DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

Dec. 19 - 1926 -

My Dear Becky -

It is Christmas again and I hope you have a merry one - This place is almost too far north to do much business with Santa Claus, and I have not been able to go to Great Falls, which is the nearest town. I wish very much that I could give you something nice; pull another tooth or something - I'm afraid your recollection of that Christmas is not right clear, but I remember it as the nicest I ever had. I will of necessity, have to send you some money, and wish you would buy yourself my gift, and try to believe that I gave it to you with my best wishes. - I sent you a package which is a sample only of what the place affords - Also sent for Rife and Child Rife for you, - I will think of you very much and I would like to know that you have been happy -

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

There isn't so very much to write about to you-Bucky - I like it here pretty well and am feeling right good again - This place is quite prosperous and I am doing pretty well for a newcomer - I found out from the weather that I was back in Montana for it has been cold, and a storm every second day -

I have a nice dog that I certainly wish you could be with for awhile - I think I told you about my old pointer Steve getting shot. - I felt pretty bad about that, and thought I would never own another dog - When I came up here, it was pretty lonesome and I got an Irish setter pup who only lived for awhile, - got sick with distemper, - then a fellow gave me a fine English setter about eight months old, and he is quite a picture of Jock - I call him Jock too and it is almost too soon to tell what he will amount to - He is pretty well behaved though, and should be fine, - He will be

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

much larger than old Jack — Poor Bryant felt mighty bad when he died — I got a gun for him that he always wanted, and am sending it to him for Christmas - He had been pretty sick again and had to have another operation —

I can't think of any nicer present than a letter from you - telling me about yourself and your Christmas. - Book - Becky —

With love
Daddy.

June 29-26 -

My Dear Becky -

I sure felt mighty foolish yesterday after I had mailed your letter, and several hours after the daily mail had left, I had come back to the office to find that I had forgotten to enclose that money - I'm very sorry and you might think I tried to play josh with you but I'm very sorry about it - Hope I didn't disappoint you too much -

With love

Daddy -

June 24 - 1926

Dear Becky - I was mighty pleased to get your fine letter - I guess it was the nicest letter I ever had - No - I dont remember of any birthday cake with candles, but I was very happy about the neckties and handkerchief - I dressed all up, and everybody told me how pretty I was - Even old Steve was satisfied - You ought to get acquainted with Lion, Becky, for he sure is a freak - I laughed at Lion last night until I got sick, - He is the worst pig, to eat, I ever saw, and I had fed Lion some bones on the landing (of the second story) back of the office - he got so excited eating, that he backed off, - fell on the roof of the building below - and then to the ground. He had a bone in his mouth, which he never dropped and just came hustling back, - I dont believe he lost a swallow - I had Lion swimming today, and then on the way home, he lays himself down, and rolls in a pool of this thick black oil - I ought to kill him - I'm afraid you're going to be like the "old woman who lived in the shoe" - with all those dolls - would sure like to sneak up on your play house some day - and "Book - Becky" - I guess you had not

what he was loaded with; and he said 30 quarts - then clyde pretty near killed himself for sure, getting out of that car - gertrude is fine and living in Casper - she went through the business school but isn't doing anything as yet. -

Coolidge was down last week and his folks are very fine - Oustie has grown a lot, and getting better looking - Donny is quite a boy - goes to school, and goes in high, all the time - Anna is going east to school this fall - they are in maiden with Jimmy but I didn't inquire how the Ku Klux were coming along - I'll let you've forgotten the "words", and couldn't get in -

Was glad to hear about your trip to "Cin" - that talk about one way streets sounds funny to me, because traffic cops out here, are worries we don't have - and there's plenty of room, but it is pretty much cluttered up with sage brush which makes the going rough - The weather has turned out hot, but the nights are still cold, - had Steve out on some young sage chickens yesterday, - he did pretty good for such a hot day - they will be big enough to shoot pretty quick - I will close for today, - hope you liked the squaw, - what have you christened her? - then the papoose will need naming, too - there have been a lot of Indians through here, for several weeks going to the celebration at the Custer Battlefield, - there sure travel in all

recieved the package I sent you, with the squaw and the papoose - and the book. I thought maybe you would like them - I don't think they are the kind that you undress - About the book - I haven't any idea of what you might like to read, but took a chance, that you were not too far advanced to read it - things are going pretty good now, out here, - this is just a new little town, right in the oil field, and you can hear them drilling and pumping all hours of the day and night. It isn't such a bad place to live now, either, - except no bath tubs, - but there is a big natatorium close here, - a pool 100 feet by 60 - and it is as fine as can be; hot spring water - They have all sorts of contrivances to swim with, horses, pigs, etc - pneumatic -

Clyde has his dirt moving outfit at Lavoye - working on the highway to Casper. - He is pretty good again, and like his old self - He was over this morning for quite a visit - I laughed at him telling about a wreck he had. - He drives a Ford roadster, and with his blind eye and gimpy legs, he said off the road during in a hard rainstorm, and it upset on him. - In about a half hour some stranger got him out, and was driving him to town, when clyde got to looking around a bit, and saw he was riding on a "soup wagon" - one of these fast affairs they use for hauling nitro glycerin, for well shooting, - he asked the fellow.

sorts of outfits - from scrawny ponies to Pierce Arrow Sedans - no matter what the conveyance, it is still loaded down with dogs — did you care for those Smoky stories - I know that James quite well - he has two brothers him - a chiropractor, and a gambler -

What are you doing the 4 - 24½ are you allowed to have fire crackers there ? - They are having a rodeo here - that seems to be the standard form of entertainment in this country -

am enclosing you $10 - so you can get yourself a Roman candles — and a Pinwheel -

With love

Daddy.

Please write often —

[1927]

HARDROCK OIL CO.

W. J. JOHNSON, PRESIDENT
E. B. COOLIDGE, VICE-PRESIDENT
A. D. BECKER, SEC'Y AND TREASURER

425 FORD BUILDING
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

DONALD CAMPBELL, GENERAL COUNSEL
E. J. HUBBERT, GAS ENGINEERING
P. L. EDDY, PRODUCTION
R. L. COOK, GENERAL FIELD SUPERINTENDENT

Dec. 28 –

Dear Becky –

Just a hasty line to thank you for the Christmas presents and report that I had a nice time. – The shirt is fine and doing its duty now – came down here today on the train, and that sort of travel doesn't suit me. – Everything is going fine and I am feeling good – my leg began to improve as soon as I had arranged to have it fixed. – am using a support and think it will be alright – Major had a wonderful Christmas, – two new balls, – collar – a 1928 dog license not quite a few bones and a sock full of candy –

I appreciated those pictures more than I can tell – was not prepared for the one of Mary Frances –

I wanted to get you a birthday gift, – but believe I had better let you do it. – am enclosing a $\overline{X}$ bill that you will use up for the purpose; and please tell me what you got –

Hope you had a lot of fun

With love

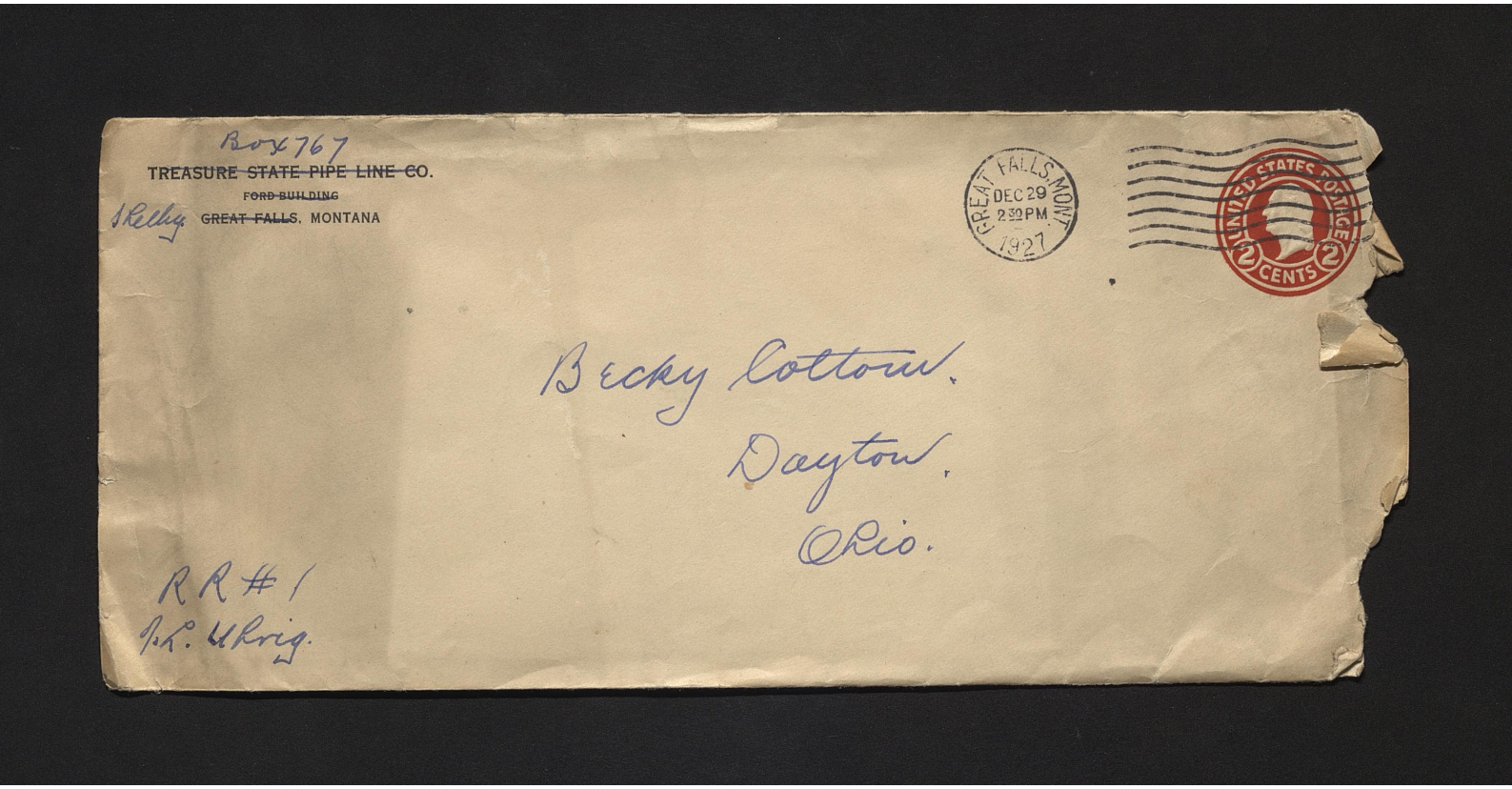
Daddy.

Thu 12/27

Dear Becky -

Well another Christmas is gone and I hope you have had a nice one I have been pretty sick; had the flu awhile ago and felt quite good for a few days - had to go to bed last Tuesday - just after I had sent you box - stayed here until Sat and was doing no good so decided to go somewhere; couldn't get a reservation on a train going east, so west was just as good; went to Kalispell, - the Docs there tried to get me into the hospital for a week and that was no place for me so I came home Christmas night. - Haven't felt very good; am very weak low blood pressure etc and will be alright if I keep quiet. - was all set to go to Dayton last week when it was explained to me that such a trip then would do no one any good. - Will count on it when I can better travel - I got your box and appreciated it very much; hope you got mine; intended doing some more small shopping when I got slowed down that coat or cape is still on the way and my gifts to Mary Frances were incomplete - had a prize coyote pelt being made into a rug at Albrechts and it couldn't be finished, you may tell her it will be part of her birthday - Will not be able to do anything about yours but hope you have a happy one - Please remember me to the Stadels and tell them I am sorry I couldn't wish them more of a Happy Christmas - Hope you will write to me - love

Daddy



Box 767

~~TREASURE STATE PIPE LINE CO.~~

~~FORD BUILDING~~

Shelby ~~GREAT FALLS~~, MONTANA

GREAT FALLS, MONT.
DEC 29
2 30 PM
1927

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
2 CENTS 2

Becky Cottom.
Dayton.
Ohio.

RR #1
J. L. Uhrig.

Dec. 18, 1927

For Becky Jane:



STOP!

There's no getting around it-
I'm wishing you a Christmas
jammed with joy.

Your Uncle
Levin.

Dec. 18, 1927

For Becky Jane:



STOP!

There's no getting around it-
I'm wishing you a Christmas
jammed with joy.

Your Uncle
Levin.

Dec. 18, 1927

For Becky Jane:



STOP!

There's no getting around it-
I'm wishing you a Christmas
jammed with joy.

Your Uncle
Levin.



Dec. 15 - 1927.

Dear Becky -

Wrote Mary Frances and will have to send you a line - Major is quite a help; am trying to write lying on the bed and he has to have his face just about when I want to write - New Years is his birthday, and some elaborate plans have been made - got a small tree, and believe he will have substantial gifts. - I am getting him a collar, but candy and bones will be his most appreciated gifts - He is sure a clown -

Sent your Christmas box by American Express and would sure like to be there - Will you tell me about it. We have had a terrible winter so far and ordinarily it would hardly have begun yet. - lots of snow and storms and very cold - Glad Mace sold his cattle.

Some of these "blisters", you would not have enjoyed —

Be sure and tell me what Mary Frances has to say about the radio — not what she says to it, — just about it — How is your own supply of cuss words?

Must get this to the train, —

Hope you have a merry Christmas and think some of me

With love

Daddy

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

Dec. 14-27.

Dear Becky - This the bond that I wrote you of, and I hope you will consider it as a Christmas gift —
It was necessary that it be issued in my name, - I have asked the company to assign it to you, and they will write you. It will then be necessary to send this certificate to Minneapolis for their proper transfer —
Have lots of fun

With love
Daddy.

and if I am able I will
rite a return good by
for the present —
Frank Bryant was in
to see me last Sunday
they are quite well and
still at Kendall good by

From J. T. Seals

Lewistown Montana Dec 9th 1927
Miss Becka just a few lines
so you may I am still on
earth but not very stout
I stayed up to Shelby to
Monts and improved quite
a little — I was afraid of
a storm and came home
a little sooner and have
improved considirble sence
I got here of coarse I
have been useing the same
kind of medicine now —
the coolidge family were

all down here for the Thanksgivin and all had Big Turkey Dinner and had a fine Time - Mrs Coolidge Says it has been a Long Time Since they had a Letter from your folks - we expect Nina home for the X mas week She has Shure grown Wonderful and has done Nicely in School Dustie and Pepsy are in School quite Steady and doing Very Well — they are having Lots of Snow and Blizard Wether up about Shelby one load of about 25 men are Lost a few miles out — I am Shure glad I got home in Time it is no place for Me up ther — it is Still Snowing here and quite Cold about 14 be low and the same here — I am Sending you a Little Present Not Much but the best I Can do at this Time — Love and best Wishes to all from your old friend Jimmie Will be glad to here from you at any Time

Fourteen below weather was recorded in Shelby, Sunday night, while other parts of the state were visited by even colder weather, the northeastern part of Montana getting the bulk of it. At Chinook it was 46 below. The storm was of short duration and Wednesday afternoon, thermometers in Shelby registered 65 below. December 5, of last year will be remembered was the day of the blizzard. which will go down in Montana history, as one of the "bad ones."

to Lewistown - Coolidge told him he would be up for him and didn't come or send any word, - it was sure pitiful to see him - little kids wanting something couldn't compare with him, - he waited two days and couldn't stand it any longer so I put him on the train and had Mrs Coolidge meet him in the Falls, but he hurried right on home - I wish he would have stayed, for, most of the time, he was very good company ~~- will hear tomorrow how he is doing~~ - He was as pleased as could be to get your letter, but it was way late and had been all over this part of the country - his health was quite a lot better and he got around without a cane, but was getting pretty childish and forgetful at times - I had a letter from Clyde Lamb from Lewistown, - things have gone bad

Nov 11 - 27

My Dear Becky -

I had finished several installments in a letter to you when another came this morning and I have it to do again - I was sure very happy to get your letters, for I was getting pretty discouraged - Thanks ever so much for the pictures - They are fine but quite a shock to me, for I hadn't seen you were no longer little, but I couldn't think of you any other way - I see you have grown a tooth, and then isn't much to remind me of little "Spot" - am certainly very proud of the way you are doing in school - that is just right, but - don't work too hard - The camp Lewis picture pleased me too - Stiles writes to me sometimes and always has something to say about you - he also is the man that got "Major" for me, so

I have a very kindly feeling for him – I don't know what I would do if it wasn't for that dog – he is the greatest company and a sure enough pardner. I wish you would tell me if it would be possible for you to keep a dog like him, – I would like for you to have one and will see that you have one if you can keep him – Major is 10 months old and knows everything – had him duck hunting and he was the best duck dog I ever saw – that was his business and came to him naturally – He had some very comical experiences, that you would have enjoyed – for instance, several ducks went out on the first ice he ever saw – in his hurry and excitement he couldn't account for all the skidding and didn't pay any attention to it either, until he slid off the edge into the water – he was astonished but did not mind the cold – just as crazy as ever to go back in – I took a picture of him swimming with a big duck in very rough water where each wave would go over his head, but it wasn't any good – it was a very pretty sight – He has learned to swim, and it takes up quite a bit of his time, – whenever he is getting no attention – He goes everywhere with me and sure has lots of friends – I haven't been feeling so good for awhile, – there has been a lot of contagious disease here, and I have vaccinated myself for pretty nearly everything, and it always lays me low – I have taken things easy and will soon be alright again – felt good enough to have a dentist work me over today, and it is no way to spend Armistice Day –

I must tell you about Jimmy – he was getting along fine, when all at once he got homesick and nothing would do, but that he get right back

are getting too much for me —
I want you to tell me what you want for Christmas, besides the dog — and you had better make your order early, for it will have to come from Monday Ward — Would like very much to see you then but don't know about it — anyhow Santa Claus will see you —

Nov 12 —

got interrupted last night. There is a picture called "Bucky" here tonight but did not get to go but wish that I could have — Was quite busy today and other bad accident in the field, - gas well exploded —
I felt quite thrifty this afternoon and took out a bond for you for a thousand dollars in a Minneapolis syndicate that will be payable when you become of age, - you can consider that a Christmas gift too — will mail

it to you then —

It is still very cold and snowing - a truck driver was brought in this morning with his face and fingers frozen, but it hasn't seemed that cold yet —

Maj is putting on quite a show all by himself is pretty mad at his bed, - growls at it, and is having an awful time — He figures that it will wind up with a piece of candy; anyhow - his hoping. Am sending you some show dollars and I hope you have lots of fun — Please write to me often — Let me know if you can have the dog; - he will be old enough to know something, and also your wants or needs for Xmas — Be good

With love

Daddy —

for him and he wants to come up here but there isn't very much that he could do here, to do him any good — he had taken another road contract and was just getting started when a storm began and it looks like real winter and no more road work — We had the finest weather all fall that I ever saw but several days ago it began snowing and has been storming ever since — it is below zero tonight, and my new place is hard to keep heated, - sure hope it isn't another bad one like last winter - that was a fright —

Haven't heard anything from Macis but suppose he is on the ranch for the winter Coolidge went through yesterday to the Falls - they are all very fine — am sending you a very appropriate clipping —

I am not doing so much driving now and mostly have a driver, - these snow drifts

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

Sept 10 - 27.

Dear Becky —

Just got home from great Falls - having my eyes treated, - sent you a ring to complete your "rainers" — Let me know if you like it —

Haven't had any more blind spells but am wearing "specks" - I sure look like I knew a lot — Mary Frances would enjoy a look —

am busy moving and we are having rainy dismal weather already —

am looking for the pictures — major has sore eyes, too, - and is no help in this matter of moving

Please write often — love

Daddy

Enclosing #V - so you can get your ring fixed to fit.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

Sept. 5-1927 - Labor Day

Dear Becky -

I got your letter Wed evening on my return from a trip up north & I was sure very glad to get it. - Have been looking for the pictures, and hope you will send them - You used to be the prettiest thing I ever saw in red - Jimmy has been here for some time with me, and he is just as you last saw him, though at times he is quite feeble and occasionally forgetful of his surroundings - He talks about you a great deal and wondered why he did not hear from you - A great deal of that might be explained by the inclosed letter from the dead letter office that was received him several days ago. I wish you would write to him, for he would surely be delighted - He has an apartment just below the office and spends a great deal of his time up here - He was just here and wants to be remembered to you - says you are the only child in this world that loves him - I think I will have him stay here this winter -

George Bell was through here this afternoon - had been up to the Border

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DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

to meet Mrs Bell - returning from a trip to Canada — They are fine -
said Mace had sold his cattle and was ready to travel as soon as his
harvest was over — Expect him along shortly after the duck season opens
I shot several ducks yesterday for my major dog and it was a sight to
remember how pleased he was — He brought them out to me in the most
approved fashion and has been so important since, that he is hard to get
along with — He has a new bed that he demonstrates every time anyone
comes in — has more friends than anybody around, and could easily be
elected mayor of the town — For the last few nights, he has figured himself
a watch dog and growls and "woofs" at everything, — from the moon, on —
I sure wish you could see him —

Things have been going first rate here Becky. but for some time past
I have had blind spells - they would come on pretty sudden and last
for quite a little while — Dr Strain in Great Falls told me I would have
to quit for awhile, so I took another trip to Alberta — had been up much at
night and then got so that I couldn't sleep when I had a chance —
I had the nicest trip I ever made and never thought there was such

3

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

beautiful places as I saw. - Calgary is a days drive from here and the Canadian Parks are just a short way west from there - made the return trip through British Columbia - mountains all the way for hundreds of miles, - I sure wished for you, - the weather was rather dismal but it was a fine trip - am sending you some photos, but they don't give you much idea of the wonderful scenery — There was lots of wild game - major was all for joining two little cub bears playing when he called him off, or I wouldn't have a dog - He was quite injured to think that I wouldn't let him join in the romp - He didn't care for the trip so much anyway - didn't have his usual audience — Jimmy and he get along fine and he says he is the smartest dog he ever saw — I have been pretty busy since I came back and have had no more spells but am trying to get away to go to the lakes - wish I knew of something I could get you that you would like - am moving my office this week and it is quite a job, - will have quite a nice place when I get it fixed up, - will have two rooms for accident cases etc. but for the present will have Jimmy move in there - will have a bedroom again, for I have

4

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

been living in the office room - and it was rather mixed -
Havn't seen anything funny to send you; - for I havn't read any, or
been to any shows; - but yesterday I saw something - several "tourists"
came driving through in the worst, topless, fenderless hailed out old Ford
that you ever saw, that would move; - and on both side was written
"I do not choose to run in 1928" - Thus, the day was not all sorrow -
Havn't heard any more from Bryants, except that Bell said Frank was
not feeling any better - Am enclosing some snap shots taken several weeks
ago, showing "the pooch" doing what he does best. -
Ask Mary Frances to let me know about the radio - I guess I own this one -
it is an Atwater Kent. single dial and doesn't do any good here; - if she wants
it, will send it on, and it probably can be fixed, - or if she prefers
will send her a new one, or have her get one there; - for I can probably
trade this one in, here - it might work all right there, for the stations
are all so far away, and this is quite far north, and the northern lights
sure put them out of business - The radios that they get from Monkey Ward
seem to do the best in this country - Tell her to let me know all she knows
about it? over

am sending you two tens this time. for
I like to think of you as been pretty well
fixed out -
Hope you are very fine, dont work too hard
and dont forget to send the pictures -

With love

Daddy.

