of babies due and think it will be over with in 3 or 4 weeks, - will probably have a better chance to leave next month, than later, - Will go to a great northern meeting in Seattle this summer, and plan to have you with - Other than that, the schedule calls for work, and the outlook is, for plenty of it, - Things are going first rate, and I have been feeling good. - The weather is march, and tough enough -

I wouldn't feel very distressed about that "math" business, I have never cared much for anyone too good at "figgers" - I don't know a thing about your next years schedule, except that I take it you are having a straight B.A. course, You will probably be wanting some modern language - What kind of "math" were you on? What do you do to make it up, and how much more of it is necessary? - It might be as well to try and get along without something as useless - You will find it very unnecessary when you study medicine -

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

No,- I didn't get up to Bynum's - had elaborate plans made,- even Major all crated up in the halls,- when I got to the train it was blizzarding and I had a hunch- had him loaded on a train to Shelby instead, and when I got to Kevistown the storm was on right,- called Frank and he was going to send a saddle horse for me to Hilger - Had not been able to climb stairs for a month, so didn't go,- the weather was one storm after another and below zero for weeks - They never had such snow over there, and the roads are not open yet.- Haven't heard from them— Think I had better write to them,- have one radio too many and will send it to them if they want it — The radio has been rotten lately, and no shows in Shelby any more, so spring had better come soon.-

Lucia Coolidge was up between trains to see me yesterday - She hasn't been very well lately — Haven't heard from Macs for a long time,- He has an immense radio that "Scoop" Parsons built for him,- it keeps him busy to tune in,- more gadgets than a battleship, and all he wants to get, is the old time fiddlers from Calgary - Was in Conrad several days ago and saw the 9. Bells - Fred Leonard isn't satisfied any more and is planning on taking the gorillas back to Kevistown — They are the orneriest damn kids that ever were —

Nothing else new - will anxiously wait to hear from you - would like to know what Dr Finney says.- Suppose you try Agarol for awhile,- a mineral oil preparation and will send you some tablets that might do -

Tell Becky to say something -

Love

Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Sunday Mar 10 - 29 -

Dear Mary Frances - Its been a long time again since Ive written you, - Have'nt heard from you or Becky -

I had quite a scare awhile ago - got a letter out of the P. O. box on Western College Stationary and a type written address - I could imagine all sorts of disasters until I found a commendatory report from Alice Byrne about your work in school - I was mightily pleased that your gymnasium work has been so good - I am very well satisfied and hope you will continue, for your physical well being is of the most importance to you - What was the trouble when the school physician told you that you might have to stop? Do you mind if I write to him or her?

Jim and Agnes Slater stopped off here for several hours today - between trains, - he is still traveling; looking for work Clyde is fine and now weighs 165 pounds, - has outgrown all his clothes - George Anderson has been working in the field, but has quit and has been here with me for a few days. Things are going pretty good. - finally got rid of many of my worries, including the hospital, and am feeling first rate this has been a miserable winter, in every way, but for the last week, it has chinooked and the snow is about all gone, and the roads are sure tough -

Am enclosing a check and some Monday lunch money - Send me a night letter if you're not feeling good. - may come and see you, - and surely will if you need me

Love Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

Feb. 8 - 29 -

Dear Mary Frances -

I have wished to write you much before this but have not been able to make any remittance. - Am enclosing check and will try to follow it with another as soon as possible. - I have been on the job for a week now, and it is going better; - arranged for the hospital to be no longer a worry to me; - fired my assistant for he was presuming on the theory that I would not get back and my income has been nil since before the holidays

I hope you received the rug in good shape - It should be a help mornings if the weather is anything like it is here - has not been much above zero for weeks - I hope you are getting along good and feeling fine

Love Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Thursday night 1/29

Dear Mary Frances.

Just a line to tell you that I had a very eventful day. - was called to Glacier Park Sta. again this morning, - the main road had been opened and it was sure a wonderful trip Lots of snow up there yet and you have to travel perilously near the edge and hope very much that the road dont take a notion to slide - the road is open towards Two Medicine as far as Trick Falls would like to have gone there but didn't have time, or didn't think I had. - Am sending that youngster to Havre tomorrow - I did not tell you of a very sad happening awhile ago, and one that I felt keenly - Dr Hussey died of pneumonia - I will try to go to Havre Sunday - have not seen Mrs Hussey since his burial. Have some calls to make and a job of eating to do.

Love

Daddy.

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DADDY.

WESTERN UNION GIFT ORDERS SOLVE THE PERPLEXING QUESTION OF WHAT TO GIVE

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

June 10 - Tuesday. - 1930

Dear Mary Frances -

Couldn't find out much about rates but am sending you checks for $100. - which will get you out here I think - Wire me when you will leave Dayton, and also, from Chicago. - Do hope you can leave Chicago Sunday night, - will then meet you in Havre Tuesday morning the 17th - I guess I can postpone my birthday, one day without too much trouble — Everything is going first rate but very impatient to see you - Not necessary to buy any clothes - but bring a camera and gun - may want to trade you something for it, and it will also improve your standing with Maj. - He is fine. -

Hope to hear from you right away, so please wire me at once when you will leave etc - Love

Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Monday night - 6/9/30

Dear Mary Frances -

Was more than delighted to get your letter this morning, - went to Devon awhile ago and sent you a night letter - Surely hope you can arrange to bring Becky - it will be fine, if you can come Sunday, for I will definitely give up the Grand Forks idea, and I going on to Sterling, - am feeling pretty good now, but it isn't possible to transgress, - there isn't any treatment, so I will be just a well if until later - Was anxious to meet some of the great Northern Eastern men and try for the Glacier Park contract next year, but that can be done later, too, - I think your train connections have not changed any, - the Empire Builder # 1 leaves Chicago at 10:15 at night, Sunday; - arriving at Shelby at 10:10 Tuesday morning. - You had better have them make a Pullman reservation for you at once, - a Standard Lower, - you can get along with one, (just think how easy you will make $16.00) Order it to Havre, - will meet you there, by coming down on no 4 - Never mind about receipts for anything - Will find out tonight about rates, and arrange for and send you money tomorrow - I surely hope nothing interferes with your coming Sunday - Will Becky a circus will be here on Her Honor, - Barnes Bros, - and it is possible you may meet one of your cadet affinities - Private Bates from Ward 81 - Have many plans made for you, - have done little else for a long time - but we can make some more next week - Time will go slow from now on for a week -

Mister "Taft" was just in, & laid himself all over this
letter - and I just finished telling him,—
you need not expect anything marvelous, or exciting,
but I know you will have a good time and do both of
us a lot of good.- Will write tomorrow —

Love
Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Tuesday - May 27 - 20.

Dear Mary Frances -

I have'nt heard from you for a long time and I want to know how come; I hope you are not miffed because of the blasting I gave you, about your smoking;

I have been having plenty of trouble lately; - bad cases, - shootings auto wrecks etc; - didn't get to bed for three nights; - until last night, when I took it on for ten hours straight away; - have felt dopey all day. -

Nothing very new here, but am very anxious to see you soon - Everything is fine here now, and I want you so much - Don't know if I can leave here next month or not, - would rather not, - for if I have any time off, - would rather spend it on a trip with you, around here, - Am going to write to the Snelling Hosp and see if I can arrange to report at Fort Harrison, near Helena - instead. -

Suppose you are pretty well taken up with school functions about now, - probably fighting off spring fever also - anyhow you will, at once, seat yourself, and write me a line -

Went to Devon today; - got my pup - had him around the Office for awhile; - he had no manners whatever; - and Major was sure disgusted with him, - my garden got all shot to hell, again too -

gave him to Betty Merrill; - Taft's little girl -

Hope to hear from you soon; - Love

Daddy

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

May 20 - 30 -

Dear Mary Frances -

Had your letter several days ago, and too busy and trifling to answer before. - Things are going not so bad, but am getting very anxious to see you. We should be getting back here a month from today, unless I go to the convention first, and meet you in St Paul. This is what I will probably do. - Cities have grown away from me, and I need an up to date guide - I think you said you were out of school the 9th - is that right?

I thought summer was here today, but the wind switched to the north west, and you can feel ice in the air. Mrs Sleffler is back in Shelby with a damn Scotch terrier pup. - puts it in my back yard, - it has ruined both Maj and the garden, - had her fix a pen for him today - drove to the Falls Sunday to see Clyde Combs - he is not very well again and Lewistown is sure dead. - Coolidge is up here today and full of business. - having more trouble with the hospital, but I refuse to be worried about things anymore -

Now in answer to the inquiry about smoking - are they giving prizes there for the proper answer, or do you think I'm sap enough to believe that anyone would care what I think, - how on the other hand, - if you are after my ideas about your smoking, I will arise and say that best I dont catch you at it, - and again - I've hoped that you would get alive, and make some sort of disturbance that I'm not going to discourage you in your sinful ways Are you sure you wasn't smoking some new "hop" to get such dreams about London and Paris, - and then again it could be just gin.

You haven't said anything lately about the gun
have you used it any - fishing season opens
tomorrow for everyone but me - Taft is going to
trout pond at Devon - maybe I'll bend a pin and
join him in the afternoon, - Maj. could help
get them, - want to photograph those pups, too -
Have some new business so will close -

Love
Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Wed. - May. 14 - 1930

Dear Mary Frances.

I haven't heard from you for so long I am wondering what is wrong - I hope nothing, except laziness or work, or both -

things are going fairly good again, here, - not so much work or money any more, but also not so disagreeable as it was. The weather has been dreary - rainy snowy and cold, but today it has warmed up and is real spring like - Was looking over the garden and the worst peas are just coming up. - the vines were up and have gone, - that dirty dog accounts for them - He had six more grandchildren the other night at Dillons -

am looking forward, very much of my time, - to seeing you next month and hope to meet you in St Paul or Grand Forks - I dont care much for that convention but am supposed to go, will let you know about it as soon as I can, but would like to know when you can come. The country is sure pretty now, the poplars are getting green, - haven't been anywhere yet but will try to get away someplace Sunday -

please write -

Love daddy.

Just overhauled my fishing tackle, - but it doesn't mean anything -

[1930]

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Thur - May 8 -

Dear Mary Frances - This is a cold raw dismal letter writing sort of a day - plenty of wind direct from Hudsons Bay -

Have had some bad cases, too, that make a lot of disagreeable work and plenty of discouragement - Lucy isn't much company today, either, - he was just well fed on raw liver, - just wants to sleep and not be bothered, - yesterday, planted some Virginia Creeper and he tried to eat it up - got himself worked on, - the pups are fine, - nine of them, pretty as pictures -

I sure hope you dont delay any, in coming out here, - you have no idea how much I am looking forward to having you here - Do you think you can leave there on the 15th, - it will be necessary to make reservations very early at that date - I plan on going to Grand Forks but havn't much hope of it, - dont like to spare the time, - am feeling pretty good, but would like to hear what they say at the Meeting, and I should go to that G. H. meeting - We will see how things stack up by then -

No news except some shootings, - the boys and girls are getting tough, and when they butch up the job, - its tough on the doc. - all the money goes to hiring lawyers, and such business is unprofitable and messy.

Am going to Great Falls and wish you were along - Hope you will write soon, favorably and often.

Am enclosing $5.00 - if this weather lets then Monday, I know they won't have cinnamon rolls. - Love

Daddy.

[1930]

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Monday - May 5 -

Dear Mary Frances -

I have not heard from you but guess I had better clutter up the mail, anyhow -

Am getting very anxious to see you - wished for you yesterday - took time off and drove west. - Have a dandy new road to Kutbank now and fine to, and all through the park - Coolidges have been up several times - drove yesterday as far as Blackfoot. - Hank is planning on putting up a cabin below glacier Park station - we plan on claiming 80 acres of timber land - which we are allowed - just outside the park and along the new Highway and Flathead creek. - it would be fine if it goes through - they saw 24 mountain goats -

Would have written you last night, but didn't feel so good; - am OK today and have gained fifteen pounds in 3 weeks - I bossed my job of gardening today, - it should be quite flourishing when you arrive; The Maj. eat up the wild cucumber plants at once, and seemed to relish them - that dog is sure a character -

Coolidge just came in, so that finishes this. -

Write soon -

Love
Daddy

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

Fort Snelling Hosp
Mpls. Minn

Dear Mary Frances -

Do not know how much you know of events - am pretty confused on some things myself - Had quite a complete breakdown - have had a very extensive exam, and have been here for several weeks - rest was ordered and rest, it is, - got up yesterday and do pretty good - Will not be able to go to work again for awhile, but am anxious for you to try to hang on there and I will do the best I can financially as soon as I can - Your letters are interesting to me; more so now than ever and I hope you will write often Am not allowed to see anyone; - dont read much and time goes slow - think your rifle will help you more than the S. School

Monday - no need of finishing this yesterday for no mail Sunday am up now and mentally clear. Hope to leave here Sat - so you had best next write

Home at Shelby –

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

April 1 - 30

Dear Mary Frances - Had bad news this morning - was ordered to bed for 2 weeks when I was counting on going to St Louis in 2 days - this is because of a heart condition otherwise I am alright - weigh less though than anytime since I was a student, but That is in my favor - am very cheerful except for the disappointment of going to bed again - am going to have my eyes retested today before I start that, - so will keep busy writing and plenty of reading to do - am arranging for you to get $10.00 I hope you can get along for awhile - I want so badly to get things straightened out so that we can spend a happy summer, Please write often Love

Daddy.

