

Charles E. Ridder Letters, 1899-1911

Transcribed by Ed Byerly

Quincy, Illinois, October 30, 1899 (Possibly Nov 30 1899)

Dear Albert & Dela;

I will just pen a few hurried words as I am too busy to write much of a letter. Pa is pretty well again. I am glad that I am here, for I guess the company of one of us is good for him. I don't think he will go out to Cal. this year. He probably hasn't much of a desire for country life. Al old boy the enclosed check cuts down resources and I hope you will have good luck from now on. This check leaves about \$40.00 of the R. . . Co. funds except the AIX I have a cert of Dep for and the "Kansas Lands." Well hoping you are all well and that I may hear from you often.

I am yours as ever,

Carl

Acknowledge receipt of this check at once Al, please so I will have no cause for uneasiness. You see I have been drawing on the R. ? for all of our Bldg. Assn. dues, Delas trip and then I have used some money personally for suits of clothes. Don't expect me to do much writing for some time as my time is so taken up that by the time I allow myself a little recreation there is little time for writing. Ta ta.

Quincy, Illinois, October 30, 1902

Dear Albert;

At last I have an opportunity to write a few lines. Am pleased to hear that you seem pretty well satisfied with your position and I hope that it will in time be a highly satisfactory one. I wish you could have remained here for we will miss you. Music has dropped to almost last place since you are gone. I am kept pretty busy still and in the evening do not feel in a humor to blow the cornet, pick the mandolin or scratch on the violin by myself. The orchestra resembles a dying fire with a few live coals. When an engagement is in sight then with a little fuel added the fire lights up again only to die out after the engagement has been passed. Now to retaliate a bit for your rascally letter recently received.

Whatever influenced you to write such an unwelcome letter. I hope you did not read the letter over a second time and really sent it with cool deliberation, for astonishment on our part would not express our feelings at receiving such an unexpected slap in the face. That your violin was damaged I do not see why you should blame us. I did not think that it was carelessly packed. And as for your other clothes, shoes &c, we did about as well as we could in getting them together and the music books you did not care for, well I simply took the opportunity to send them all as you might want them some time and I thought you would perhaps never be back east again--so much for trying to be thoughtful--and then to

make fun of our innocent advance Christmas gifts, heaping insult upon insult really we did not know what to think after we read the letter. We were sorry to hear of the violin being damaged, that we should however be to blame therefore we couldn't understand. Hope all is well now again and that you are in better humor, but please do not write that way again.

The only money I have received on your acct. thus far is from Weiler, \$4.00. I presented H. C? bill and he will advise me some day when to collect the other bills you had better mail direct and advise them to call at store and pay me as I have so much to do during the day that would be apt to neglect them. I expressed your book to you and hope you received same ok. Fred Freiburg was here last week. Dela is going to St. Louis tomorrow. We are all pretty well and hope you are the same. I am having a little trouble with boils. Had to make two trips . . . of the Ironclad Co. affair. . .

Quincy, Illinois, November 2, 1902

Dear bro. ("Clarence")

Since you are becoming such an "transferable object" you will henceforth be known to us as "Clarence"--the reason wherefore you can understand from the enclosed Post-Dispatch clipping. Well well how different your letter of today. Hope you'll have another lift in salary soon. There is a right merry jingle to good money isn't there. At the present rate of climbing to the top you ought to reach the same pretty soon.

Everything moves along about as usual here. Quincy seems to be booming substantially. Buildings are being erected, streets being extended and improved, the suburbs are rapidly being mapped out into building lots, new enterprises being agitated and I believe next year Quincy will present a busy spectacle. Business seems to be generally speaking, good. The retail trade probably suffered somewhat on account of the beautiful Indian summer we are having. Today it threatens to become winter soon however but it may not last. The Mount Olympia Orchestra has not met . . . [illegible] Fischer wants the orchestra to meet at his home some time.

Fred Freiburg was a Quincy visitor about three weeks ago. He is looking well and seems to be doing well in Chicago. Have heard but once from Dela since she went to St. Louis, but hope to hear from her in a day or two as I wrote to her last Friday. Mr. Menke is now almost the entire time in Hannibal superintending the factory which you no doubt know came into his possession. He came out of the financial trouble with the factory, in niche shape and now owns it entirely, trade mark included. He goes to Hannibal every Monday morning and returns to Quincy Saturday noon. As regards our accounts I leave that to you how we stand as I do not know. I collected and paid out as follows:

Rec:

from	Joe Weiler	4.00
"	Oil Dividends	3.00
"	Hy Ordicy?	6.75
		13.75

Paid Out:

to Germania	9.50
to your credit	4.25
	13.75

I would certainly like to hear your violin if it has improved so well. We called on Prewet? last week and he certainly has a splendidly arranged home. But it seems to me he could have built a house equally satisfactory for half the money. We are all quite well now and hope we will continue to have good health. Are glad to hear that your health is goo. Hope Aunt Fanny will shortly recover. How is uncle Joe? Give . . .[illegible]

Pa says he has received no letters about the time mentioned--but probably the time is confused. Tell him what dates they were and he will know better then. Don't forget to continue communications to Germania, they are greatly appreciated.

Quincy, Illinois, December 21, 1902

Dear Bro. Albert;

Excuse pencil writing but I want to write you a letter before Christmas to take the opportunity I have just at the time to write to you. I am kept pretty busy as Pa has gone to Union and Agnes is not entirely well and has to take good care of herself. I forwarded your letter to Pa at Union. Glad to hear of your success and hope you will continue to be successful. I hope the business of the Menke D.G. Co. will show well at the close of the year's business. Your letter although a little late in date was appreciated by the Germania Co. Mr. Bornman called for the letter himself. You probably read it if they still send you the paper. It seemed to me you had already written a great part of that communication previously. Mr. Bormann, judging from conversation with him, seemed to enjoy the communications personally very much. If you can find the time, write them a letter again. Dela was here a while ago and you will receive a letter soon from here. She is staying at Mattie's.

Tom was here this week one evening he is about the same as ever. The orchestra has been doing nothing since I wrote you last. You will probably know that Father Nicholas suffered a paralytic stroke and he is very sick. I do not think he will recover. Johnnie's folks, Gehrings, Maas', Zimmermans, Rakers &c. are all quite well. Edith is here this evening. Miss Townsend told me recently she would pay the balance due you some time to me. Bernard Broemmell has a lame foot having stepped on a nail. We had a letter from Pa at Union saying he arrived after some delay at St. Louis on account of having lost his baggage checks. He was suffering somewhat from cold. We have had quite a spell of winter since Thanksgiving day, having had right cold weather and heavy snows, but at this writing the vast amount of snow has disappeared on account of mild weather and rains having set in. Yesterday we had a light thunder and lightning storm but no telling what sort of weather is in store from day to day. Well wishing yourself and all of the Kasten family a most merry Xmas and happy New Year from myself and Agnes.

Am as ever, Yours

Carl

Hello Al, just a few lines to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Expect we will have a quiet Xmas here [sic]. I am somewhat under the weather but hope to be stronger soon. Am glad you are doing nicely. Won't write more we want to play a game of cards—write soon.

Love and best wishes from Aggie

Hello Alb. How are you, well I hope. Merry Xmas and Happy New Year from Edith

Quincy, Illinois, February 1, 1903

Dear Al;

Well while we are playing a game of pinochle I will between deals pencil a few lines to you. Aggie, Edith and I are having a game of cards this evening, we are at the first game. Edith won the first game [hand]. Today has been a beautiful day, like spring weather the past week in fact has been about that way excepting one day. The winter has been a fine one and a large ice harvest was gathered but I suppose we will have some sever weather yet for it is too early to think of spring weather. Mr. Borman was at the store and he explained matters about Mr. Heine notifying you that subscription to Germania would be charged. I suppose you have received word from Hein as he told me you had been written to. He takes great delight in your communications and other people also appreciate them and I hope you will send in more of them. I called at the college this afternoon and had quite a chat with Fr. Hilary. He inquired about you and wished me earnestly to remember him to you and acknowledge the receipt of your N.Y. greeting, but as you had changed[?] your address he could not reply, so you write him and give him your present address. He is looking well. Fr. Nicholas suffered a paralytic stroke some time ago but is improving. Business with Menke D.G. Co. was quite satisfactory last year and I now receive jcxc which of course pleases me. Well how are you getting along in Benicia by this time and what are the prospects there. Write us all you can about the place and let us hear from you soon as we are always anxious to hear from you. We are all quite well and hope you are the same. Dela was over a while ago and seems quite well. She is staying at Lu's

