

The Lumberlost  
49 Meadows,  
Avery, Idaho, 4/28 '11.

Dear Mamma & Papa:-

Well, here goes for the  
home letter. I've used up  
about a pound of paper  
and worn out two stubb  
pens writing letters this  
time. I've written fifteen  
letters and have them all  
ready to go out Sunday.  
The boys go to Avery Sunday  
and Bill will probably  
be out before the fifteenth  
of May. (if Mrs. Taylor will let him)

I wrote to Jennie, Cad, Louise & Maude H. (together) Aunty Layman & Lela. (together) Mrs. Flowers, Bill Chesney, Lulu, Aunt Lydia, W. J. Carter, Mary Meade, Evon, Mrs. Jorson, the girls, Clarkie Mrs. Co. Eustace Collins - and your letter, - and Oh. yes - a note to Mr. Fleming.

The little red mail bag is going out stuffed to the rim. It came in pretty full last time too. I had ten letters, and three cards, and Myrtle had as many or more. Your letter, and Cads are the only ones that I've written to this time that I wrote to last. It's no wonder the paper and envelopes don't last, but what would this neck of the woods be without the mail. I've just paper and env. enough for one more attack, then I'm out. Could you mail me a couple lbs or barrels of stationery to Avery?

The Post master at Avery greets the little red sack with smiles. His smile is equal to Mimmie's Collins when we use to swell the cancellations.



for her.

The snow is going real fast. Two thirds of Mrs Forster's clearing is out. It looks so funny to step from the ground in the clearing, over the fence on to big banks of snow. The timber is protecting the snow, it is melting around the trees until bare spots show. A horse would surely have a great time. We have to watch so carefully when walking in the timber, not to go in by some log and hang on the snags, and when on the meadows, so as

not to go through the ice  
and into the water. The  
little meadow stream is  
very high. it doesn't know  
the way to the North Fork and  
spreads out all over the  
Meadow in under the snow.  
It's not deep but only cold  
and wet.

We went over to Hargen's  
Wednesday, and on the  
way over Myrtle fell into the  
Little North Fork. We were  
crossing over an ice bridge  
where the boys had crossed  
the day before, just at the  
foot of the little hill very nearly



to Hansen's. Myrtle was ahead, the ice broke and in she went. The water was swift and turned her over enough to thoroughly soak her suit, but it was not very deep. I stepped out as far as I could and helped her climb out. She was so surprised she had no time to think of any pet phrases equal to the occasion so she just squealed at the top of her voice. My! My! but this is cold. Such a laugh as we had after she was out. We were so nearly there that we went on. The boys were working out in the yard, Hansen came in and built up a big fire and they worked on outside and Myrtle dried out. We swore solemnly that we would never come over to see them again unless they provided a crossing for us. As we made them a caramel pudding for dinner they have decided to bridge the

stream, I said we made  
a pudding, we did, that is  
Myrtle made the pudding  
and I kept the dog away  
while it cooled.

You would die laughing  
to see the consternation  
caused "Lena" (Hunzen) the  
cook at "Nika" Lodge when  
ladies call. The boys have  
barely enough room for  
the three of them, likewise  
dishes etc.

Myrtle, Dynamite and I sat  
on the bed, and the boys  
rolled a blanket up and sit



on the floor<sup>3</sup>. The two stools  
were used as side tables  
for the coffee, sugar and  
cream. Their big table just  
held the bread, (biscuits) gravy,  
corn and potatoes. Our  
dessert was kept out on  
the snow until all were  
ready. I was carried pears  
and pudding. Now can  
your cook beat Lena?

The boys jump around  
and do every thing so funny  
that we laughed until our  
sides were sore. The boys  
escorted us home and <sup>then</sup>

-after a concert, took the lantern  
and struck out across the  
clearing. I suppose they got home  
but we've not heard as yet.

It's too funny to see the boys  
-and -Bill. They're real cordial  
since they've been meeting here  
and bringing the mail to each  
other. Bill thought the boys  
were over here all the time and  
the boys thought Bill was over  
here all the time, just because  
they always found each other here.

I don't know why but they  
-all, -always manage to get here  
the same day. We took our  
calendar while they were here last,  
(we write the daily doings on it) and  
counted up the times they had  
been here together. The boys  
have made six calls and Bill  
five. We had the laugh on them.  
Say, the boys contributed an oatmeal  
sack full of beans, a pound of coffee



-and about three pounds of  
nails to the cause and  
refuse to be payed. We got  
two sacks of Farina from  
them, The last time we  
were over they gave us  
some dried pears and a  
lot of empty tin cans.

Whatche know about that.

I'm sorry I can't write  
any thing else but "The boys"  
and "Bill" and "snow" but  
they're every thing.