[1930?]

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Apr. 27 - Sunday evening.

Dear Leary Francis -

This has been a dull rainy day, and I was glad of it. - for yesterday was long and hectic - Neil Stevens youngest shot another youngster - abdomen - got him in the Hospital and located the bullet with the X ray and was all ready to operate, when some unknown Rancher prompted me to X ray him again; was much chagrined to see the bullet far away from its original location, and still moving; had to take him to the Falls; had the car taken down and drove home in the night - six hours of rain, mud, bad roads; broken chains etc, etc, - got in at four o'clock, to be greeted by Maj. with the most evil smell or stench - he had rolled in some carcass; but I was too all in to be greatly bothered - got some dog soap this morning and had Jim give him a bath, but I think it just added another stink - Poor Maj realizes he isn't a social success, and is very ashamed; would send you a few locks of hair for a sample, but it wouldn't go through the mail -

Saw the Combs last night for just a minute - they drove in from Kevistown just as I was about to start home - they were on a trip of inspection to the grandson - They seem to be fine, but poverty stricken - Clyde had to go out of business, because of a new dry mayor that doesn't need money - don't know what they plan on doing -

am sorry to hear you are bitter religion bother you - I wouldn't do it, even if it was Greek - I was pleased with the picture, but more to know you are taking to the out of doors -

Haven't heard from Becky - don't know about my St Paul trip. It seems more necessary for me to stay on the job, but that doesn't help the finances very much either; - all goes on the book -

Write as often as you can; - will let you know whether

I will have to go East or not but anyhow am counting days until the middle of June - would like to have you help celebrate - or bewail - my 50th birthday - Love
Daddy.

[1930]

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

April 25 - Fri night. -

Dear Mary Francis -

It is late but have time for a few lines before train time. - had your letter yesterday morning and was much cheered with its news - I have done quite a bit of figuring with the calender and June 1st seems a long way off yet, - have quit making any plans for myself, but want you to come as soon as you can - I wish it were possible for Bicky to come, and it would do her much good.

I am feeling quite good again, but it grinds me to have to be so slow in all my moves -

Clyde Combs just called up - he isn't so well again - got to be a grand father last week - Agnes had a son - will be up Sunday.

I saw a show that I liked last night: "Seven days leave" It is a Barrie story - "The old woman counts her necdals" It is about as whimsical as Peter Pan, but I enjoyed it -

Nothing very new here - feel pretty depressed but look forward to your coming to change that -

Major is fine - getting more affectionate - he thinks I am the whole works and you would be surprised to know how much company he is. -

Must hurry this to the train - Love

Daddy

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Wed. - Apr. 16 - 30.

Dear Mary Frances -

Just a few lines to wish you as happy and nice an Easter as possible - I came back here a week ago; - received your letter yesterday forwarded from H Snelling - this with the exception of your letter to Mom is all I have heard from you or Becky in a month. - I am feeling first rate but am not able to do any exertion, was expected to stay there another two months, but that wouldn't do. - I have been looking forward to you being with me this summer, - neither do I want any rackus about things; - you wouldn't have, and will not, find much that will disagree with you, - You are your own boss, and will be equipped with a round trip ticket, - when you do - There isn't anything to write about that would interest you, - Major is the grandfather yesterday of 17 pups in one litter, - showed them to him today and he didn't get very chesty and didn't seem concerned. - Mom left today for the East. - Mrs S Leffler has quit here and probably live in Havre. Have had very fine weather but pretty cold nights. - Coolidge & Mina were here today - don't know what I will do but am going to try to pay my debts and get out before another winter, unless I feel better. Am due to go to Snelling again in June for repairs and have been day dreaming of meeting you there - Hope you are getting along and if you get up against it, write me and I'll make a stake somewhere -

Please write to me

Love
Daddy

Dear Mom -

Have been intending to write all week but left these over in new Dorm & have been too busy to go over after them. Have been feeling alright but have been on a committee and busy all the time. Awfully cold here & nothing much going on. Just got over from New Dorm & its ten now, so will mail this so you get it Sat, & write more next week. Write.

Love

France -





Miss Frances Cottom,

2257 Ravenwood avenue.

Dayton,

Ohio.

From
L. C. Cottom
519 Linwood Avenue
Buffalo, N. Y.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Good Friday -

Dear Mary Frances -

Havn't heard from you but will write anyway - am feeling better and have been working some, but taking things slow and easy - Havn't been up town, except in car, but have been going to the country almost every day - weather and roads fine; -

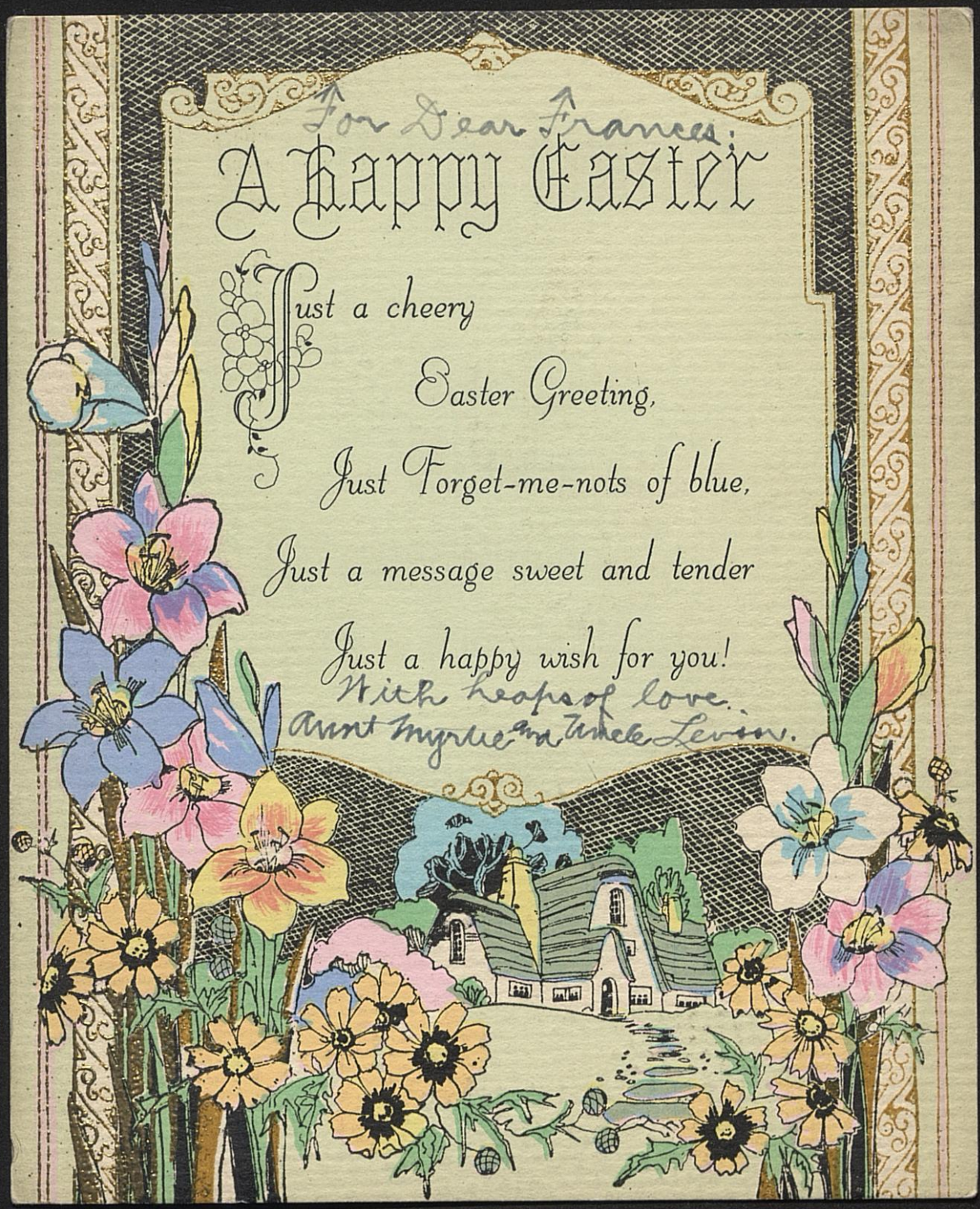
When will your school term end? Am pretty anxious to know, - am due to be in Grand Forks June 18th & 19th - will try to postpone my Ft Snelling trip until then, and if possible would like to meet you there - I am trying to have something good to look forward to - Was down to Devon to see the Majors grand pups; - there are eleven of them left and they are sure a pretty sight, - I wish Becky could see them, - would like to have a picture of them - I think I told you Woe and Mrs Shippler had left Shelby - Will try to get you some money soon, but it dont seem possible to get any in - feel sure that things will be better after the 1st

---

Just came in from the no. Ohio camp - turning pretty cold tonight and expect snow. - It is late; almost train time - Havn't eat so will get this in the mail; -

Hope you are getting along alright, - that you write to me and that you had a nice Easter -

Love
Daddy.


For Dear Frances:
A Happy Easter
Just a cheery
Easter Greeting,
Just Forget-me-nots of blue,
Just a message sweet and tender
Just a happy wish for you!
With heaps of love.
Aunt Ingrid and Uncle Levin.

Dear Frances:

Thank you many times for your kind thoughtfulness in sending me the cards. I was very much pleased to have them.

How are you and how is that "Ph. D. Degree" coming along?

I am sorry not to have had the pleasure of seeing you in September and long to see you.

With love, a good hug and every good wish. I am, sincerely Your Uncle

Levin.

1930.

15E507

RUST CRAFT BOSTON U.S.A.

xxxxxxx

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Tuesday - Feb. 4 - 30

Dear Mary Francis. was very pleased with your letter yesterday morning; am anxious to know how you made out with the gun; - hope you send me some good score cards -

Weather has been very fine and it has chinooked for 3 days and snow about gone, except on the Conrad road and it is the one I am most interested in - went to Devon yesterday to get Jim Awberry - was taken sick down at the ranch (where we made the bobble with the geese) brought him to Devon on sled. - also went to Kilmont last night and roads good. -

Things have blown up around here - Dr Williamson and Woe had a row and the hospital is due to close, or else I will have to take it over alone; - and I have troubles enough - Work is very quiet, too, and a new oil field starting in at Burt Grass, so the future is uncertain -

I have not heard from Becky -

Can't give you any good advice about your peeves - but hope you are not disappointed, - I can't comment very much, either, on this business of bawling out doctors - if they are like sergeants, it is a poor way to fool.

I had a letter from Combs wanting to see me in the Falls Friday - don't know the why - will let you know -

If Sunday is a nice day, I think I will declare another vacation and ride the trails to Belton - can get in 2 meals; - leave here at 7 am. - have a look at

the Park in winter and git back here at 6 30 -
wish you could join me -
Hope you write soon and film - love
Daddy

Have a notion to try the talkies again - just once more.
Duncan Sisters. tonight.

MISSOULIAN LITHO MISSOULA MONT

HOTEL Rainbow
ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF
FRANK G. HOFER, MANAGER
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

Tues. 1/28/30

Dear Mary Frances.

