

Cooke, Montana
August 18, 1937

Dear Mother and Dad;

We are in a place now that really is cool. It is now five thirty A.M.. Donald, Gerald and Ken are still in bed. I got up about five and built a fire in the stove so when they get up it won't be so cold. The men here in the filling station says that yesterday was the warmest day they have had, and we were cold with sweaters on. Every night so far this summer it has frozen ice.

We came from Custer S.D. on highway 16; highway 14 to Sheridan Wyo. 87 to Billings Montana, 10 to Laurel, 310 out of Laurel and then 32 across the Bear Tooth mts. It was sure well driving up the mountain. In one place we could see the road winding up the winding up about six or seven times and then as we went up we could look back down on the road. We would like to have taken pictures but it was too cloudy. On top of the mountain we got into a hard rain and was it cold. Then too, we saw the most beautiful

rainbows I have ever seen. There were two of them. One was real bright while the other seemed like a reflection of the brighter one. Right now the sun is just coming up over the hill tops and is it bright.

Our cabins the last two nights have been grand. In Custer we were out of town about 2 miles, but here we are right behind the Shell filling station. This cabin is the best we have had.

It is made of logs throughout. It cost \$2.50 but all the other cabins in town are \$1 per person.

The car has been running fine. The first day and then again yesterday from Sheridan to Billings it was all but bailing. But we have had our troubles. The flat the 1st day that cost us \$3 for a new tube and last night (yesterday aft.) the generator went bad. It started to charge about 20+ and so we turned on our lights and radio. That cut it down to about 5+. Then we noticed that it quit charging so we turned everything off. Coming up over the mt. in the rain we had to use our lights. Donald got cold and he had the heater on and the windshield steamed so Jerry had the fan going. When we

got here we had a man look at it and at first he said that he thought the generator was burned up and we would have to have a new one. Then he took it off and took it apart. Well that's good news the brushes were the main trouble. Being up here in the backwood he didn't have the right brushes but he filed down two that he had and made one of the three that was in the generator work. Then too he made over the fuse so that now we ought to be able to get to a city garage some place. The battery is plenty low because going over the mountain we didn't have a horn part of the time. The cost of this was \$1.50 which is plenty cheap.

I was afraid we would be here a couple of days because it takes two days for mail service and it is better than 125 miles to a garage where they would have auto parts. Well we have our fingers crossed all the time now.

Donald really did get sick going up over the mts. Going up he was kidding all the way. Once he looked over an edge where there wasn't any rail and he said "If any body ever gets off there,

Lord do pickles them." But when he
got to the top he had an awful headache
all the way down to Cooke he put his
head back on Ken's pillow. When we
got here we made him take some hot
soup and aspirin and then go to bed.

He just came to now and he doesn't
know how he does feel. One side of his
throat is bad so we will have to take
care of that. I guess he will be OK to
go into Yellowstone this morning.

Last night we ran into an
insurance man and his wife and another
couple from Madison. The one man is
well acquainted with the west and he
was telling us what we should be sure
to see. By our money holds out I
we would like to do some of those
things. Then too, we run ~~into~~ onto
a fellow U. of W. student who is
from Oregon. He comes out here and
works every summer.

Now I think we will get things
together and pull out of here. Expect to
stay at old Faithfull tonight. Expenses are
more and more all the time. Gas 26¢ here
but still higher in parks. Meals are a
proposition we have decided to eat a meal every
noon and then lunch at night. Love George
This is from all of the kids.