

Chalume, Oct 2nd, 10

Dear Mother:

I received the two packages of laundry from the express office in Paso Robles and was very thankful to have them. The magazines and heavy socks which you also sent were fully appreciated. It has been a busy time with me and there has been no opportunity to paper that room.

The man, who professed to being a sort of a carpenter and blacksmith has left, but as all the men said he was a consumptive, it is probably for the best. The room is already for the cloth and paper, so when the work slackens up, we will tackle it.

Yesterday and to-day, we have been rodeing, regardless of the light showers of rain. It is raining hard this evening and appears to have determined on a heavy down pour. Our plough teams will start now as soon as the weather settles. If you have anything that you wish to send over to the Ranch, there will be an opportunity when the team comes to San

Luis, as Father has probably mentioned to you. (2)

We have five little hound pups and they are the pride of the Ranch. The men regard them with the highest approval.

There is considerable excitement over an oil strike in the "Lost Hills". This low range of hills is about 14 miles from the pumping station at the junction of the Pipe Line. That would make it a distance of about 28 or 30 miles from the lower end of the Ranch.

~~There~~ The reports say that oil was struck at a depth of 630 feet and that the well flowed 150 barrels a day. This is probably exaggeration but oil must have been struck, as half the town of Coalinga has moved into that district and pitched their tents. There have been inquiries in Parkfield for Portable Drilling Rigs as claims in the Reserve cannot be held unless drilling starts in a given time and when oil is struck the title can be made good.

It might be well for Father to look into this field as I could land our Star Drilling Rig over there in two days and we could probably

get as much for it as the whole outfit cost (3)
originally. If ~~you~~ he didn't wish to sell, he
could get a slice of land by the ability to
land a portable rug in there immediately. I
would have driven over with a team and taken
a look at things but it has been too busy
here for me to leave.

The new cook does very well and is willing
and cheerful which is half the battle.

How did Ethel enjoy her visit at the Paso
Robles Hotel? My one night in town, I spent
there, as the other place was full and I thought
a glance at the gilt edge side of military life
might be amusing. There was no excitement,
in fact the Ranch seemed lovely beside it.

I hope you are all well at home and that Gent
and babies are fine. Don't let Father take any
chances with that bail on his neck. With love

As ever

Your affect. son,

Howard.