Came down last night for a change of scenery - too fed up on snow and zero weather and had some shopping to do, - cant think of anything to send Gwen or Becky - just talked Ernie Martin out of a present for you, - something you cant read - and that will encourage your hiking - I think it is nifty and hope you will like it. you had best shoot only 22 shorts in it, using the "staynless" or "Kopperklad" shells - and dont forget to use the ram rod - You and the Maj can get a lot of pleasure out of it next summer. -

Just my luck to hit here when no shows worth while are on -

Hope to hear from you

Love

Daddy



HOTEL RAINBOW

FRANK G. HOFER, MANAGER

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

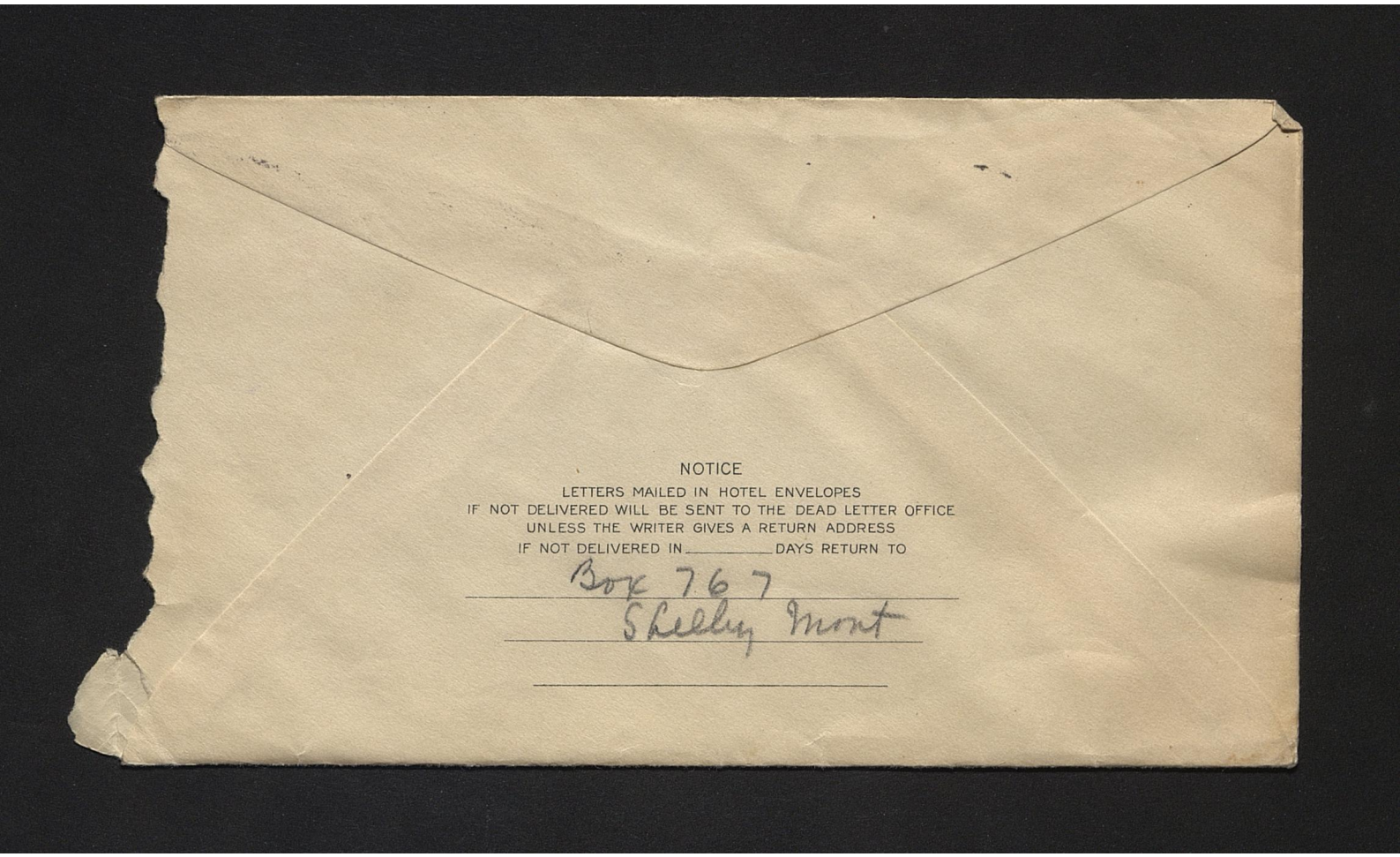
GREAT FALLS, MONT.
JAN 28
4 30 PM
1930

UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON
2 CENTS

Mary 7. Cotton
Clifford
Ohio

Rec'd
Ans'd
Rec'd gen. Feb. 1, 3.
Ans'd. Mar., 3.

Western College


NOTICE
LETTERS MAILED IN HOTEL ENVELOPES
IF NOT DELIVERED WILL BE SENT TO THE DEAD LETTER OFFICE
UNLESS THE WRITER GIVES A RETURN ADDRESS
IF NOT DELIVERED IN _____ DAYS RETURN TO
Box 767
Shelby Mont

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

Thursday 1/23/30 -

Dear Mary Frances -

Your letter came this morning and I am very thankful - things have been going better - not so very much work - but also not so much bad news - Am feeling good, except stiff in my knee and shoulder, - think it will call for hot weather for it. - Think I told you about getting "froze up" again going to Conrad, - that was my last trip, and is going to be, - for some time yet. - The weather is warmer today, but for 16 days this month, the mean average temp. was 17° below - and then some fat head tells us that the shifting Japanese current is making this country right tropical - That murder trial ended not so well, and they evidently didn't believe me - they just "threw the book at him" - gave him life - It isn't going to make any difference to the poor devil, for he is only going to live several years, - is a very advanced diabetic -

I was glad to hear about the ten mile hike - am in favor of that - will trade for that pistol for you, as soon as I can get to the field - it won't hurt to be expert with guns, - you can never tell, - you might get married sometime

1/24 - Had a trip to Delmont with Mr Taft, - no bad luck so guess the spell is broken - tried to go to Conrad today but gave it up - too tough from here to the river, and worse from there - nothing new here at all, - no shows - these talkies deprived me of that pleasure, - tried them a few times and have called it all off, - the radio has been a disappointment also, - not very good, and then only hurdy gurdy honky tonk music -

Havn't heard from Becky for quite awhile either, she can't be bothered - She was on her way to basket ball stardom in my last. - there isn't much work connected with that - wrote to her several days ago, so will probably hear soon -

Can't see why psychology got your goat so - I never delved into it any - if its any help to you in figuring out folks, it would be a good idea to back into it again - How is the science business? Am pretty well up on English history for awhile - medicine will make reading for awhile - What sort of bed time stories does Scandalous read you? Ernest Hemingways?

Well - write when you can

Love
Daddy

Am enclosing V - to tide you over hash day - Know all about it for mine are

all hard days - my rations underwent a complete change for the last two months, - would greatly admire some beefsteak again - just on baby foods and soft stuff - and tea instead of coffee -

Dog Fur



Loose Item

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Jan. 19-30.

Dear Weary Frances -

Sunday night again, and this day has been an age long - a nice clear day, - if anyone had use for such, - but very cold, - and 16 below now.

I haven't been up the street for about three weeks, - drive for my calls and to the hospital, - no one in at all, today and the phone only rang once - am feeling good, but my rheumatic feet and right knee don't favor walking, and the cold doesn't favor them - will circulate when it chinooks

Went to Conrad by train again Thursday, - was a witness for about an hour and caught a freight home almost at once. I prefer a freight this weather, for you can straddle those caboose stoves and have them as hot as you want them -

The Major has been a pest, - lonesome, - gave him a good bath and combing, - trimmed his scraggly tail, - he feels he was abused and when I say "bath", he slinks away as far as he can get and looks like he was due for hanging. -

Yes the water wagon was not a factor in my illnesses - teeth pulling, rheumatics or Chicken pox, - but no apologies necessary

I just mention it, so that I won't appear hopeless. -

My peritonitis man is coming out of it, apparently - Doc is the same as ever and frets about the hospital, - Mrs Hepfler is going to California - Would you care for a good target pistol, - can trade that rifle for one, and I have no use for it or the rifle either, - Be sure and let me know, - you might get some practice on your Sunday walks. -

Must write to Becky - Will send you newspapers next week if that trial - due to finish tomorrow

Love Daddy

Enclose the "tail curl"

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

1/13/30.

Dear Mary Frances -

Am sorry I got in such a swat and wired you last night, - for your very nice letter came this morning, - and I am much elated - I need something to elate me, too, today, - dark, cold, snowing and my maw I operated yesterday is going out. -

Wed night -

Well - several things happened since I got this for. - My maw came out of it, - Daft and I started for Conrad in his car about 6 yesterday morning - the route a high wind overtook us - drifted the road shut, and we just had a hell of a time - much below zero - bones - shoveling walking etc. - now. - this is too much of this and I'm all through until warm weather and good roads. - my knees and ankles have flared up and can hardly get around - had a confinement come up shortly after I had got to bed. - kept the Wox and I until 9 this morning; - it was 28 below last night & windy - 18 below now & windy - think I'm too far north. -

The delay in cashing that check was a life saver for me - Ravis been much of a producer lately - Be sure and let me know when you do -

I don't intend this as an answer to your letter; will let you know about that trial - dem back there Friday.

Write often

Love
Daddy -

Am enclosing V - hoping it reaches you before Rock day.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Sunday - 1/12/30 -

Dear Mary Frances -

Am very worried about you - haven't heard anything, and I have been expecting to - Will take this to the station and think I'll wire you - Sure hope you are well, and getting along alright - There isn't very much to write about from here, - am feeling pretty good except in spots - have rheumatism and stiffened up like an old horse, - last Sunday night went on a call north of Galata, caught in a bad blizzard, - 20 below - 6 hours going 6 miles and then had to go afoot, - This is the only time I ~~have~~ ever was doubtful about making it, - froze knees, fingers and face, - but this will make good summer conversation - had used Tafts car, and started out in mine Tuesday, to shovel it out Just 2 miles east, hit an icy spot in the ~~road~~ road - Taft driving, - and upset clear over - dislocated my right shoulder and it looks from every angle, like a hard winter - Has been very cold, - 10 below now -

Things seem to be going alright otherwise, - have had three nasty operations in the last 3 days - and Woe is the busy person - The Major is fine - always lonesome and hungry - Had a statement from the school and think I banked enough money in time to meet that check, - Can't get to the Falls tomorrow as I planned - have to be in Conrad the 14th & 15th as a witness on a murder trial, - or retrial - to testify as to how the prisoner (now doing life) got his leg broke, - on this depends his future - think probably I told you something about it -

Have just a few minutes until train time, - wish I could see you, but no chance for quite awhile - Please write

Love

Daddy

1207-A

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED

DOMESTIC		CABLE	
TELEGRAM		FULL RATE	
DAY LETTER		DEFERRED	
NIGHT MESSAGE		CABLE LETTER	
NIGHT LETTER	X	WEEK END LETTER	

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT — J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

NO.	CASH OR CHG.
CHECK	
TIME FILED	

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Jan 12 19 30

To Mary Frances Cottam

Street and No.

Place Shelby Montana

Worry no letter please wire night letter how you are.

(Sig) Daddy.

Sender's address for reference

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

Sender's telephone number

Mary Frances Patton

ALL MESSAGES TAKEN BY THIS COMPANY ARE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

To guard against mistakes or delays, the sender of a message should order it repeated, that is, telegraphed back to the originating office for comparison. For this, one-half the unrepeated message rate is charged in addition. Unless otherwise indicated on its face, this is an unrepeated message and paid for as such, in consideration whereof it is agreed between the sender of the message and this company as follows:

1. The company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any message received for transmission at the unrepeated-message rate beyond the sum of five hundred dollars; nor for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any message received for transmission at the repeated-message rate beyond the sum of five thousand dollars, *unless specially valued;* nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in the working of its lines; nor for errors in cipher or obscure messages.
2. In any event the company shall not be liable for damages for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for the non-delivery, of any message, whether caused by the negligence of its servants or otherwise, beyond the sum of five thousand dollars, at which amount each message is deemed to be valued, unless a greater value is stated in writing by the sender thereof at the time the message is tendered for transmission, and unless the repeated-message rate is paid or agreed to be paid, and an additional charge equal to one-tenth of one percent of the amount by which such valuation shall exceed five thousand dollars.
3. The company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward this message over the lines of any other company when necessary to reach its destination.
4. Domestic messages and incoming cable messages will be delivered free within one-half mile of the company's office in towns of 5,000 population or less, and within one mile of such office in other cities or towns. Beyond these limits the company does not undertake to make delivery, but will, without liability, at the sender's request, as his agent and at his expense, endeavor to contract for him for such delivery at a reasonable price.
5. No responsibility attaches to this company concerning messages until the same are accepted at one of its transmitting offices; and if a message is sent to such office by one of the company's messengers, he acts for that purpose as the agent of the sender.
6. The company will not be liable for damages or statutory penalties in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the company for transmission.
7. It is agreed that in any action by the company to recover the tolls for any message or messages the prompt and correct transmission and delivery thereof shall be presumed, subject to rebuttal by competent evidence.
8. Special terms governing the transmission of messages according to their classes, as enumerated below, shall apply to messages in each of such respective classes in addition to all the foregoing terms.
9. No employee of the company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY
INCORPORATED
NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

CLASSES OF SERVICE

TELEGRAMS

A full-rate expedited service.

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Accepted up to 2:00 A.M. at reduced rates to be sent during the night and delivered not earlier than the morning of the ensuing business day.

Night Messages may at the option of the Telegraph Company be mailed at destination to the addressees, and the Company shall be deemed to have discharged its obligation in such cases with respect to delivery by mailing such night messages at destination, postage prepaid.

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A deferred day service at rates lower than the standard telegram rates as follows: One and one-half times the standard night letter rate for the transmission of 50 words or less and one-fifth of the initial rates for each additional 10 words or less.