Well later,

Yours Carl

How de do Albert, just got finished playing cards and had a little lunch and now I must go for home. Many thanks for that postal you sent so long,
Edith

Quincy, Illinois February 20, 1903

Dear Albert;

At last I hope to get a short letter to you. Hope you are well and getting along nicely. Barry Broemmel had stepped in [sic] a nail some time ago but is over that trouble now, he had quite a time with his foot for a while. Roscoe Townsend was quite ill for a while with what seemed to be pneumonia but is considered out of danger now. You have heard of Carl Ringier's death have you not? His ailment was typhoid fever. Albert do you not think it would be better not to publish those letters relative to St. Joseph Colony failing of being a success. I understand that Father Erz is dead and then I think the Germania is surely not a good paper to print such matter and would afford perhaps many of their readers a pretense to ridicule. Besides I think all of what you have just sent in or the greater part has been published by the Western Catholic last fall. Do you think better to keep these out of the paper and take up another subject for publication? Mr. Klene is about again. Am happy to say that Dela is acting quite differently again now and is quite agreeable and friendly to Agnes now. I enclose a letter which I think you asked me to return . . . [illegible] . . . this writing it has become quite moderate and we breathe easier. Just think of it Snow fall began Saturday evening and lasted till sometime Sunday night. I shoveled snow once Saturday night and about three times Sunday and then gave up. Today almost a week later it is only beginning to thaw. The thermometer averaged from Sunday morning until this (Friday) morning from about zero to 14 degrees below. "And coal sells readily @ only \$4.00 per ton" and this kind of weather we use at Menke D.G. Co. About 2 tons per week. Well let us hear from you soon and tell us all about your store, the town and some of your new acquaintances, prospects, &c. With love and regards from all of us especially Agnes and myself,
Yours as ever Carl

Quincy, Illinois March 24, 1903

Dear bro. Albert;

From day to day I should have written but I forget to write during the day and at evening do not feel in the humor of writing besides we attend devotions in the evening and just now the forty four devotions are being celebrated at St. Boniface Church and not long ago they were held at St. Francis Church. In regard to those letters well I submitted them to Father Hillarins. I called there one Sunday and left them and he shook his head about them and did not approve of publishing them. I think he said if ever an attempt be made to form a colony it might be well to sound a warning note if the scheme would require that people be warned, but after so long a time now to publish the letters he could not see what object there could be. He sends his regards to you and you might write him a few lines if you can find time for it would please him. He is assisting at the devotions of St. Boniface Church as also Fr. Phillip and Fr. Schoenlan.

I hope soon to hear from you with a good description of your surroundings telling us all about your success or prospects generally. We are getting along pretty well but have not been able to increase my bank account to anything. Della [sic], after wasting her money, has come back. I do wish she would find some occupation. The great trouble with her, however, she is not painstaking and alert enough and is too particular about what she wants to do what she can do and what she ought to receive. I would be

glad if she could get a job if only to earn 50¢ a week, for I am doing all I can for her and cannot buy any clothes for her especially to meet her demands. I do not know how or what Dela thinks. What if I should lose my position &c. I would not know what to do for her. Pa expects to be back some time after Easter. In regard to the Taxes on lands I had attended to the Kansas land, but cannot find any papers of the Wisconsin land and do not know how to go about that matter. Apparently the big satchel cannot be found. I do not remember whether Pa took it to Union or not.

Had quite a letter from Dolphy some time ago and all seems to be well there. Have not heard from St. Louis for some time, but I owe a letter to Annie Nolte. John Mat and Gus are well and seem to be doing well. Gus seems to have a good position with the Telephone Co. Well I will go to dinner first and continue after a while. It's about 12:20—Back from Dinner and I feel better. The weather here has been very nice for the time of year. However business has suffered greatly through bad roads. Our salesmen have not been able to call on their trade thoroughly for some time and collections have not been very satisfactory either. Mr. Klene is able to attend to work at the Germania Office again. Send them another one of your interesting letters for they are appreciated.

Have you made any acquaintances yet at Benicia and do you have any opportunity to practice music[?] If you intend to settle in California what do you think of doing with the piano? Ship it or try to sell it. The Olympia Orchestra has played its last concert I presume. I seldom see the boys since Tom has become so very active in politics he seldom calls. He won the nomination this spring for City Attorney. Henry Oelschlager of the firm B&C is the republican nominee for mayor. Well with best wishes from all and hoping to hear from you soon

Yours as ever

Carl

If [I] should not write again before "April 3" accept my heartiest congratulations from all of us to your birthday, wishing you many happy returns.

Quincy, Illinois, April 6, 1903

Dear Al;

Just a few hurried lines acknowledging receipt of your happy letter this morn. It pleased me much to read the letter and note that you are getting along nicely. Will try to write soon again. Father George left Sunday night for Sacramento, Cal., to become assistant to Father Godfrey, Father Smith called yesterday. He is now stationed assistant in Mt. Sterling. Well hoping to hear from you soon again.

Yours as ever

Carl

I send what I think are necessary papers about the Wisconsin land by registered letter, Dela having found the papers some time after I had written. As regards the deed it is such a bulky paper if you need same I will express it if you say so. Please let me hear from you upon receipt of this letter.

Yours Carl

Quincy, Illinois, April 13, 1903

Dear Albert;

Enclose hastily receipts as per your request I do not find any later ones. Frank Menke is thinking seriously of taking a trip to California this summer and if [he] does will no doubt visit you if you can steer him about to see some of the beautiful sights there. Will you write him and give him what you think an estimate of what a trip could be made for, best route to take and the notable sights to see &c. Hope [you] recd. other papers ok.

Yours as ever,

Carl

Quincy, Illinois, May 11, 1903

Albert C. Ridder Esq.
6 First St. Benicia, Cal

Dear Al;

Enclosed please find R.N.BK. dft # 462708 for AIX.- as requested. I enclose [a] little slip showing balance at bank as [?] them write up your book to-day.

Be careful Al about your investments. Even though a concern may be a strong and powerful one I do not fancy that it is too safe for small investors to take stock therein as they may be frozen out by the larger share holders. It appears to me that you are becoming a member of a "trust."

Give an account of yourself as how you can harmonize with democratic principles. Guess I'll have to write that to republican Bill Kemper. Wouldn't he ha! ha! at such a Bryanite becoming another trust magnate. Well so long. Please write at once so I may know this letter has reached you ok. Write two letters so I can . . .

Quincy, Illinois, June 9, 1903

Dear Albert;

Just a few hurried lines to enclose with ? letter intended to write yesterday and today but ?ice he has written will defer a few days longer so you will not get the letters all at once.

The orchestra books have become scattered since our last engagement at W.C.N. Banquet and I can only gather together Violin and Piano book of the large concert selections if you won't [?en] let me know. I have Piano Book of #1 or #2 but no Violin Bk. Lawrence brought to me these books. The [show?] [?]ut in Texas and I do not know what books he has. [!]] Think Bulls Bank rent[s] safety deposit boxes at ?00 per a. but saw H. Ording? And spoke to him about a deposit place at Rickers and he told me that to customers he would grant space free but customers must provide himself with the tin box. Well so long will write more at length in a few days.

Yours as ever,

Carl

Quincy, Illinois, June 16, 1903

Dear bro. Albert,

You are uncle to another bright healthy boy who arrived here at 12:15 this morning. You can imagine my joy and I wish you could be here to see young Mr. Ridder. He is to be baptized tomorrow. Papa and Mrs Maas will be sponsors and the name chose is Charles Anthony. Well [sic] will try to write soon again so excuse this short note. Kindest regards from all of us and hoping you are well and getting along nicely. Aggie also wishes to be remembered to you. All is well.