We had a dandy Easter  
dinner over to Mrs. Taylor's.  
They had a big Pat hen and

rhubarb pie. We ate so  
much we could only make  
a mile an hour on our way  
home. We always come home  
the same day. Think of  
walking seven miles to  
have a good Easter dinner.  
We had a fine time, every  
one had so much news  
to tell.

We had two Easter Sundays.  
One came on Wednesday.

Dynamite wanted us to  
have a celebration with  
the boys so he went out  
to Clarkia and brought in  
some oranges, nuts, butter



and three dozen eggs. We had  
bacon, gravy, potatoes, eggs boiled,  
soft and hard, eggs cold and eggs  
hot eggs flipped and eggs flopped.  
and topped it all off with a  
fruit salad made of jello, oranges,  
nuts and a few raisins. My  
but we are good cooks!

I baked bread last week. It was  
a great success. I'm sure even  
you would have deemed it so.

Myrtle is baking today. If having  
bread all over the house on all  
the stools chairs and shelves  
likewise her apron and eyebrows  
is any criterion, she's going to  
have a great baking.

Mr. Fleming sent us, by Bill,  
five of the loveliest great big  
mountain trout. Oh! but they  
were good! We rolled them in  
meal before frying and they did  
look so pretty. I hope papa  
wrote to the gentleman and

thanked him for seeing  
us through safely and for  
his kindness to us. He  
surely deserves the courtesy.  
He has left Avery but his  
mail will be forwarded.  
Mr. A. S. Fleming, Avery, Ida.

My new cabin looks  
real homey and comfy now.  
I've everything moved over  
and in place. Bill made  
me a bed, a mouse proof  
cupboard, two shelves and  
cut some wood, for the  
trifling sum of thirty dollars.  
The bed and all I felt as if I



could not do without. It  
was very hard to get material  
to work with - and took a great  
deal of time to do so. We  
stayed all night Thursday  
last week. We expected to  
stay two or three days there  
this week but wanted to  
get our letters off first, so  
will do time while the boys  
are out for the mail.

The snow is all off the roof.  
It slid off about eight  
o'clock the night we were  
there and made us open  
our eyes somewhat. We  
were expecting it though <sup>and</sup>

so were not frightened. May  
fence is demanding recognition.  
The tops of the posts are out, or were  
when we were there, Bill says  
the snow is going very fast in  
the valley and that a man could  
work at my place by the time he  
could get in here, I doubt any  
man being able to do the work. I  
want it over as soon as possible  
and if two are better send two.  
Have you heard from Cosau d'Alen  
yet? There will need to be  
a woodshed, a small cellar a  
toilet, fencing - clearing and fixing  
the barn, possibly some little  
jobs about the cabin and bridging  
the swale.

I doubt us having provisions  
enough to divide and do the  
work before the horses can come  
in. If we could get the horses  
part way we could possibly get  
enough packed from there in. We  
are more nearly out of meat, coffee



lard and meals. Will send  
a list of what we have on  
hand. Tell Mrs. D. if she  
stocks up to include <sup>enough</sup>  
for me too.

Am anxiously waiting the  
report on the condition of  
the trail. The boys will write  
to Mrs. D. and tell her how  
it is. How I do wish

Cad could come in when Mrs.  
D. comes, especially if you  
send a man in. I'd hate to  
go over to the cabin alone  
to cook for him or them, <sup>and</sup>  
Mrs. D. will want Myrtle with  
her. Can't you persuade

Caroline to come then. If she couldn't stay all summer perhaps the little girls could take a trip. I could meet them at Clarkia after you get back, eh?

How are your preparations getting along? It seems so funny to think of you doing it all by your lonesome. I'm afraid you'll be so concentrated that you'll never ask my advice again. Have you some one to take care of the place?

Please have "your all's" pictures



finished or taken before you  
leave. I'd like that much left in  
Idaho for me this summer. Now!  
Please,

Will papa arrange for my  
checks at the bank? I wish I didn't  
have to spend any more. No, more  
Bills (Bill G's) for me, but I couldn't  
live there until I had it fixed and  
I could <sup>not</sup> have boarded any one in here  
for less,

Please don't forget to lock my box,  
and what would be best for my plumes  
this summer. Could you put them  
on a hat and wear them yourself  
Mother? Of course papa couldn't.

When Papa comes out I'd like to  
have six plates sent to me. You  
know I owe May Calkins three  
and I have but three left.

I'm lots of trouble 'aint' I, as if  
you didn't have enough to do  
without bothering you further.  
Everyone thinks we can get in from  
Avery sooner. Hoyt is the only one

with horses, he charges two dollars a day and three for himself.

Miss the biggest kettle of beans on cooking, and an old ham bone. We can bake them dandy too.

Will write to me before the next mail day. be sure to write ahead of time for theres no schedule out here and the mail leaves most any time. How we did enjoy your last letter. Love from my bath, to every body, friends, relatives, neighbors etc.

Do we have to have a permit to do clearing and firing?  
Affectionately  
Dona