SPECIAL TERMS APPLYING TO DAY LETTERS:

In further consideration of the reduced rate for this special Day Letter service, the following special terms in addition to those enumerated above are hereby agreed to:

A. Day Letters may be forwarded by the Telegraph Company as a deferred service and the transmission and delivery of such Day Letters is, in all respects, subordinate to the priority of transmission and delivery of regular telegrams.

B. This Day Letter is received subject to the express understanding and agreement that the Company does not undertake that a Day Letter shall be delivered on the day of its date absolutely, and at all events; but that the Company's obligation in this respect is subject to the condition that there shall remain sufficient time for the transmission and delivery of such Day Letter on the day of its date during regular office hours, subject to the priority of the transmission of regular telegrams under the conditions named above.

No employee of the Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

NIGHT LETTERS

Accepted up to 2:00 A.M. for delivery on the morning of the ensuing business day, at rates still lower than standard night message rates, as follows: The standard telegram rate for 10 words shall be charged for the transmission of 50 words or less, and one-fifth of such standard telegram rate for 10 words shall be charged for each additional 10 words or less.

SPECIAL TERMS APPLYING TO NIGHT LETTERS:

In further consideration of the reduced rates for this special Night Letter service, the following special terms in addition to those enumerated above are hereby agreed to:

Night Letters may at the option of the Telegraph Company be mailed at destination to the addressees, and the Company shall be deemed to have discharged its obligation in such cases with respect to delivery by mailing such Night Letters at destination, postage prepaid.

No employee of the Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

FULL RATE CABLES

An expedited service throughout. Code language permitted.

DEFERRED HALF-RATE CABLES

Half-rate messages are subject to being deferred in favor of full rate messages for not exceeding 24 hours. Must be in language of country of origin or of destination, or in French. This class of service is in effect with most European countries and with various other countries throughout the world. Full particulars supplied on application at any Western Union Office.

CABLE LETTERS

For plain-language communications. The language of the country of destination may be employed, if the Cable Letter service is in operation to that country. Subject to delivery at the convenience of the Company within 24 hours if telegraphic delivery is selected. Delivery by mail beyond London will be made if a full mailing address is given and the words "Post London" are written after the destination. Rate is approximately one-third of the full rate; minimum 20 words.

WEEK-END LETTERS

Similar to Cable Letters except that they are accepted up to midnight Saturday for delivery Monday morning, if telegraphic delivery is selected. Rate is approximately one-quarter of the full rate; minimum 20 words.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

1/3/30

Dear Mary Frances -

Time has been getting away from me pretty fast and I found out I would have to write you, or you would have no word from me at all, before you went back to school. - Don't know when your tuition is due or how much, so am enclosing a check that you may fill in for what it is. It will be very necessary that you write me at once when you cash it, for I am temporarily doing my banking business in "red ink", and don't want that, to come in without money in the bank. - I haven't been on the "payroll" for some time, and people have other uses for money at this time, and are not paying doctors very much - However, we plan on getting along - I am feeling pretty good again, but haven't got so very lucky yet. - I don't think I told you that I was afflicted with chickenpox, also, when I wrote you from Calgary - wouldn't that get you? Am not blemished very much - am getting so that the teeth are not the complete hell that they were, - am thoroughly weaned away from beefsteak as a food, - this soft stuff is alright if you get hungry enough, and it is only a short while until I am weaned from eggs, for all time to come - at first they got monotonous, then unappetizing, and now nauseating -

Christmas was quite a "dud" here, - went to see the Virginian Xmas eve, - came home and opened my presents, - to bed in Bucko pajamas, only to get a call to the field, - an almost impassable road, - had to go alone but made it without difficulty and got home at 8 A.M. - knew Xmas was about as eventful, except no show - was composing a letter to you the other day and was about to write

you that I was doing no country work anymore, when I got wedged into going 40 miles east to Lothair, and since then have had to go out every day.- We had a wonderful chinook that lasted for a week and got the roads open - last night it turned bitter cold, about zero with a wind direct from home, via, Banff - and its still that way - also had a letter from Bryant,- he didn't say what he was doing or planning,- would like to have some of such a life for awhile - Have a fellow came up from Lewistown for an operation in the morning - says everything is as dead there as in Hilger - only five clerks working in Powers store -

Had a tree for Maj. - some of the youngsters in, the afternoon before Christmas; Virginia Lee + Pauline were hostesses,- Maj had a big time - several new balls, candy bones etc.- New Years eve, I grabbed the shot gun and fired four quick ones - he tore out all around the alley to see if he could find anything I had knocked down - that was the birthday present he liked best, although he got a bath and a new 1930 dog license.- At present he is chasing his tail, and sneezing,- anything to attract my attention - there is some degenerate poisoning dogs and I am trying to keep him in sight all the time but the little devil scoots out every chance he gets,- This would be a slow world without him,- haven't played any cards,- the shows are all so rotten that I can only stand them for about 5 minutes - the radio is so noisy that it can't be used,- so do quite a bit of bed reading,- got strung out on English history - dont know how come, but it is interesting enough - the hospital is doing fair enough and Woe is having her usual quota of trouble,- I guess she threw quite a whing ding New Years eve,- went to the dance, and advertised - am going to find some gifts for the Shadels when I go to the Falls about the 12th - Am a witness on a murder trial in Conrad the 13th and it is going to be tough - will send you the newspapers about it, (if they're not too uncomplimentary) Will write to Beck tomorrow,- please write - will make many plans and build many air castles for next summer - Love

Daddy

(Dont forget to write me about that check)

THE MONTANA CORPORATION
CANADIAN HARDROCK OILS, LIMITED
HOMESTAKE OIL COMPANY

E.B. COOLIDGE, E.M.
425 FORD BLDG.
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

HARDROCK OIL COMPANY
MONTANA GAS CORPORATION
TREASURE STATE PIPE LINE CO.
CONSUMERS GAS COMPANY

January 2, 1930

Miss Mary Frances Cottom
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Friend Mary:

Thought you might appreciate a letter from someone who has attempted to keep out of all family controversies in the Cottom family. I have always considered it my duty not to interfere, as your mother has always been a very good friend of our family as well as myself, and your father has always been a very close friend of mine. Your father has had a hectic time during the past six weeks, having had all of his teeth removed, together with a great deal of worry and concern, almost got him down again. When I say got him down I mean all of that and more. I think that you girls, as well as your mother, should give him what encouragement you can, which is the only thing that will stimulate his earning power, which means the fulfilment of his obligation to his family and the upkeep of some eighteen thousand dollars life insurance which should be taken care of all the time and never should be let lapse as it would be impossible for him to get additional insurance.

Doc tells me that he has some eighteen thousand dollars and this will be of great benefit to you girls and mother at some future date. He would greatly appreciate your coming to Montana for a three or six months visit. It was my suggestion to him that you do come, but he insisted that you must finish your school year. I know that your father thinks a great deal of you two girls, and I really believe that if you were here with him for a time it would help him greatly.

You are a young lady and amply able to care for yourself, and can see conditions as conditions exist. Your father has ample space in his office so that you could have a room with him, and I think that you would be a great deal of company for him. At present, he is back on his feet and doing good, but we never know how soon he will fall off of the wagon, or whether or not we will be able to get him back on his feet again is always a question.

I wish that you would discuss this matter freely and frankly with your mother and as I see the picture, the best thing to do is not to harass him in any way, particularly with attorneys and threatening letters. Of course, we appreciate that he has an obligation to send money to his family which I feel sure that he will do if his earning power is not taken away from him. You know him as well as I do and know his temperament, therefore, things should be handled accordingly. If he does not send you the money as he has agreed, kindly drop me a line and I will see what can be done. He is starting off the New Year in find shape, but the latter part of 1929 was terrible.

Let me hear from you as you so see fit, and after discussing the matter with your mother, give me your viewpoint and that of your mother. Wishing you all the happy returns of the New Year, beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

EBC/MFC

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Tuesday. Oct 28-30.

Dear Leary Francis-

guess I had best write to you- havn't felt much like letter writing lately,- have felt blue,- and gloom is contagious - Was quite a socialite last week as long as my gorse lasted,- Dillon had his hanging out to freze and some good neighbor pilfered it,- so I eat pork instead. am sending you a photo,- it doesn't show any of the happy high spirits,- that morning was a lift tinies great events for that dog.- His sleep is still disturbed -

There isn't a bit of gossip or a new thing in Shelby - some folks are excited about the election, but aside from an office full of cards, inside and out, I am unconcerned - am sorry to hear about your friend in New York - her plans must not have worked out,- anyhow, from what I remember of what you told me, she wasn't very square or sincere - and that attitude won't go - even in New York -

Had a letter from Bess - it finally got cold enough for her overcoat.-

The prospects are not bright for seeing you Christmas, but I do want to,- a change is indicated too,- if it would help my state of mind, it might be a good investment -

Can't help expecting letters from you,- so write often - Love

Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Oct. 26 - 1930.

To whom it may concern:

This is to certify that Becky Cottom was successfully vaccinated (Smallpox) in august 1929. - and again Aug. 1930.

F. W. Cottom M. D.

[1930]

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Thu night. - Oct 23.

Dear Frances - Just finished a letter to Becky; with all the dirt. - Have been to goose dinners for the last three evenings; - Tafts, Cartneys, Cheadles, and tomorrow night at Dillons with the Walkers; - begin to almost wish that me and my dog wasn't so good. - Old Beck would enjoy this damn radio, - what little there is to it, besides static is sob tenors and saxophones; - I blame Hoover for that, too, - a mighty effort is being made to beat Walsh, and if it happens, I don't think I'll ever feel the same about Montana - Tom Stout seems to be going along good - This will probably reach you Monday - Last day - glad you found a food place worth while; - after this goose business is over, - the bill of fare will narrow around here quite a bit; - it already has, for the Maj. - he is on a Spratt cake diet and looking lean and fine - his lines are good - Your letter was post marked Oct 20 - 9 A.M. - and arrived here Oct 22 - 7 A.M. - think that is going some -

Sorry to hear that chemistry irks you so; - you will have to just bone it out, then; - and get it over with - it should be interesting enough - it can be -

I have the car all tuned up for a winter; - hitting on all of them; - no rattles; - no dents in the fenders; - and wants to go - the roads are muddy and terrible; - would have gone to the Falls today had they been decent. - Clifford has not been in; - probably for the same reason - He has Jim out there, and will keep him trapping this winter - hope so - nothing more new about Gold Butte -

Hope you write often - must get Maj out for air; - Love

Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Wed night - Oct 15 - 30

Dear Mary Frances -

Will try to get a letter to you before Sunday - Have been dreading the winter so; - and now it is here, - very cold, and stormy, with a blizzard on now, - saw a snow flake pass through, that was in Banff a few minutes ago. Forgot to send you a check for the school the other night, so enclose it now. - also one for a show. -

Nothing new here to interest you. - Angela burnt her eye ball yesterday, with a curling iron - Jim is still here, and yawns moans and groans as much as Youngman and old Joe, together - Maj. is lonesome but otherwise very fine. - Eats his food with relish and is very affectionate. - Had a letter from Becky. - She wants your hat, the white cloak. - found a sweater of hers also, and the jacket that Gay donated, - will get the whole outfit off to her soon. - Gay was married shortly after leaving here, - She didn't grieve about me long, did she? Anita is to go to another nursing school in Chicago. - Old Joe blew back in, day before yesterday, - very bad, and now, unreasonably, - may have to send him to Warm Springs. - Old Black Bertha is still running the Log Cabin and it is a hell of a place. -

Haven't had a chance to go to the Falls, but will try to go Friday would like to have Clifford along, but no chance to send him word now, and he will probably be snowed in anyway - There is much snow on Gold Butte, so I wont do much ranching until spring, - made a trip to Cumbust today; - took Maj. and he was very important. - Let me hear from you; - do you need clothes or anything? Love

Daddy.