Yours as ever,

Carl

Quincy, Illinois, July 29, 1903

Dear Albert,

Just when I'm thinking of writing to you I'd better follow up the thought and write. How are you and how is business? Stella Boekenhoff has gone to California to visit Nettie. I spoke to her the day she left and told her that information I had from you about Nettie and also told her where you were in case she might happen to Benicia in her travels. By the way Albert, I wish you would hold back with funds somewhat as regards papa's investments for you here. I do not regard them favorably. In the first place who knows how long we may remain in Quincy? I do not expect to leave but I cannot tell what opportunities I may have elsewhere and then who will be there to look after matters. In the second place I do not see what profit he has in renting if you take for an example the expense he is constantly put to at 1110 Jersey. Then again he works very hard to do what he can (and he does a great deal) to keep the properties in good condition and if some time he will no more be able to do so it will cost

considerable to keep the properties in shape. Again papa is getting well up in years and we can expect almost any time to see his health decline and then the properties would become burdensome. I do not believe in R.E. investments unless one has so much money that it is useless in the banks or in business &c., but for people of moderate means to invest in R.E. beyond a homestead I think is unwise. Again I fear he will begin to plan imprudently and before he may be aware thereof the cost may be considerable and we have no means to invest heavily. By the way I should like very much Albert if you and I could come to an understanding about the R. ?ive Co. Business. So we could know just what is what, for I hardly know whether or not to consider any part of the Kas. Land as mine or not or whether it is really all yours. I can hardly say, I'm pretty well mixed up on the matter as I left for St. Louis and things generally became mixed up. Well, hoping to hear from you soon.

Yours as ever, Carl

Pa was somewhat sick last week with some sort of bowel trouble but is quite well again. Now Dela is over at Ewing and will be back shortly.

Yours Carl.

Quincy Illinois, Sept 29, 1903

Albert C. Ridder Esq.

Benicia, Cal. (c/o Great American Tea Imptg Co)

Dear brother;

As you will see by the enclosed statements I have been working at our old books and endeavoring to get our affairs out of tangle as I think it best that we arrive at a satisfactory understanding about these things. Look over the statements and let me know if all is satisfactory and then I can draw from the account in my possession and settle up the individual accounts of each. Of course I do not think we can find everything correct to the dollar for example the cash book shows a balance which I cannot account for so all I could do was to charge same to myself as I only have myself to blame for not having memoranda thereof although at that time it was perhaps difficult to keep account of everything. Should you be satisfied with the statement I enclosed there would be mlnt from salary due me but I don't see where it would come from ha! ha! I have charged nex.—to your account which I drew in fall of "99". Did I not send you a draft for same? I have no memo thereof except that I drew the same from S.S. L.xT. Co., and I possibly purchased draft or cert. of dep. at R.N. Bk to forward to you. Then the Klex to Dela when she left for Salinas papa objects to being charged to him and if you object I suggest that we divide the expense between papa, yourself and myself. All I wish is to come to an agreeable understanding and make the proper decisions for I feel that it should be done, before it may be too late. Papa is growing older and last winter he had a hard spell of sickness and now he has a very badly ulcerated wound on his leg again and one cannot tell what can happen and he also desires to see matters straightened. I hope we can easily and quickly adjust these matters. Then the Kansas land you can suggest what to do about same. Altogether you look over the statement and if [you have] any suggestions to make don't hesitate to do so, or if anything [is] not to your approval call [it to] my

attention as I only started this matter to be at it and arrange it. I enclose letter from Mr. Horras [Horvas?] about your Wisconsin land which requires immediate reply. We are all pretty well excepting papa who has not been able to be around for about three weeks and will likely be two weeks longer, otherwise he is quite well except that age is beginning to tell. He seems quite cheerful and happy. All is happiness now with our little sunbeam in the house. We frequently have a good game of cards at home and that affords pa a great deal of pleasure just now in his crippled condition. Hoping you are well and happy and that we'll hear from you shortly.

I am as ever yours

Carl

Regards from all. P.S. Agnes would like a souvenir deck of cards of California

Quincy Illinois, February 15, 1904

Albert C. Ridder

Benecia Cal.

Dear Al;

Your welcome letter received last week. Will try to go to the bank to-morrow and send you the San Joaquin Shares. We are always so glad to hear from you and look forward with pleasure to the time when we hope to see you. I believe you will rejoice to see our happy little boy. He is certainly a shushin in our life and I hope he will cause us no more worry in his manhood than he has so far in his babyhood. He seems of a good and happy disposition yet seems to have plenty of determination and temper. Mr. Bornman was delighted with your correspondence. He takes such a lively interest in the writings and enjoys them personally very much. I can imagine that the last article cost you considerable labor. One satisfaction you have however and that is that articles arouse considerable interest amongst readers for the papers and you will obtain quite a reputation. I would suggest that you try a better market for your writings say for example the Post Dispatch or some such paper. That is write to them first and see if you could not receive pretty good pay for your articles. I hope you will receive a welcome promotion soon. As regards your music will have Dela and Agnes see what they can find. You know there is a great deal of music at Dolphy's, is there not? Fred Freiburg, Emil Weichlein and I play as a quartette. Weichlein plays guitar and harmonica, Fred plays flute and I mandolin. We played recently for a W.C.U. gathering. Last night was at Adolph Rakers. He celebrated his birthday anniversary and we played solo. I was fortunate enough to carry away the 1st prize. I hardly think that Agnes nor I will get to visit the Worlds fair. It is quite difficult to make headway and we do not want to incur any more expenses than we can help as we are anxious to progress and it seems so hard to get so far as to be able to save. I paid the Kansas land taxes and will have to pay taxes here soon also. The assessor assessed the piano last year for \$100.00. If he does so this year I would feel like selling it to him at that price. He evidently thought because he saw the name Steinway that it must be worth a good sum of money no matter how old or in

what condition it might be. I complained a great deal about the assessment last year to the authorities but it benefitted me very little.

As regards our financial matter between you pa and myself I am so anxious to have that matter straightened and I do not see why we should put the matter off. I will make up as good a statement of the matter as I can from the books and then let us arrive at a settlement. Papa is getting well up in years and anything can happen and I should like to have such things in shape and you should also get your matters with him in order. When you come you will have so little time and then we will not want to devote the time to such matters.

Papa will likely return from Union in about two weeks and we'll be glad to see him. It seems so long since he has been away. I hope you keep in good health and humor and that we will soon have good news that you have been transferred to another store with better prospects, and one mor suitable to you. We'll have Agnes look up the photos. I met Mr. Kisteman one day and showed him the photos from Archers which [I] had in my pocket. He recognized Jennie at once.

Well hoping to hear from you soon and with love from all of us.

Yours as ever

Carl

P.S. Have been delayed in sending this letter and enclosure. I called at the bank and did not find the certificate there. Then Dela could not find it, so finally I had her bring your papers to me and on examining them carefully I found the stock certificate. I also found the Franciscan Remedy Certificate and also Amer. Refining Co. Certificate which will place in the Bank. I went to register this letter but yesterday was legal holiday, so I had to wait. We'll write again in day or two about the other matters.

Quincy Illinois, March 9, 1904

Dear bro. Albert;

I enclose statement of your acc't with Ridder Qwe Co., also the one submitted by Pa. As to mine, I will take the same as it appears on the books, there are a number of items I cannot account for so have charged something like fifty odd dollars cash book balance to my account, as I neglected to keep a record thereof and as I cannot account for the same. I have charged it to me. As to Pa's statement I think it is near enough to the firm's account to be accept[able,] in fact there are but two or three dollars difference and I am in favor of settling it. Your account I itemized from about the time you left and as to the salaries if you do not think they are as they ought in fact if anything is not as you think [note] it so we can close up this matter asap. I think we have it now in as good shape as we could ever hope to get it. You will no doubt remember the \$200.00 draft did you not use it for oil stock investment &c. In

regard to other matters like Delas's trip &c. Well I do not . . . in the light of being pa . . . I have done a great deal . . . last five years and . . . effort for me. When . . .

[new page]. . . and if you think or if I am overlooking anything that is unjust to you please call my attention thereto for I don't want you to bear losses of which I should justly share. In regard to Kansas Land I am satisfied with any suggestion you have to make. I do not feel that I would be able to make any offer on it and if you would buy it I would be satisfied with any offer from you and if you think it best to hold it together alright too. I wish it could be disposed of. No I think it would be well to settle these matters according to the enclosed statements and if you consent thereto let me know at once and will make payments to you and Pa and then this matter will be cleared up. And other little things can be settled up anytime if there remains anything to be settled. Of course I advise that you and Pa get your affairs in shape also.

Yours truly as ever

Carl

With love and regards from all of us. Destroy this letter when you have finished it. Return Pa's statement to R. Qwe Co.. Please let me hear from you at once. I find from my private acc't with Jefferson Bk that I paid Mo. Guar. Dues ?/29/98 to Qcy & KK 15.00 & 12/21/98 to KK 5.00 . . . from you personally . . . good news from . . .