---

address Jimmy - Box 767 - Shelby -

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

Monday morning - Oct. 1 - 1923

My Dear Becky -

This is the best Monday I have seen for a long time, - I got your letter, and it has been raining and the sun now came out to shine, and everything is fine — I "owe" you a letter, but you must write to me too - I saw a letter you wrote Jimmy - He is pretty good now - I went up to Maiden to bring him in last Tuesday and he had come in the day before, so I didn't have anything to do but cuss — Was up to Coolidge yesterday, - they are all away but the girls. - Anna is a big girl and very pretty and Dottie is just a little blacker than ever - Sonny has got to be a fine boy and thinks of many things. The Kettik kids live back of them, so he has plenty of company - Joe Montgomery and I were up there the other night and he

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

was laughing about how we used to have Frankie kiss Aunt Frances for candy - He is as big as a mans now - and they have another baby - You ask me about Jack dog - He is the nicest, prettiest, smartest dog you ever saw - I went up to Bryants several times hunting and that is his business; he has made a study of it and is perfect. - There was lots of grouse and chickens but I only got to eat them twice - Jack changed from a pup to a very thoughtful old dog all at once - the time the porcupine worked on him - Bryants are fine - They may come to town - Am sending you some money and I wish you would get somebody to take your "pitcher" - I want to see if you have curls - Saw old Sister Scandalous this morning about daylight - They are fine, too. Be a good girl and don't let them work you too hard in school and you ought me a letter now

With love from Daddy.

am sending you two tens this time, for I like to think of you as being pretty well fixed out -

Hope you are very fine, don't work too hard and don't forget to send the pictures -

With love

Daddy.

---

address Jimmy - Box 767 - Shelby -

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

Jan. 1, 1923

New Years -

Dear Becky - I am glad Santa Claus was good to you; - Did you get a birthday package I sent you; - I heard Pat Hilliard had sent you an onion and he sure had his nerve - He is getting a lot smarter; - he can count now up to 100 - Jack has also got to be the smartest dog you ever saw; - he is always glad and sings now if you just tell him to. - Bryant has trained him to hunt and he does fine and minds good, and is as pretty as a picture. - He knows all about porcupines too for he is just getting over a bad attack - he never cried a bit when they took them out. Jimmy is fine and wonders if you still belong to the K.K.Ks. - Gert and Margaret and Clarissa have been around her for a few days three movie shows in town don't seem enough to hold them - Clyde Combs is a policeman now and has a great time with kids - I gave him a nice star and a pistol (that shoots water) on the Christmas tree -

How do you and Mary Rhodes get along - Can you and Mary Frances walk in the same block - Do you get the funny papers or dont they have them there in that country - Be a good girl - With love from your Daddy -

Write to me some time

Dr. F. W. Cottom

Skin and Genito-Urinary Diseases

Associated with
Dr. I. N. Frost and
Lincoln Street Hospital

300 O-S Building
Phone 123

Aug 6 - 1924 -

"Book" - Becky -

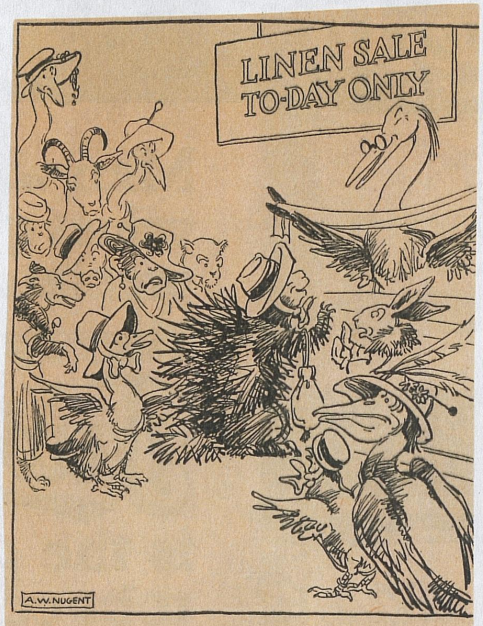
I just wrote to Mary Frances and must write to you a little, and I hope you are still fine - Did you get warm this summer and how long is your hair - Clyde Coulds and Son Coolidge are coming to see me soon and I wish you were here too - Clyde could have a lot of fun teasing you - "just kids" and "just men" - He still talks about ice cream cones, Harold Lloyd and such things -

Have not heard from Bryants or Jack dog for a long time — I wish Jack was here, but he wouldn't like it — no ground hogs to watch — Am sending you some pictures, — I don't know whether you have these or not —

Be a good girl and please write to me

With love

Daddy.



Miss Porcupine: "I just love bargain sales. People are so gentle, you know"

BOY'S ESSAY ON THE GOOSE

The goose is a low, heavy-set bird, composed mostly of meat and feathers. His head sets on one end, he sets on the other. He cannot sing much on account of the dampness in the moisture in which he lives. There ain't no between of his toes and he carries a toy balloon in his stomach to keep him from sinking. A goose has two legs and they are set so far back on his running gear that they came pretty near missing his body. Some geese when they get big are called ganders. Ganders don't have to set or hatch, but just loaf, eat and go swimming. If I was a goose I had rather be a gander.

1924 Aug-9
pictures

GASPE
AUG 6
11 30 AM
1924
WYO



Miss Becky Cottom.

Dayton.

Ohio.

RTD #1
c/o L. Uhrig.

June 20 - 1924 -

My Dear Becky —

I got your letter and it was the nicest letter anybody ever had — I let over so many people read the newspaper and they all thought it was fine — One man with a little girl of his own, asked me if you were not a sort of a "rough neck" and I told him you were the lady of all pretty ladies, and I hope I was right — Does anybody ever tease you any more and call you "Spot" and "Kids"? Clyde was here again and is just the same as

he always was – still talks about "taking the
tug to Mrs Combs" etc – They will probably leave
here about Aug 1 as the railroad work has quit.
I saw Harold Lloyd last week in "Girl Shy"
and I wished much for you – He is crazy –
Coolidges are coming down next month.
Am glad about your hair, for I want you to
stay pretty – Have not heard from Jack lately
but he was the smartest dog ever, but Old Cap
was the best – did you get your book?
Please write often – With lots of love from
your Daddy.

May 18-1925.

My Dear Becky-

I wrote a hurried letter to Mary Frances today and will try to answer your nice letter I received yesterday — am glad you are doing so well in school, but it was too bad about the mumps - You would have enjoyed giving them to me; - so would I - have never had them — do you remember how hard you tried to give me measles - when you were named "Spot"

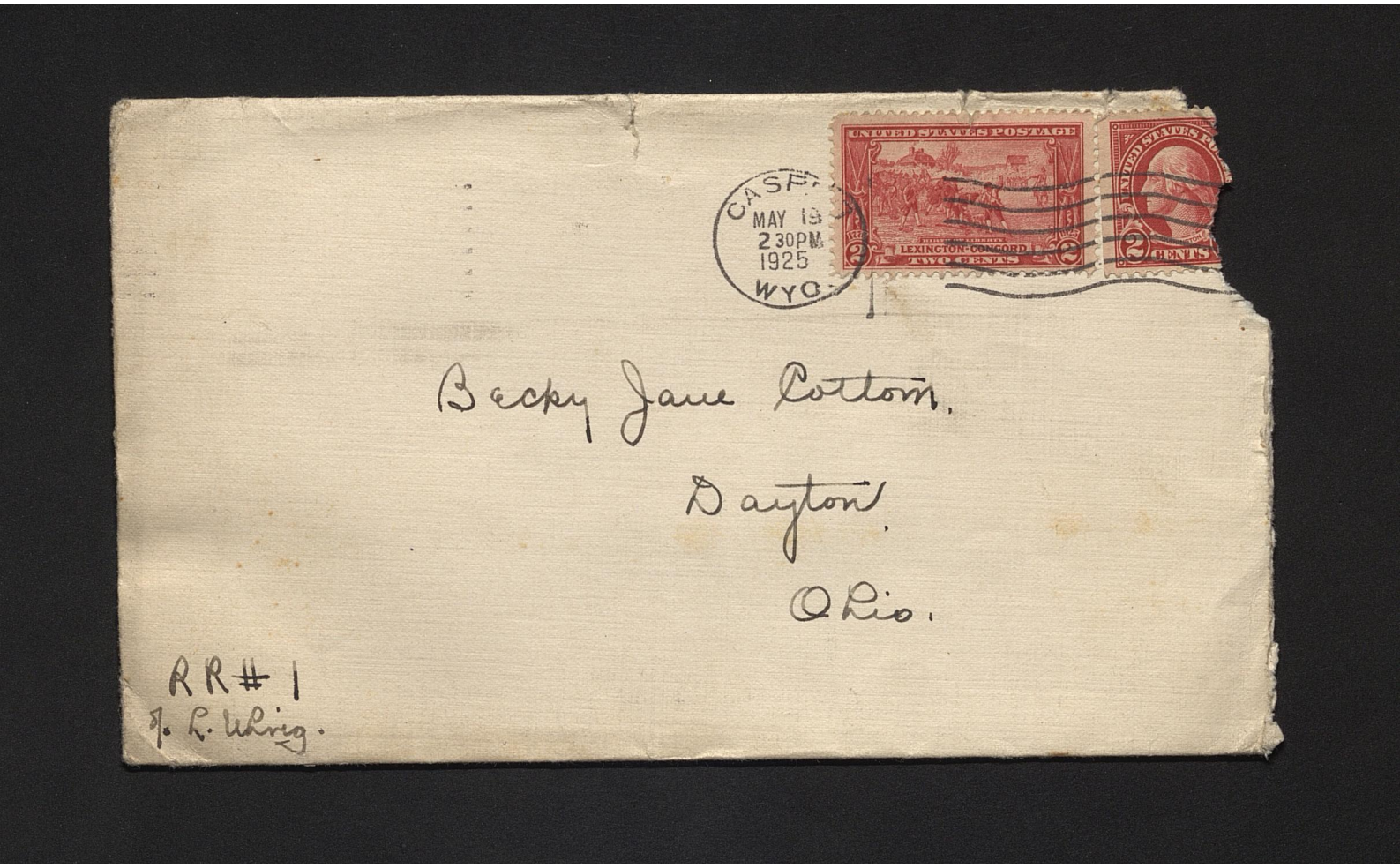
I would like to have one of your maps if you can spare one — hope it does well at the fair —

Did you hear that old Jack dog had died - Bryant wrote me that he had been very sick for quite a long time - something like pneumonia - Frank and Orla felt awfully bad about it, and I guess they tried mighty hard to get him well —

I have a fine partner now - a big Irish setter Clyde got for me in Buffalo - he is as pretty as can be — very red, smart and lots of company - His name is "Stan" and I am sending you his picture - am also sending you some pictures of some funny folks you ought to know — Would sure like to see what a pretty lady you have got to be — It wont do for your dresses to be short, for you were always so modest —

Clyde is just the same as ever and would find much to "make josh" with you about - He has some bad spells and I had to drive up there one night several weeks ago, and he came down here yesterday to get fixed up - Mrs Combs has to be with him all the time for he gets fainting spells now - Had a letter and an invitation to

guts commencement - also one from Mina Coolidge
Elfert Ed. Coolidge to be here in a few days - they
are fine -
Fred Leonard hit in here looking for something
to do, several weeks ago and got a job in the
oil fields - Merton has a baby sister - and are on
the ranch - I dont hear very much news from
Lewistown, but it still must not be very
prosperous -
It is surprising to hear you have cold weather
there, for it has been quite hot here and very
dry and it is summer already - I dread it
more than I used to the winters. -
I have had quite a time with my burn foot
lately and to help it along, got quite a bad burn
and then it got poisoned. - It came natural to
limp again -
I do wish you could see this Steve dog for I
know you would both think pretty well of each other -
He is all full of business, and quite a hand to sneeze -
I want you to write to me again Bicky and tell
me all about yourself -
With love
Daddy -


CASPER
MAY 15
2.30PM
1925
WYO.
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
LEXINGTON-CONCORD
TWO CENTS
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
2 CENTS
Becky Jane Cotton.
Dayton.
Ohio.
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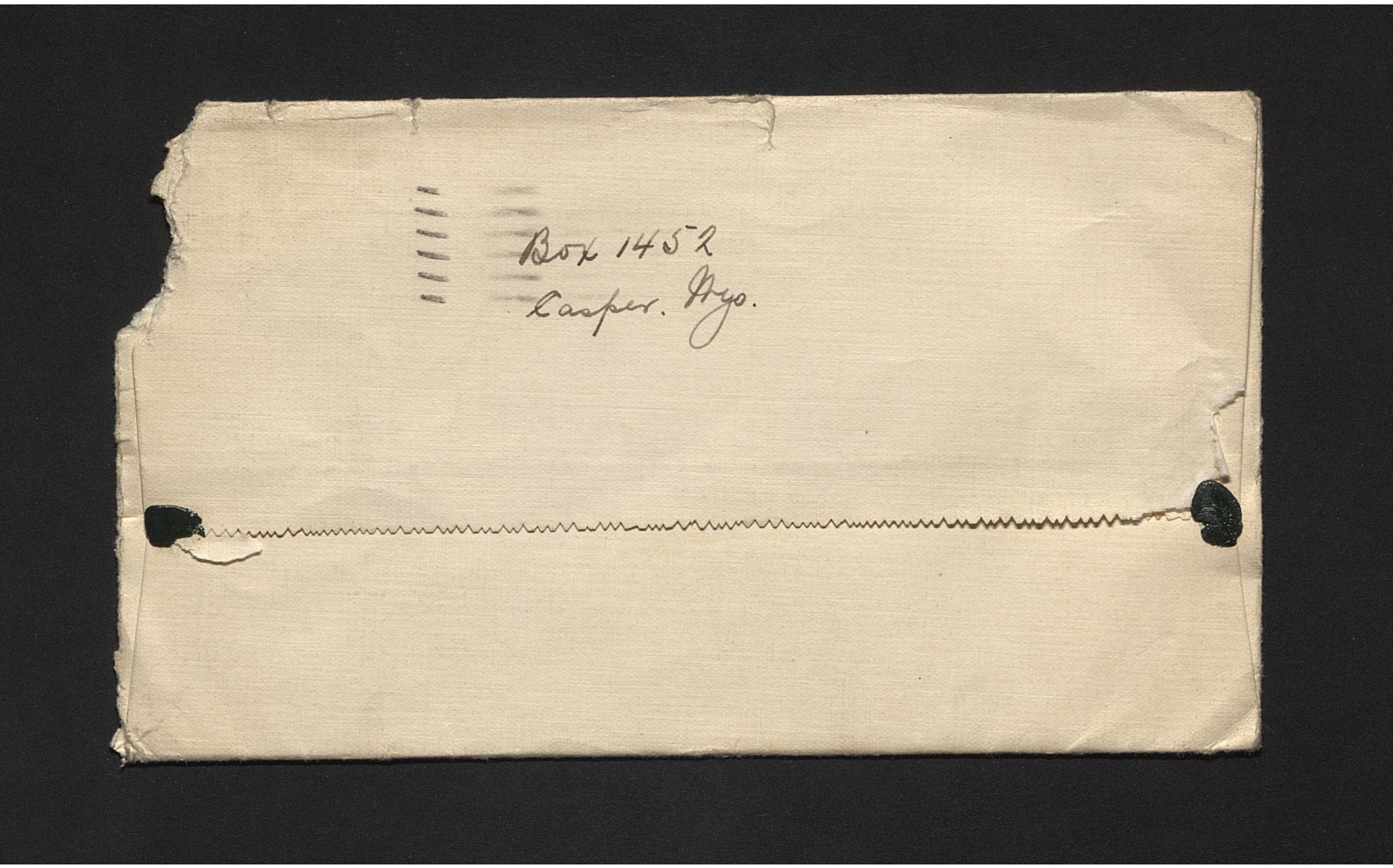
% L. Whing.


Box 1452
Casper. Wyo.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

July 28-1927.

My Dear Becky.

Was sure glad to get your nice letter with the picture - it was just in time showing the long hair, - for I was about to buy me some "golf pants" - now I'll stay old fashioned. Yes - I got the shirt and ties and they were fine and I'm sorry that I forgot to thank you -

Havn't seen Jimmy but want to get over as soon as I can get away, - he isn't very well and I should say Lina, - Mina is over there with him this week - Sonny was up here last week and is sure quite a boy, - he and "major" make a great team. Mr Coolidge is staying here with me tonight - Mr + Mrs Combs are over near Lunstown now and doing fairly good, but he isn't the same Clyde. Has a road contract and still has the same old bunch working for him. Will see the Macs when I go over and am going to try to persuade Bryants to come back with me — Things are going good

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

and we are having a fine summer - It has not been very hot and the nights have all been real cool - The crops look very fine and almost everybody is in a good humor - I have not had much chance to enjoy myself, and it seems harder for me to have any fun - took a trip up to Glacier Park and that is sure a beautiful place, - you would like it fine, but there were quite a few ravenous mosquitos, and they can spoil any kind of time for me - Have you ever seen any Park pictures? if not, will send you some - Am sending you some photos of my meat hound - He is my partner - only he almost ceased to be tonight - He has always had an idea that trucks and autos were harmless, and anyhow that they were supposed to dodge him; but tonight a rattly Ford caught him and both wheels run over him, - He was badly scared and his dignity was all that was injured, - I am glad now that it happened, for he is much wiser, and it could just as well have been a five ton truck and squashed him out -

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

He is the niftiest dog I have ever seen and is sure to make a fine hunting dog, - smart as can be, always ready to do something, and the water was just made on his account — He has an old fellow for a bed, and that is the finest thing in the place - very willing to show it to all comers, at all hours —

Several weeks ago, a circus came across the Canadian border - Al. G. Barnes; - and they showed at Cumberst while being inspected by customs officers - I took two girls, about as old as you and Mary Frances were, at the last circus when you were here, - Major was along and enjoyed it, - all but the monkeys - One of them "jabbered" and took after him, - it was like old times, - fighting with those "dolled up Kids" about who saw the circus first, and the ladies (last Private Bates) "all dressed up" etc. You might tell Mary Frances is no longer with the Barnes circus, - but I think his other girl is - She was at one time very fond of him. —

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

I will try to get this letter off tonight and write to Mary Frances tomorrow - glad you like Tom Sawyer, - tell her I have several more for her, but will try to read them first, and you probably have enough for awhile, - They are about the life of Mark Twain and certainly very fine, - you will like them too -

Tell me what you think of Major, - would like to see you with him for awhile - Sonny had a fit because I wouldn't give him away, - will take them along when I go to see Jimmy -

Please write to me real often and tell me some more news, - am very pleased to know how fine you did in school, but I worry because you may work too hard - Thanks for the picture -

With love

Daddy.

for my old friends
I Wont bee in Maiden
This Summer
Mina Will go back to School
in September well I Will
close I get too nervous
I Must rite a few lines
To the Coolidges they are
the ones I rite
Love and best Wishes
To Jim L Seals

To - Becky Cotton

Lewistown July 16 — 1927
Dear Kind Friend Yours
recieved last Evening and
am Shure pleased With Letter
and the picture and your
Haire is Shure beautiful
I have not been feeling
very good for Some days -
but had a farely good rest
last night You Cant think
how often I think of
all of you folks - I get So
nervous and dont try to write
the Coolidges were all Lately
and Look for Mina down

Soon and wee will go up
to Maiden for a Short Visit
I Seen Mrs Willard Lately
and Mr Willard is verry
poorly he has to halve a
Cane and a Crutch he
Shure Looks bad - dadie
and Ruth are all OK
There is Not Mutch of the
Town left I Will rite to
you When I Come back -
I Seen the Bryants a bout
a Month past thy Look
fine - you Would hardly
No - Mina She has Grown
in fact they are Looking
fine and just got back
from Rapid City her
folks are quite a gain
wee halve had a few days
of Verry Hot Wether
The Prospects for good Crops
are More than Great wee
had plenty of rain and
Sunshine and Not Mutch
Hail - There is plenty of
Nice Stuff in the Stores
To eat and Shure halve
my Share - I Shure do
get quite Lonely for

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

May 5 - 1927

Dear Becky - Just a few lines to tell you I had your nice letter and am very happy to know you do so well in school. - glad you liked the camera, and am sending some pictures of my Jack dog, that I just got. - we had a few days of fine weather, and they were used in his training - It has snowed for the last 24 hours, though - and is about a foot deep and melting fast - the little pup is a brother to the Irish setter that I had, and which died - These two are the best of friends and play by the hour. - There isn't anything new here, - am still very busy and this weather is certainly discouraging - but I guess from reports that it is bad all over the country - Did Mary Frances get her Easter present. ?

Please write to me often - sending you some choco money - Saw Wallace BERRY last night and enjoyed it -

With love

Yours Daddy -

DR. F. W. COTTOM

Physician and Surgeon

SHELBY, MONTANA — Phone 88 — Office Hours: 10 to 12, 2 to 5, 7 to 8

April 1927

℞ For ..... Date .....

Address .....

Book - Becky

..... M. D.