You mentioned dancing in your other letter - if there is a chance of your learning like, I wish very much that you would. You will pooh pooh the suggestion, but you might consider it an order, - from me - it is an accomplishment that will not hurt you any, - many great and dignified people knew how to dance, and it is also a very old custom - there is quite a bit more that I could say, but I'm not going to say any more, - I'm a person of few words, etc. -

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Friday - evening. 10/10/30

Dear Mary Frances -

I sent you a night letter from the Falls, - came back yesterday morning; poor Clyde can hardly get around. - his legs "gig" back so far at the knees - almost a flail joint; - will try to get him rigged out with some sort of a brace. - He plans some of opening up a liggery in Sweet Grass. - anyplace will beat Lewistown -

The financial arrangement is very good. - am sending you a check for your next payment and let me know when you cash it. - I could have made the 300 as I had just been raising hell with collections and paying nothing; - I let my insurance lapse, and it made a lot of mental depression and sleepless nights. - It allowed me to get it paid and strung out again. - It just seemed that I never had such an out put and nothing to do it with. - Things look brighter now and will go along all right. -

That picture was from a roll that was left at the photo shop and never called for. - Had my enlargement framed - also found a roll that you had taken on your trip to Kandusky. Things are unusually quiet here. - snowy and rainy - dismal and lonesome - Maj. goes around about "nuts" - He is nicer than he was. - Brundage will probably move in with me tomorrow and will relieve some of the solitude. Gwen is doing good, but helpless with the collections, books and letters, but no worse than Loketta. - The office is spotless and would be quite a training for you in neatness. - another reason to "wish you were here" -

I have never used any Homestead rights, and Clifford Soole bought a ranch adjoining "Gold Butte". He learned that the four forty - 160 acres, that the town is on, is subject to entry and I am going to take it up. The town is in the center of the land, - was laid as mining claims which have long ago expired. I dont suppose I will ever prove up on it, but it will be something to will you, and you can do the proving up, or I can file it in your name now. It will not be of much value, but it is something to own a whole town, the name is on the map and you can "tell 'em" -

Sat afternoon -

got seriously interfered with - Have been fairly busy today - Went to a show last night that I enjoyed. Klondora - Carlings came in.

Weather dismal. snowy and rainy. - Will write to Beck tomorrow and send her the other pictures. Lalette was just in, - dont know what she is doing, but still has her man, but he is no asset. - Angela is working in the "beanery", evenings -

Just had a wire from Clyde - coming up Monday to locate in Sweet Grass. - Want to go to the Falls Tuesday and file on that land. - Will get you a horse and a calf next spring and start you in the stock business.

Love

Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

1930

Monday night. - Oct 6th

Dear Francis -

Had your letter and am just writing you a line tonight that you may know things are all right with me. - Haven't time for more. - Was very worried about the boys for he has been real sick but seems to be fine today - He put out quite a howl awhile ago at the curfew. -

No - you don't need Grays anatomy to study physiology, - and it is just such an unbalanced diet that I want you to correct. - am sending you an anatomy compend, that will go much further than your teachers knowledge, and plenty far for you. -

Soon. - cocoa and mail time -

Love.
Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Sunday night 9/28/30

Dear Mary Frances - Had your first letter this morning - was getting discouraged for it looked like another letterless winter from here - nothing has happened since I wrote you until today - Hunter left came in on No 1 - looking very fit - many new ideas, and an authority on almost everything - his only regret on the trip was that he figured that it was another full bottle I had put in his overcoat and only discovered his mistake, when he had left that whole troup back through the train, & buy all hands a drink - he cussed about the valet items etc, - they put some old lady next to him on the dining car that night, - he got her food all mixed up with his, and ate most of both, which was not so good - He thought it funny that everybody on the train was acquainted with him, the next morning -

Abe Joe came in yesterday morning - had to send for him, had a hectic night, between him and Blacky raising hell all night, - am very positive now that he has a simple hysteria. Have had another line up of "goofs"; that were getting my goat, - about like I had, before we went to Banff - so today, I loaded one from Sweet Grass in the car, - also Joe and Blacky and took them all home, - the solitude is tough enough, but I prefer it. - Then I went on to Youngmans and hunted about an hour, until my old heart got to roaring, - had a fine time, - two ducks, - two grouse and a pheasant. - You would have enjoyed that. - he is getting better all the time; we played out about the same time; - he hunted and found birds just as good as old Cap, - almost, - and liked it, - is sure full of T bones and all in, tonight, - glad to know you wasn't in Dutch and can make out alright, - hope you haven't saddled yourself with too much, for I am anxious to have your scholastic standing improve

That seems to be the basis on which Stanford women are picked To a very large degree: I find that regardless of the number of men there, - a limit of 500 is placed on the women, and only 12% of the applicants are entered, - I think we can make it and can plan on it, - its hard to make West Point too, but some people get there, even if it does take work -

Haven't heard from Buck - but I can imagine how busy she is, enjoying her book worm -

I have phoned Jack Walker to step down after he closes and clean game birds, - will probably be in time for a feed and will think of you - Hope you write as often as you can - Love

Daddy

Am enclosing some pictures that you can forward to Bud. -

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

1930?

Wed night - Sept 24

Dear Mary Frances -

Just a note so that you will hear from me before Sunday - am looking for a letter from some of you tomorrow - things are just the same as you left them, - only very much quieter; - rained and snowed for two days and no one around; - Dillons were just in and I relieved him of four bits; - no news of any kind. - Mr. Emory's funeral is at Sweet Grass in the morning. -

Hope you got along alright at the school. - am rather anxious to hear about it. - Hope you can stave off cashing that check for awhile, for the prospects are not good of getting it cashed at this end of the line, - Sure have plenty of other bills to meet right now too, and no one seems to be able to pay for anything -

The Major is very fine - and very lonesome - Have not found any of your letters, - only that English post card, - will put it away with the shoes. - am sending Becky her books tomorrow -

Now cocoa and mail time and its not so funny going over there alone: Love

Daddy

[1930]

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Monday morning - 9/22

Dear Mary Frances -

Was very much pleased at your thoughtfulness in sending me the telegram this morning; - you should be in Dayton by this time; - that is a lonesome long trip, but am sorry I couldn't go as far as St Paul with you, - another time and I will try to arrange it. - Yesterday was a long sad day here Olive's father died quite suddenly early yesterday morning and I felt that, - they are pretty fine people and friends of mine, - not so busy either and cleaning up the "souvenirs" etc wasn't so cheerful; - I am going to miss you a whole lot more than you think; last summer was the most pleasant time I have ever had. - I hope you went on to school as soon as you could, and that your lateness can be made up. - you are taking a definite course now, with a definite purpose and don't you think it would be very foolish for you to let anything else occupy your mind? You are to take all the recreation and exercise that you can, but bow your neck to make the most out of your school year, - what I think of getting you into a larger school, still goes, but your particular business at present is to surprise those folks there, with your ability to absorb what they can teach you. Guess these few words say what I think, and of course I could say more, etc, etc, but will leave that to your mature judgement and good common sense - Yes I saw you at the crossing, - thought that the safest plan for me to be

Went to the office and took out some tonsils - my "powerful Katrinka" fainted just at the wrong time, fell across that foot stool striking her shoulder and back and just about killed herself - had the same job this morning on the little Youngman girl and damned if she didn't faint again - Katrina showed up in town last night - phoned me then, but hasn't showed up here - She has some fellow with her, and a Ford coupe, so she is probably all fixed up for a hard winter, or will be, when I get her paid up. - Jack Walker moved down in your bed yesterday; felt improved, and has been up today, - nothing else new to interest you, except that I tried a new eating place, - down in the basement under the bank - it is an improvement, but nothing to excite you - its "grits only" - No news from Taft, although I looked all through the Chicago Tribune - am feeling much better tonight, and you have nothing to worry you, on my account - the poor major is sure a lost dog, - he pestered me yesterday afternoon until I took him for a ride and a run; he surely realized what it meant when he saw you get on the train -

I wish you would mention to Becky, that the radio and the phonograph have both had a complete rest - its too bad that poor kid has to have any duties or responsibilities, for she can have a better time than anybody I ever saw - We all got acquainted, anyway - Lots of love

Daddy

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Wed night 4/3/31

Dear Mary Frances:-

No letter again today and I am worried; afraid you might not be well;- if you haven't written I want you to wire me at once and let me know how you are. Nothing new here; except a little snow today;- Love

Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

June 3, 1931



Mary Frances Cottom.
Oxford.
Ohio.

Western College.

[1931]

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

June 2. - Ones night. -

Dear Dearly Francis. -

Have been anxiously looking for a letter from you, but just no use; - am afraid things are not so well with you; - all the more reason you should write - Had a letter from Becky yesterday - she is all set to come and Rasn't heard from you either - Have arranged for her to take some school work here, - if she wants to - can get several credits by curtailing her social activities etc. -

She announces a row for tennis, plans on taking it up. - I got a kick out of that; - for old lady Rawson is Pres. of the tennis club, - quit mags as well as "queen of the courts" - Alex Cartney has had the Calif. men put in a golf course, - each man has a hole to keep in condition; one to kill golfers (he is the busy one - 165 in two days) - He has been pestering me to come out; - so today had to go to Belmont - took Charlotte some borrowed clubs, - two balls; - came back by the East road where we practiced some; - am not so good; - that dirty dog. - I don't wonder much that you got bilious with him; - I Rollered, called, cussed until my throat is sore, and he lost the only small chance I had of Paradise. - He got hit once while standing in front; - never fazed him. -

There isn't much news and none world relating, - have been pretty busy; - had a full house for several weeks; - only one now - Baldy Smith - 83 years old, and 55 of them in Montana - you would like him. -

Hope you will write me when your school is out, - when you can come; - am anxious to see you - don't know whether Becky should wait for you or not, for it is pretty necessary for her to get here if she is to do her lessons -

Love
Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

May 19 - 1931. -

Dear Mary Frances -

I believe in omens and just saw the new moon over the proper shoulder - I would like to have things break my way a little better. - Was very pleased yesterday to get a fine picture of Becky. - Her school is out the 29th -, - wish you would let me know what she has planned - Was to the field today, - having hellish weather here cold, - snowed yesterday, - blizzarded all day and yesterday in the Park. - The wind and sand storms were a fright for several days before that. -

No news, except Mrs Rawson has "a career" - the stage - studying "tap dancing" - whatever the hell it is - does her stuff in a bathing suit, - I haven't got in on it, but Pinky says its great, -

Did Becky send you those pictures? - glad to know about the Swedish apple cake; - but I think I can find fault with everything I had to do with, that had anything Scandinavian, connected with it.

The food problem is serious here; The mess fixes breakfast for the patients, and I bring in on it, - a help for one meal a day - the bravery not so good, - and the rest are rotten, - Maj is fine, - now parades around with a jar of candy, - trying all hands, to get some one to open it. and give him a piece. -

Should hear from you tomorrow - let me know about Becky. - Will do day etc. Love

Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Sunday evening.
5/17/31.

Dear Mary Frances-

Read your letter this morning just a few minutes after sending you a wire; Our correspondence seems to overlap.- your other letter was four days in coming,- today's was postmarked the 15th and arrived in two days.-
Was to the falls Thursday- hasn't been so well.- neuritis in my arms.- dysentery for 2 weeks.- glasses didn't fit,- teeth not so good.- corns and an ingrown toe nail,- Sent Beck a dress and suppose she spent today being dolled up.- She wouldn't be, if Ben,- for the wind is a fright dust sifting in the windows,- coming from Banff, so have to keep the fires going.- Put in my garden on the 13th Jim & Mrs Wright were in last night, brought some pictures of your camp on two mediums,- am mailing them to Becky with instructions to forward them to you,- one, where you were sailing an early morning fire, I'm afraid wouldn't go very far, if you got it first.- Am anxious to know what we can hope to do this summer,- you will be out, and I want Becky,- would like to have it, as it was last summer,- it's almost too much to expect, though for we were very happy.- Wish you would write me when school is out, and what we can plan on,- and when- Will arrange for your Ford bug and turn you loose.- Hope Becky goes to see you.- Love Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Thu. - 5/7/31

Dear Mary Francis -

Havnt written you, for Ive been pretty much under the weather for the last month - Alex Carney & I went to Alhambra Springs near Helena for 9 days, - got along first rate, but cant move around very lively, - have had a dysentery for 4 days now, but there isnt any use telling you about it, - you couldnt stand it. - Becky wrote the mister several days ago, and I had a letter from her this morning, - she was quite elated, - her school is out May 29th she seemed to be uncertain about summer school I wish for her sit here, and I also wish she was through with high school, - I cant give her any advice, but I wish that you would. -

Dont know when your school is out, but want you to come out as soon as you care to, - things will not be so lively this summer, but you can find some sort of amusement, - Have all my beds full now, - one old character you would like - Baldy Smith, - an old Indian fighter, freighter etc, - is 83, and 55 years in Montana - I think I told you old Jimmy Lad died. - Had a letter from Bryant and Mrs Haderle had a paralysis, left her speechless, - she was to have come up here but Havnt heard from them for several days. - Things are very dull here and everyone is disspirited. - No rain for a long time and no water in the reservoirs, - things not so good for cattle and sheep. - ducks either -

I am enclosing check undated, - wish you would postpone presenting it until you have to, and then write me at once when you do, - also 5th and hope this reaches you Monday morning

in time to relieve the hash situation.-

Mildred and the nurse took the dog to the river the other day.- They have been taken to shooting and doing good at it.- Sending some pictures and you will see that the major is about as per usual.- also that the nurse shouldn't be very difficult to write to.- Bill Bell is here in town now and spends quite a bit of time here Amos and Andy is his specialty.- no very real news to tell- Taft is just the same.- Glad you liked your belated Easter gift.- Please write.- your plans.- about the check.- all the news.-

Love

Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Mar 31 - 21.