H. Ridder & Co. Stationery
1897

		Forwarded	99.82
Aug	13	To Cash	11.00
	13	"	.70
	14	"	1.25
	19	"	.75
July	31	To Mdse	2.80
Aug	20	To Cash	2.00
	23	"	5.45
	25	"	1.05
	31	"	2.50
Sept	3	"	2.40
	8	"	5.90
	10	"	1.50
	13	"	2.95
	17	"	3.00
	22	"	5.00
	27	"	2.15
	28	"	.75
	29	"	2.75
	30	"	3.50

Oct	2	"	5.50
	6	To a/c Kremet	5.00
	8	" Building & Loan Co	2.85
	25	Building & Loan Co & Music Magazine	6.25
	25	To a/c Murry Marks	5.00
Nov	30	" Sterns	2.53
	9	Building & Loan Co. a/c Sterns	7.50
Dec	11	Boa Building & Loan Co	5.00
	13	Magazine	1.00
	20	B . . .	8.20

On Menke Dry Goods & Co. Stationery

Stock Acct

A.C.R.	paid up Mdse	PΠIX XI
	" cash	<u>ΠΛ --</u>
		PΠ ΠΛ --
C.E.R.	paid cash	<u>ΛΠΛ --</u>
		L7AI

Proportionate interest in Stk ACR= ΠΛ½% Based on actual investment of L7Λ I
 " " " " CER= LZ½%

Salary Acct

C.E.R.	say /12 Mo. @ ΛI.--	ΔIX.—
	Cash drawn	<u>ΛΔZ . ΠΘ</u>
	Bal due	ml.nt

A.C.R. Cash drawn ΛΔZ. ΠΘ

Inclusive of Klex to Dela for trip to California and 4X.00 sent in fall of 99

Say-6 mo. Salary @ ΔI.- 7ΔI. IX
 overdrawn LIZ.ΠΘ

Quincy Illinois, September 16, 1904

Dear Albert;

Just a few hurried lines to attend to your message. I have been so busy in the past few days. I had positively intended to write to you Sunday but in the afternoon I called on Grandma, with the baby, and attended benediction at the hospital chapel. In the evening I was surely going to write when behold

before we had finished supper who should surprise us but Tom Scherer and wife. I called at the Bank this morning to get the Oil Co. Coupon and deposited the same on your account to draw checks on. They deducted \$.08 for registry in sending the same coupon for collection. So you have to your credit to draw check on \$24.92. I have retained the Bank Book for I suppose you want me to keep it here. Many thanks for the check you sent. You might have waited to see whether you could better spare the same later on. I will send the check book to you in a separate envelope by registered mail and trust will reach you safely and promptly. Hope you will soon succeed in obtaining a first class job and one to suit you all around. Let us hear from you often. All are quite well and hope you are the same. Reiska and Hermann were here last week. Little Willie was run down by a bicycle and got an ugly bruise on his forehead but fortunately was not seriously hurt. Well ta ta with kindest regards from al to you and all of the Kastens. Yours as ever, Carl
Baby can blow the French Harp now.

[Note: inserted is undated settlement of account from Ridder Queensware]

September 26, 1904 [Quincy]

Dear Albert;

Glad to hear of your good luck and hope you will succeed first rate. Spruce up so you make the appearance consistent with your capabilities and do not be too indifferent about the clothes you wear. Lulu Menke asked me if you would not send a souvenir postal card of California as she is collecting them as souvenirs. Are Tentenbergs still in San Francisco and if so you should remember the Menke family to them.

Well so long.

Yours as ever Carl

Quincy, Illinois, November 5, 1904

Dear Albert;

No doubt you are wondering why you do not hear from me. Well I have been and am very busy, so much so that I have little time to write to anybody and sometimes when have made my mind up to write at a certain time something prevents. Of course having to buy the goods from Jenkins required time. Then too the fingerboard on the viola was lost and had to buy another. I had repaired the fingerboard once before but it must have come loose again. This time I took the instrument to Anderson and had him repair it. I got the fingerboard from Jenkins. Well I have finally shipped the order by Expr. Prepaid c/o Uncle Gus's address 507 Oak St. and trust will reach you safely as I certainly took enough pains to pack the same o.k. but oh my the express charges (as they will collect them from me Monday) I wonder what they will be. Will send bill in a few days of all items. I omitted the quartette books and the song. I will mail them. The quartette books are so very heavy I believe it will be cheaper to mail them two at a time. Jenkins sent such a lot of catalogues that I used them for packing in the inside of the viola case

and also to shield the viola and bows as much as possible. The one vocal book is in the case also. Well I will stop writing shortly for it is growing late. Albert I feel just a bit worried about Pa's health. That sore leg seems to be getting serious and I have had him to see the doctor twice. He was getting along pretty well but then he seems perhaps to have walked too great distances and the sores are spreading again and besides this his face began to break out and looked like erysipelas? to me and I urged him to go to the doctor which he did and has to cover the face with a brown salve and also takes medicine internally. While his appetite and health otherwise appear . . .

Quincy, Illinois, November 28, 1904

Dear Albert;

Just a few lines hurriedly to at least get a few words to you from us. It just beats all how I am deprived of my opportunities to write. Sunday a week ago I had settled as a good chance to write but something happened to prevent. Last Sunday I could have written nicely when we had a call from cousin Mary Wachtal? and so the story goes. No use however to waste time and space with explanations. Pa is doing fairly well lately but I do not think [he] will be able to go to Dolphy's for a week or two yet and possibly not this winter. He puzzles me. I don't believe he can stand the least pain hardly and then he can put on terribly one minute and the next he will hobble down town. I got him to go to the doctor. I scared him about as hard as I could and he finally went to the doctor or no doubt his leg would not be so well as it is now. He does not like to pay money to a doctor. But his leg was puzzling me and beside taking his old age into consideration there is no telling what can happen at any time even now. Then to[o] he will let no one bandage and dress his wounds although as far as that goes he does that part very well except as to cleanliness. Agnes and the children are quite well. Little Carl grows more interesting from day to day and it does make me feel happy to see him. He is a good and happy little chap although full of mischief. He is very fond of bananas and he will dance a jig for a banana as lively as any nigger for a nickle [sic]. It is a circus to hold up a banana and tell him to dance. His little feet hop around and he looks comical. Aggie is happy now that we have a new stove in the front room. Della writes that she will come in a few days.

I feel somewhat gloomy on account of business and I will write to you some time as soon as I have a good opportunity, confidentially on this subject of business as I do not consider my future prospects very flattering.

Well hoping you are well and happy and that will hear from you. I am as ever
Yours Carl

PS (dated December 5, 1904) Kindest regards from all. Pa is getting along nicely now. All are quite well and hope you are also. Will try to write again in a few days. Has postal from Ed today from San Antonio, Texas inquiring for your address as he will be in San Francisco Dec. 26 and stay two weeks. I understand he is with a comic opera company. Well bye bye — write soon.
Carl.

Quincy, March 2, 1905

Dear Bro. Albert;

Well, I have about caught up with my work so [I] will take a little time to write a few lines to you. I suppose you have been waiting to hear from one of us in Quincy for some time. Well I have not been in a mood for writing as you may imagine I felt somewhat worried with the prospects of being out of a position so very soon. I am very well pleased with the position and like the work very much. I was asked about another opportunity to go to Corsicana, Texas the other day. That would be a good position for you. It is the position of book keeper in a branch of the Richardson Lubr. Co. But they want someone at once and probably have someone engaged by this time. Emil Krietenieger is my boss. He has no doubt a fine position as he seems to have entire management of the firm's business in Quincy. They treated me nobly, for example, they had wished that I begin work about Jan 15th; but Mr. Menke did not like to see me leave so early and I could not very well do so either, so they waited for me two weeks and at that time I gave up my position at Menke's but Mr. Krietenieger was in New York and I could not go to work till he returned a week later and I was out of work for a few days, however they paid me from the 1st of the month although I only began work on the 6th. I have no particular responsibilities to bear and receive jixe per mo. How are you getting along with N.D. & Co. Are there any prospects of your salary increasing and what do you receive now? By the way do you want to pay Kas. Land tax this year? I do not know just how we owe each other on this item. I have paid the tax this year it amounts to \$2.43 so if you think it is your turn to pay you can send me [a] check, also your tax on piano was I think about \$1.40 or so. I enclose card of G.W. Stienbarger and note his remarks on back of card I think it best to hold this land for a few years to come yet at least for it should become more valuable from year to year and I would rather have the land than a few dollars. Pa is much improved and able to get around pretty well. The weather the past few days has been like spring and he has been down town. Agnes and the children are quite well. Tony tries to talk and sing now and is getting to be such a little mischief, but he is a good little fellow. It almost brings tears to my eyes when he is ready to go to sleep he comes and bids us good night then he goes back to Agnes and she says to him to say his prayers and he drops on his knees before the bed and folds his hands. He ought to be in California for he loves oranges and bananas. Rosie is quite healthy and is growing quite large. I hope the nice weather will continue as we had a very severe winter. Hope we'll hear from you soon and that all is well with you.

