

"The Limberlost"
49 Meadows
Avery Ida.

Dear Girls:

Well! I wonder what you girls are doing what you have done and what you are going to do? Did you go to Spokane? What kind of a time did you have? etc.

What did you get for Xmas. I think you selected your presents very thoughtfully this year for every one concerned. We had a great time with our Xmas packages, we sit flat on the floor before the stove and opened them. Half of our Xmas mail is in Avery yet so if I don't thank you for some of the things you sent it is not because I don't like them but because I have not yet received them. We will get some of them when Carter goes out to mail this.

The red bells looked just fine on our tree, after the tree was over we took the bells and hung them in the corners among the evergreen. We left our decorations up until yesterday. Carter decorated the house for us. We had all kinds of flying angels and butterflies made from tin-foil. That was an awful cute idea. Where did you get it. I'd never have thought of it.

And then the whistles! thank you, thank you. We nearly drove every one out of the house with them and our dog hasn't been able to hear for a week. Myrtle and I wear them when we go out for a walk and we do make the echoes ring.

And then with this first installment came some dandy hair ribbons, a very very pretty pin cushion, some dandy new stockings, lots of tissue paper and ribbon, a package from Aunt Lydia, Cad, Edith, and Henry. A calander and book from Mrs. Brown, a card and handkerchief from Aunt Evaline, a package from Aunt May, and some gum. Nerve gum too. Maybe you girls think I wasn't glad to see those things and to know that so many remembered me, and Carter says there is still half the mail at Avery. We expect to have a little Xmas from now on until the Fourth of July.

I got eleven letters last mail day, and six cards. I sent out nine letters and thirty-seven post cards for Xmas. Wasn't that doing real well? Oh! say I got a picture of Eustace Collins for Xmas. Now what do you know about that? How would you like an Englishman for a brother-in law. He is almost as large as O.E. I think he'll be a man some day. When I swear now I say "By Eustace" and Myrtle says "Oh! By Tom."

How do you like my ink? The bottle has gone dry twice and I've filled it up with water once too often for it's good, it's getting so pale. I can hardly see it.

We were over to the "Limberlost" today. We went over and back just to see if we could stand the walk. I'm powerful shaky, but don't feel any the worse otherwise except for a sore spot on my foot. I only fell twice today. Myrtle got three hard falls. My! I'm glad it wasn't me. We went for a walk yesterday but had to break trail through a foot of new snow, it was such hard work we didn't go far. Last week there was one clear day and we walked down to the "Haunted Cabin."

My old cabin is almost out of sight. Carter walked from the snow right up on the roof of my new cabin today, up over six feet of snow. Mrs. Torsens old cabin has swayed in terribly. If it thaws it will go down. We're going down and shovel it off if it doesn't snow tomorrow. You girls would have a great time playing in the trails. The snow is so deep that when Carter stands in the trail the snow is still above his head. We have to go up and down a big bank of snow to get on the porch now.

Poor little Ring can hardly navigate, she has to swim in the new snow, she can't walk and the trail she leaves behind looks so funny. She went out with Carter the other day, and her feet got so cold she just howled like a good one. Carter felt so sorry for her that he picked her up and carried her until her feet got warm. She's getting real tough now and even takes her bath in snow. Hansen and Larson have "Snooz" now and brought her over to see us at Xmas. They washed her all up until she was very

white and tied a big blue string (for a ribbon) around her neck. She still has fleas. Ring was very glad to see her. They had a great romp in the snow.

I've finally got my green dress let out enough to wear. I've had to let it out twice. I have to be everlastingly sewing the buttons on my little gingham dress.

What is a rocking chair?

Miss Caldwell wrote and told me to tell the little girls "howdy" for her, and to tell Berna not to try to sing too much and strain her voice. So, Marjorie, you've been getting one hundred in spelling? Good for you! Keep it going, you'll beat the "Adair" record yet.

If we come out next month I want a beef stake and some fried cabbage, can you remember it. Don't let me forget it. But please! oh please! shut the chickens up and muzzle the rooster. The eggs we brought out have been so spoiled that I feel as if I'd faint if the rooster even crowed.

Well! I must stop and try and write to Mother, or she will be saying bad things about me. Carter is going to Avery day after tomorrow. I wonder if I'll get a letter from you all, or are you waiting to hear from me. I hope not.

Please tell somebody to get me a couple spools of white linen thread, to work the "oriental darning" on the lunch cloth. I've used one spool and part of another.

Well, write to me soon girls, and many many thanks for the Merry Xmas. Tell me all about the house, the town and your trip.

Lovingly
Iona