Reg. No. 64

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

April 9 - 1927

Dear Becky -

It just occurs that I cant get myself "set" and write, and spend considerable of any time cussing myself for not doing it - I usually write you every night - after I go to bed but not on paper, and it dosn't get me any credit, anywhere - I am sure pleased with your letters and to know you are doing so fine in school - I sure dont want to hear of you working too hard - you're not suited to it, and then again it dosn't pay - Heard from your old friend, Andy Mack, - they are just the same and plan on coming up to see me - Andy had a big radio "built" for him and I guess it is one of the latest wonders, and when he can't hear the "old time fiddlers" from Calgary at eight o'clock Friday nights, then is something wrong - It gives him all the dope on the weather, too - which by the way is not so good. Day before yesterday

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

was one of the worst snow storms of the winter and I had to turn back because of deep drifts on a trip to the oil field - You couldn't have stood this winter here Becky at all for it was just one "blister" after another, getting as cold as 44 below, - froze the calves of my legs one night, and my toes are still peeling off - The roads were impassable for a long time. I had heard that some storms were so that these ranchers couldn't get to the barn, but now I can believe it, - one was so bad that you couldn't see two feet, and you could not leave the house. However spring cant be so very far off - for lots of ducks and geese have came in from the south - My Jack dog is a character and I wish you had him for awhile, for I would like your verdict - His future was very uncertain for awhile, as he took to killing chickens and some folks loaded guns for him. - He doesn't mind very well, and not at all if he has anything else to do -

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

He chases everything from tumble weeds to horses, and rabbits, - big jacks, - are his joy. - Yesterday I was out about 20 miles and he started after a big Hawk and that was the last I saw of him, - he came in about bedtime and all ready to eat and sleep - he does quite well for food, - the restaurants and butchers all give him handouts, and he doesn't mind showing it, when he is hungry. - He sits up, and "smiles and shows his teeth" and can get the most forlorn woe begone look on his face, that they just have to come through - I laughed at him the other day until I got sick, - when he was flying around an oil rig and fell through a "sump" that was all "caked over", - he rammed his nose and face in some old crude oil and when he came up, his expression would have been worth fortunes in the movies, - his nose was all wrinkled up, and it was very plain that he was very disgusted, - and it got more so, when he had to run - and kept on smelling it -

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

As soon as I can will send you some pictures of us, for we are very pretty — speaking of pictures — when you go about getting presents in this town, you are out of luck so I sent you a Kodak for Easter gift, instead of diamonds — You are supposed to get yourself a book and send me some; soon — I have a radio for you that will be late for Easter, but want to ask Mary Frances more about it before I send it — I have a little spaniel pup for Tommy Coolidge for Easter — I don't know whether I have converted his mother into thinking he should have a dog or not, but he is going to get one — unless I get too stuck on him myself — Am enclosing money for a new hair ribbon and Kodak film, and I hope you have a dandy Easter, — and lots of eggs — I still have one of yours — must close and write to Mary Frances Will write again soon, for it is not so hard after I get started — and all I can talk about is the dog Be a good girl and don't work too hard,

With lots of love

Daddy.

Totals 749 888 879 2555

April 1924

Mercury 16 Below in Mountains Near Anaconda Wednesday

ANACONDA, April 20.—(AP)—Wednesday morning official thermometers at Southern Cross and other points in the Georgetown lake district registered 16 degrees below zero, the coldest April weather in 10 years. At Silver Lake the mercury stood at 13 below. From Silver Lake over the mountains to Philipsburg the roads are covered with from six to fifteen feet of snow, necessitating the use of four horse teams to transport the mail.

cent of the face value and that the de- ds must be sold at par and bonds are t

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

1927(?)

March 14 -

Dear Mary Frances -

Have had a hard time to get around to write to you - just came home today from a trip into Canada with Coolidge - was gone longer than I expected - got Becky's letter and will write to her tomorrow - Everything is very fine except the weather and it is terrible. Am just as busy as I can be tonight, and will write you as soon as I can -

Love Daddy -

Can you use a radio ? Will tell you about it when I write for I may have one -

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

Jan 11 - 1927 -

Dear Mary Frances -

Your letter was what I have wanted for so long, and I was so glad to hear from you - Beckys letter was quite a surprise to me too - she must be coming right along - I suppose her popularity is alright with her, too -

I have tried to write to you for the last three days and have not been able to find time, - have been very busy and it takes so long to get around, - was preparing to write you last night when I was called to operate at Cutbank and take care of a sick doctor, - it is over by Glacier Park and made an awful trip, - Am superstitious too for all the doctors I have taken care of, have died - I inclosed that check in Beckys letter which I wrote first, - so that if any such thing occurs tonight, - it will not be delayed again — Am sending you some

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

medecine that will work wonders - Be sure and let me know if you hear from it —

Leo - my radio experience is very small — the trouble being about the same as yours — just as it is good. I get turned in on something that disagrees with me; there are some very good radios in this part of the country, but somehow, I have never got to think much of them — my music is pretty well neglected generally — all I get to hear is a tinny piano at the picture show, played by a Glenn Morton — if you cant remember that, it is just as well — You did not tell me about your music, or your music lessons. - I wish that you would —

I have some books I will send you soon as I get them back home again - "My Mortal Enemy" by Willa Cather - I know her brother quite well and have met the old sister - she writes very good, but I have never been able to get the idea or what it is all about. Booth Tarkington is my favorite of all time, and I will send

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

you several of his. - Have you got the magazines? I will try to get the Ring Lardner book. - another of my favorites was Harry Leon Wilson. but it seems like he has gone out of business — Have been trying to get some new stories by Will James which I will send you if I can get them —

Its pretty hard for me to write, as I am interrupted quite frequent - and it spoils my train of thought to be told a lot of plebian ailments — I get fed up on listening to so much of that talk anyway, and its hard work to appear interested. - You would get quite a lot of fun being around here for awhile, though- There is always something to laugh about, with all their troubles, and if they wasn't I would sure be among the lost —

Mina came home for the holidays — They have moved to the falls and now have a very nice place. Mina is a fine

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

girl and pretty as can be - not so very boy crazy, - and not any "stuck up" — Destee is fine, - if anything a little homelier, but she is a dandy girl. - Donny is on high all the time and is well behaved, - Still calls me "Hi Doc" - I have to rustle him a spaniel for an Easter gift, - much against the family wishes - I am to keep a bird dog, and he is to furnish the "duck" dog, for next fall's hunting

I am making many plans for you this summer, so let me know what you would want to do - things are going very well here and I like it, - all but the severe winter we are having — even that has improved — for we have plenty of natural gas, - and closed cars save my poor nose from freezing so often — I have many places for all the money I can get, but I can also manage for anything you want - Did you get your coat? Would like to buy you one —

Had to buy all new equipment, furniture

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

instruments, - am buying quite an X Ray outfit and am planning on starting a private hospital, - all were necessities, but they will all have to pay their way — but can see my way to give you what you need, so don't be afraid to tell me —

I will get this on the Oriental Limited, - the same train as took Beckys letter, with the check- am sending some chewing gum money — Tell her that I am desolated again: my dog has left me — also that the blotter was dandy, and suggest that she send me more of her nice work -

Please write to me Mum - With love

Daddy —



...ed, according ... is identical to that of ...al against the Stanton bank ...holders and it is suggested that both cases be consolidated.

Oilmont Has Biggest Storm of the Year

Oilmont was visited by one of the worst storms of the season last Saturday. The snow piled in great drifts, making traffic almost at a standstill. Sunday, however, witnessed the usual gang of shovelers clearing streets and highways, making the roads passable.

Dr. Cottom was looking after a number of his patients in this place Fridaya.

H. E. Lane of Great Falls is the new mechanic at the Highway ...re, taking the place of A... has been transferre...

DR. F. W. COTTOM

Physician and Surgeon

SHELBY, MONTANA Phone 88 Office Hours: 10 to 12, 2 to 5, 7 to 8

℞ For ..... Date .....

Address .....

Back - Becky

M. D.

Reg. No. 64

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

Jan 10 - 27

My Dear Becky -

I was so very pleased to get your letter — I had received your presents, and appreciated them all very much - I was just "sockless" when they came and have been wearing them ever since — I can't "gush" so very good, or I would tell you how much I think of the blotter - it was just fine - and will be a constant reminder to me of a very fine girl — I am also very pleased to know you still have your curls, - of course it would be alright for you to get modern, but I would like to think of you with them — Your sister said you were playing with Bobbie and somebody else. - am I mistaken in thinking these are boys names? Book - Becky!

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

my Jack dog is quite a worry to me — He took to running away, - wouldn't come when called me - so that all my chastising was done verbally and long distance; which wasn't so good for either of us, or the neighbors — Had to tie him up for awhile, and today is the first sign of obedience he has shown - You would sure delight in him, for he is quite smart, and wants to play all the time — I dont have much chance to entertain him, and he sure gets lonesome — As soon as I can, I will send you some pictures of him for he is very pretty — one of those sad looking critters; just like he was going to cry - there are some foolish sparrows in the start (they didn't go south) and Jack has a great time making believe he is hunting them —

did you get your magazines. if you have not; let me know - When I was a youngster I

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

had a picture advertising Pears Soap; - where a mother was scouring a squalling kids' face - "You dirty Boy" - I thought it was the last word in Art - Your clipping reminded me of it -

New years was very peculiar here - it was a summer day and the snow all melted, but it has made up for it since, - lots of drifted snow and 20° below - very hard to get around and it takes forever. - am feeling very fine, so it must agree with me -

There is a right young lady here - a "Sister" Kane from Lewistown - age 4 - who makes no secret of it, that she is very fond of me, - throws kisses at me, and otherwise embarrasses me - runs off and comes down to the office whenever she can - the only way I get rid of her, is to ask her to show me her "pink pants" - She leaves in a very high dudgeon - and is gone for the day - You would get quite a kick out of her - How do you get along with so many dolls - almost

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

as many as Heinz has pickles - That must be like Clyde Combs telling Paddy Miles about the "time he was herding sheep," when he had three thousand in the band, and everynight he put halters on them all, - and put them to bed, - and called them all by name, - Pansy, - Queen - Lily - Jennie etc, when old Paddy came to, - and figured there wasnt three thousand girls names, and told Clyde he was a damn liar.

I havnt heard from him for a long time, but I dont suppose he is very good - Had a Christmas card from Gert - Havnt heard from Bryants -

Am sending you some show money. - I wish you would write to me again right soon and tell me all about yourself - Will send you those pictures soon - With love

Daddy -

Let me know when you cut your hair -

I want to grow a beard and a bay window -

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

Dear Becky - in Dayton Oh 7/31/28

I have just time to write a letter but enclose a photo of us" - and of Major doing what he does best, one with his dish - and several of his oldest boy - gave that pup to some young friends here, and they call him "Bill" — Major is not so very enthusiastic about him —

Clyde Coulter was here for a day; and very fine — I plan on going over there as soon as I get help - this Sunday is the day now - having been often postponed, and I am very disappointed — want to go to Kenstown for several days, and then I am going to hit out on a camping tour for awhile - (maybe) — Things are just fine - weather, - crops, - etc — Wish you were here - Please write and tell me about yourself -

Love daddy.

got several little books for you and Frances. You can divide ownership to suit yourselves. - they are by Frank Linderman who wrote the "Indian Why Stories" - I told him what a hit they had made - and he autographed one of them —



This picture is not so good
but it shows his disk, - which is
in evidence much of the time

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

June 28-28

Dear Becky. I am just writing a few lines tonight to send you some Fourth of July money - things have been pretty much "Raguise" for a while, - have not found any help yet, but want to wind up this the 11th and think I have found a young man who will be here next week. - Should things be satisfactory, I can make some definite plans. -

Things are going good, - only too much for me - Coolidge just left. - Bryant Lee last week. - Major very fine - Thanks ever so much for the birth day gifts - those sock supporters were particularly timely - Will write you just as soon as I can and also to Mary Frances.

With love

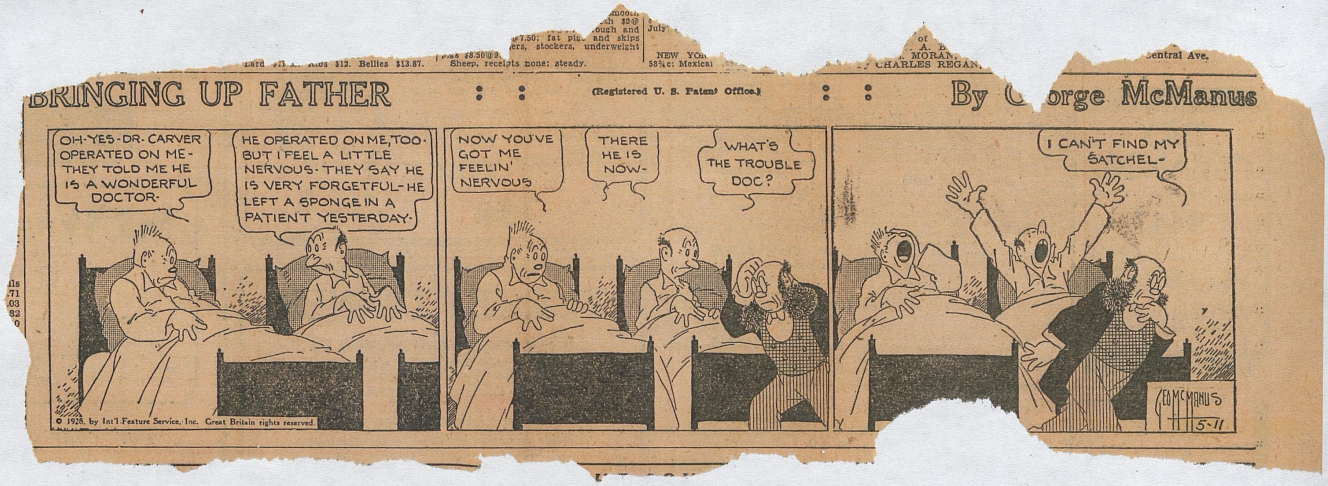
Daddy

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

5/10/28.

Dear Becky- I have been too busy to eat lately - lots of work and this hospital has just been a job. Have one floor, - 8 beds. - ready to start - no definite news from my assistant yet but hope he can come soon - I will try to write to you real soon - Haven't heard from Mary Frances since before Easter - Her "pink lights" evidently offended - Am enclosing $20, so you can cut a little whing ding -

With love
Daddy.


BRINGING UP FATHER
(Registered U. S. Patent Office.)
By George McManus
OH-YES-DR-CARVER OPERATED ON ME- THEY TOLD ME HE IS A WONDERFUL DOCTOR-
HE OPERATED ON ME,TOO- BUT I FEEL A LITTLE NERVOUS- THEY SAY HE IS VERY FORGETFUL- HE LEFT A SPONGE IN A PATIENT YESTERDAY-
NOW YOU'VE GOT ME FEELIN' NERVOUS
THERE HE IS NOW-
WHAT'S THE TROUBLE DOC?
I CAN'T FIND MY SATCHEL-
GEO MCMANUS
5-11
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DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

4/3/28

Dear Becky -

Wanted to send you something nice for Easter, — Left it to some Shelby "Hairpins" and they figured a sweater was what you needed. - Hot weather coming on and everything — There are sure a lot of mental giants in this country — Havn't had any fun for a long time - Been very busy, and will soon be busier, - Had a letter from Jimmie again - He is feeling pretty blue, and getting quite feeble - Also a letter from Ted Leonard and he hasn't done so well in California. Pep and Mrs Coolidge will be here tomorrow night - Major converted her into liking dogs - The weather has been cold blowy and snowy - not a bit like Spring - Be good Becky and write to me

With love

Daddy

"Happy Easter egg"

RETURN IN FIVE DAYS TO
BOX 767
SHELBY, MONTANA

WILLISTON LSPOK. R.P.O.
TR. 2
APR
3
1923
E.D.



Becky Cottom
Dayton
Ohio.

61

RR#1
% L. U. Krig.

25E95
RUST CRAFT BOSTON U.S.A.




1928
For Dear Becky
May all the blue
that comes to you
Be just from skies
above you,
May Easter bring
new joys and hopes,
And thoughts of those
who love you.
With hearts
of Love
Angeline and Lovie

I dont believe I thanked you for the valentines.- it still remains an important place - I forgot all about it until I got them and then felt foolish.-

Will order those magazines at my first opportunity.- am sorry about that -

Please write to me,- I am mostly blue and discouraged and your letters helps a lot.-

The weather is cold, and had a blizzard all day, but since the first of the year, it hasn't been at all bad,- but before that, it was sure terrible-

Be sure and tell me if anything you want, and write frim

With love

Daddy -

Major is still raising Cain. trying to get his dish -

give Mary Frances one of the enclosed bills.

Mar 13 - 28

Dear Becky -

again its a long time since I wrote to you,- am feeling better yesterday and today than I have for a long time, but I have sure felt tough,- Was busy night and day for two long - I am intending taking things easier and have an assistant coming to help me in May,- will have to have one, for it isn't possible to leave here, and I can't stand the steady grind any more - Have been parting with my teeth,- one by one- you would enjoy me now - Had a gumsy and couldn't eat, and now have'nt the necessary teeth, and soup and stuff begins to pall on me - There isn't any news to write except that George Bell was here and is working for Conrad a town below here 30 miles - Hilger is a total loss and am sending Mary Frances several editions of their newspaper. - She didn't know anything of Hilgers - Had a big snow storm there - 52 inches in 36 hours - that's lots of snow

Bryant is coming up as soon as the weather permits, Dans on looking over some mining claims in the western part of the state —

I am sure pleased and proud of your standing in school. - your report couldn't possibly be much better —

Those shirts were fine and very badly needed, - can't get any here, - bought one awhile ago that looked good, and later found out there was no tail to it, - hardly enough to get down into my pants, - and that's no way to go around, even in Shelby -

Am glad you still like and use the radio. - I got an Atwater Kent #32, - 6 tube, - it works sometimes - but when I was sick, the good people would work it, until I figured I was going nutty and "jimmied" it one day; have been using it lately but it isn't much good until very late and then all you can hear is jazz, - but it is interesting sometimes to hear the Canadians broadcasting to the people in the far north. - They do that at midnight, and read letters and telegrams and give orders etc - major even got my goat when I was laid up, and I find him out, - we do all night now, - gave him a good bath last night and he is sure pretty, - am sending you his latest photo, - went down to the river Sunday to see my traps and went with my "old timer" to look at them and had caught a skunk and the biggest bob cat, that I ever saw, - am going to have his hide for a rug - they are sure a ferocious thing when they're caught. Havn't been to any shows for a long long time, but your friends Barry and Hutton are here tonight in "Pardners in crime" and I think I will go see them — They are sure a pair of freaks — Lionel Barrymore is another favorite of mine — don't hear so much of Bill Hart anymore — "Maj" is about all the show I need, - he figured out a new trick of his own, - I feed him on a tin dish, and when it's his time to eat he will come bringing his plate, - just now it turned upside down, so that he can't get hold of it, and he scratched it under the rug and is having an awful time of it —

it out to you - the payments will be taken care of here - it is arranged so that I get a dividend from their business in this district each year, and I will pay the balance -
I must write to Mary Frances, so will close for tonight - I hope I will hear from you real soon and often - Dont forget to tell me about the magazines, the radio, and to send that band - Be pretty good. -

With love
Daddy.

Jan 16 - 28.

My Dear Becky -

This is rather late to be writing about Christmas, but I was very glad to get your presents and more than anything with the pictures - they are fine and give me lots to think about. I haven't got over Mary Frances yet. - Did I tell you about our tree and Xmas party? Had in some youngsters about dark Christmas eve and I think they had much fun here than they did in their homes - Major was just in his glory - anybody opening presents and rattling paper got his attention and when he got a present he would carry it to some one to open for him. - He got two beds a sock full of candy, many books, - a new collar, a polo ball and a chain, - which he hasn't much time for. - Christmas was bitter cold here but it warmed up about the night of the 4th with a chinook that beat any I ever saw. - I was on my way to Cutbank when it hit and I wasn't

to tell you that they are wonderful - it lasted a week and took off all the snow - since then it has snowed and been cold; - but somehow it seems just right. -

Had a fine letter from my sister and one from Mary - she sounds like a might nice girl, and I understand you are pardners - She says you are a "live wire" - I have been feeling good lately, - have been getting around quite a bit, - got some traps and am trying my luck on coyotes, - I know where there are some - and they are beauties - walk out to them or ride a horse, - and Major is no help - also this horse back business is quite a serious thing; - I have just rode once and have been 90 years old since - am going to try it again tomorrow - wish I could promise you a coyote rug, and I have hopes - Baited them with chicken bones today and had quite a time keeping Maj. out of them -

Will you write to me right away what magazines you have subscribed for? Have you had the radio fixed and how about it,? They have had an expert here, - testing out things, to find out why they won't work here, - Will get one if they can be made to perform; - There are some good ones in the field, and I would sure like to have a good one -

That shirt was just right and if it is possible can you have that store mail me half a dozen C.O.D. - Havn't been able to get any to suit me, and am about shirtless Havn't heard from the Coml's but once - Clyde is going to stay in Lewistown and the Mrs and Gert were then in Casper The Coolidges are fine and looking for Ed up here tomorrow - Did Mary Frances get her Birthday book? I wanted to get her a little horse that Russell made but couldn't make it - Do you suppose Mary Rhodes would like, or could keep a dog? I would like to send her one if she could.

Will you mail me back that bond and I will make

Form 702-M



HOLIDAY GREETING

WESTERN UNION

1923 DEC 24 PM 8 07

CA487 7=KALISPELL MONT 24 531P

BECKY COTTON=

2257 OHLROGGE AVE DAYTON OHIO=

MERRY CHRISTMAS WIRE ME MONTANA HOTEL KALISPELL=

DADDY.


For dear Becky Jane
SEASON'S GREETINGS
"May you be happy,"
The best wish of all,
I can send you today,
For it takes in all others,
These little words say
"May you be happy"
With best love
and a good hug.
aunt Myrtle
Uncle Levin.