Yours as ever

Carl

Quincy, April 28, 1905

Dear brother;

Your welcome letter of a few days ago duly received and [I] regretted to learn therefrom that you have no position as yet. But why did you not wait till you had secured another place before giving up your position at N.D. & Co. I hope you will not have long to look for employment and that you will be fortunate to secure a good place in every way. I did not show your letter to pa so do not in your future letters refer to the same also do not allude to your being out of work until you have again secured a position (when writing to pa) (and also when write to me, better report your progress on a separate note so can show him other letter) as is distresses him to think that you are not successful and I fear it may rattle him too much. I asked J.T. Richardson (Richardson Lubricating Co.) about a position in Corsicana, Tex (I think it is the place) of which [he] had spoken to me about 6 weeks ago in a branch office of their company, but the place has been filled since and the party they have now is giving satisfaction.

I like my position at H. McK. D.G. Co. quite well. I am kept quite busy but still do not have hard work, it is mostly multiplication and addition and writing. Of Course being almost entirely brain work it wears one out when very busy, and is not very pleasant when [I] have [a] headache or [am] inclined thereto. The dull season commences now and it will give me lots of spare time until about July 1st when we are very busy again until about October when the rush is over and business slackens and November and December are very dull months. We close at noon Saturdays now, the time being made up during the week by lengthening the hours of work each day forty minutes; this does not apply to the office help as their earnings would not be affected but to the operators on machines and laundry and other employees so that they have the same opportunity to earn as well as before. Mr. Krietemeyer I suppose will take a trip to the Eastern markets next week.

We are all just at present quite well, and hope you are the same. Pa seems to be about as well as ever again except that he can't quite move about as vigorously as a year or two ago. Little Rose Mary had an ugly boil directly back of the left ear towards the throat which made her suffer quite a bit, but is quite well and happy now again. Carl A. is growing to be such a hearty robust little chap and is so happy and contented. He is slow to talk, however he pronounces many names and his understanding seems very bright and it seems so strange to me that he understands words which one addresses to him and yet can't pronounce them himself. Monday evening Edith and I were at a Whist party given by the Carriage Makers Benevolent Society. Wednesday Agnes, Pa and myself were to the College and saw the play Hermigild which was produced splendidly. The college hall was taxed to its utmost capacity there being such a large crowd present. The Orchestra under direction of Father Helarius is a very good one and performed well. I shook hands with Fathers: Anselm, Fosternacher?, Irenaeus, and Clemens, but had little time to talk; they all seemed well, even Father Anselm, although quite gray, looks very well. Oh! by the way, I had occasion to become acquainted [sic] with the assistant priest lately appointed to St. Boniface Parish and found that he knew you as he inquired about . . . [missing]. He is Father Kuntsch and probably you will remember him as having played in the college orchestra while you were there. Well I hope to have very good news from you soon and even though you do not secure a position quickly let me hear from you promptly anyway as to what your plans and prospects are. I do not think I would risk that tea store deal. In the first place I think the proposition is no bargain and very far from such, and in the second place I do not think there are any farther prospects for the success of the venture. Do you not think you could obtain a position with the Tea Co., you were with before or with

some other Tea Co. I believe such a place would be a good one rather so than risking a business venture yourself for you know how hard it is for a business on a small scale nowadays to succeed. Trust in St. Anthony's aid and hunt around for employment and I believe you will so find a suitable place. With kindest regards from all and hoping to hear very soon from you.

Yours as ever

Carl

Quincy May 24, 1905

Dear Albert;

Your welcome letter received and many thanks for your good wishes. As to [the] present don't give that a thought. Well of course what we are all deeply interested about just now is to hear what success you are meeting with and we are anxiously awaiting good news. It would surely be very pleasant if you would again locate back here and have good success. But in Quincy the outlook is "bum." I was certainly very fortunate to obtain the place I now have for it is one opportunity in a thousand in Quincy, so to say. I spoke to Mr. Richardson who is general salesman for Hargadine & McKitrick and I think that you could likely find a position in the office but I fear the salary would be too small in proportion to that which you have out there. Mr. Jno T. Richardson said that if you applied to W.McK D.G. Co you could use his name as reference if you choose to do so.

I hope you will very soon secure a very good position. Let us hear from you after, if only a few lines as we are eager to hear from you from day to day. We are all very well. Pa is looking fine and is able to be about much better than I expected. Aggie and the children are the picture of good health and Dela keeps very well. I am also enjoying the best of health. Little Tony is quite a little man. Full of life hale and hearty. Rosie is growing and exercises her lungs regularly, but fortunately she is tired by night and has to sleep. Well, ta! ta! And let us hear from you soon. Best wishes for success from all of us

Yours as ever,

Carl

Quincy Illinois, July 3, 1905

Albert C. Ridder Esq

c/o 507 Oak St San Francisco Cal.

Dear Albert;

Enclosed find the two drafts as requested 1/nex.cx and 1/mcx.cx and trust will arrive safely and promptly. Advise at once when received. Well I sincerely hope you will succeed finely. Your plans look very good except that possibly you might not require such a variety and quantity as it seems somewhat of a risk. Also do you not think you could attend to the soliciting of orders better yourself than depend

on other help. But of course I do not know anything so to speak about the business you are about to start. Let us hear from you often as I am very much interested to hear how your plans will develop. We are all quite well. Pa left for Union last Friday. He will be gone for probably three months. Grace Williams died at Springfield last Saturday and will be buried today here at Quincy. It seems she had been quite ill for some time past. Well, I will try to write again in a few days. Let me hear from you at once.

Yours as ever,
Carl

Quincy Illinois, December 18, 1905
24th & Howard Sts. SF California

Dear Albert;

Again the joyous Christmas season is approaching and by the time this letter will arrive it will be about or very near Christmas day and I will therefore extend to you and also Dela (you must consider this letter for both you and Dela), my wishes, as also the same from all of us, for a joyous and happy Christmas and New Year and that our heavenly Father will grant to you his choicest blessings and graces in abundance. I regret to hear that business is not prospering and I hope that it may improve. Even so do not become discouraged and be of good cheer. But really Albert in my opinion I believe you would do better to secure a good position again. True one has not the chance to gain as if he were his own boss but neither the care nor uncertainty and worry. If one is is [sic] a tradesman such as baker, carpenter, machinist etz.,[sic] than it is comparatively easy to start a small shop, but a small business nowadays simply dependent on the margin of profit between purchase price and sales price, I am very dubious about except that a person just happens to be fortunate to secure timely opportunities in towns where there is room for the line of business one starts. I feel quite contented now with my position at the Noxall Factory. I may not earn more money and I may do better nevertheless I earn what I believe will do for my wants and do not think that I need worry if [I] can always do as well. I do hope that business with you will improve to such an extent as to insure success or else that you may have a good opportunity with some firm to secure a good position at a suitable salary. Do not sacrifice all of your savings. Mr. Halbach died last Friday rather unexpectedly. However it seems that he has not been healthy for some time. He was attacked I think Thursday or so with a severe painful spell of sickness while at the store and had to be removed to his home. The weather this fall and winter has been grand. Fore the past two to four weeks the weather has been bright and cool. Temperature about freezing point. . . .

Quincy Illinois, February 6, 1906

Dear bro. Albert;

I certainly feel sorry at your letter which I received yesterday and how I do wish you were here with us. We could be so happy and even if we were not accumulating a lot of money, we could get along nicely. I

do not like to see you risk any more money in the tea business. If you reason that you will be willing to work for .50 to .75¢ per day why it would appear to me that you could do better than that by enquiring from store to store for work for surely you could find work as such prices and even better. Now Albert whatever I may remark in this letter do not misunderstand for it is meant with the best of intentions. Do you not think that it would be wiser to quit the store business at once and hunt work of some kind, I believe you could find some one that you could be employed by if you would give them to understand how badly you needed and wanted work. If I were in your position I do not think that I would hesitate a minute to apply to Nathan Dormann and Co. for a position again. In your opinion you may probably not agree with me, but I cannot understand thoroughly why it would not be perfectly honorable to do so even though it might be humiliating. We must bear many crosses and they are in all sorts of manners placed on our shoulders. Cheer up and do not become downhearted and do not think that you will have hard luck, but on the other hand I do not take such risks as this mealy little store business. Save your money and see if you cannot find a job. And also do not send us any money or gifts just now I assure we do not expect that at this time. If sooner or later you are earning a good income again we will be pleased to receive gifts, but just at the present time save your money. Last evening the orchestra played at a little social entertainment given by the boys sodality of the St. Boniface Church. It was a nice little happy affair. Father Kunsch is a very energetic, kind, enthusiastic, and happy priest and seems to work hard for the good of everybody.