Dear Mary Frances.-
Just a few lines to wish you a nice Easter, - I had ordered a gift for you from that - Canadian - Hewson, so I course it will have to be a few days late. - Have no idea whether you will like it, but anyhow will advise you not to exhibit it too freely - Came home Sunday night, - things not so bad, and am feeling pretty good recpt for a neuritis: left shoulder, - Am glad Dr got it, for I don't think anyone else could stand it - Am wearing a harness to keep it quiet, and it rather cramps my style -
The Maj. hurt his back, - jumped from a car after a gopher. - He is a very old dog now. -
Hope you have a nice Easter - love
Daddy

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

2/24/31. - Tuesday.

Dear Mary Frances -

I wrote you yesterday but will again today to state that I haven't heard from you yet. - Nothing new but a little snow flurry last night but fine weather again today. - Just now the major and busted two gophers with the pistol, - Dem good, - and maj. thinks so too -

Have been quite busy today. - Haven't heard from Jimmy yet. -

Still smoke Nervads. - Love

Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

2/3 3/31.

Dear Frances -

Wish you would write or wire me what is wrong - for I dont understand why I dont hear something from you.

Things are going fairly well here. was down to the Falls Thursday. saw Coombs and he is surely bad off. Havnt heard anything more of Jimy but expect to, tomorrow - drove up to Many Glacier yesterday afternoon; fine weather and roads. saw many tracks and signs of mountain sheep. but didnt get to see the sheep. - Those mountains are unbelievably beautiful in winter on a sunny day - am fairly busy and patients in all the beds. - the air mattress finally went "phooey" - got so I had to arise and puff into it during the night, - then wouldnt hold air at all. think Ill give it to Beck this year. murad cigarettes still get the big play - am nonchalant, - and no longer have embarrassing moments.

Mrs Wright was in Saturday and I told her about the fish - Bought three big white fish at Kearys for $1.00 - I wasnt photographed either - how please write to me

Love

Daddy

Enclosed find 5.00 - to save a life. Last day.

Wed night. - 2/18/31

Dear Mary Frances -

Just a line to wonder what is wrong - Several letters from here are still unanswered. - Things are the same as ever here; - nothing new, except that I now smoke Murads; - you may tell Bucky I am nothing; - if not nonchalant. - Have been fairly busy lately; - am going to the Falls tomorrow - taking Jack Walker down for an operation, - another patient; - and also to meet Clyde Combs. - Will try to measure him up for some leg braces. - Ed & Mrs Coolidge were here this morning enroute to Calgary - Old Jimmy is very bad; - paralyzed, - in the Lewiston hospital; - unable to make himself understood -

Hope I hear from you soon; - also if anything you need or want. - Love

Daddy.

SHELBY, MONTANA, 2/18, 1931

MR. ~~MRS.~~ Miss M F Cottom

IN ACCOUNT WITH

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

You owe me one or more letters.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Tues Feb. 10 - 31

Dear Mary Frances -

Had a letter from Beck and it is very clear to me that she wished to impress me with her studiousness, it didn't register any more than yours - Am enclosing check for $100 undated and want you to write me when you present it - so that I know when to expect it at the bank. - I don't think I ever was so unprovisioned as I have been lately, but things are going better, - the nurse is quite a hand with the books and that is what I needed badly - She said she had written you, - she is quite a kid in some ways; very much like Becky, - you would like her, and I wish you would make her some answer -

Have been pretty busy lately, - have two pretty sick men in your room - pneumonia - lots of colds, flu scarlet fever, mumps, - no one seems to have any money though, so not much use in being too busy -

The weather has been like spring for so long, but just now began to rain a little - Buj is just the same and very affectionate; have been able to give him daily runs and preserve his figure - had thought some of borrowing some clubs and practicing driving golf, - he should enjoy that, and also benefit a little chasing balls. - had him out several times shooting gophers and he thought it swell -

Carneys are coming in tonight for the show "Min and Bill"

maybe it wont hurt me to laugh a little –

I think I told you about going to St Marys; that country is a wonderful sight now, - am going to ride over the mountains on the Empire Builder the first chance I get after a snow storm; my pass is good now on all trains west, - all except Empire Builder east.

I wish you would tell me something about Becky - I have an idea she might ask me about summer school, - will that graduate her next spring? Does she seem to want to do it? I am anxious to have her finish High school as soon as possible, - but not to go to summer school unless she wants to, - will want her to come out this summer again and you had better not make any other plans either - Do you plan on going to Western next year?

It has started snowing and I have some calls to make - Mrs Rawson got on my tail pretty hard a week or so ago, but I survived - Will now go see some sick before it storms

Write frequently Love

Daddy

Wed night 2/11

didnt get to mail this last night

Coolidge called up late and told me Jimmy had a "stroke" paralysis of arm & leg. - semi conscious etc and that they had phoned him that they had taken him to the Hosp. The Coolidges were driving to Lewistown today and was to have let me know but havnt heard from him as yet. - This will, or should better be, - a terminal illness.

Will write you as soon as I hear -

Be sure and date the check & write me.

Jan. 28, 1931

Dear Mary Frances:

This letter, no doubt, will be quite a surprise, but I have often thot of writing and had intended to do so long before now.

Doc probably has told you about his latest nurse & office girl so you know who I am and what I am doing. The work here is enjoyable because there are so many nice patients in and out and always something different wrong with them. I'm not very good at keeping books but I guess I can manage all right. There is very little typing to do and Doc doesn't care whether or not I do any typing at all as you see he is very easy to get along with and is wonderful to work for.

What course are you taking, Mary Frances? When you write me tell me about it and how you like it and school, or I should say College.

Have you seen the movietone "The Big Trail"? Mr. & Mrs. Walker and Doc and I went last nite. The scenery was beautiful but it was quite monotonous seeing those covered wagons so often.

There really is not a great deal of enjoyment here. it is such a small berg, so the only thing exciting is to see all the good shows and they do put on good pictures.

I have been staying here at the office all the time and usually have one or two patients to care for. Right now I have only one and I expect him to be leaving the second. He is no bother, able to get up and around and help himself so there is nothing for me to do except make his bed and order his meals.

Surely wish I had been here last summer when you and Becky were here. We would have had lots of fun together but I intend to stay here. The only way Doc can get rid of me is fire me and I don't think he could get along without me now.

no comment here is there? - well, I was only trying to joke so don't think I'm an egotist.

Your dad is certainly looking much better than he did two months ago and he feels so much better. I'm certainly glad of that.

Business is as good as can be expected. Not a great many accidents or emergencies which suits me fine.

I'll be expecting a note from you and I will try to write to Becky soon. Hope you are enjoying life a little.

Just a friend,
Charlotte Fournier

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Jan 26 - 1931.

Dear Mary Frances -

Thought I would get a chance to write to you yesterday but did not, - had a woman brought in from the field raise a ruckus all day until I got her started to Conrad in the evening, - felt the need of something different so went to the show - it was, - it was William Haines; and there should be a law - I couldn't leave either -

Tues Jan 27.

Will keep right on with this day by day. - Just came in from the country and the Major had a good long run - He has had one every day lately and is looking better, - he did look more like a shaggy pig, - also cleaned out the back of the car, - a lot of golf pegs and clay pidgeons.

The weather has been very mild and spring like, ever since the storm in Nov. - The thermometer was 60 early this morning. - no snow, - and it is reported that geese went over several days ago. - there is time yet for all kinds of winter, but it will not be so long anyhow -

Haven't heard from Becky for a long time, and I am afraid I am in a "jam" with her - I sent her a check for 20 and one day the bank called and told me I was overdrawn. - I phoned to Cheadle and to Hilliard, the cashier to fix it up for me, - instead they went to Chester and the next thing I knew was that a clerk had returned them, - I had the bank wire to stop them, and have heard nothing of that one, but the other to you for 185 came

back O.K. - and probably didn't cause you any embarressment. - I wish you could find out about it and send me a night letter collect. - together with your financial needs and what is due the school and when. Things are coming along better and I think I can take care of it, providing it isn't too much at one time - There isn't a great deal of business, - still have two patients here so it isn't lonesome. - Mrs Rawson and Mrs Gibson have been on me for several days. - the first, since you were here - "The Big Trail" is here tonight and I will try to see it. - Haven't been going anywhere, or seeing very many people, - don't bother much with the radio and don't seem to care to read - so that it is a quiet winter, - don't know what I would do if it was so stormy I couldn't be out and around. - Practiced with the pistol a little today and am still very good. - Taft is the same as ever and has a little Taft ordered. - Henson and the walkers are fine. - the cheadle kids have been coming down every afternoon. - Jean talked in her sleep the other night, "Doc. he say. - just kids" -

Have to get busy, so hope you will find out about Becky and that check. - and write often - love

Daddy


DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.
SHELBY, MONT.
JAN 27
6-PM
1931
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
2 CENTS
Mary Frances Cottom.
Oxford.
Ohio.
Western College.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Tuesday Jan 20-31

Dear Mary Frances-

Had your very nice letter, would you from the facts and David had much chance to write, but tonight will try to break the silence,- First I want to thank you for your very nice Xmas presents,- the brass set is on the table and very natural - glad you liked the watches - didn't get around to send you any birthday gifts, but that is one of your misfortunes to have birthdays so close to Xmas - Things seem to be going alright here,- feel quite cheerful at times,- even caught myself whistling the other night,- This morning however I glimpsed the new moon over the wrong shoulder and fear the worst,- The financial situation is about all my worry,- have got over being so lonely and depressed.

You mentioned how pretty Glacier Park would be now,- and I will mention that the same place came very near to being my finish, a week ago Sunday,- the weather has been so fine that I planned on driving up there on Sunday - Sat night about midnight had a call to go to Glacier Park Station - Put it off until Sunday - roads as fine as ever to Browning - filled up there with gas and was told to take the old road at the Y - I did and when I got up on the bump above lower Two Medicine found that a saddle horse couldn't get around,- completely exhausted myself trying to shovel out and had to walk the 7 miles,- crusted deep snow,- had to leave overcoat and overshoes to travel light and then almost froze,- when I got to Barrs place I was all in - Then my troubles were just beginning,- had to get all the boards in the

country to get the car down - gas cap wasn't put on and gas all sloshed out and no gas; other complications too numerous to mention - finally got started back the next morning with a guide and lost many times then - it is a fine sight but I couldn't spend any time enjoying it. The weather has been very mild, - no snow and thaws every day - am glad you think sometimes of last summer, - that is what I do best, for I am afraid to plan on the next. - Haven't heard from Becky, but suppose she is busy - Don't you keep the gun at school? and why don't you ever mention golf? - the course up there is just as bare as ever Joe Busch died just before Christmas, - I took him to the country but he couldn't get along, they brought him in to the county hosp. where he came under Williamson's care, - gave him all the morphine he could use - $85 worth in three weeks - and he just went out, - I didn't hear any more from the pompous London doctor - Don't know what happened to Blackie Mr. Winters, the reliable jeweler, was invited to leave town before it got dark - by the sheriff, - he went, - and Mrs Gill left the following day; - So that's that - Mrs Rawson was in for a urine examination; - was quite chagrined that I didn't find something very unusual and hasn't been back - Clifford Soole came back from Helena Sunday, - is trying to become a game warden - He is around here every time I look up, - is very infatuated with my nurse, and I guess it is alright, - She is sure a dandy, - a young Columbus nurse and she has been a life saver for me; - I let her have the West rooms and run it on her own account, she has been busy and done real well, - is very nice and sure a hustler - she and Becky would make a great pair, and you would like her

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

She said she would write to you sometime - Gwen went back East, - never did "click" just right, - LaVetta and Angela are both working in the Scenery, and I still do most of my eating there - the saxaphone player makes town quite fun, but stays out of sight mostly - he now has a small moustache that goes fine with the boots - Coolidge was to go to Washington to represent the Montana oil men, - went down to see him, and he started; but phoned me last night from the Falls, - don't know what happened to wireless him back. -

Was quite pleased that you would come out here - would like to see you and have you, but from all angles you are better off there, - want you to finish up, and forget this country school teaching business, - there is plenty of time left for that, and only a short time for school going. The financial part can be arranged, and you can really go to school for less money than it would take to live here. The major is just the same, - just finished his nightly bowl with the curfew, - he is fat, - and still hungry, - I run him several miles every day, but it doesn't do, -

I have had patients here right along, but they have all been very decent, and I've not been inconvenienced — When you talk about bring off shows and books, just let me include the radio, - this thing here just gives off a lot of silence this winter, - never can get anything but the beating of the tom toms, or some sap crooning - Becky would have the steam up on it, all the time, - I wish you would fog her up a little for not writing to me — Will close now, - let me know if you need anything, but write anyway - fun - Love Daddy

morose that he is about half off me. Dr Jackman took him out hunting so he will be better humored - Winter is with us - snow and looks like more -

Will close now and hope you write to me also that I am more cheerful next time I write to you