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

Drs. Cottom & Spackman

Shelby, Montana

Dec. 2 - 28

Dear Bucky - now its only 23 days until Christmas - Have been very busy lately - even so many sick people, babies etc, and a real epidemic of influenza - Thought I was elected several days ago, but went to bed for a day and have been feeling first rate since then - Had your note and a card from Mary Frances on the same mail again - am anxious to get your impressions of your sister - does she show any culture or "high hat" ? Its not possible for me to tell from her letters whether she likes the school or not, or anything about her health -

How have you been getting along and did you make the basket ball team ? I think that would do you much good - Had a nice card from Gwendolyn, - I intended to send you a telegram of Thanksgiving greetings but didn't think it would be delivered to you in time - I put in quite a miserable day of it - riding a slow cold train from Billings, home -

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

Drs. Cottom & Spackman

Shelby, Montana

Will you take several minutes of now and write me what I could get grown and Mary Frances for Christmas: if you have any orders you might include them, too - What is Pete's boys names? The weather has turned stormy and bitter cold - I was called to the country at midnight last night, and had to turn back because of the blizzard; couldn't see at all - started again early this morning and found 3 cars in the ditch between here and the field, so I guess I was smart - have driven all day and it has been no fun - Major is my constant companion, and a very good one - he is fine and I wish I had many of his puppy ways - Have a new radio but haven't had much chance to use it - can get some Cincinnati station most of the time and it is fine -

I got the sandiest coyote pelt that I am having made into a rug for Mary Frances - wanted it for a Christmas present but it had to be dried and tanned and "mounted" so I am afraid it will not be ready and I am disappointed —

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

Drs. Cottom & Spackman

Shelby, Montana

Drove to Great Falls the other night – Mrs Coolidge has been quite sick with influenza – that makes quite a trip to and from in a night – Bow Clyde Could the other night he is fine also Frank Bryant – just the same as ever – he "acted out" a recent meeting with Hilliard that would be worth much money in vaudeville –

Have been bothered several times, and just accepted another invitation to go to Kevin – 26 miles – my 3rd trip today. Enclosing check for $10 for ice cream cones –

Write to me – and be good – regards to grace + Claud

Ker for the card –

Love

Daddy.

Sunday - Oct 28 - 28

Dear Becky -

Yours a good one - writing letters to yourself - I was very disappointed at not getting a letter from you, and I needed one pretty bad. for I had been pretty much down in the mouth - I had a very good friend die and went to Bozeman to the funeral and got your letter on my return - yesterday morning - Had a nice long letter from Mary Frances a week ago, but felt so rotten about everything, had not answered it - went through Great Falls in such a hurry that I had no time to get any presents, but will soon get away for a few days with nothing on my mind -

I have a doctor with me now - a Dr Spackman and I like him first rate - it is necessary to have someone, and he takes quite a bit of the burden off - outside of the work and worrys - things are first rate The weather has been pretty fine all the time with the exception of one small "blister" that didn't amount to much - I did not have time to do any hunting this fall - was out for an hour or so for ducks and had good luck then - will try again sometime and if it stays cold will send Pete some by express - I think they would keep alright - Major had plenty of hunting though, and is now the finest hunting dog in this whole country - Everybody said fine things -

Monday night -

This is about the way my letter writing goes - on the installment plan - Things are going pretty good today and I feel better - Does your Uncle Pete ever write letters - if he does, tell him to write to me - Can you send me John Jacks address - I asked Pete for it -

Will you also tell Rachels Hello for me - you didn't mention them - I hope nothing is wrong - I want to send Mrs Rachel something - can you suggest something - what do you hear from Mary Frances - does she like it there? - Major just now is having a bad dream under the bed; he has had a nerve wracking day of it - about ten kids had him out to entertain themselves this afternoon - he certainly was very bored until I came to his rescue -

How does the radio work? Sometime ago I got a new one - a Majestic - never had a chance to fool with it until tonight, except late when nothing was to be had except "two steps" - it is very good and they have a new station at Hollywood that is like next door - it will probably be a life saver some of these long evenings - but when it is rotten its the worst ever -

Had a letter from Clyde Combs and it sounded just like some of the smart cracks he used to hand you - I expect him up soon with Agnes - she isn't very well and will be up for treatment - the Coolidges are fine and I looked for Ed tonight on his way home from Canada but he hasn't showed -

I am very glad you do so fine in school; you didn't say how you were feeling, but I am sending you some tonic, that will make you quite sassy, with an appetite for raw meat - When I see you again, I want you to be fatter than that gardner of yours - dont work too hard and write to me often -

Love

Daddy -

If Pete doesn't write to me - tell his Mrs to -

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

Drs. Cottom & Cotton

Shelby, Montana

Tuesday - Oct 9 - 28

My Dear Becky -

A long time since I wrote to you also since I heard from you - things have gone very bad ever since I came home - if I had known of all the grief in store for me, I never would have come back - I was just so down hearted, it is better that I didn't write - This afternoon I think I arranged for an assistant that will be suitable - he will probably be here the last of the week to go to work - Dr Cotton and I blew up, and he has not been here since my return I hope you are doing fine and feeling good - if you should still be "peplos", it would be advisable to have a heart and urine examination —

Wed - 10/10 —

Was interrupted and spent the big part of the night out Winter set in today, - a real old time blizzard is in progress, - the first bad cold weather we have had - had one letter from Mary Frances since I came back -

Haven't had a chance to go anyplace since I hit Shelby - found quite a good Glacier Park picture that I sent to Doctor Smith, but want to get something of the sort for Mrs Shadel as soon as I can get to the Falls - I had about one hours hunting this year, - got 11 fine mallards and old Major had his refuse for living all year right then - he is very fine and a big help - I haven't seen any shows, - am "toying" out a new radio - a Majestic - it is very fine but haven't used it except late at night and then its all "Kooray"

I haven't heard of the Coolidges or Combs. so no news
George Anderson was brought in today with a bad sore
throat and have him in the hospital, - there are several
other cases in the same camp and I am suspicious
of it being diphtheria —
must close & get this on the mail or you won't get
it Sat - Please write to me —

Love

Daddy —

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

Drs. Cottom & Cotton

Shelby, Montana

at Western College, Oxford, Ohio Sunday - Sept 16, 1928

Dear Mary Frances -

I have not heard from you and am not able to explain to myself why? It doesn't seem right - I am not scolding, but I feel sorry for myself tonight - I have had a bad night and day, things going wrong - and just now saw the new moon over the wrong shoulder - Sent you a parcel of supplies yesterday - couldn't get the clock I had in mind - at least not with the alarm - Hope you like the fountain pen - will you let me know if you want the blanket and rug - can get them in Browning - will try to get to the Falls in a few days

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

Drs. Cottom & Cotton

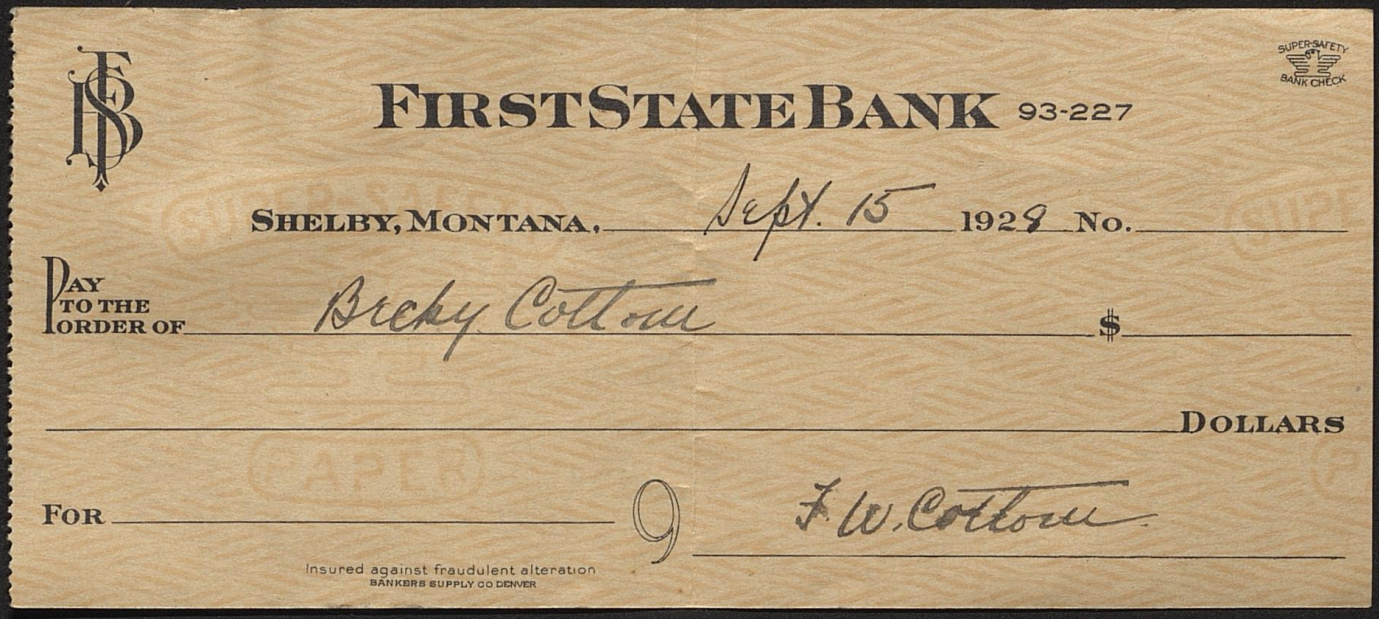
Shelby, Montana

They were out of the house I called you & but will mail it as soon as I can—

I have'nt heard from Cotton since he left but hope he gets back soon – wrote out a night telegram to send you but it was such a Cheerless affair decided against sending it—

I hope you like your new surroundings and that nothing has gone wrong – Will love

Daddy —



FIRST STATE BANK 93-227

SUPER-SAFETY BANK CHECK

SHELBY, MONTANA, Sept. 15 1929 No.

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Becky Cotton $

DOLLARS

FOR 9 F. W. Cotton

Insured against fraudulent alteration
BANKERS SUPPLY CO DENVER



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

Thu - Sept 13-28

Dear Bucky - Have'nt heard a thing from or about you, but hope you are alright. - Went on to Glacier Park for a day on my return and Dr Cotton left as soon as I got back. - Things have been in an awful mess, - and getting worse - Major was very fine and glad to see me - duck hunting begins Sunday but will have no chance to get out. - Mary R Rodes has turned Lutter and does pretty well - she is feeling better —

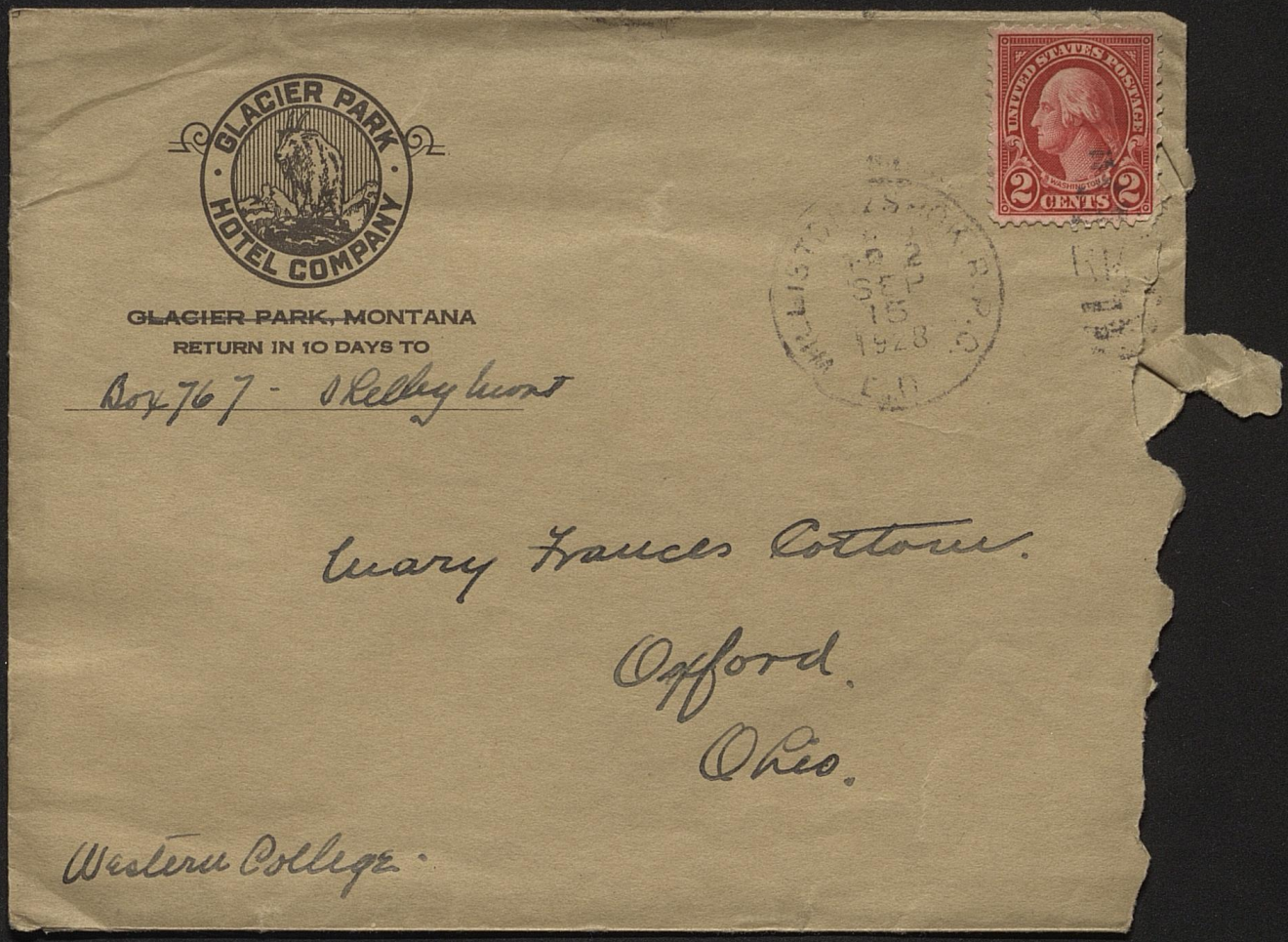
Will you send me Mrs Shadels and

VISIT THE NEW PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL
WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK

Pete Wings address, - and tell me how tall you are, it will be by Christmas — Also tell Mary Frances I have sent some stuff and written her at Offord — will write to the rest of the folks as soon as I can — Please write to me —

With love

Daddy.


GLACIER PARK
HOTEL COMPANY
GLACIER PARK, MONTANA
RETURN IN 10 DAYS TO
Box 767 - Kelly hunt
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
2 CENTS
SEP 15 1928
Mary Frances Cottom.
Oxford.
Ohio.
Western College.

Dedent think
mail much [illegible]
whether heard from
us: Telegraphed Clara
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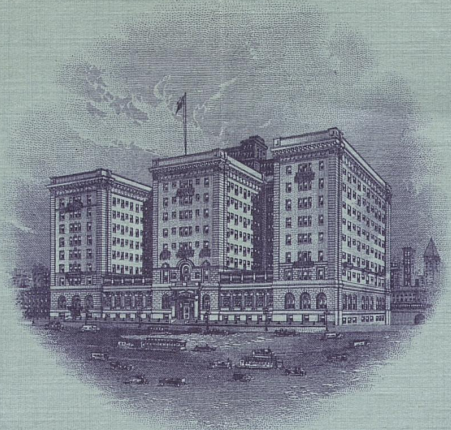


HOTEL PALLISER
CALGARY, ALTA.

Canadian Pacific Hotels

12/19/29. –

Dear Becky – I suppose it will be possible to wish you a merry Xmas from foreign lands. I have not been very well for awhile – came here a few days ago and may go to Banff where it is colder and more snow – nothing would delight me more than to have you with me – this is almost the place, the Santa Claus stories have their origin. I am sending you some money instead of a present. – I thought of sending you a new watch. Will you tell Gwen – her father & mother that their Christmas will not be forgotten but that the greetings will have to do for them now – I have tried for several days to write better than this, but this seems the best – Merry Xmas

With love

Daddy

Don't forget Merry Xmas

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Dec. 11 - 29

Dear Becky -

I had a nice letter from dear Francis postmarked Dayton - don't know how come - this has been my first day out, and I had a busy one - vaccinated 187 school kids (gratis) "this morning" and had to make a call to Sunburst this afternoon - Mister Soft driver - it is a dangerous business driving in these parts now - had about a foot of fine snow, that fell during zero weather - just as soon as a wind blows, we are due for a Terrible Blizzard - Saw your friend Powers the Almost bootlegger - gave me a bottle of beer that I got home without freezing - he inquired about you - My Christmas plans are all shot - will have to stay here and make up for lost time - had counted on coming to Dayton, for I want to see you - don't know much about clubs, so can't advise you - Are they some of those "night clubs" I read so much about ? The Major is very fine - this snow suits him fine - has had a bath and he sure keeps clean and white now - He was always begging for something, when I was laid up, and was no help whatever - I know you would enjoy my new teeth - they are the works of the devil - and they disgust me - Don't see how I can avoid them - they're none good - Have been taking baby foods and such like, but crave some edibles (am afraid that was too large a word for you)

Am enclosing a check for $20, and you may step out and do your Christmas shopping and hold out enough to see John Gilbert - No news except I am 91 years old

Love
Daddy.

MISSOULIAN LITHO. MISSOULA, MONT.

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

Okw - 11/21/29

Dear Becky -

Guess you think I have gone clear nutty, - Had been laid in for a week end Coolidge came up & say goodbye as he was leaving town for a few days and he mentioned how sorry he was to be away from home on Thanksgiving, - a fellow staying with me was in such a stew to get back to Shelby for Thanksgiving and a few other such things; that I hadn't written you made me feel pretty blue - Once the night letter I intended going back yesterday but it stormed, so will get at it today - want to see how things are but will have to come right back - am having a lot of trouble with my face - not the outside, but what's behind it - have a sinus and a lot of dental infection so am going to have the whole works cleaned out It grinds me to have it done, but I haven't felt right for a long time and maybe that's it - don't like to have the time or the income now either - Had planned on coming to Dayton soon - at times

MISSOULIAN LITHO. MISSOULA MONT.

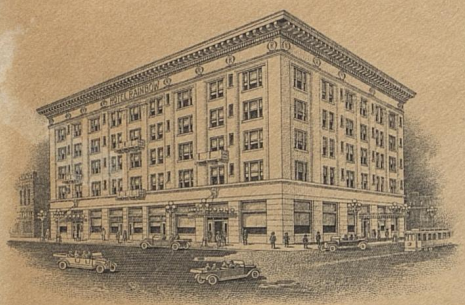
HOTEL Rainbow
ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF
FRANK G. HOFER, MANAGER
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

so that will probably be ff - am afraid you would laugh at me

Will write you from Libby and send you a check for your music

Love

Daddy



HOTEL RAINBOW

FRANK G. HOFER, MANAGER

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

GREAT FALLS, MO. NOV 21 4 30 PM 192

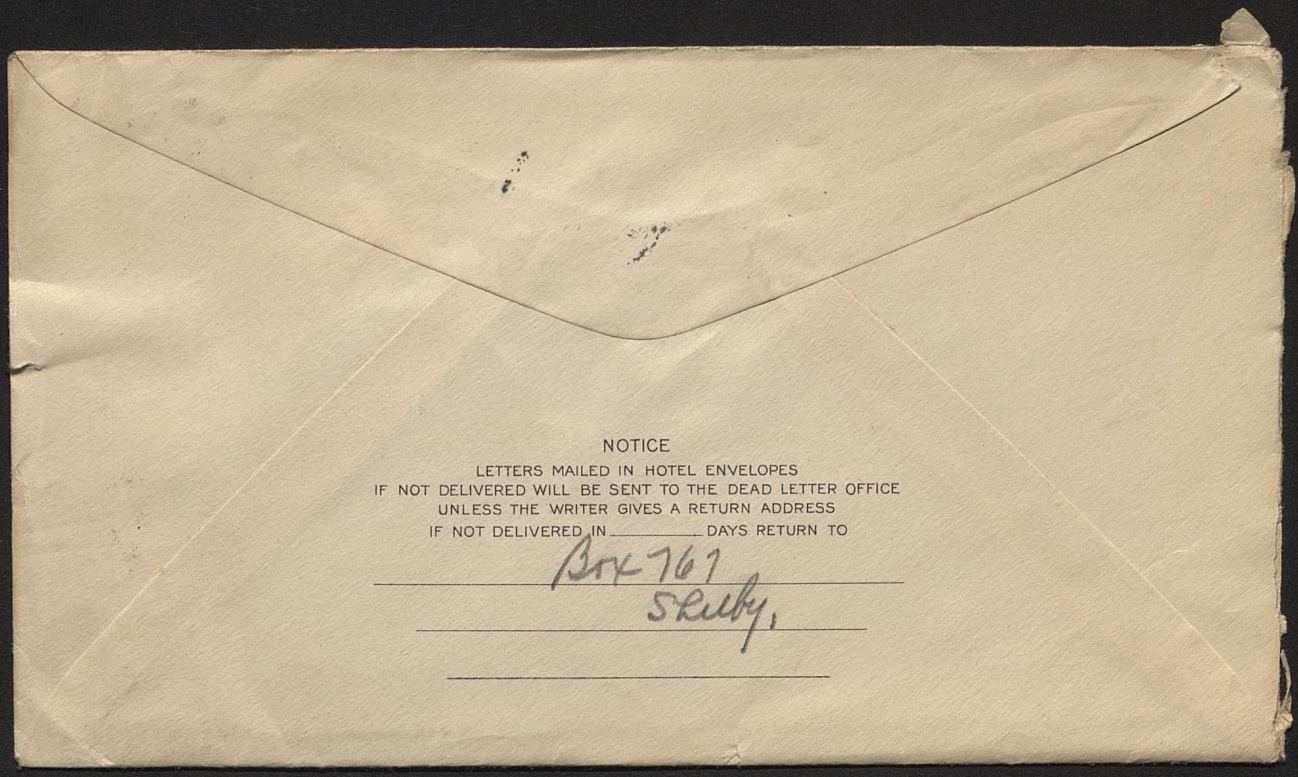
RED CROSS ROLL CALL JOIN

Becky Cotton

Dayton

Ohio

257 Ravenswood.



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 761
Shelby,

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE 1201-S



STERN NION

1929 NOV 20 AM 7 09

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS
DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LCO = Deferred Cable
CLT = Cable Letter
WLT = Week-End Letter

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at 521 Salem Avenue, Dayton, Ohio

DA1 31 NL=GREATFALLS MONT 1

BECKY COTTONS=

2257 RAVENSWOOD AVE=

SORRY NOT TO HAVE WRITTEN YOU THANKSGIVING LETTER HAVE BEEN SICK HERE SEVERAL WEEKS TEETH ETC GOING HOME TOMORROW TELL FRANCES SEE HER CHRISTMAS OR BEFORE HOPE YOU HAVE FUN LOVE=

DADDY.