Sorry to hear of Dela's suffering and hope here neuralgia &c. has entirely disappeared and that she is quite well again. I also hope that your sore eye is well again and that both of you are in good health and spirits. Well I will try to write again soon for the present I will close as must hurry to dinner and attend to your draft.

Enclosed find the draft tlc.x. and let me hear from you at once. I do hope we will have good news from you in your next letter.

Yours as ever with kindest regards from all,
Carl

Well just returned from lunch and the bank. Your savings bank book was not in your box so will have to look at home where it is and go back tomorrow as they require the book to be presented. I clipped off the coupon however and deposited the same as had that book with me. Say, I notice that they charge .25¢ for collecting the coupons as they send them registered on account of the small size, and therefore do you not think it would be best to place this bond in the bank there or would that be an expense also. I presume it would be more expensive. You might inquire if the coupons are accepted in New York for is so Ricker Bank can send there at less expense.

Well so long hoping for good news soon and sincerest wishes from Agnes and myself.
Yours as ever,
Carl

Quincy Illinois, April 25, 1906

Dear Albert and Dela,

I cannot describe how glad we were to receive your card this morning announcing that you are both safe and well. We were beginning to be quite anxious and probably would have telegraphed to the mayor today if [we] had not had any news from you. I did not feel that you were injured but could not account for not hearing from you from Monday on. I did not know but what the dreadful experience might have been serious for Dela. I can imagine what a frightful time you have gone through from the 18th to 21st and even now I suppose the experience is hard. There have been many inquires about you particularly anxious to hear have been Oscar Huck, Phil Koch, Lenore Wall, Mrs. Sibley, and others. I telephoned to Mattie and Mr. Huck this morning and will give items to the evening papers. Mr. Huck was glad to hear from you and extends sympathy over your loss but is pleased to know that you are safe and well. If you need any money Al let me know at once for I will gladly do what I can. I can spare some money if necessary and will cheerfully send some money at once, if you want it. You are surely having some rough experiences but don't lose courage. Hold to your cheerful disposition for God is just to every one and rewards men as they deserve. Of course I suppose it is difficult for you to know just what to do, and how to make up your mind. Do you have any fear to stay in California or on the contrary do you think that such an awful occurrence is not apt to be repeated in many years, and that good prospects are in view now for the future. If you decide to come back we will be most happy to see you and Dela back in our midst. Be sure as soon as you can conveniently do so to send a communication to the Germania treating of this awful disaster. They appreciate your communications very much and I believe they are eagerly read by the patrons of the paper.

Well let me hear from you and if you need money and need it quickly get information to me quickly if necessary by wire. We have been praying much for yo and now we are happy that we can give thanks to our good Father in Heaven.

Yours as ever,
Carl and all of us

P.S. Have you any word of Uncle Gus? Let us know about him at once. I fear he was in greater danger.

See if [you] can get any news about Jno. L. Peabody #1340 Filmore St. He is brother of Tom Peabody.

Quincy, May 10, 1906

Dear Al;

Received your recent letters and first let me thank you heartily for your good wishes. When I think of you poor people all out their [sic] in that unfortunate stricken city it must be pretty gloomy. I was attending the celebration of Father Anselm's golden jubilee on the 19th of April and was at the alumni meeting in the afternoon and had a very good time. The banquet was that evening, but I did not attend. It happened to occur to me that you were on 18th St., and I did not know but some accident might have happened to you and besides I was quite tired and felt in no mood to attend the banquet. I enquired several times at the telegraph offices but could look for no hope to receive or deliver a telegram from and to you for some time and so you can imagine our joy at receiving your card. I immediately advised the Noltes as they had inquired from us for news from you. My dear brother and sister my heart goes out to you in most earnest sympathy. I believe I can pretty well picture the awful conditions there and what you have experienced. Do you not think it wise to return. You can see that you have many good friends. I do think by all means that Della should be back and Albert why not you also. We could be so happy together even if we do not have much money. The simple life is by far the best and happiest. I do not believe that San Francisco will be the city it was for many years and doubt very much if ever. And again being such a small peninsula bounded by the large bodies of water on both sides and lying in the zone where repetitions of earthquakes can be expected. I am inclined to think that there is considerable danger there. The clipping you saw from a Quincy paper was likely from the Herald. I sent items to the Herald, Journal, and Germania. All were almost practically alike, but when I saw the Herald item in print, I hardly recognized the same item I had sent. Whereas the Journal printed the item faithfully, as I had given it. I started this letter yesterday but got busy and had to leave it till later. Well the Young Men's Society (St. Joseph's) of St. Boniface Church, celebrated their golden jubilee grandly Sunday at solemn [sic] high mass (at which our orchestra assisted the choir) the society received Holy Communion in a body and their feature was beautiful to see as there were about 75 young men present. They marched from their hall preceded by fifty little boys (representing 50 yrs) clad with white waists and wearing yellow sashes (representing the golden jubilee). In the evening they presented a religious drama and had a very crowded attendance. The orchestra also assisted at this entertainment as also Monday night's entertainment which likewise attracted a crowded house. Tuesday night they had a grand banquet which I attended also. The banquet was a joyous success in every way and was a brilliant affair particularly brilliant in the toast response and the enthusiasm of the gathering. I wish you could have been present you would have enjoyed the toasts immensely.

Well hoping to hear from you very soon again and very often and that Della will improve and regain cheerfulness and also hoping that a happy combination of circumstances may lead you back at least within easy reach of us.

I am as ever your loving brother,
Carl

Good wishes from all of us particularly Agnes myself and pa. Also remember us to Kastens and tell them we are glad to know they are safe.

Quincy, August 31, 1906

Dear Albert & Della;

I will start a letter but don't know when I'll finish as both at the store and at home I am very busy these days for Sunday there came a fine little democrat to cheer up our home. He celebrated Bryan's welcome at New York last evening by cheering a little himself last night. Wouldn't you have liked to be in New York. It is a pleasure to see Bryan's noble principles and his lofty mind as regards politics finally respected and appreciated and I hope he will be our next president or someone similar to him as Folk or Tom Johnson. Although I have admired Roosevelt very much as I believe he means to be just.

Well we are all pretty yes right well, even Agnes will be about soon, as the doctor will not call any more after today. We named the baby William Henry. Krewet and Coletta Zimmerman were sponsors. We were so pleased to hear from you and especially to hear so pleasantly. Well cheer up folks the game is never ended until the last man is out as they say in base ball so don't be discouraged and plod along and keep on trying and you will get a job. For my part I wish you were here with us. Matters in the labor and business world seem to be booming here. It seems in the industrial mechanical and labor field there is plenty of opportunity probably not at large salaries, but of course the clerical field is so little chance as their [sic] are so many applicants for such work. But I think you could have had good opportunities probably a few times, as in one instance a merchant in town it seems wanted to offer me an office position but I told the party who spoke to me that I would not change positions without it were entirely satisfactory to my present employer and then I mentioned a high price that I would require if [I] did change and I did not hear from him again. The fact is I do not wish to change as I am pretty well satisfied and I do not believe in changing about too often. Well I or somebody will probably write in a few days again so ta! ta! Kindest regards to Uncle Gus and all friends and relatives. Let us hear from you often and we hope for your success and think of you often especially in our prayers.