---

Later

Feel a little more cheerful already Just lined up an operation for tomorrow Also just bought you a Xmas gift - Please tell me all you can of Becky - am enclosing 10.00 - get some ice cream cones -

Love

Daddy

Sunday afternoon -

Dear Mary Frances -

I should have answered your fine letter a long while ago - I have not been feeling good enough - nothing much the matter but so depressed and despondent I haven't been able to do anything - made several trips to the Falls and was just as bad there; came back here Thursday but have not tried to do anything yet. - Dr Keenans clinic in the Falls gave me the once over and said there was nothing wrong, but wanted me to get away for awhile, and I guess that is correct, - I was probably nearer the end of my nervous string than I thought I was - I would like very much to come back to see you, but I cant afford it, and such a trip might not benefit - The work here has not been so much. - an oil field was opened near Conrad - 30 miles south of here and it has hurt a lot, - then the bad luck at the hospital, and the affair with Cotton and several other things have not

made things so profitable, but the expense goes on - My new doctor is very fine, and I would sure have been up against it without him -

Haven't heard from anybody at all since I last wrote you - or did I tell you I had a letter from your Uncle Pete - What do you know about how they are getting along? I surmised not so good -

Am glad you liked the iron - thought it might be useful, - anyhow quite an aid to you in your fighting - I found another little picture while in the falls I will send when I get it framed - it was a print of Russells in color I had not seen before - It is almost impossible to get those prints like they had on calendars etc any more the copyrights are held and evidently for more money than anyone is willing to pay - while in the falls the Como Art store burned out, - one of Russells pictures was there for packing and was destroyed "Indians attacking a freight outfit" - the copyright on it had been sold to a St Paul concern for $5000 and it was just to be used for reproductions.

so you can see what it pays to be an artist after you are dead - They haven't fixed up that memorial yet, but is supposed to be by next summer -

Was pleased to hear all you say about the school - it gets old and monotonous after awhile, - and some days it rains, but you are not to get discouraged - Shall I get you a formal gown for Christmas or do you need it now? I am in the air about something for Becky - Have some very fine beaver hides that I wanted to make into a cape - she could grow in it all she wanted to and then when she got through have a coat made; but find it can not be tanned and made for 3 or 4 months - so that's that - you are to suggest something for a tottering uncle - Got a fine book of short stories by Owen Wister - will send you when I get my Kaiser book back - what happened to it - Will you tell me what you know of the expiration dates of your magazines & Becky's - Geographic etc - I have lost all track Major is fine and tries to entertain, but have been so

Sat. Nov. 28 -

Dear Mary Frances, -

Just a few lines to tell you I am doing alright, - returning to Shelby tomorrow, and haven't heard from you - Hadn't felt good for quite awhile, - came here about 10 days ago, and that is plenty, - it has done me much good and wish I could stay another week - This is the old Indian baths of the Kanas tribe of the Flatheads, - they still control it - There is a hot spring, and another mud pool, - we will sure have to look it over next summer, - you can stay in either for 15 minutes and sweat enough so that you wont make any unnecessary moves for a day - The town however is not so hot, - all cheap cabins, etc, - carry water, - Kerosene lamps old fashioned out door toilet facilities - Hard work to get a newspaper, - no radio - It is the prettiest country though, I've ever seen and wish I could live here - it is about 50 miles west of Polson, and quite a bit the same sort of country -

Had quite a letter from Becky several days ago - her usual line - There isn't any other news except that Jeff has been taking care of the dog, & bird reported fine -

Will try to write you soon from Shelby - enclosing check & wish you would write me if you need more - Love

Daddy

Wish you would write something to the nurse -

MISSOULIAN LITHO., MISSOULA, MONT.

HOTEL Rainbow
ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF
FRANK G. HOFER, MANAGER
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

Mon - 1/14

Dear Mary Frances -

I have been quite sick again - feel fairly good and get up and around and then back to bed again - Dr Kernan was in Shelby and brought me down here several weeks ago - Was in the Columbus Hospital and moved down here as soon as possible - Am told it is just and old influenza with a bad condition not so good - as soon as possible, probably tomorrow I am going to try to get up to Bynum for awhile - I have not had any mail forwarded, but just found out that there was a "statement looking" sort of letter from Western College - I did not think a new semester was due until about the 20th - just sent you a wire and am enclosing a check which you can fill in for it but will be another day before I get that statement. I hope it has not put you in bad for I didn't know I hadn't heard from your negligee but will have it sent to you - would like to see it first -

I hope you are feeling good and getting along fine

Love
Daddy.

Form 1206-A

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED			
DOMESTIC		CABLE	
TELEGRAM		FULL RATE	
DAY LETTER		DEFERRED	
NIGHT MESSAGE		CABLE LETTER	
NIGHT LETTER		WEEK END LETTER	

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT — J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

NO.	CASH OR CHG.
CHECK	
TIME FILED	

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Drake Valley Mont.

Mary Frances Cottam

Returning from Bozeman- Mrs. Lunds funeral

Write tomorrow

F. W. Cottam

ALL MESSAGES TAKEN BY THIS COM[illegible]BJECT TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

To guard against mistakes or delays, the sender of a message should order it repeated, that is, telegraphed back to the originating office for comparison. For this, one-half the unrepeated message rate is charged in addition. Unless otherwise indicated on its face, this is an unrepeated message and paid for as such, in consideration whereof it is agreed between the sender of the message and this company as follows:

1. The company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any message received for transmission at the unrepeated-message rate beyond the sum of five hundred dollars; nor for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any message received for transmission at the repeated-message rate beyond the sum of five thousand dollars, *unless specially valued;* nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in the working of its lines; nor for errors in cipher or obscure messages.

2. In any event the company shall not be liable for damages for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for the non-delivery, of any message, whether caused by the negligence of its servants or otherwise, beyond the sum of five thousand dollars, at which amount each message is deemed to be valued, unless a greater value is stated in writing by the sender thereof at the time the message is tendered for transmission, and unless the repeated-message rate is paid or agreed to be paid, and an additional charge equal to one-tenth of one percent of the amount by which such valuation shall exceed five thousand dollars.

3. The company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward this message over the lines of any other company when necessary to reach its destination.

4. Domestic messages and incoming cable messages will be delivered free within one-half mile of the company's office in towns of 5,000 population or less, and within one mile of such office in other cities or towns. Beyond these limits the company does not undertake to make delivery, but will, without liability, at the sender's request, as his agent and at his expense, endeavor to contract for him for such delivery at a reasonable price.

5. No responsibility attaches to this company concerning messages until the same are accepted at one of its transmitting offices; and if a message is sent to such office by one of the company's messengers, he acts for that purpose as the agent of the sender.

6. The company will not be liable for damages or statutory penalties in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the company for transmission.

7. It is agreed that in any action by the company to recover the tolls for any message or messages the prompt and correct transmission and delivery thereof shall be presumed, subject to rebuttal by competent evidence.

8. Special terms governing the transmission of messages according to their classes, as enumerated below, shall apply to messages in each of such respective classes in addition to all the foregoing terms.

9. No employee of the company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY
INCORPORATED
NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

CLASSES OF SERVICE

TELEGRAMS

A full-rate expedited service.

NIGHT MESSAGES

Accepted up to 2:00 A.M. at reduced rates to be sent during the night and delivered not earlier than the morning of the ensuing business day.

Night Messages may at the option of the Telegraph Company be mailed at destination to the addressees, and the Company shall be deemed to have discharged its obligation in such cases with respect to delivery by mailing such night messages at destination, postage prepaid.

DAY LETTERS

A deferred day service at rates lower than the standard telegram rates as follows: One and one-half times the standard night letter rate for the transmission of 50 words or less and one-fifth of the initial rates for each additional 10 words or less.

SPECIAL TERMS APPLYING TO DAY LETTERS:

In further consideration of the reduced rate for this special Day Letter service, the following special terms in addition to those enumerated above are hereby agreed to:

A. Day Letters may be forwarded by the Telegraph Company as a deferred service and the transmission and delivery of such Day Letters is, in all respects, subordinate to the priority of transmission and delivery of regular telegrams.

B. Day Letters shall be written in plain English. Code language is not permissible.

C. This Day Letter is received subject to the express understanding and agreement that the Company does not undertake that a Day Letter shall be delivered on the day of its date absolutely, and at all events; but that the Company's obligation in this respect is subject to the condition that there shall remain sufficient time for the transmission and delivery of such Day Letter on the day of its date during regular office hours, subject to the priority of the transmission of regular telegrams under the conditions named above.

No employee of the Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

NIGHT LETTERS

Accepted up to 2:00 A.M. for delivery on the morning of the ensuing business day, at rates still lower than standard night message rates, as follows: The standard telegram rate for 10 words shall be charged for the transmission of 50 words or less, and one-fifth of such standard telegram rate for 10 words shall be charged for each additional 10 words or less.

SPECIAL TERMS APPLYING TO NIGHT LETTERS:

In further consideration of the reduced rates for this special Night Letter service, the following special terms in addition to those enumerated above are hereby agreed to:

A. Night Letters may at the option of the Telegraph Company be mailed at destination to the addressees, and the Company shall be deemed to have discharged its obligation in such cases with respect to delivery by mailing such Night Letters at destination, postage prepaid.

B. Night Letters shall be written in plain English. Code language is not permissible.

No employee of the Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

FULL RATE CABLES

An expedited service throughout. Code language permitted.

DEFERRED HALF-RATE CABLES

Half-rate messages are subject to being deferred in favor of full rate messages for not exceeding 24 hours. Must be in language of country of origin or of destination, or in French. This class of service is in effect with most European countries and with various other countries throughout the world. Full particulars supplied on application at any Western Union Office.

CABLE LETTERS

For plain-language communications. The language of the country of destination may be employed, if the Cable Letter service is in operation to that country. Subject to delivery at the convenience of the Company within 24 hours if telegraphic delivery is selected. Delivery by mail beyond London will be made if a full mailing address is given and the words "Post London" are written after the destination. Rate is approximately one-third of the full rate; minimum 20 words.

WEEK-END LETTERS

Similar to Cable Letters except that they are accepted up to midnight Saturday for delivery Monday morning, if telegraphic delivery is selected. Rate is approximately one-quarter of the full rate; minimum 20 words.

702 M



Holiday Greeting

by

WESTERN UNION

CA162 24 NL=SHELBY MONT=

MARY FRANCES COTTOM=
2257 RAVENSWOOD AVE DAYTON OHIO=

WIRE RECEIVED WHICH MAKES MY CHRISTMAS MERRIER AM FEELING BETTER ANXIOUSLY WAITING YOUR LETTER HOPE YOU ARE FINE AND HAVE A HAPPY TIME LOVE=

DADDY.

FEBRUARY 14

ME~N~U



are VALENTINES

For Frances:
With heaps of love.



I'll be in the
SOUP
if you
DESSERT me!



Your Uncle
Levin.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

April. 6 - noon.

Dear Mary Frances.-

Just received your nice letter and will answer right away,- it took four days for your letter to come.- the train service is all shot, for mail service to Shelby.- #1 carries no mail and it makes some mail a day or so late - Wish you had told me about your tuition, and anyhow its not to worry you. Am enclosing check for $100. and will send the balance in a week,- could send it now but dont like to overdraw the bank account on some of these promises to pay. will wire you and hope it doesnt embarass you.- Had a nice enough Easter but pretty lonesome.- took the rifle and the boy, to the river, and he enjoyed himself,- had dinner with Rhodes.- Dillons have moved to Calgary,- alex Carruny is sick, and the Calif. C. boarding House is closed,- the food problem is getting monotonous,- the nurse fixes breakfast here, when she has any patients, and it helps in starting the day.- She is sure a hand.

Dont believe I would get asagitated right now, about a job We can talk it over and know more about it this summer.- Had a letter from Gert,- Clyde is bad,- she wants work,- inquired whether you were coming out and planning a camping trip at glacier,- looked over the camping outfit the other day and it seems to be O.K.- Had to buy another tent,- for old Jim,- I can now have some privacy if we go places.-

Just rounded up Hudson and will send your Easter gift soon Am feeling very well; getting along alright, and hope you will be able to stop worrying about things.- write real often- Love

Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Mon - May 13 -

Dear Mary Frances -
Your very nice letter rec'd. - have much to tell you and no time to do it in - Was never so "tuckered" as I was last night on my return from a trip to Lewistown; and have had a hectic day. -
Had an S.O.S. from Andy Mace Thu. saying he had found his brother Geo in Belt. very sick and had taken him to the ranch. - Would I come over etc. - Got Geo Bell to go with me and left Sat afternoon and got home at midnight, about 30 hours of driving; - The Maces are very fine and plan on seeing them again Thursday. am getting Geo in to the hospital in the Falls. - think he has an incurable addominal growth, but will try to fix him up - Phoned Della Bryant and they are o and will probably visit me soon. - Joe Manos, Clyde Combs complete the list of familiars - Am sending you a check & wish you could get to Becky's ceremony - Will try to send something; and to Gwen, - for I imagine she will be in on it.
Will write you more later, when things go better and I get me some sleep.