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGR

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Tuesday
Oct 29-29-

Dear Becky -

Just have time for a few lines to you tonight - haven't been very busy, and its cold and stormy, and maybe ill go see Dear John Gilbert after while. - I haven't had any good luck with the "talkies" yet - haven't been able to stay over five minutes, but it looks like ill have to like them - the weather was the finest ever until Sunday, and then it turned loose, - went hunting up in the Sweet Grass Hills and never saw a thing - geese have been flying and honking over town for the last three nights, - the flight is on, and the street lights bother them, so they just fly all night - Major is just fine, but they have been poisoning dogs, so am keeping him indoors, when I take him out, I make him pack a paper or something and with his mouth full, he can't eat everything he can swallow. One of his "daughters" had a dozen pups and the prettiest lot I ever saw, - well they poisoned her, but she lived and all the puppies died. -

Sun Oct 31 -

well - I got bothered - went to see your friend Mr. Gilbert and played for the works, - and he is as soft as you have claimed - this is Halloween night and I can hear the kids around raising hell, - I am sure glad you're not that kind; and wouldn't want anything you couldn't push over - things are just the same here, - have been having a time getting the Hospital going, but have about got it straightened out, - have a lot of scarlet fever here now, and I find myself earning my 12.50 a month as city Health officer - all the old sisters in town have their own ideas about who should be quarantined fumigated and how, and when; - I keep my temper -

The weather is fine again, but pretty cold, - somebody comes

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

in and tells me about getting ducks & geese etc and it makes me unhappy; for I've had no luck. - Would like to get up in the Sweet Grass Hills, but there is about a foot of snow and badly drifted. - Major is very lonesome & very hungry. - never saw a dog so ravenous; and him getting no physical or mental exercise -

Had quite a nice letter from Mary Frances yesterday She is playing some golf and hockey now, - that will improve her disposition; having her shins clouted - Would like to hear how you are making it in music, - Don't know what is wrong with the radio this year; - its been so noisy here you can't get much out of it, except phonograph records from Lethbridge - never have had Cincinnati since that night - Rusty Powers was in today, - brought me a bottle of beer and asked about you - wish I could send it; - have some pretzels & saving it for bedtime - Taft is the same and his youngster has scarlet fever - Hewson and Spencer have made no changes - We just came in, full of trouble - She can never always unfold a lot of grief; -

must close again & try to get this in the mail Please write, - you haven't said anything about yourself

Love
Daddy

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Oct. 23. 1929

Dear Becky -

Am very sorry I haven't written to you before, but will make a start at it now - Haven't felt much like writing to anybody, very busy and pretty discouraged -

Am enclosing a clipping of some of my activities and have had quite a few bad accident cases, and little sleep. - We have the Log Cabin going and it is full up and have had patients for in the office - Noe is busy and flustrated - The other Hospital closed up night before last and moved suddenly to Kevin - do not know how much disturbance their will make. will try to write to you soon and tell you more about it - Had a letter from Mary Frances the same day I received yours - am anxious for you to get this before Sunday for I know I will be out of luck for a Sunday letter - Went hunting and never found a gun. - ducks seem to be gone - The major hasn't been well today - poured some salt water down him - much to his disgust; and then a large portion of castor oil Please write me about the music lessons. if you want to take private lessons - from who; expense of them etc - Will write soon - am going to take this to the P.O. lock up the place + get to bed, although it isn't dark yet.

Love
Daddy

Three Local Doctors Establish New Hospital

Three prominent doctors of Shelby have leased the Log Cabin hotel on the north side of Shelby from Mrs. Bertha M. Blacker, owner, and established a hospital in the building. Those interested in the new institution are Dr. J. W. Williamson, Dr. F. W. Cottom and Dr. M. D. Ridle.

The new hospital is reported as capable of caring for 14 patients. The library of the building will be used as an operating room while the hotel parlor will serve as reception room. Considerable new equipment has been ordered and will be placed as soon as it arrives. Miss Thelma J. Wodetzki is acting as superintendent, assisted by Miss Mary Baker of Havre.

OILMONT

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Monday noon - 9/9/07

Book; Buddy -

Just got your letter - "en route" - very glad - showed it to your friend, Hewson - he wanted to know if you wrote it, and I told him yes - that you were sweater than he thought you were - you hadn't been away anytime until I missed you, - went to the Gold Butte country yesterday & missed you, and again this morning, when I was picking burrs out of the major - He was just a solid mass of them - had to cut them out, and he was sure disgusted - raining and dismal here today - just made a trip to Dunkirk and it is cold too - I hope you got the box home alright. - would like to have a report on it. - Tell Mary Frances she forgot that encyclopedia - if she wants it, when shall I send it? Maj. snapped at me while I was removing a burr painlessly - we put on a wound, and he lost. -

Wish I could see you - don't forget next Sunday -

Love Daddy

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

4/30/29.-

Dear Becky -

Things are going rotten with me again broke my "wish" bone and several ribs a week ago Sunday and it called for rest in bed. - Thought I had to get up Sat and then to bed again with a pleurisy, - it is about alright now and will try it again tomorrow - At that, I dont think I have missed very much, - there hasn't been much work and the weather has been bad. - a small snow storm every day Haven't done much with my "dry land farm" except have it grass seeded, and planted some gladiolus bulbs - I think it needs some warm sun instead of snow drifts -

Geo Bell was up Sunday - had just come from a visit to Lewistown Says everything is very quiet there but the folks are all fine - Jimmy is quite well and Coolidge plans on having him move to Great Falls, - he can live close to them, as before, - He gets pretty Laywire mentally sometimes, - Maces are O.K. except that the Mrs has been having dizzy attacks, - may get over there to see her some time soon for she wont go to a Lewistown Doctor - They have lights on the ranch, - Andy has bought another piece of land and they work as hard as ever -

Dont hear so much of the Bryants except that they plan on being up there this summer - am trying to have them visit me this spring - Major is better than ever - he is disgusted with me staying in bed - he cant get up either, - something else he cant understand - I usually run him every day and he is getting fat. - Wish you and Gwen could have him for awhile; he would entertain you -

Will close for now as this sort of writing, is work, - hope you are fine and having fun - Hello to the Stadels, and tell Gwen to write to me sometime

Love
Daddy

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Mar 27 - 29

Dear Becky.

Your very nice letter came this morning and I was very glad - I understood from Mary Frances letter that she was to go home last Friday, for 10 days. - Yesterday, I sent your home Easter fixings, and some to her at Dayton - did not know what to give which, when I sent them, so you can trade around until you are satisfied - Hope you arranged to give Grace something - I should have sent something from here, but its too difficult a proposition - Would have rather got you some wearing finery, but no chance of getting it, unless in the stores, and have had no time to go there -

I am "figuring" on a trip East, and hope to make it - I didn't fool you Christmas, - the only trip I could have made then, would not have been so good -

am getting my back yard fenced in for keeps; and plan on spending Easter, making a garden - don't know what it will be, but am going to try to have something green around here - Have some of the kids coming in Easter morning for a party - They think my new fence is for the rabbits -

The weather is fine, but for two days have had Montana winds; sand blizzards, -

Hope you do well at the spelling bee, - and write to me

Love

Daddy.

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

Dear Becky:

I thank you ever so much for your Christmas card and your picture when you were three. Your Aunt Myrtie wonders if I may keep the picture, or if you wish me to return it. Will you please let me know?

I think that if I had known you when you were three I should have "squoze" you all to pieces, almost, but, that is just as likely to happen now!

I have been at home sick for two weeks and can not write more now.

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

Your Aunt Myrtie joins me in heaps of love to all of you.

Sincerely,

Your Uncle

Levin.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

in Dayton, Ohio

Sat night
Mar. 23-29.

Dear Bucky -

Just a line to let you know I would like to see you - had dinner tonight at Rhoadis - Have little twin girls, and they are sure slick kids - the older one, - Mary Elizabeth - is a rough neck -

I am sending you $10, - figuring you had some Easter gifts to buy - also $5 that I wish you would spend getting yourself a gift for me - Have been too busy to go anywhere and couldn't think of anything that I could get Ree, to send her -

There isn't anything new, - the weather is cold and stormy again, but I can stand it alright - Major is fine now, but was sick for several days - Gave him the surprise of his life, in the form of a worm capsule and castor oil - He has looked at me accusingly ever since, - didn't figure I was that kind of a fellow -

Hope you will write to me and that you have a nice Easter. -

Love
Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Mar 18-29.

Dear Becky-

A long time since Ive written you, and for the last week, something always happened in the evenings, so that I couldnt, and it would be put off until the next day. and the same thing over - Havnt heard from you for a long time either, - was very glad to hear you won a medal and am anxious to see it. - Do you git to keep it. - There isnt very much to write about from here, - am feeling good again and things seem to be going better - for quite awhile last winter, they were pretty dismal, from all angles.

The weather has been fine lately; the snow is about gone and the roads are getting good. Over around Conrad town, they are still snowed in, and I dont suppose Bryants have been able to get off of the hill. - Would have liked to have got up there but wouldnt have liked that sort of weather - Havnt heard from them for a long time - Saw by the paper where Andy Isaac had been in town, so guess he survived all right. - Ed Coolidge and Pap came in yesterday and stayed until an early morning train - he had been over to see Jimmy and he seems to be doing fine - Do you ever write to him? - Major is fine and is improving - gave him his first lesson in riding on the running board several days ago. - He didnt seem to think it required

much thought, and jumped out after a gopher — He got a lot wiser right away, and has been stuffed up ever since — He has been swimming in the lakes in ice water too, which may have something to do with it —

I haven't heard from Mary Frances for a long time — I am planning on coming East next month, - want to come, and can spare the time better then, than later, when work is opening up in the field — Tell your mother I am writing to her soon -

Please write and let me know what I can get you for Easter — also what you know Mary Frances might want. -

How is Grover? - Write soon -

Love Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

2/13/29.-

Dear Becky -

I can't complain about the 13th for I just got a letter from you - was to the field tonight and it came and I was very glad. - Saw the new moon over my wrong shoulder, though; - but maybe it won't count - Am feeling pretty good again but can't do much - We have had a bad winter, below zero for several weeks - worse in Lewistown - but yesterday and today are fine - Major has been housed in and is so fat he has to sleep on his back, and then has a hard time turning over - I suppose you got my letter of several days ago. - Haven't heard from Gwen - did you ask her to write to me. would very much like some pictures. ~~Please write to me soon~~

Love
Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

Feb 8-29

Dear Becky -

Should have written you a long time ago but had nothing to go with it - am enclosing a check and some "show" money, - have been here about 10 days and feeling better and soon hope to have less to worry about - I am getting along very well without an assistant and have made arrangements for the hospital to go along without being so much of a worry - all I need now is time and good health to get my debts paid - am feeling first rate but can't do anything that calls for any exertion — The winter has been very cold - down to 42 below & scarcely above zero at anytime for several weeks - Flow is going - wish you would tell her I would like to hear from her - Eleanor is very fine and fat as a pig since the weather has been so cold - never wanted to see spring so bad -

Love
Daddy..

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE 1201-S

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

1930 JUN 15 PM 8 30

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL	= Day Letter
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Received at 427 So. LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill. Telephone Wabash 4321

1930 JUN 15 PM 8 21

MC682 8=BG BROWNING MONT 15 647P

FRANCES BECKY COTTOM= 1015 Ph.

CARE EMPIRE BUILDER NO 1 LEAVING TODAY CHICAGO ILL=

HAVE FUN PREPARE TO LEAVE TRAIN AT HAVRE=

DADDY.

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

1930 JUN 15 PM 8 57

UT

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Monday night. 6/9/30

Dear Becky -

Had a nice letter from Mary Frances this morning saying you might come out with her, and I am holding my breath - Wish you were here now for it is fine. Have many things planned for you - all work - but I know you will have fun. - Told Major about it and he seemed to know what I meant, - or at least, acted pleased. - There will probably be some pups left, and you can catch fish now in the Dean reservoir - There isn't much new here, - very quiet, and you can have a good rest, writing compositions for me -

Hope you can come - love

Daddy.

Virginia Lee was just in, and told me Barnes Bros circus will be here Tuesday - and you must not miss it. Bebe Gilroy also in and invited me, saying she had 17 tickets -

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

May 29-30.

Dear Becky — I was very happy this morning to receive your letter, - to hear that your feet are mates and that you want to see me etc. etc. —

There isn't a thing new here, except a certain daily amount of trouble; - and some days more trouble - They have been fixing the street - oiling it, and the office is a mess major got it in his feet, and now sleeps alone. - Had one of his pups here yesterday, and you would have done well with him. - gave him to Mister Taft for his little girl. - it took somebody with a mop, busy all day - major is just fine and nicer than he was last year; - more dignified and affectionate - He is sure a whole lot of good company. -

You haven't mentioned the Stadels lately - What is wrong? did not hear from Mary Frances last week, or this; - wrote to her yesterday and gave her hell - Suppose she thinks she is very busy - I haven't been that way lately - things have been quiet, but have to stay around just the same - Everyone else has been fishing, and I haven't been in on any fish either. -

Was very tickled about your coming out; when are you out of school and when can you start etc. - You will have to wait and come with your big sister, because Chicago and fast trains are no business for "just kids"

Fri. Memorial Day -

Had to quit this last night. Today is cloudy and gloomy and not much of a day - may go down to Dunkirk this afternoon when the Am. Legion are holding services -

Am enclosing some photos - Better you write me soon Love

Daddy

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Sat night - May 17-30.

Dear Becky - Was very glad to git your letter the other day - you write much better than you did and it read more like a letter - the "little foot print" was not enjoyed so much; - but then - some people have — kids. - there are many compansons I could make, but won't. - how that is a fallen arch; - plenty fallen - and I suppose the other one is the same; - they can deal you plenty of grief; - now, and in the beautiful Hereafter; - so better you keep those supports and wear them; - xercise your feet and massage them; - wiggle your toes a lot, and git some shoes with built in supports; - for the metatarsal arch as well; - hot foot baths, often, do very well. - Now all this is the voice of wisdom; - this part of your feet can be corrected; - but the sign, never; - was astonished to see what you wear a 45 shoe. -

Your score card for next years school is good; - I could see you get along without Math very well, - and I don't suppose they delve so deeply into the realms of science. - Latin, English and History should be a part of anyone's education; - I don't know what they mean by Art. - so won't go crazy about it. - It might be well to consult your Scholastic sister. - Had a letter from her the other day, parts of which were not so scholarly -

There isn't much to write about from here, - the weather has been cold, snowy, rainy, dismal, but has been decent yesterday and today; - my garden is showing; - Mrs Shepfler puts her pup in the yard also, and my sweet peas probably won't amount to very much; - He is the loneliest thing alive; - a Scotch terrier and so unsightly, he is good looking — the major is nicer every day

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

and is getting to be quite an ancestor,-

Clyde Combs wrote me that he would be in the Falls tonight,- I am to call him up, and either see him in the Falls tomorrow or have him come to Shelby - He isn't so good and his old legs are going very bad. - Mrs Combs was through here last week; going to her folks at Polson - via Kalispell -

Wodetzki is back at her home in Illinois -

I have been pretty busy with work that hasn't amounted to much, - Had three gun shot cases in their works - this means that my future will be taken up with murder trials.

I hope will write soon long & often - wrote to Gwen today.

Love
Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Monday.-
May 5th - 30.

Dear Becky -

I had your letter several days ago and I wish I could see you, too - I am feeling quite good again, but there are many things that I cannot do - any hard work, - and I hope you are not in the same fix - I supervised the garden reading today and stood it pretty well - planted sweet peas as before and set out wild cucumber plants around the porch. The major came along and eat them off, - probably figured they had some medicinal value, - hope they gripe the hell out of him - Those pups are fine and I have picked out a dandy - believe he will be prettier than Maj. and he is a bright little whelp, too.

There isn't anything new to tell you about, - I have gained fifteen pounds in the last 3 weeks, - Mr Hewson and Taft seem to be doing about as well, - Hewson boy, Don, - the one you were so gone on, - that another kid several days ago in the stomach - that made me scared for awhile but he is getting along good. - Clyde Combs is a grand father, and doesn't appear to be any worse, - I drove up to Blackfoot yesterday, the roads and weather fine - Everything is very dull here, and they call it a business depression, - if the democrats were in, it would be a "panic", - I think I told you Woe had gone East, - had a letter from her and she wants to come back, - Haven't heard from Mary Frances for awhile, but suppose she is getting active in a social way - How are your affairs coming along?

Had an Easter card from Gwen and must answer it, - Have a picture for Mrs Stahl and must get around to send it soon.

Please write and tell me all about yourself. Am enclosing check and wish it could be for much more -

Love
Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

4/16/30.-

Dear Becky -

I hope you have a nice and happy Easter, I am feeling pretty well now, - I didn't have a chance to get you any Easter gift, but sending you a small check that you can buy some new stockings - Also have had a picture to send Mrs Stadel since Xmas, will try to get around to crate it soon - Have not much new here, except nice spring weather, - Wos left today for Kansas City, - Major is grandpa for 17 puppies, yesterday, - He is prier than ever and is sure a pardner; am worried that he will be poisoned as so many have been, - some one found a little kid up town had picked up a sugar cube, - others laying about and all containing strychnine - Jim Mowery has been with me but went out trapping on the Hills yesterday

Wrote to Mary Frances tonight and am getting tired and want to get this on tonights train or you wont get it until Monday -

I hope you will write soon -

Love

Daddy.

For Dear Becky: 1930



Flowers bright of every hue
Easter Greetings bring to you

With heaps of love
Aunt Myrtie and Uncle Levin

Dear Becky:

Thank you so much for the cards you sent. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

I have quite recovered from my accident and am very well.

I should like to be with you at Easter time and am hungry to see all of you.

Please give our love to your mother.

We should love to hear from you.

With a good hug and every good wish, I am sincerely

Your Uncle

Levin.

1930. XXXXXXX

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Feb. 2. 30.

Dear Becky.

Just a few lines to wonder how you are this has been a hard winter here; have been pretty blue and no appetite for writing letters - then was 47 days of subzero weather, and plenty of snow for more. Yesterday, however it began to chinook - a sudden warm wind and the snow has gone a whooping, and mud and water everywhere. tried to go to Conrad today after Jaffs car, that we had to leave there, because of a storm, - couldn't make it, - stopped at the river on the way back and the major had a great time - just a little open water at that old swimming hole of yours - at last accounts you were going in for basket ball - would like to know quite a bit more about it, - just how good you are - I haven't heard much from Mary Frances either, - she said she had taken a two mile hike; it probably laid her low - There has been nothing exciting or newsy here at all; last week a big new oil well was brought in near Sweet Grass, - this means a new field, and all hands will flock to it again this year - Stewart is just the same, - Zaft and Wodenski have both taken on a few pounds this winter - I haven't been around very much - stayed home mostly and warmed my rheumatic joints - Maj has been a life saver, - very good company only he wants something all the time; wants to be petted - he has to have a new bed; - plays with an old pillow, and once in a while it gives away, and we have a feather blizzard - Will try to get a package off to Hadels this week - Hope you will write to me -

Love
Daddy

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONTANA

1/21/30

Dear Becky - This is a long delayed letter and not very much to write about. - Read several days ago about 15° below weather in Dayton, - high water etc - we haven't had any water, but plenty of snow & cold - Have been caught out in blizzards almost every time I started out this winter, and have decided that I'm too anciant for any work of such - Burns having rheumatism this winter and pretty much stiffened up, step off like an old horse and the cold doesn't affect it. - The major doesn't think much of it either, - too sedentary for him. - Haven't walked up town since the first of the year. - Christmas was uneventful - had a tree and Pauline and Virginia Lee officiated for Mary - His birthday brought him a new no.1 - dog tag and the promise of a bath. - He has some new stunts that would tickle you. - Many thanks for the pajamas, - they have done steady duty and kept my old rheumatic pins warm. - Had some nice gifts from Stadels. - wanted to get them something but it was not possible for me - ordered Mrs Stadel a picture of Mount Russell across the Meadows Lake and have wondered ever since if it wasn't a view I had sent her - will you find out. - Hope to get to the Falls soon and find something for the girls. - Hope to get a shipment through to Mrs Stadel soon from Canada -

Coolidge was just through here tonight - had a letter from Bryant awhile ago, - he claims some cold weather and snow for Kendall, - his letter sounded like he had been doing a lot of meditating. - No news from the Combs - was pleased to hear you are a basket ball star, - there is some such sort of rackets going on here, tonight - We sat thought you & the Virginian & I have been to a show for a long time - these talkies are rotten, and wouldn't go, if I could. Had to make several trips to Conrad last week as a witness in a murder trial - The jury didn't believe me either, for they gave the poor devil, life. -

Mister Taft upset the car with me awhile ago (Kids - please notice) - He then fell on top of me, along with mats, chains, tools, the major, etc - am sore the damage that was done, and just mention it for your guidance - those things will upset. - Had quite a letter from Mary Frances. Think she is doing alright

Please write, - don't work too hard, - and have fun.

Love
Daddy

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Dec. 3 - 30

Dear Becky - It is long since I wrote you - or heard from you, - had quite a shock today to see a Christmas Sat Eve Post. - did not realize it was that near. - Have not been well since I wrote you last, - feel first rate, but can't get around to do much. - have been pretty blue also, and that doesn't seem to help either - took Buj for a run yesterday afternoon beyond the cemetery, - it was our first trip out for quite awhile - He is fine and just the same as ever, only, he makes a leap into my lap now, when I ask him if he wants a bath, - tries to jook me out of it. -

I don't think there is much that is new here to interest you, - the Reliable jeweler was asked to leave town yesterday; which he did without delay - LaRetta said she had a letter from you, - have a new girl in the office, - a young nurse from the Columbus Hosp, - she is doing fine so far, - have a patient in the office now, - otherwise Clifford Cook stays with me, - He mentions your name quite often, - for a young man - Hewson and Dr Williamson had a fuss, and the drug store is in the air. - Jack Walker had a birthday yesterday and was invited to eat, - cake with candles etc. - I still go to the "brewery" for food and it, and the food is unchanged - Gwen Larson has been sick, or partly sick, and has been staying at Hannah's. - She was in today - Orlons and all others are just the same. - You folks spoiled me last summer, - I knew it was going to be dreary, but this has been awful, - the evenings are a month long, - the radio and shows are no good, and I don't seem to get interested in reading. - The hard times have hit this country with a vengeance and very little going on in the oil line - Was glad to get your Thanksgiving card. - It

was the only bright spot in a desolate day - Wish you were here - Mary Frances writes to me pretty good, - but doesn't say much about how she is getting along, so I guess it must be alright - I haven't had a chance to brag any, about being the best driver - having the best dog ele, - in Montana - I crave an audience - Hope you write to me - that you are having fun, - Love

Daddy

Thanks for the picture -

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY [illegible] CONCERNING ITS SERVICE 1201-S

CLASS OF SERVICE

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NEWCOMB CARLTON, [illegible] VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LCO = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
WLT = Week-End Letter

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at 521 Salem Ave., Dayton, Ohio Always

1930 NOV 15 AM 11 11

DA22 16 NM=SHELBY MONT NOV 14

BECKY COTTOM=

2257 RAVENSWOOD AVE=

DAYTON, O.