As ever Yours Carl

Quincy, October 3, 1906

Dear Albert and Dela,

No doubt you have been expecting to hear from me for some time neither do I blame you but I have been so busy that I find little time to write except occasionally in the evening. At the factory they are very much more busy than last year. This year's business bids fair to be the best since 1902. Krewet arrived back from California some days ago and speaks rather discouragingly about San Francisco building up. Papa returned from Union with a very bad cold which I think he took in St. Louis riving on

the street cars. Kempers have moved somewhere about a mile west of La Fayette Park and are occupying a nice second story flat. Everybody seems about as usual. Papa is quite well again now except that I think he will likely never be rid of it entirely. We are all quite well. Agnes is very well and so am I except a very slight cold. Little Carl is a robust little chap full of life but getting rather "sassy." After supper now since the days are becoming shorter he is usually ready to go to bed and it is cute to see him get himself ready to go to sleep. Little Rose is very much like him but while she is quite strong and healthy she is not nearly as big. The little baby William is hale and hearty and lets you know he is about the place. Had a very nice letter from Will Kemper some time ago and was much pleased to hear from him. Well be sure and tell me all about joys and troubles. I hope the latter there will be none or at least of no significance. You were indeed fortunate to find your \$5.00 again. I myself do not like to handle gold. As familiar as I am with 5, 10, and 20.00 gold coin, I am always very particular in handling it and usually manage to get it changed promptly into other currency. I am not at all surprised at your giving out a 5.00 gold coin for 5¢, as it is the easiest thing to do if you are not very careful and who can always have their mind on what they are doing. You said nothing more than that [you] had rented another place near a church and that it was a cottage belonging to an old lady and you were to have 4 or 5 rooms upstairs. Tell us all about the place and how you like the same and what rent do you have to pay there. I hope it is nothing like the amount you had been paying. I was so glad to hear of your return to N.D.& Co., and I hope you have the best of prospects there and that you will do well. Tell Dela to write Agnes sometime. Is she quite well and contented?

Well I must get ready to go to dinner but will not close yet as may think of more to write in the meantime. Well I'm back from dinner. Had noodle soup and bread pudding for dinner. Saw Johnny on my way to dinner but didn't have a chance to stop and talk to him. There was a little boy arrived at the home of Tibesar last Thursday. I saw a colored picture in one of the stores yesterday of the San Francisco fire and judging from that picture the sight must have been almost beyond description. It is a wonder that so many people remained in San Francisco and did not flee from so awful a sight. But I suppose many were horror-stricken and did not know [79, cont. p. 128] what to do. If you get a little time try and send a communication to the Germania.

Agnes' sister, Sr. Reinfrieda has been sent from Hebron, Nebr., to Ft. Madison, Ia, to the joy of all as there is now more possibility of getting to see her occasionally. On her way through Quincy a number of the family, about all that could go, met her at the depot as the train passed through, and fortunately the train stopped quite a while and all had a good chance to talk a few words. Annie, now Sr. Aquinata, is teaching at the Redemptonist [sic] parish school in St. Louis. Mother Superior S. Boniface will celebrate her golden jubilee this fall I think. I called at Weltins a few times and find them the same as ever, getting a little older although they don't seem to, either. Well guess this letter will have to do this time. Let me hear from you as soon as you can and I will try to write again before very long. Regards from all.

Yours as ever,

Carl

. . . [p. 1 not found] The day was an ideal Christmas day. The temperature was just about freezing probably 20 to 30 degrees. The air was clear and crisp not very cold and light snow had fallen during the night not enough to make walking disagreeable but just enough to look like Christmas day in all its glory. Arrived at church the orchestra played Holy Night while the people were entering church. Father Weiss celebrated the solemn high mass and Father Sylvester and a priest who is staying at the hospital (I think it is Father Von Hofen) assisted at the mass. Father Weiss had the sermon which was quite short but touching. During the offertory besides a song by the choir the orchestra played part of Haendel's L'Allegro [sic], and at the Communion while the faithful received holy communion the orchestra and choir together rendered the Adeste Fidelis. It was all very grand and inspiring and enough to cause tears of joy to start to one eye. Agnes and Pa went home right after the first mass but I remained for the second as it did not last very much longer. Before I left the church another mass was being said at St. Mary's altar. I love to see several masses being said I think it presents such a beautiful sight. When I reached home everybody was anxious for the Christmas tree. The children were up and ready, although they behaved right well and acted cute. Agnes lit the tree and little Carl took Rosemary by the hand and we marched into the front room where the Christmas tree was placed. The presents for the children were arranged on the floor and there was quite a lot of them. Well you should have seen those two little ones. What a joy and happiness that was. Carl did hardly know what he wanted to play with first. It was a circus to watch him. And little sister with her "lots o' dollies" and "rocking schair" was so busy and her "red slippers". Rosemary got about three dolls, a rocking chair, red worsted slippers and there were a number of things [I] really don't know whether they were hers or Carl's. Carl got a drum, two horns, 2 boxes of blocks, a pair of red worsted slippers, a box of dominoes, and a book. Besides these things Aunt Mary brought Rosemary a pretty white dress and uncle John Ridder brought her a heavy silver spoon and some candy; and little Carl a toy automobile, the only thing he had wanted and didn't get [from us?] Grandma brought Carl goods for a waist or suit. Aunt Colette gave little William I believe goods for a dress and Johnnie also brought William a rattle. Rosemary had her little Holly hair ribbon tied in her hair. You can imagine that we had a jolly good time. The Children got busy playing with their toys and took possession of the room and didn't get tired till pretty late. They did take a nap in the afternoon as we were all rather tired. Pa went to the St. Mary's Convent for the second mass and I went to St. Boniface Church for the last high mass as the orchestra also played at that mass. Pa also went to St. Boniface Church again and I believe Lu also went to this mass. Then came dinner. We had a fine roast goose filled with bread and raisin dressing, potatoes, corn, mince pie, [and] celery. After dinner we said about home and some of the folks called. In the evening we staid home had a few games of cards and retired. Yesterday Agnes had a little "Kaffee Klatsch" but I will let her write to you about that as I have written such a long letter now already. I will write a few lines for Albert particularly on the other side of this sheet but let this letter count for both.

I hope you both spent a very happy time Christmas. I just hear yesterday that Uncle Gus is quite ill. Kindly remember me to him and his family and express our hopes for his recovery to good health very soon. Well so long.

Yours as ever,

Carl

Hello Al; How are you. Quite busy eh? I hope you had a happy Christmas. I also hope that some day we will be happily nearer each other than we are now so that we can celebrate these happy occasions together. Say I am going to send you some literature about the Tabasco Plantation Company which will explain itself. Do you care to make any investments of the kind? If you do, look over the matter thoroughly and write to Herman Kasten about it maybe he could give some information about the concern. Emil Krietemeyer spoke to me about the plantation but I have had my confidence shaken to much in building associations, stock companies etc. and besides I really hardly undertake any obligations of this kind at the present time. You can write to me what your opinion is and what you think of the matter but do not become actively interested until you have assured yourself whether the opportunity is in every respect morally legally and financially o.k. I say morally because in these days one has to look out for swindle, graft, coercion, oppression of labor etc. Let me hear from you soon.

Yours as ever,
Carl

Quincy, March 4, 1907

Dear Albert,

Just a hurried note to enclose both letters of Mr. Glenn and Mr. Monroe. Did you not find our title to the Kansas land clear. I did not look it up lately. I have not much confidence in Mr. Monroe. You attend to these letters as you see fit as I do not consider that I am entitled to much interest in the land anyway. I should regret however if there be any flaw that would affect our claim. It is strange that we have been paying taxes on the land all this while and that there has been no other indication contrary before. I hope all will be right.

Yours in haste,
Carl

Quincy, March 5, 1907

Dear Albert.

Question: Why don't you write? Ans: The firm has had the best month of February or for that matter of any month since 1904. My fingers are showing such an inclination to stiffness that I am thinking of some remedy therefore. Daily writing to obtain triplicate copies which is equivalent to writing through 5 sheets of paper is exceeding[ly] straining on the finger muscles and sometime it almost appears as though one can hardly grasp a pencil firmly.

Well I attended to your last instructions and deposited 15.00 BK & 10.00 in checking account. I enquired for your Orphan Soc. Dues and they are to Jan. 1907 \$2.40. We are all quite well and certainly can be

thankful to God for our good fortune. Papa is to appearances in better health than he probably has been for the past two years. An old neighbor of ours Mr. Geises' father, Phillip Volm, died a few days ago. He was quite old. Papa called on him during his illness one day and he was greatly pleased with his call. Word was received yesterday of the death of Mrs. Edwin Coard formerly Grace O'Neil. Geo. Farmer left a day or so ago for New Mexico for the benefit of his health. We have had beautiful weather, but strange to say much sickness. I am inclined to think that in the past three to four weeks one half to three fourth[s] of the population of the city has been afflicted with colds. Mattie has been quite sick and seems to be somewhat worse again. I [think] Agnes will call on her this afternoon. Two of Rakers' children are sick and the baby is quite sick.

I have a notion to get a cover for the piano Al what do you think? I paid the taxes the other day and the tax on piano was \$1.21.