Love
Daddy

also saw Jimmy & he is fine.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Apr. 6- Sat P.M.-

Dear Mary Francis-

Have expected to hear from you but suppose your vacation did not give you much time-

Glad to hear you made your credits - Also that the place there looks good. - The country has shown very little signs of spring, except that the wild ducks and geese flew in - night before last. I was caught in about the worst blizzard of my experience - it lasted about 36 hours and the place has a very wintery look. - It quit this morning and the sun came out, so that it wont last very long - am enclosing a clipping of Master Bryants. - 110 inches is some taller than you are -

Have built much new fence, - made my garden and am going to have quite a place - it is about 50 feet square, and was a hideous place; have it fenced, fertilized, plowed and earthed water connected, root, - seed bought etc; am going to be a dry land farmer. - believe that will be better recreation than golf -

Just had a contribution sent you from the drug store, - a coffee outfit etc. - Hope you dont go too heavy on it; - get in a jam with the provost and "canned". - you will have to settle your own cream and sugar -

None of my women have been forthcoming, but it cant be long. Wish you would tell me when you would prefer me to come East if any; - can spare a few days this month better than later - Hope you are enjoying yourself and getting along. enclosing $10 -

Love
Daddy.

answered A. 15

long afternoon
reading
mamma
Easter pres's.
Gwendolyn
trip - June 7 - Dayton
weather - Pop -
coffee -
Easter
close - us -

Monday night 12/17

Dear Mary Francis -

And again - many things
have happened - I posted my last letter to you
at the hotel on my way to the field - got in
about midnight and wasn't long then in
developing a first class case of "flu" - This
completely flattens a gentleman - had to get
up bad to take care of a new arrival, also
several bad accident cases - am still quite
peples

Had a short newsless letter from Becky
today - the first for a long time - suppose you
will be leaving there Saturday - will write you
so you will get a letter in Dayton - would
sure like to be there but there isn't a chance
Christmas will be a dismal one for me, but
I hope Becky will enjoy it - am sending a
box tomorrow by Great Northern Express - if
they don't make deliveries out there you might
arrange to get it Monday - am enclosing
sladels prints in your box - hope they
will like them, and that Gwen hasn't got
a camera - should she have will you return
it to me & I can exchange it for something
else - Tell me about your Christmas all

Love Daddy

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Oct 23 - Wed eve. -

Dear Frances - Want you to get a line from me before Sunday, for I know you wont write to me otherwise - I havn't felt much like writing to anyone, - Have been tired, worried & discouraged. Things are going very good, but I have been too busy to feel very cheerful - I have the Log Cabin Hotel going, been full since starting, and I taking the overflow in the Office - Doc is just a shadow - the Log. up street pulled up stakes the other night very suddenly and moved to Kevin - doctor and all, - without mentioning it to the landlord; - so we will now see what we will see - I had two bad accidents - one a man named Frank Williams from Ruvistown was driving in from Kilmont - going all he could; - went through the fence in that little turn in the road around that reservoir, - 7 miles north, - he was all caved in and lived several days. - Then night before last a car struck towards Conrad - Dr Davis from Ruvistown and a Mr Mady from the Falls were badly injured - took them to the falls on the night train; making another sleepless night - Went hunting last Sat; - up north of Browning, but will make that story in another letter - got nothing whatever, except five of the finest trout I ever saw; - I bought from an Indian for a dollar - Picked out our next summers camp on St Marys Lake -

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

I have been quite disheartened lately - your mother wrote me in detail of our trouble, then can be but one motive for that, and the results were excellent -

Major has been sick all day - dont know what ails him, but am worried -

The weather has been perfect for the last month - Had your friend Powers from Kilmore in the hospital but he is better now & at home - Stenson is fine and along on the hunting trip - he also got no feathers - Mina was here today - will write you soon again, - Bernice's father is in the hosp. - and dont expect him to live -

Love
Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Monday evening. - Oct 30 -

Dear Mary Frances -

Did not get "time" to write to you yesterday as I had some unfinished hunting to do - The weather has been very cold and snowy and the northern ducks and geese were flying. - went to the river below Devon (where Jim was, and where the car run away from us last year) - didn't do any good there, so came back South of Dunkirk - Taft got two big geese, and I got some good ducks - Gro Fallon stayed with me last night and we pulled out at 5 this morning - I got 3 geese, - one big arctic white one — somebody had shot them last night and couldn't get them out of the river, so Maj. lured a whole life time in a very short while; - he was sure busy and excited in that icy water, - to make it a matter of record, had my picture took, - "wished you were here" - sent one (gone) to Cartneys, - one to Dillons and one to the big Customs Officer, - may be invited out to eat. - Clifford Poole was in Saturday and my "sky ranch" is still there, - we were going to the Falls tomorrow and file on it but there has been so much snow that I'm afraid he won't get in. - will file on it for myself, as my time in the army will take the place of the 3 years required residence, and I can probably get away without any. - all the improvements necessary are made, - the buildings that are there can not be moved, but will let them stay and be used as they are, giving them a 5 or 10 years lease on the land -

There is some fine land back of it towards the Butte that can probably be filed on as a "stone and timber" claim.

Glad to hear that Becky is sprucing up. - she hasn't made any dancing arrangements yet, - Mrs Rawson hasn't been seen, or heard of, around here, - so no inquiry about "my little daughter" - although Mrs Martin came in one day with the water man, - no one "inquires" for her either -

Gwen is doing first rate - varnished the floors, - the place is sure kept clean and neat. - I would like to inspect that room of yours, some odd moment. -

Babetta was in this afternoon, but didn't get to delve into her love affairs. - old Joe is getting much worse, - had to turn him over to the county and to Williamson as the county doctor - think his condition will now be progressive. -

Dings are very quiet and lonesome, - Lucy is a God send for company. - he gets very lonesome, too - The radio is only fit to cuss, - no news of interest. - What can you, or will you do about learning to dance?

Write as often as you can. Love

Daddy

Irvin S. Cobb Pays Tribute to Memory of Charley Russell

(Continue From Page One)

of the two figures most amply qualified to represent the state of Montana in our national hall of fame at our national capitol, I should choose, not some strutting political leader whose very name like his personality and his policies and his state craft, if any, will by succeeding generations inevitably be forgotten; neither some captain of industry however brilliant his developing touch might have been, since any human institution is but the lengthened shadow of some individual just as the individual very often is but the overgrown child of the institution; nor yet some military commander whose record was written with the blood of dead soldiers and whose repute most surely would turn to dust as the bones of those dead likewise become dust—no, none of these would I choose.

One of my choices would be the statue of one of those heroic pathfinders who hacked a future commonwealth out of a ramping wilderness and made a road for the white man's civilization to follow over, and sowed the seeds for the fruitage which is today yours and which hereafter will be your children's and your children's children's. And for my other choice I'd take the homely shape of dear Charley Russell—not that he needs any monument to perpetuate his greatness, because he fashioned his own monuments; monuments which will forever testify to his skill and forever will perpetuate the romantic splendors of Montana's bygone days—but because in thus honoring his memory you would be honoring that son of yours who was most original of any, most creative of any, most versatile of any, most typical of any and, I claim, most lovable of any; and because you would be honoring that immortal part of you which was and is the best of you and because you would be honoring yourselves.

And if there were but one statue to be set up instead of two, if one niche were to be left vacant until a form worthy to fill it had arisen against the Montana skyline, I would still cast my vote for Charley Russell, Montana's old master, because I tell you the mold out of which he came has by the hand of the Great Potter been broken and we shall not soon look upon his like again.

Page 4

Cent. Montana

T. HUMPHREY FUNERAL AT HILGER TODAY

Pioneer of Central Montana and Lewistown Succumbed to Flu

Special to The Tribune.

LEWISTOWN, Oct. 18.—Funeral services for Thomas W. Humphrey, who for many years had been a resident of Hilger and who died unexpectedly at Chicago Tuesday morning while visiting at the home of his son, James Humphrey, will be held at Hilger Sunday. Mr. Humphrey had been in poor health for several months, the after effects of the flu, but was thought to be on the road to recovery when he left for Chicago to spend several weeks at the home of his son. A sudden heart attack Tuesday morning resulted in death.

Mr. Humphrey was born in Ontario, Canada, 63 years ago and had been a resident of Montana since 1887 and of Lewistown since 1902. For many years he had been agent for the Milwaukee at Hilger. He is survived by Mrs. Humphrey, a daughter, Esther, and a son and grandson, James and James, Jr., respectively.

Irvin S. Cobb Pays Tribute to Memory of Charley Russell

By IRVIN S. COBB

Because I valued his friendship as one of the biggest things that ever came into my life and because his memory to me will always be a most dear and precious treasure, it is difficult to write of Charley Russell without over-indulging myself in superlatives.

Now that he is dead, the world is finding out what some had found out while he was alive—namely, that Charley Russell was one of the creative craftsmen of his race and times, and certainly was the aptest delineator of the most dramatic, the most picturesque—and also, the most entirely vanished phases of American-ism that our country, since the Civil war, has produced. Suppose there should come up a man of his genius and his scope of power; a man with an eye like his to see and appraise, and hand like his to fix color and background upon canvas with paints or build into the enduring bronze authentic figure of beast or man—which isn't probable because no state within a century is likely to produce two Charley Russells. That man would fall short, seeing that still the scene has changed; that the old west has become the new west; that the range riders, the red warriors, the brutes and the settings drawn by Charley's brush and set into the modeler's clay by Charley's fingers, either have gone altogether or very soon will altogether be gone. Or the spirit of the man, the essence of him, the soul of him, I could write a book and yet not say the half of what I'd like to say. A keen but gentle philosophy; a gorgeous dartling wit which tickled but never stung; a charity for all mankind which was deep as the Montana basins he loved and as broad as the Montana plains he had ridden; a keenness of mental vision which enabled him to look past the surface of things to the true inwardness of things; a memory for storing up the folk-lore, the humor and the tragedy of bygone days in cowtown or bunkhouse or mining camp; and with this an ability to so deftly and so accurately describe it all—stage, actors, language and plot—that, listening to his story telling, you realized that here also was a supreme word painter; and you marveled that one man could possess in such degree two gifts, so closely related and yet so wide apart; a lover of natural things and of genuine things; a lover of friendships and of children and of horses and dogs—yes, and under dogs; a genius whose culture came not of books but out of the heart of a born gentleman; a man who could be proud of his talent without being conceited over it; a creature as free from guile, vanity, selfishness and affectation as any I ever knew. That was your Charley Russell, and if my affection qualifies me to claim a share in the great heritage, my Charley Russell.

If I were charged with the choosing

(Continued on Page Six)

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Thu - Thanksgiving Eve, -

Dear Frances -

Was very glad to get a letter from you this morning; - a bright spot in a cheerless day - also a card signed by Becky and all the Stadels -

Yes, - go ahead with that check; - but let me know when you present any of the larger ones - am sorry you didn't get home today, for it must have been dreary for you, too - I went up to Walkers for a nice dinner; - they took care of Maj while I was away. He, at least, enjoyed himself - He is just the same, but is so lonesome he doesn't know what to do with himself - I am feeling first rate, but very depressed and blue and so weak and dizzy I can't do so much - have a new office girl, a young Columbus Hosp. nurse that is quite a bit more of a help, in that way, - she flops her coat and things in the nearest chair, too, - (too - I said) - Gwen is debating with herself, day and night, whether or not to marry a young attorney - his name - I don't think he knows anything about it yet - Haven't felt like reading; - have few visitors, and outside of two trips a day to the bakery haven't been any place, so my gossip wouldn't amount to much. - Clifford Cole is staying with me, and working in the drug store - Must get this to the hotel for the mail, - the taxi drivers have all changed so that I hardly know them anymore, - only that the Oriental almost ran over me at noon yesterday, and the Empire Builder goes East about 9:30 at night -

Hope you write Flem - Love

Daddy

[1930?]

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Tuesday Afternoon

Dear Francis,

Was happy to hear that you reached your destination safely. Really you have no idea how lonesome it is around here without you girls. And poor Mage he is simply lost, walkes around like he lost a life long friend.

Francis I do not know what to write, haven't anything interesting to transcribe to you, could write about the wheather but to-day it is most disagreable, raining and snowing and the wind is singing unpleasant tones.

I think your daddy is lonesome too, of course he has not said so, but I can tell. I suppose you are such a busy girl preparing for school, so sorry you could not go home before you started school, wish you had stayed here and attended

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

school I could have had the chance to see you, but possibly you will benefit more bye going to the Western College.

Francis, will you write and tell me all about yourself and your work I shall be glad to hear, I did not find that letter you asked me to send you if I do I shall be more than happy to send it.

Lovingly,
Gwendalyn Lancaster