LETTER IN MAIL HAVENT FELT MUCH LIKE WRITING MAJ AND EVERYTHING FINE SNOWY AND COLD LOVE=

DADDY...

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

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVO[R] ... N CONCERNING ITS SERVICE 1201-S

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W[ESTERN] U[NION]



SIGNS

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NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT ... VICE PRESIDENT

20 DEC 20 AM 9 23

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Received at 521 Salem Ave., Dayton, Ohio Always

DA5 29 NL=GREATFALLS MONT DEC 19

DV DAYTON. O.

MARY FRANCES COTTOM=

2257 RAVENSWOOD AVE=

COME TO FALLS FOR A FEW HOURS LEAVING SOON THINGS ARE GOING BETTER PACKAGE SENT GN EXPRESS TODAY TELL BECKY WISH SHE WAS HERE HOPE YOU ENJOY VACATION LOVE=

DADDY...

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

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Tues A.M. - Dec 16 - 30

Dear Frances - Just received your letter and will answer at once, although my morning moods are not the kind for letter writing - Hope to get this to you, before you have afford, - the mail all goes east before noon now - Am feeling quite well again, if I dont vent, but very discouraged, that is much better than it was, - have been having patients in the office - but two go yesterday, but still have Peter - you remember Pete from the Calif camp - he almost went out with a quick inspection of his head and face, - he is vastly improved and runs off more than a magpie - the new girl and nurse is doing good, - seems to try hard, and very conscientious, - in great demand, socially however - Have seen Babette every day, - she went to work again at the bravery, and her man immediately came back, - boots & all - saw him once, and think he has a small auburn moustache - you know the kind - almost invisable -

do not know what I will do for Christmas, - may go down to the Coolidges, with old Jimmy, - but will go to Walkers, if I stay on. If they still jailed folks for debt, I would'nt need to worry about it. - Hope somebody pays me something sometime - Went to a show last week - John Mackonack, - it was a change - Hewson now owns the Shelby Drug having bought out Williamson

It will be O.K. about the check, - so long as I know about it - am sending one for 20, that you will use for your Xmas gifts - Am being bothered too fine, so will get this ready to mail and more if I can - Love

Daddy -

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Dec 3 - 30

Dear Frances

Will try to get some sort of letter to you before Sunday - Had no idea Christmas was so near until I saw a Sat Eve Post today, - it didn't cheer me up. Any things are going fair with me; - feel good enough, but am depressed and discouraged. - the new office girl is good, so far, but am afraid it can't last. - Gwen hasn't been well, - was in today, and she doesn't look good. - There isn't anything new about town, - will send you Pinky's Tribune, with all the gossip - Just wrote to Becky - Haven't heard from her for some time - Look for a letter from you tomorrow -

Have a patient in the office now, - not so much trouble as the others, - old Joe had to go on the county, and Williamson is giving him 3 grains of morfin daily, - so that closes his book - did not hear anything more from the pompous brother in law, - Major is fine, and nice as can be, - had him out for a run yesterday, - the first for a long time; - he got portly -

The weather has been fine lately, - thawing a bit, but much snow and ice yet, - old Jim was in today - he is trapping just below the bridge, - Will close and get to the Granery

Wish you were here - Love

Daddy



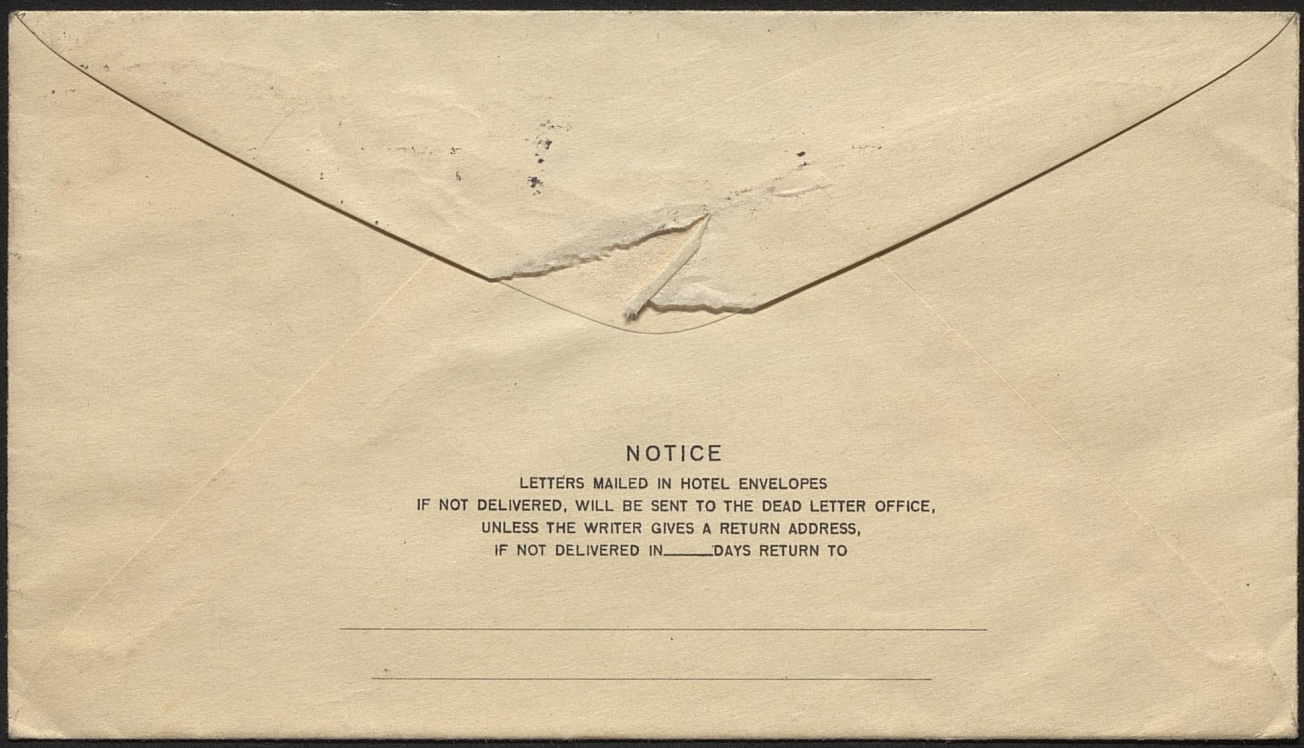
HOTEL RAINBOW
FRANK G. HOFER, Manager
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

GREAT FALLS, MONT.
NOV 24
8 - AM
1930

RED CROSS
ROLL CALL
JOIN

Mary Frances Cotton,
Oxford.
Ohio.

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

_____

_____

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Tuesday night. - 10-28-30

Dear Sis -

am enclosing some pictures - Mr. Taft and I - wish you were here - there were six more geese in the cars; - bring that many more than the limit for one day - I finally heard from that damaged picture that I sent to Stadels - do you think she would like another one; - or can you suggest something, they might like better - Would like to send him some Canadian beer but guess ther is no chance - Just wrote to Mary Frances; she seems to be bothered with her Chemistry, - well - she will just have to buy into it. - Had maj up to her golf links with the rifle; - you might mention to her that her one armed shepherd is still there; - was willing to voice his sentiments about the beautiful women of New Orleans and many other joints, but I didnt stay -

There isnt anything to do but play the radio and read - You would like the radio, Dora, - all it gives out is the crooning of some simple sap, while another beats the tom tom - will you tell me just exactly what I will have to do. to find out something about your dancing school. I am not ordinarily profane, but feel myself leaning that way.

La Reita was sick with the flu for several days, - dont know what she did with her saxaphone player - Angela is at the brewery. grows keeps the place clean, but keepless otherwise - think I will keep her until after Christmas -

Havnt seen a good show, but went to one that must have been the worlds worst - "Soup to nuts" - stayed only a short while - Hope your vaccination report got to you in time - Love

Daddy

[1930]

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Thursday night. - Oct 23 -

Dear Bobby -

Did not get much of a letter ff to you last night, and havn't much to offer tonight, - just had another good dinner tonight: it begins to fall on me, - one at Dillons with the Walkers tomorrow night, and then - the famine - Have a new eating place, under the bank - it is pretty fair, and made the other places whip up some - I had a very dull day today, - worked the car over, and it is turned up so that it might get away from you - Old Mag. is whining and nudging me - "wants to go" - Saw by the papers that winter came back East, too - we had hellish weather here, but it has been thawing for two days, and the roads are sure tough - wish you were here to work this radio; - it isn't worth a whoop, and will soon get a good throwing out. - Mister Soft had a bad night and day - got grogged on gin - his social standing is very poor; - at home and elsewhere, - when I first saw him this morning, he had just busted a barrell of linseed oil all over himself, - he seemed to be quite dejected, - I sent a few remarks his way that helped a lot, - anyhow, he came out on the fight - he says "Hello" to you - I met the Mrs Rawson in the P. O. this morning - she spoke to me quite affably - Babetta was in today with a burnt hand; - said you had written her; - how comical you were and everything; - and I said "Yeah" - that's all I said - I could have said more, but I didn't say it. - I know when I've said enough - Did you ever write to Margaret or Carol probably you should. - Haven't been Sandholm lately - only go there for breakfast, - mail letters at the hotel and trains don't interest me - Will get a package ff to you soon - your leavings etc. - sorry about the watch; - had thought Santa Claus

might bring you one, but if I can arrange to come East
Xmas, I will travel very light - things are certainly
poverty stricken here now. - the oil companies can not
sell their oil and are shutting down. - the independent
operators are trying to lease the refinery here, use their own
crude and build a market; - it will be fine if it works,
but bucking big oil corporations has many angles -
A fellow was just in from Kalispell saying the roads
were fine to Cutbank - want to ride the train to Belton
some Sunday, after a snow storm - you never did get
your locomotive ride - the Wrights were in several nights
ago - she said she was sending you some pictures -
let me know about your school - hope you knock em dead -
also about the dancing - Love
Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Wed night - Oct 22 - 30

Dear Becky —

Thought I would write you last night but was up to Tufts to a goose dinner ate so much I was like an Indian - got sleepy and went to sleep - in bed at 9 o'clock. - Went hunting to the river Sunday afternoon with Jos Sutton and Taft, - Taft shot two geese, - but the next morning we went out and I showed them something — gave geese to everybody I thought could cook. - Also big one to Carthey - just came home from a big dinner party there, - it was real pleasant, having good food, nice people telling you how good you were, - I know the relation Lindbergh must have felt, - You know I was the best hunter in Montana, and now its an accepted fact. - that I also own the best dog in Montana was conceded. - Had you been along you would have satisfied yourself about the best driver, for the roads are terrible, and I doubt if you could have made it — Have been badly interrupted, so will have to close this off, but will try to do better tomorrow — what about the dancing? - Will that straighten your shoulders? Never mind about my Calitoes, when you never cleaned your teeth all summer, - and I'll thank you for no more of your wise cracks about my "IT" or "NIT" or what not. - Mrs Rawson is of the past, - but Mrs Martin survives — write to me sometime — Love

Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

1930

Wednesday night · Oct 15 -

Dear Becky -

no mail from you for days, - Have looked things over, - Frances intentionally left the clock and hat, - the scissors are not to be found, - there is a sweater, - Oh - Yeah. - Ill be cussed, if she didnt write, wanting that damn tan coat sent, - "it would be nice for "Liking" - That, had long since, went up in smoke. Last night it turned real cold and stormy; - ducks and geese have been going through, and I guess real winter is here. - All the lakes are frozen over, - couldnt start the car this morning - Had a trip to Sunburst today, - saw the Cartneys and Dillons - There isnt very much going on here, - not so busy, and everybody is hard up, so its just as well. - Havnt heard from Clyde since he left but do not think I will try to go to Billings with him, - want to stay here pretty close, and if I go anywhere, would rather come to see you, - If I come at Christmas, it will mean no present for you. Maj. is very lonesome tonight, - old Jim is here, and plays the radio worse than you; his taste is equally depraved -, and several stations at once, make no difference, - Ive got to make some arrangements - Brundage will move in sometime, and I plan on us working nights, calcimining and going over the floors. - Gwen is doing first rate and the office is spotless all the time, - Ive got to keep her away from the typewriter, - she gets the swede part balled up on it, much worse than when she talks - Coolidge took my money playing pitch last night, - Got word that my pass was now good on No 1 from Shelby west, so think I will ride it to Belton and back, some Sunday soon, - "wish you were along" - You never mention Stadels? Taft is gaining, and a very model young man, - had to patronize him for some new tires, - so you could just as well make some hundreds of miles more, - Do you think you have forgotten your lessons? "gently," etc I visit the tire shop sometimes and converse with them.

The hospital is as it was, - old Joe came back in and is just

the same or worse, - dont have an idea what will become of him,
but he will have to be a county case, or go to Warm Springs -

Was bothered to make a call and its now cocoa & train time -
Hope you write, - Let me know about the ballet dancing - Love

Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

1930

Wed. night - Oct 1 -

Dear Becky -

Was very pleased to get your letter yesterday morning - and that the school isn't going to be so much trouble. - The course sounds very sensible too, and you ought to be able to knock it dead. Shelby is very much as you left it, - nothing new and no excitement. - Went to the Falls with Hewson yesterday to get the car fixed, - had the dents and yellow paint removed from the fenders awhile ago, thinking it would be all until next year, and you can cut my throat if the other fender wasn't all caved in, in spots, - don't know what did it"! Hewson laments that he didn't get down to your train with a box of candy, but think it was late, because of his Canadian birth - Joe came back Saturday, - he and Blacky disturbed the usual calm of this place, so I got him to the country Sunday. He is harder than ever to be around, - the folks I wished him on want me "to do something," but am not having him here, - Jim Awberry came in from the Hills today, sick, - so have him to moan for me tonight. - Coolidge came in awhile ago and will be here also. Taft got home Sunday looking very fit, - had a good time etc and says he is going again next year - I think he cooked it quite a bit, but he sure did make a grand stort. -

Am enclosing a picture that you will probably get very enthusiastic about, - am sending one to Margaret and think you had better send one to Carol.

I think Margaret is doing first rate in Denver and seems to like it. -

No; - Dora - Mrs the Rawson hasn't been down any, - the family butcher; - Mister Roeder and myself, have been passed, like we were standing still, by the "Loney boy"; - a skinny customs guy, with a uniform; - However, Mrs Howard phoned the other day and wondered if my "little daughters" were still here; - she was so sorry and disappointed; - she was having a party for her Patsy that afternoon - age 5 years - I could see old Mary Frances "sizzle" -

Havn't heard anything about "dancing daughters" and wish you would find out about lessons etc and let me know; - Major is nicer every day, - we just sit around, and feel sorry for each other; - Coolidge is taking him out with him to Gold Butte tomorrow; - hunted awhile Sunday afternoon as I took Joe Lome; - Maj was sure in his glory & did fine - Hope you write again. - Love

Daddy

[1930]

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Wed. - Sept 24 -

Dear Beck. -

a letter on number four at cocoa time should reach you before Sunday - but so much fun going after cocoa any more - It has snowed and rained for two days and nights to make things all the drearies - Turned on the radio awhile ago and tuned in on Paul Whiteman, - so that is going to have a complete rest for several more days -

got your books etc packed today and will get them in the mail tomorrow. - The major just put up his nine oclock bowl and everything else very much the same as when you left, - dont forget me. Love

Daddy

[1931]

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

June 1 - noon - afternoon -

Dear Beck -

Well - by golly, I finally heard from you and while you wasn't exactly cussed at, - I wished you some evil, - you neither wired or wrote - It is all forgotten with your letter and the tidings - and enclosing 25. for the shoes, so in case you don't raise a ticket, you can walk - Will wait to hear from you about the plans you can make with Frances - If it is too late to wait for her, drill over the money, - should you not know anything definite and Lark not come Her, talk to her by phone and then send me a night letter, - it is almost necessary that you get Lee soon, if you are to do any good with your learning - Some of the kids are doing their lessons now, the regular school has been out for a week. - Yes - Flossie, if you start something, your going to finish it, and don't let forgetting your books be any excuse, -

I had a gift of a 2 lb trout, - if I can make a getaway, plan on taking it, Mildred and Charlotte to the river, and see if they can cook, - and it isn't going To be anything like the mess you and Frances "helped" me cook, up on Outbank Crk, - I was a sap for ever giving you anything to eat, - I think Charlotte plans on writing you the gossip, - came by a spaniel pup that I gave Mildred, today, - has already led a dogs life -

Now, Dora - get this straight, - your to get in touch with Mary Frances at once, and telegraph me a night letter 50 words, - 90 cents - at once, - will wire you funds - I Love

Daddy

(over please)

Just got back from the river - a very satisfactory fruitful feed - the major thought it was all done for his benefit, -

Your mention of tennis amused me much - for the Mrs Rawson is the reigning "Queen of the Courts" - very nimble on her feet, - agile, - as it were, and if you will have it so, etc, -

am getting fixed for you, - already have made rules and regulations, - orders of the day - will wait until the train whistles in, before I wreck the radio, - sorry about the tank, -

Am worried about Henry Francis, - a quiet summer should bring her out of it - will go over and mail this on no 2 at 9 o'clock, and write to her after bit. -

Love
Daddy.

[1931]

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

May 26 - Tuesday -

Dear Buck. -

Didn't get a chance to write you yesterday but sent a night letter, - saw the High professor and after I got it explained to him, he was very agreable, and said you could get 2 or 3 three credits during the summer. - He is "accredited" — Had some trouble in getting him to realize that it was not to make up back studies; - gave him your letter, and showed him where you was really a precocious child - I got off some of your wittiest cracks like "Oh, yeah," and he seemed delighted. - Im a dandy fixer. -

I havn't heard a thing from many fences and its a crime to tell - and many other things that you can't say by mail. - Have been busy for awhile - all the beds full. - Charlotte on days and old lady Rogers on nights, havn't been getting much sleep, and having a cat in the living room, - thought one of them was going out yesterday but he is coming out of it. - Maj is fine and just had a big run, - nothing else new. -

Now, you don't think you're going to be a student here and mess around a lot, - you know me - Hewson wants one of those pictures of yours to put in his window advertising Pepsodent. - Love. - Mine.

Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

~~May 16, 1931~~
Monday
May 18-31

~~Mrs.~~

Dear Becky.

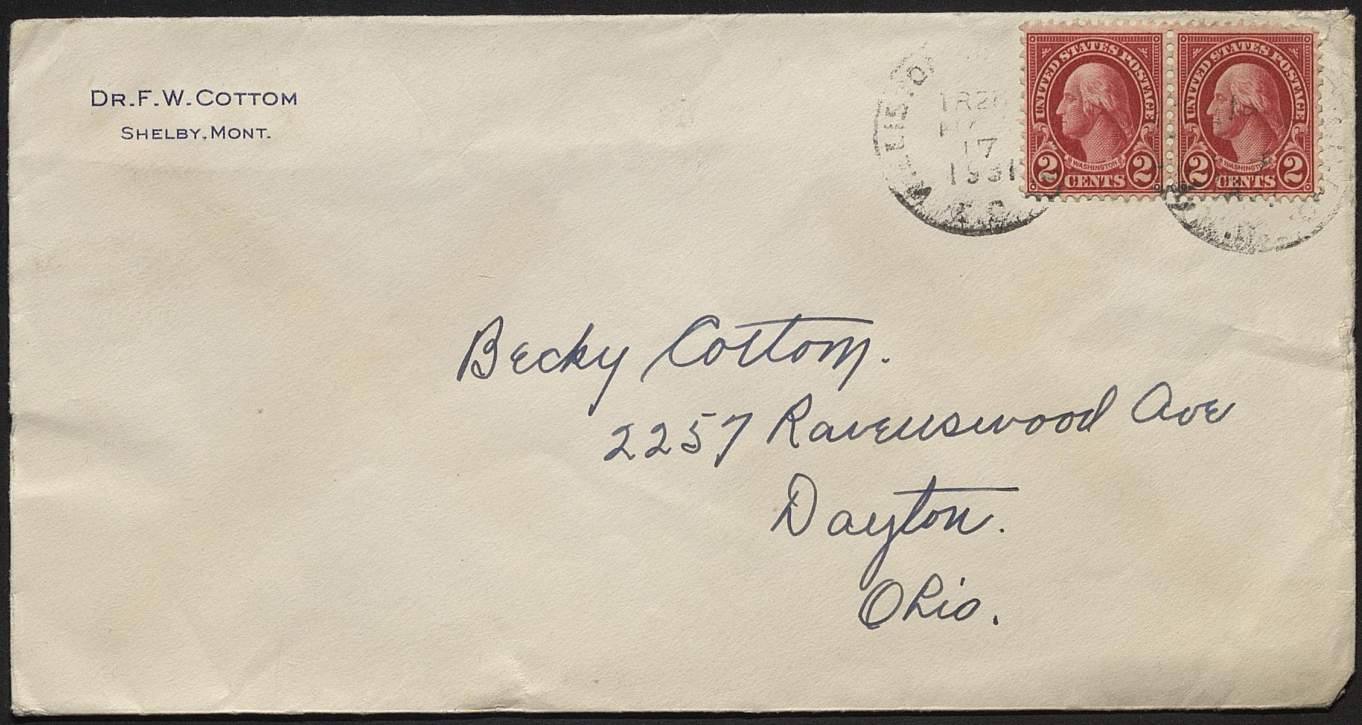
You don't know how pleased I was to get your picture this morning; it is fine, and I've always wanted such a thing; - made me more lonesome for you - Quite a few of these swains hung around my desk, today; - more than usual. - I can see where I'll have to keep the shot gun loaded this summer.

Nothing new except the picture; - Carlson in today, after a week in Calgary. Feels first rate now - The wind has been terrible; for days. - clouds of dust, and pretty cold; - snowed for several hours today, and a bad blizzard in the Park yesterday and today, - a salesman was in today; - got caught in the storm at Two Medicine and had a hard time getting out. -

The boy is fine, and just now having a hard dream. Did you send those pictures on, to the seminary?

Love
Daddy.

Taft named that kid; - "Floyd" — I predict a dark future I wanted "Steve" —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DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY. MONT.

Sunday evening.
5/17/31

Dear Becky -

Had a letter from Mary Frances today. She would you down there this week.

The Wrights were in last night, - brought some pictures which I am sending you, - I want you to mail them right on to Mary Frances, - particularly the one where she needs suspenders - wont she go around? She never will get over Mrs Wright cooking that fish before she got finished with it. - The major takes well. - he is just as ever - Have been busy fixing up "Rules & Regulations" for this place this summer, - there will be no coats hung up on chairs" - is Rule no 1. - The radio goes bust before you arrive, - the phonograph is loaned out, - where you wont find it, and I crave peace and quiet. - The arising hour will also be earlier, - likewise, - the bedtime, - Yes, - Dora, - it means you, - not, - "says you" -

You have been aware that I am the original hard luck guy. - Well, get out your kerchief, and set yourself, for the worst kind of news. - I don't mind a certain amount of woe but this was too much. - There is some goof that comes to Shelby and gives dancing lessons, to several of the sisters. Has them in bathing suits for better observation and correctness of detail, - Hazy held forth in the American Legion Hall. - the night Kat, and the alley window open, - Quite a gallery, - free, - Mrs. The. R. - is shedding for "a career" - tap dancing, - I never knew a thing about it, until Pinky came by and woke me up. - too late, - now aint that hell?

Still Love my patients here, - Old Baldy's day begins about the time mine ends, - so don't get much sleep. - Dysentery, also is disturbing. - Mildred is down here now, - playing solo with the music and the sick - The wind is a fright here, for the last week. -

I hope you liked the dress. - if you don't, - tell me why -

Love
Daddy.

Now please be sure and forward these pictures to the - Western College for Women; - Oxford: O. -

You might make a little bet with her that she don't lose them. -

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Friday eve: 5/15/31

Dear Beck-
Got off a hurried note to you last night and forgot several important news items;- Mister Merrill is the recent parent of a boy and seems to be standing the strain quite well.- Also, I (and the nurse) put in the garden night before last.- Have added pansies to the sweet peas,- The Reliable Jeweler is in the "hooze gow" in Great Falls for trying to shoot up Mrs Gill.- It rained this A.M. just as I got in from the Falls,- also a shower awhile ago,- the first for a long time.- Pinky seems to be fairly sober today;- just my opinion however and judging only from appearances,- Lakettas saxaphone player is on the job again,- hasn't got his boots,- Letter from Mary Frances today,- Love

Daddy.

Hello Becky;-
Your dad actually planted the sweet peas himself but the rest I put in but anyway I hope his flowers and mine come up. I am quite sure we had the first daisies that blossomed - the best part of it was they grew up over night.
Have two patients and one is very selective-

"Old Baldy Smith", a man of 83 years. H and Mrs. R. could carry on a conversation the whole day and never tire. He had a toe amputated and is getting along very well. He is so noisy - always yelling out the door at someone. Guess he likes company. If he has no one with him he carries on quite a lively conversation with himself.

Will write you a long letter maybe tomorrow.

Love

Charlotte

Enclosing some pictures. - pretty, aint I. -

F. EDW. KEENAN, M. D. F. A. C. S.
F. L. ANDREWS, M. D.

I. A. ALLRED, M. D.
F. J. BUSCHER
CREDIT MGR.

Drs. Keenan, Andrews & Allred
SUITE 210 MEDICAL ARTS BLDG.
Great Falls, Montana

May 14 - 31. -

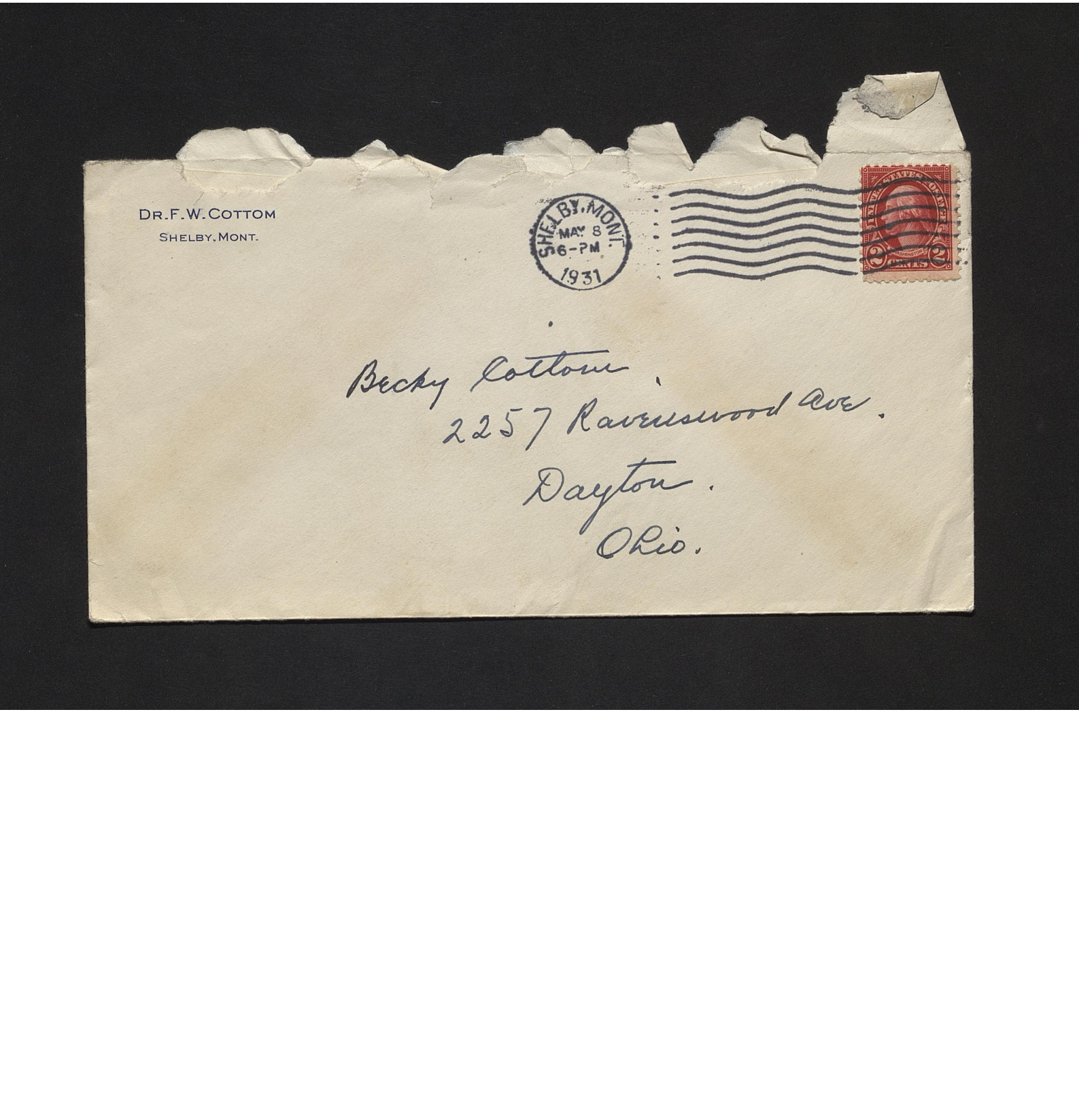
Dear Becky -

Finally got down to the Falls, for renovating, - eyes, teeth, an ingrown toe nail, - a corn and also to learn just why I should have a dysentery that has lasted 11 days, - you couldn't have stood any one of these afflictions, - for that reason, I'm glad, its me, - Started a dress your way, today, - hope you like it and compliment me on my good taste. Would have sent a panama hat only didn't have any idea of size & shape - on account of the hair. -

Have been watching the mail pretty close, - no news of you and am getting pretty anxious to know your plans. - Frank Della & Mrs Haderli were up Sunday, - more about them later, - they want to see you, - Please write -

Love

Daddy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[1931]

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Tri. May 8th

Dear Beck.-

Letter rec'd and contents noted - I've heard news that is much worse.- Glad to know your school is out so soon.- If you want to go to summer school you have my blessing and consent;- but I am anxious to see you, and wish you would write me your plans.-

If you can arrange to come out, I'll arrange the freight anytime you say;- the Park rates will not begin until about June 15th, but you need not wait for them.- Haven't heard from "Fran,"- will write her today and see if I can stir up something -

The house is full now,- one old timer you would enjoy,- going to take off some of his foots Monday - you would have to sleep in the tent,- the nights are still frosty -

Maj has regained some of his vim and vigor;-

You need not expect so much hilarity here this summer - things are very dull;- no excitement, and Amos & Andy are the high lights of the day.- However the ennui (pronounced onway) will be compensated by the educational advantages you might derive from my company - I dont like to see your mind clouded in ignorance and will enlighten you all I can;- and I'm right talented in some ways.- Sieze a pen and obey that impulse and write me about things

Love

Daddy.

[1931]

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Wed - May 6 -

Dear Spot, - I guess about the only way I can expect to hear from you, is through others, - LaRetta Margaret, - the nurse etc - Charlotte showed me her letter this morning, as you no doubt intended - You need not trouble yourself, running any whizzers on me, for I think I know how your educational problems bother you, - well, - they bother me too, and I will leave it all to you, - about going to summer school - I want you out here very much, and again, I want to see you through with high school as soon as you can be. Your mind is too mature for such foolery - (I guess I got that off in pretty good shape, eh?) I wish you would let me know when your school year ends, - summer course ends, - the same for Mary Frances etc, - you might be able to get in some time in Montana anyhow, (and maybe fudge a little on the next school year -) - If you think it advisable, just let the summer school go to hell, anyhow - There is much gossip if I can think of it all, - Havn't been so good and was away for several weeks, - Partney & I at Alhambra Springs - Don't feel so good yet, but think I will be able to instruct and correct you, also point out the various points of interest, - Merriweather, - Fleume and things "typical" - LaRetta is leaving tomorrow for Seattle, - expects to have a "Curiosity Shop" in Glacier Park this summer, - maybe a saxaphone player, too - with a moustache and some boots - Taft is just the same, but will go to no conventions this year, - figures on one of his own soon -

Old Jimmy died several weeks ago, - had been paralyzed for a month, - knew no one, and it was much for the best, - I had a letter from Bryant on my return home. - Mrs Haderli had a paralytic stroke and not doing so well, - Dells will probably bring her up here in a few days - Dillons have moved to Calgary - Mag is fine, but getting feeble and fat - Mildred and Charlotte took him to the river yesterday, - made some pictures, - will send you some, if they are good. - Mr. Coney. - Mrs Martin has left the country, - Mrs Rawson is rather offended or enjoying bitter health - don't see or hear from her, - there are other nuisances to amply fill their places - none though you would enjoy like Mrs Martin (and did the water man enquire for her?) Mrs Rawson wanted me and my little daughter up for strawberries. - Mildreds sister was up from Casper before I left bringing some dresses - she works in a store - Mildred had just returned one that she thought would be the thing for you, I had her send for it, and to send on to you; Returning, I learned that the dress had already been sold in Casper, - will go to the Falls day after tomorrow + see what, - Have had the folks looking over the Skelly stock and they report nothing untoward - The weather is getting warm here, but have put in no garden yet, - grass is turning green and trees are budding, - irrigating very dry - Am enclosing $5. which will do for soda water - more as soon as I can -

I haven't heard from Mary Frances. write - Love

Daddy.

Shelby, Mont.
Apr. 19, 1931

Dear Becky:

Was indeed very pleased to get your friendly letter. Usually one is a little hesitant in answering a letter from an unknown person. Nevertheless, I'm looking forward to your visit here in Shelby. We can have good times together even tho I am many years your senior.

Took your dads shoes to old nigger Bills shoe shine parlor (such as it is) and the nxt time Doc went up himself. When he came back he said he had a good joke on me. Of course I was eager to hear it. Old Bill had asked him who the school kid was that brought his shoes up last time - to which Doc replied "Shes my office nurse. and you had better not let her hear you calling her a 'school kid'; or she'll tear your hair out." Don't think I'm that vicious, Becky, 'cause I'm not. But everyone around here thinks I'm one because I'm short and wear oxfords, I suppose.

Sorry I haven't a snapshot to send you - my mistake. I have found one taken last summer while my friend Alyce and I were visiting an old couple who live a mile west from the Falls.

You having mentioned "Doctor Cottam's little daughter" (I myself wouldn't use that particular phrase concerning you) puts me in mind of the same fair damsel Mrs. R. How she does run off the mouth! One can hardly make a get-a-way without having first insulted her. But I don't pay attention to her any more. She'd be the cause of any man's downfall.

Many's the time I have listened to the speech about being "Montana's best driver" to which I have replied "The pupils often surpass the teachers." I'll have to do a whole lot better than I'm doing I will admit. Anyway. I get a kick out of hearing him because that is the only time (except in playing cards) he'll ever pride himself of his talents (just jokingly. I know). I like your dad a lot, Becky. He's a lot of fun when he feels well.

Doc mentioned several times that he would like to have you go to summer school. Of course it will take courage on your part to go another six or nine weeks, but it will be worth while, I think. You will still have six weeks vacation. How do you like Geometry, Becky? I liked the first year of it and then I neglected putting sufficient time on the problems and lost interest in it. But it really isn't so hard. I took Latin I & II and liked it a great deal so did very well in it. History was quite interesting at times and then again I'd think it very dull. Since then I have learned there are more difficult studies (nursing history & such).

The wind has been blowing fiercely for a week and is wreaking havoc to the roads. In places they're so corrugated that one feels as tho he is riding in a tireless ford, or sumpn, as Amos & Andy say; and in other places sand has blown

in and filled the ruts and sand dunes are piled to the fence tops.
What a grand and glorious feeling we'll have when we do get decent weather!

Taft was in a while ago. He's the same old Floyd and is still waiting for the arrival of the son?. or daughter?. or both. Hope he won't have to wait much longer.

Do write me again won't you?.

Your friend.

Charlotte Fournier

P.S.

The post office has been equipped with new boxes so your dads new no. is 633.

1931



A Jovous Easter
to You!



For dear Becky:

MAY Easter bring you
joyous thoughts
Of love and hope and cheer,
And may its sunshine
fill your heart
Throughout a happy year!

With Oceans of love.

Aunt Myrtle and Uncle Levin.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY. MONT.

Mar 31 - 31

Dear Becky -

Came home Sunday night to find things not so bad, - except the Maj. and I am worried about him - Jack Walker had him out in the afternoon and shot a gopher from the car and old Maj. jumped right out of the window and must have hurt his back - he is all stiffened up and walking like himself. -

Want this to reach you before Easter, for I hope you have a nice one - mailed you a package today that I had to get at Lessons, - the Minnie bring out of town -

Havn't heard of anything to interest you. - Love

Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Thu - 3/5/31

Dear Becky - Was very joyous when I got your letter awhile ago, - the red ink was very appropriate for that is the way I am transacting by business now. - Will send you some money in a few days, but today I am much in the red. - I'm sorry I can't send it today but will very soon - glad the Roman pictures were satisfactory, - may find some more. We also had perfect weather up until yesterday, when it turned loose both barrels, and today a high wind and a cloud of snow in the air, - can't get to the field, - Cartney is sick so may try it this evening - Wish you were here, for no auto driver's education is complete without bucking snowdrifts, - I'm a hand at that - my experience has been "vast" -

The Major is very well, and very lonesome, - He had a very recent bath awhile ago with White King, - it cramped his style - He can be raising hell, and just the mention of bath sure does gripe him, - walks off and blinks and shivers - He thinks the nurse is O.K. - and horns in on the patients feed. - Her name is Charlotte Fournier and a very nice kid, - you would have a great time, - You might write to her for she has heard enough about you to know you - she wrote to Mary Francis but has had no answer - Laketta and Angela work at the R.R. Restaurant Gwen is in St Paul - Alive is O.K. but has some pains, - Mrs the Ranson is much worse, but I was very abrupt with her several days ago, and I'm afraid I lacerated her feelings. -

Wish you would write me about your hopes and plans for the summer, - when your school is out etc, - but please write me often - anyway - your letters make quite a difference

Love
Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

2/24/31. Tuesday. - 5-13 P.M.

Dear Becky -

Just a line to tell you I went to many glaciers Sunday - a very fine trip and missed much for you - meadow larks are back. - gophers out and it looked like Spring time - a little snow last night but fine again today -

Have'nt heard anything very lately from Jimmy Seals - met Combs in the Falls Thursday and measured him up for some leg braces. - he is in bad shape and cant get around anymore -

The major is fine - gave him a bath yesterday with White King soap. - its the stuff and makes him look fine but the wood bath is just poison to him, - I run him every day. - feed him very little, but he gets fatter - The nurse made him a new bed and he is very proud.

Hope you write to me - Love Daddy.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Sat night. 7/31/31

Dear Spot.-

Had your letter this morning - this is not an answer to it, - just an answer to your S.O.S. about your scrap book. - am enclosing some relief especially the poem, - and some pictures will go in the mail Monday - reaching you Thursday - that was tough on some of my books.-

Went to the Falls Thu. with the Walkers. - down the bootleggers trail & back by Dutton - terrain & weather perfect. - you need not be so smart about your driving, and when I get in the ditch there are a lot of novices that wouldn't get outdoors. - you might recollect a wonder drive I gave you and Mr Bell one day in the vicinity of Brady - I am giving you due credit for the drive you made in muddy roads to the Falls - Henson still talks about that -

Havn't heard from Mary Frances for a long time, - don't know what she might be peeved about. - am glad you think sometimes about your trips last summer. - Mrs Wright was in yesterday, and had to talk about the camp. - Major is very fine, and would sure know you, - gets along very well with the nurse. - you and she would do well together, - for she is quite a "good feeler" too -

Told Taft you had inquired about him; he was just in going fishing tomorrow; - I took a first mortgage on the fish by giving him a whisky prescription. - Would like to go to the Park tomorrow but dont suppose I will have a chance - Will close for now & write you again soon Love

Daddy.


To You
my
VALENTINE

For my dear Becky:

Flocks of girls,- brunettes and blondes
With eyes of blue and brown.
But there's just one that interests me,-
THE SWEETEST GIRL IN TOWN.

With best love
and XXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXX
Your Uncle
Levin.

1931.

Buffalo, New York.

February 12, 1931.

Dear Sweet Sixteen:

I take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to thank you for your letter to us from Montana, your beautiful Christmas cards and your last letter, all of which pleased us very much.

I wanted very much to send you a birthday card, but was confined to the house at that time with a bronchial cold, and my pal was not able to do any errands outside for me.

Myrtie seems to be gaining in strength, rather slowly, has to take very good care of herself and stop working before she becomes fatigued.

We were very sorry to hear that your father had been sick again. We hope that he is quite well now.

And how is your so dignified little sister and your mother and how are you your own dear self?

I was pleased to note in your letter from Montana that you and Frances are quite some radio fans. I am a terrible one myself. Don't ever get me started on that, as I should not know when to stop! I have a superhetrodyne which brings in stations from either coast--, Portland, Maine, to San Francisco and Los Angeles, and I have heard one station in Mexico. While we do not speak or understand French, we enjoy some very good programmes in French from Montreal.

Wish that we lived nearer each other, so that we could see you at least once a week. If we did you would be the mostest squozenest young lady in forty-eight States and the District of Columbia!

Our Winter has not been so terribly severe, not a great deal of terribly cold weather, but the air here is quite damp and one feels the cold a great deal, even though it is not very cold. Then, too, we have scarcely any sunshine here during the Winter and it continues cold until the ice goes out of the Lake, usually not until early in June. I am anxious for some nice, warm sunshine for Myrtie. I wish that she could have been in Florida this Winter, but she has had to have some X-Ray treatments here.

Tired? Well, I shall stop for this time.

Heaps of love to all of you from both of us.

Sincerely,

Your Uncle, Levin

P. S.: Your mother's letter to Myrtie pleased her very much.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Mon. P.M.
Feb. 9 - 39

Dear Spot -

Just had time to get some word to you last night, so will start another, and finish it when I can - Have been real busy, - a lot of sick people and kids but nothing that amounts to anything - just messing around. We have had a real spring like winter right along since the bad storm and cold in Nov. - Have felt tough for several days myself with cold in the head and just and grippe. - There has been no unusual excitement here and you would have died long ago, from one way or ennui or the baby pap. - (you had best take some French along with your Latin III if you want to get me) Margaret Newson was home during vacation and very fine - Bill is sole owner now of the drug store - Mister Taft is exactly the same, - and has prospects of a young Mister Taft - should such a thing materialize, it might be worth while to be around. - Clive was in today and is still ailing - Lakritta and Angela are at the "bravery" - go there for food which is still the same, - have a new one on you, a safe under the bank and it is an improvement, but no variation in dirt. -

Made two calls up to Glacier Park Station and on one of them drove up the Two Medicine road almost to where you were camped - a thing unheard of in this country before. - Went up to St Marys a week ago Sunday

Bought 3 big whitefish (for 100) but had to give 2 of them up to get pulled out of the ditch - The boy had got lost and was looking for him - He is dandy and prettier than ever - Lavit had much chance to fool with him lately - got him a license today and then almost run over him myself - standing in the street - I worked on him -

Glad to know you are getting by with your school - but that was all you wrote about - the "agony of exams" etc - now - you please wont try to run any whizzer on me, about such things - for I know just exactly how much your work bothers you - I too am looking for the close of the year and hope it can be as pleasant as it was last summer - Have not heard from Mary Frances - will write her tonight -

Still have my nurse and she is sure a hand - you would make a great pair - nothing bothers her either - only she works all the time - Have two patients in now (but not Mr Youngman) -

I had a lot to write about, but just now it don't register some way - will get it to you later - I am anxious to have you benefit by my "opinions" -

Please write - love

Daddy

Enclosed check for $30 -

the terrain is also ope

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Sunday night. 7/8/31

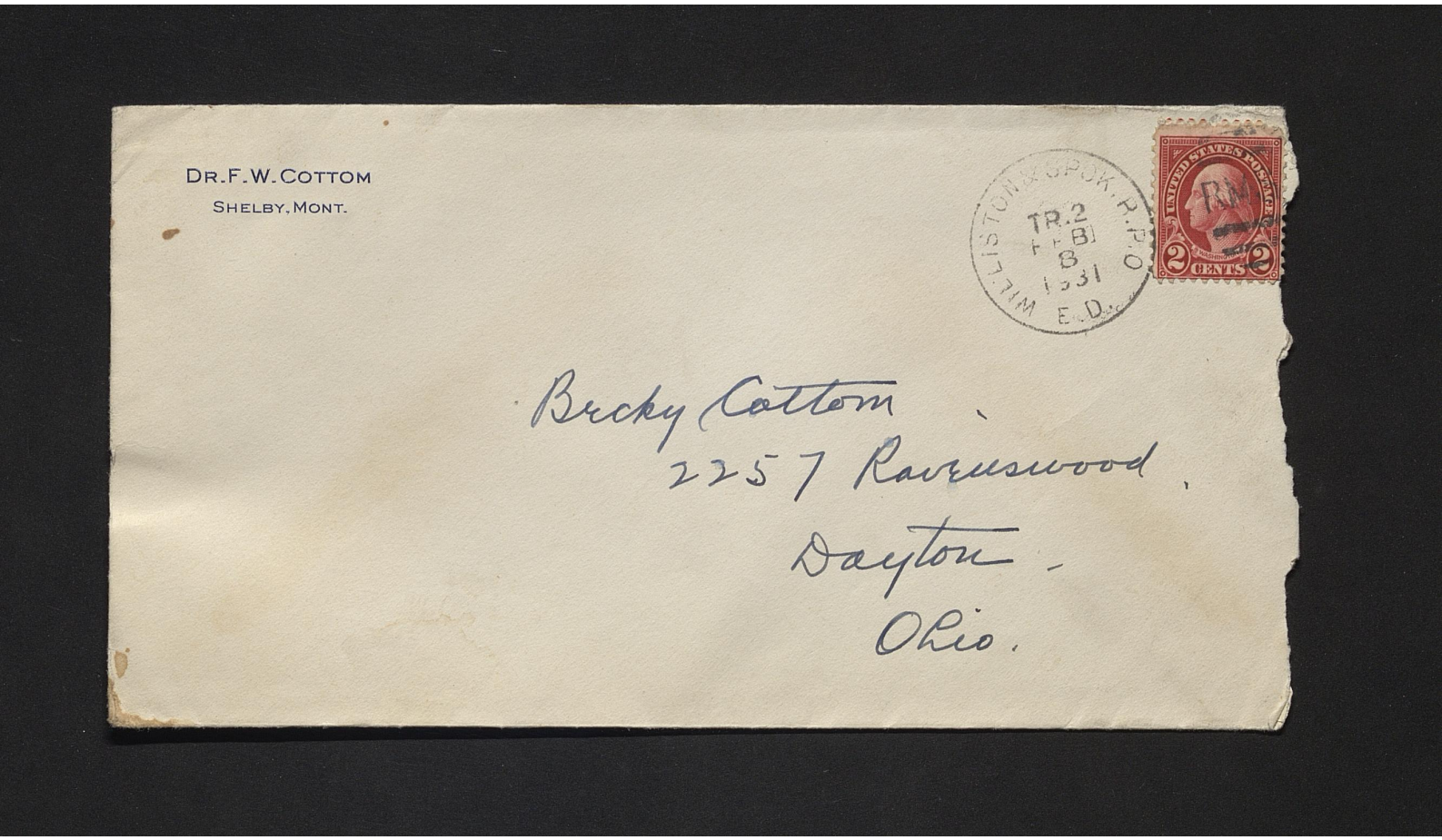
Dear Beck. –

Your letter this morning and very glad you broke the silence – Just brought in a pneumonia patient from Galata and only have time for a line to get on the fast mail east at midnight. – will try to write you tomorrow, but this will let you know you are not forgotten – that I am all right, and that things are going much better – Haven't heard from Mary Francis for a week. –

Now have my place full but maj & I occupy the cot and air mattress (it has to be blown every four hours now) – He is very fine and enjoying life

Please write often – Love

Daddy.



DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

WILLISTON & GPOK. R.P.O.
TR. 2
FEB
8
1931
E. D.

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
2 CENTS 2

Becky Cottom
2257 Ravenswood
Dayton
Ohio.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Wed. Jan 28 1931

Dear Becky. It has been so long since I've heard from you - things haven't been so very good or so cheerful here - got letters from Mary Frances and she hadn't heard from you either - there isn't so much new in Shelby the field is practically closed down, - all the drlg's are Calif camps and no market for oil - the farmers are all broke too, - but then they are always that way - Margaret was home Xmas - looks very fine - Lavetta and Angela are working at the Bakery and I do most of my eating there yet, - there isn't so much conversation - went to the Falls last week, and wished for you, - the weather has been so fine all winter, - you would have liked the drive, - but the terrain was terrible - every other road is good, - had to make a trip to Glacier Park Station several weeks ago and you couldn't have stood it, - got stuck in snow and had to hike - and I'm no longer a hiker - those mountains are a sight now, - no snow here at all - Jean Mowery is trapping at the river this winter about half a mile below the swimming hole - the weather is so mild I took the major swimming in the reservoir back of the refinery today. He is sure wintering well - have a new girl, - a nurse from the Columbus, and they get along fine - you would hit it off well with her too, - she isn't much older than you and about the same line of thought, - she is the best I've had - she is taking patients in the west rooms and has someone in ever since she started, - have been quite lucky in not having any disturbers, like Youngman -

wasn't he a hell of a pest? Havnt seen him lately - Old Joe died; - morphin - dont know what happened to Blackie - Had a very pitiful letter from Clyde Combs this morning am going to talk to him after while and may have to go to the Falls to see him, if he can come over, for I can't spare the time to go to Lewistown - Cant get around any more, - even with crutches -

Havnt heard a thing from the Bryants - they may be all snowed in up there, - have had a patient in here for 3 weeks from the Missouri river several miles below your ferry, - he is quite a nice fellow and good company for me - must close now and maybe to Dilmont, - wish for you to drive, - with your training you would still know how - Love

Daddy



10N911
NORCROSS
NEW YORK



For our dear Becky: Dec 21, 1939

It always is a special joy
When Christmas time is due
To send the season's greetings
And best wishes straight to you
With our best love, too!
Aunt Myrtie and
Uncle Levin.

Sunday Dec 11

My Dear Becky.

I was more than delighted awhile ago to get a letter from you that I was waiting for but not expecting. - I should have written to Mary Frances very long ago, but I just couldn't get in the mood. Things have gone very disagreeable for quite a while, - have been busy as could be and haven't been feeling good, - was out for five straight nights during the stormy weather and it got my goat, - have stayed in for the last two days, and hope to be aboard out tomorrow and back on the job.

Had a nice Thanksgiving - it "Sinnoked" that day, and has been the only warm day for a long time - was to dinner at Henry Coolidges, - a cousin of Eds - am invited for Christmas dinner at

Cheadles - They have a little girl who is quite a gardener of Majors and mine - and also twin babies - Do not expect me in Dayton for Christmas, for it will be spring before I can come - if I can spare any time, I must get my bad leg fixed over, for it is giving me trouble -

Bryant was here for several days and Ed Coolidge for awhile, and the Combs sent word that they will have to go to Casper, where Agnes and Gart are living - am enclosing 40.00 which you will split with Mary Frances to do your Christmas shopping, - did my last letter have money in it. - I had to give it to the hotel porter to mail for me and it might be possible for him to smell it out, Will send you a registered package tomorrow, which you will let Santa Claus open - hope you will like it - Will write Frances & you again tomorrow - Love Daddy.

Monday June 1.

Dear friend Becky:

Am heartily sorry I have not answered your last letter before now, but have been expecting to see you here any time - that is my only excuse.

Surely like the photo you sent your daddy. You look very charming and quite sophisticated. Will appreciate you more when I see you.

Have you heard or read the latest piece of news? - Mildred Walker has a little Ches. spaniel about 3 mo. old. She surely is a cute pup and notices everything. Now Mildred is out house-hunting. Old lady Cavett grew so enraged when she heard of the Walkers having a dog that she grew white around the gills: so angry was she at the thot. Poor dogs have to live!

Your daddy, Mildred & I went to the river this evening and fried the trout. and was it delicious! I ate about half of it and Doc the other half as Mildred doesn't care for fish.

Remember Baldy Smith?, or didn't I tell you about him? He's here again and having a heatic time with his foot. My next job will be

to give him a sponge bath and tuck him away for the night. He surely gets rum dum when he is given hypnotics. Have to give him something in the evening or else he's up at four or five A.M. and then I have to slide out of my little nest to quiet him and get him back to sleep. For a man of 83 yrs. he manages to get around the place and half of the time he's looking for matches. What a character he is! Quite entertaining when he feels well.

Surely hope Mary Frances feels better so that she will be able to enjoy the trip down here. You may be sure I'm looking forward to the time I will see you both.

Your anxious friend,

Charlotte

Shy

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

Shelby, Montana, ..., 192....

M .....

IN ACCOUNT WITH

Drs. Cottom & Spackman

Shelby, Montana

~~[illegible]~~ Its pretty much up to you. I'd raining this evening and looks as tho it will rain tomorrow too. Had some snow the other morning & it sure was pretty - I'm sorry now that I didn't take some pictures ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ I'll be home

Nothing new to eat, nothing new to wear. Never do anything or go anywhere

pretty well pleased when I

I was ~~very glad when I~~

first got your letter that you were coming East but on second thought I thought I'd better not expect it. I would have liked it though. I hardly know what to say about coming out there yet this winter. You know I wouldn't get much credit ~~toward~~ from my courses that way, but I don't know whether you haven't been worse than you say in your letters or how much what is wrong you ~~want~~ me, so just don't know. ~~Will do what you~~

Have been having exam all week and will be glad when they're through - ~~Last~~ A few nights ago a girl came around and wanted me to buy her ticket to go to Cincinnati that night & hear Kreisler ~~I hadn't planned on it but I did~~ y so I went. It was fine. He was very dignified ~~and~~ its nice to see some one dignified ~~once in awhile~~ nowdays - ~~He playing was just~~ The hall was immense a good ~~[illegible]~~ ~~as it's supposed to be~~ and I never heard an ~~auditorium~~ place so quiet.

Would have liked very much to have been there for ~~the beef steak~~ but I ~~kind of~~ don't ~~think~~ wonder if you'd be able to sit still long enough to eat one even if you did have time. You said something about ~~going~~ seeing Gloria Swanson & that it was fine - you didn't really mean that did you? I have decided ideas on the subject of Gloria and it worries me.

Am glad my mother didn't know I was going because the roads were icy and she'd have been worried to death.

Camas Hot Springs -
Sat - Mar. 28 -

Dear Becky -

Glad your English II prompted you to write to me. Wasn't so good, so came over here about 10 days ago. Had the nurse write you, - am feeling pretty again but wish I could stay longer, - will return to Shelby tomorrow, - to see my dog if for nothing more - He has been staying with Mister Taft and both are reported to be doing well - Have no other Shelby news to tell you. That place got my goat so that I had to get out, - you can talk about Mrs Rawson and Mrs Martin, - well - I had them and about 10 more much worse, - all at once, - not worth a nickel -

Would like for you to see this place, - nothing but the old Indian baths of the Flatheads - about 65 miles south west of Kalispell, - it is a beautiful country, - the town, the kind you never even read about - all cabins for the afflicted, and they are all here, and ailing - and telling about it, - the toilet facilities are very old fashioned of the out of door, fresh air variety, - no telegraph, no telephone, no radio word stoves, - carry the water and burn Kerosene lamps, - have a hell of a time getting a newspaper or the mail, - now if that isn't the simple life, I ask you - You take a bath a day, - ooze off into a fluffy hot mud, about 35 feet deep but you cant sink in it up to your neck, - but right there action begins, - you sweat, and if you didn't keep drinking water you would soon be gone, - about 15 minutes of that, and you dont move a toe for a day - anyhow you havn't a nerve left in you, - I've always pictured Taft in there, - he sweats so well anyhow - We will give it the once over one of these days. -

Haven't heard from Mary Frances, - busy with grad gods - Just wrote to her, - Enclosing check, - let me know if you need more, - by the way, - Minnie owes me like a buck, - can I send you any of her stuff and keep me out with her? Have you grown much - she should remember your dimensions -

Hope you write her soon again, - will write soon from Shelby

Love

Daddy

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Monday Afternoon -

Dear Becky -

Got your telegram this morning and glad to know you were getting along and very pleased that you were that thoughtful - Yes, I saw you as you went by the crossing - and I felt pretty bad - for I have no idea what the winter will bring forth - got busy right away removing some tonsils, - my good office girl fainted right at the wrong time, and fell across that foot stool and raised hell with her shoulder, - this morning had the same job on the little Youngneau girl and she did the same thing over, so I dont know what to think - Laketta came back last night, called me up, but hasn't been down, - dont know what to think about that either. Yesterday was a bad day here, - early in the morning had to see Mr Emory - had another stroke and only lived about an hour, - Olive got home before he died and I feel pretty badly for them, - although he was only a burden to himself and others and wanted to die. Spent the rest of the day cheerlessly burning up the debris, - old shoes, - etc, - am getting the dents and yellow paint etc out of the fenders - Guess there wont be any more of those until next year, - The Major knew very well that you were gone for keeps, - he sticks to me now closer than a brother Had to take him out yesterday afternoon, - he got too lonesome

Jack Walker moved down yesterday morning - in
Mary Frances bed, - He is better today and up a
little, - am glad to have some company -
Now I hope you get real busy with your school -
that is your particular business at present,
I was also glad to know you are writing me often
this winter - Love
Daddy

It might be a good idea to find out from
the Akron jail when they are turning Taft loose

Most wonderful water in the United States for stomach trouble, rheumatism and skin diseases.

Reached by auto stage from Plains on N. P. Railroad or Kalispell on G. N. Railroad.

THE TOWANDA HOTEL

J. P. CROULEY, Proprietor

An Ideal Place to Stop When Visiting Camas Hot Springs
$14.00 per Week and Up

Modern in Every Respect--Close to Hot Springs

First Class Dining Room Service

HOT SPRINGS, MONTANA

ANALYSIS OF THE WATER
LABORATORY NO. 612
PARTS PER MILLION

CALCIUM BICARBONATE	28.7
SODIUM BICARBONATE	71.0
MAGNESIUM BICARBONATE	25.5
SODIUM CARBONATE	97.1
SODIUM SULPHATE	8.6
SODIUM CHLORIDE	38.7
AMMONIA CHLORIDE	1.4
SILICIA	52.2
TOTAL	323.2

HYDROGEN SULPHATE AND POSSIBLY SULPHUR COMPOUND.

March 24

Dear Becky:

Before tearing open the envelope I suppose you were wondering who in the far west was writing you. Have thot of writing you quite often but you know yourself how you feel about writing to one you have never seen.

your dad is here getting plenty of rest and enjoying the hot baths and drinking an awful lot of this awful smelling mineral water. Oh it isn't bad when one gets used to the taste. Doctor has been feeling ill for about two weeks now, but it is nothing serious and he expects to be able to leave here by the last of this month. He is quite nervous and asked me to write you.

Have heard a great deal about you, Baby, and am anxious to see you.

This is quite the quaint little village. It would thrill you for a few days. The hot springs is the main attraction here. No access to trains from this little burg, and one must be satisfied with the Busses even if one has to ride three hours to go thirty or fourty miles. But at that it is better than walking.

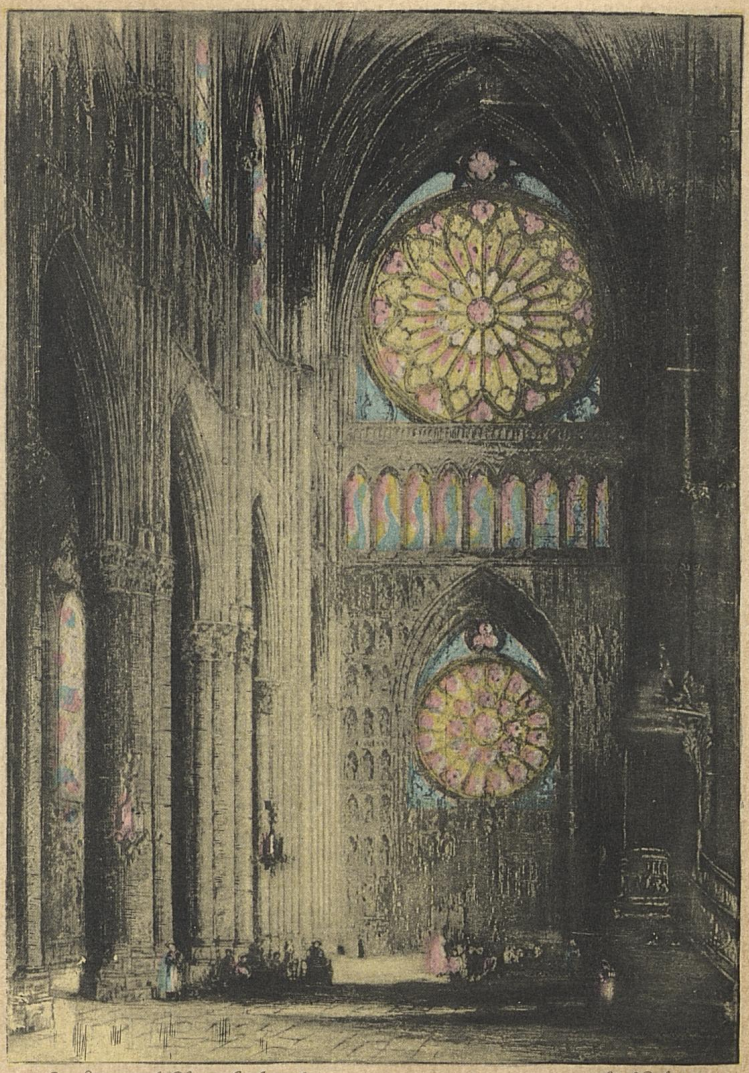
Wood is the only fuel burned and kerosene lamps are used for lighting purposes. Some of the business places make their own power for lighting. The village people are planning on having a large time at the dance next week in celebrating the coming of electricity. Some of them will probably sit up all nite looking at the light. What a thrill! -

Will have to be dashing to the post office, (they have one here) to get this off.

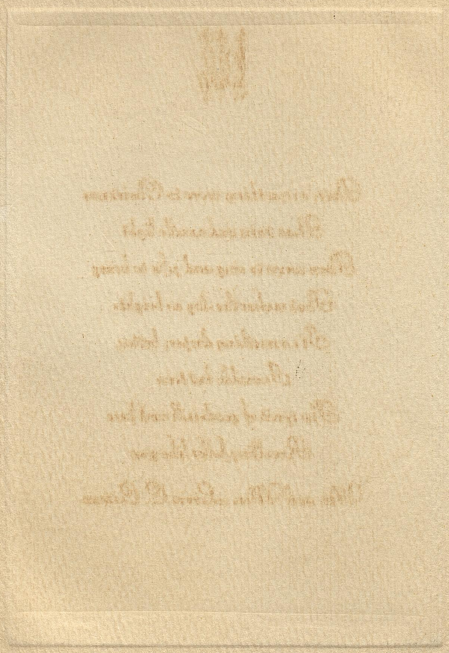
Your dad is planning a lot of good times for you this summer so cheerio - Everything will be all right soon.

Your unknown friend
Charlotte Fournier

(I'm the nurse at the office)



Rose Window of Rheims Cathedral — Steel Etching



LCC

There's something more to Christmas
Than trees and candle light
Than songs to sing and gifts to bring
That makes the day so bright-
It's something deeper, better,
Invisible but true
The spirit of good-will and love
Recalling folks like you

Mr. and Mrs. Levin C. Cottom

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

Shelby, Montana, ..., 192.....

M .....

.....

IN ACCOUNT WITH

Drs. Cottom & Spackman

Shelby, Montana

Supplies needed for school —

tablet -- No. 1
ink Blue - (Red)
eraser Ark Gum
ruler
pencils
fountain pen
penholder & pen points

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Tuesday night.
10/14

Dear Becky -

Have been writing to you for several nights and was all set for a long letter tonight, with all the dirt, and in comes Coolidge, so that is that. - Will sure do it tomorrow - the Wrights were in today and the Mrs got your address. - said she had some pictures to send you of the two Medicine camps. no news of import. - The major disgraced himself today by eating up two big mallards for Major Howard. - Mrs Martin from Ailmont, with the foot was in with the waterman; and nobody inquired for her, and she went home with the waterman - no news of Mrs the P. but the butcher was in this afternoon and he is clear crazy - I was too busy to listen. -

Combs was up and left yesterday - think he is getting that way too. - cant make up his mind any more - may take him to Billings on 41 - Thursday night. - will put me back here Sat morning - Jim is still here. - and old Joe moved back yesterday but put him in the Rag Cabin - Love

Daddy

Winter is upon us. - a hard cold wind direct from Banff.

DR. F. W. COTTOM
SHELBY, MONT.

Tuesday night - Oct 7

Dear Becky -

Have had only one letter from you and am getting pretty sore - Had several from Mary Frances - think I had better write you tonight if I am to get this to you before Sunday - plan on going to the Falls tomorrow & see Combs - may go down in airplane and back on train - Clyde may transfer his activities to Burnt Grass. - Coolidge is here tonight - Jim Awbrey is here and gets on my nerves about as bad as Joe - think he will feed the Sheep on the hearias this winter - was up & Clifford Fowler and on the hearias this winter - was up & Clifford Fowler and on to Gold Butte Sunday. saw some ducks but didn't get any. Major is fine again but was very sick for several days He is up on the couch with me and raising hell - think Brundage will move in with me - Virginia has broke her wrist - Margaret Thurow is getting along first rate, according to her Fathers report. - Don't see much of your little playmates - She can is doing very well - resting - Am reckoning some College Humor - Obey you -

I don't play the trains so much, - it is dark at 6 o'clock and bedtime comes before the other train "number four" - Radio no good, - and haven't been to any shows - not much work either and it looks like a long winter - Hope to hear what you have to say about the dancing school -

Mary Frances asked me to send her that damn "Tarr" coat - can you beat that? Also wants that grays anatomy - No news from Mrs Pawson - Hope you are fine and that I hear from you - Love

Daddy -