You would have been amused to hear pa planning yesterday as Agnes told me afterward he had received a paper from Union with the news that a corn cob pipe factory was to be established there with C.P. as manager and some other gentleman as sales agent. Papa thought that possibly he could get a job as salesman etc. You can imagine the train of his thoughts and hopes.

Well, ta ta! I hope to write soon again. In the meantime hope you will be happy and prosperous. Let us hear from you often. With wishes and especially to Uncle Gus from all.

Yours as ever Carl

Quincy, March 27, 1907

Dear Albert;

Enclosed find receipt for dues to Orph. Soc. Henry Ording inquired about you and sends his regards. Joe Fisher and I were talking about you Monday evening and I left your address with him. Poor Joe is having quite a time regaining health. He told me he hadn't worked for about a year and a quarter I think he said. That must surely be trying. By the time this letter arrives you will no doubt have heard of the death of Frank Surmeyer at El Paso Tex. You will probably be surprised at the news of his death but I was not greatly surprised. The surprise to me was at the time of his departure from Quincy when I learned how seriously ill he really was. I called at Metzger residence, Monday evening, his remains having been brought there. I met Ellen and Mrs. Long there. Mrs. Surmeyer was at Metzgers also but I did not get to speak to her. Geo. and his wife were at Dukers and Herman was stopping at the St. James. Ellen told me that Frank had had a happy well prepared death being conscious to the last. Although it seems that neither he nor the family expected his death so quickly. He had a day or so before been to Guadalupe, Mexico. He died at the Hospital of the Sisters of Charity and was attended to by a Jesuit Father. I also attended the funeral the next morning at St. Boniface Church. Johnnie Gelmeigs mother also passed away after a long suffering of a little over two years. She was buried Monday morning. Well I started this letter several days ago and I will hurriedly finish the same in order that congratulations to your birthday will arrived in time. We are all together Papa, Ag and I sending you a shirt by express and hope it will please you. We wish you a most happy day and many more of

them. I wish you could see our little family now. They are a regular circus. Little Carl is unusually bright for his age as also big. He can be sent to the store to get groceries and is pretty reliable. He has an excellent memory and is very thoughtful, cunning as a fox. It is fun to watch him and Rosemary and see how he gets playthings from her and then to see her spunk in defending herself. Well good bye. I hope to write again in the near future. Again expressing our good wishes and especially that God's blessing be always with you.

I am as ever yours,
Carl

Pa is troubled again with outbreak of Erysipelas in face and eczema on leg and is having quite a time. I cannot get him to go to a doctor, try how hard I will.

[Handwritten, not in Carl E. Ridder's hand]

Tribune, Kas, March 28, 1907

Alb. C. Ridder, Qcy Ill.

Dear Sir—

In looking over the records of this county today I notice that you own the S.E. ¼ of the NW ¼ and the E ½ of the SW ¼ of 18-18-42 and as that kind of an interest is not very easily disposed of I thought maybe you would be willing to sell it and if you will make me a price on it which I can afford, I may be able to buy it from you. I own some other land in that neighborhood, and think likely if I can get your interest I could buy the other interest at a reasonable price and get the land.

Yours Truly Wm. M. Glenn
Atty at Law for Mo. Pac
R.G. Doan[?] & Co.
Associated Coll. Offices

[Typewritten on Monroe's Letthead]

Topeka Kansas, Lee Monroe, Attorney at Law March 30, 1907

Messrs. Albert C. Ridder and Charles E. Ridder, Quincy, Ill.

Gentlemen:-

The records of Greeley County, Kansas, show you hold a warranty deed from Henry Detterding for the E1/2 of SW1/4 and SE1/4 of NW1/4 of [Sec]18-[T]18[s]-[R]42[w], in Greeley County, Kansas, and further

investigation of the records shows that patent for this land originally issued to the heirs of Phoebe Williamson, deceased, and that your claim to the land is only such as Anna M. Orr, one the four heirs, could convey. The other three-fourths interests is represented by a client of mine who had deed from Mr. Orr's three brothers. In other words, I supposed you own a one-fourth interest in the land and my client the other three-fourths. Now an undivided interest in a piece of land does not sell well and we would like to either get you deed for your one-fourth interest or sell you our three fourths interest. Would be glad to have you write me how you fee about this and to have you fix a basis of value on the land at which you are willing to either sell your interest or buy ours. It would be better for both parties if one owned the whole of the land instead of an undivided interest. Let me hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours Truly,
Lee Monroe

[Handwritten, not in Carl E. Ridder's hand]

(Topeka) March 30, 1907

Messrs. Alb C. Ridder and Chas E. Ridder, Qcy, Ill.

Gents:-

The records of Greeley Co. Kas, show you hold a warranty eed from Henry Detterding for the E1/2 of SW1/4 and SE1/4 of NW1/4 of 18-18-42, in Greeley Co. Kas, and further investigation of the records shows that patent for this land originally issued to the heirs of Phoebe Williamson, deceased, and that your claim to the land is only such as Anna M. Orr, one the four heirs, could convey. The other three-fourths interests is represented by a client of mine who had deed from Mr. Orr's three brothers. In other words, I supposed you own a one-fourth interest in the land and my client the other three-fourths. Now an undivided interest in a piece of land does not sell well and we would like to either get you deed for your one-fourth interest or sell you our three fourths interest. Would be glad to have you write me how you feel about this and to have you fix a basis of value on the land at which you are willing to either sell your interest or buy ours. It would be better for both parties if one owned the whole of the land instead of an undivided interest. Let me hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours Truly,

Lee Monroe
(Attorney at Law)
Room 21, 23, 25, and 27
NE Cor 6th and Kansas Ave
Topeka Kansas

Office of William M. Glenn, Attorney at Law, April 30, 1907
Attorney for Missouri Pacific Railway
R.G. Dunn & Co.
Associated Coll. Offices
Tribune, Kansas

Chas. E. Ridder
437 North 12 St.
Quincy, Ill

Dear Sir:

Replying to yours of the 22nd with reference to your land in 18-18-42, the records show that you own a quarter interest in 120 acres. It is rather hard to handle an undivided quarter interest in a tract of land, and unless I could get hold of the rest of the title, I would not be willing to buy this at all, but I can do that, and I would be willing to give you \$2.50 per acre for your 30 acres, or \$75.

If you think this will be satisfactory, I would be glad to hear from you at your early convenience, and I will send you deed for execution.

Yours Truly,
William Glenn

St. Louis, May 24, 1907

Dear Bro. Al;

You are probably wondering why you do not hear from me. I have been having a busy time and still have. It is quite different to what the time was two years ago. The work is considerably more owing to much better sales. Many thanks for good wishes from you and Dela. Tell Dela I will write some day. I finally saw Tom and took the abstract and warranty deed for the Kans. land to him. If both are correct our title seems clear to 120 acres. Tom is to attend to the matter. He advised to have some one there look up the matter and I left the abstract with him. I will let you hear from me when I hear from Tom as to what he hears from his correspondent. It will probably cost a few dollars but I do not see what else can be done. I will enclose you letter received from Glenn. If you see fit to answer you had better answer from there directly. I hope all will be right. Some days ago I met Dr. Tibbetts and had quite a chat with him. He is living in Los Angeles and seemed to know somewhat of Nathan Dorman Co. I think he said they had a branch house at Los Angeles or San Jose (now I am at a loss to know whether he said his home is at San Jose or Los Angeles, I feel quite sure though he said San Jose). He said the auditor for Nathan Dorman & Co. is an old Quincy boy Lee Marlow. Do you know him?

The Vincentian Fathers are holding a mission at St. Peters church and I wish you and Dela could hear them. They are giving splendid sermons and to judge from attendance the mission seems successful.

I hear Mr. Surmeyer and Ellen are coming back to Quincy.

Gno. Gehring and family are at present having a hard time to go through as they have diptheria in the family and John, Robert and Andrew are making their homes for the time being at relatives while Mary, Helen, Bertha, Angeline, Arthur, Freddie, and Leona, are at home quarantined against the outside world. Bertha has been alarmingly ill but is improving . Angeline has a light attack of sore throat and Freddie has recovered. The others may possibly be immune therefrom by administering of anti-toxin. What makes it especially hard is that Angeline was to receive the first Holy Communion Sunday. We are all quite well excepting perhaps little indispositions now and then like colds, coughs etc., and hope you are all well and happy. Well let this letter do for today and let me hear from you soon again.

Yours as ever Car.

Quincy, October 7, 1907

Dear Albert;

Don't think we have forgotten you, not at all. We think of you at least once a day and that in our evening prayers and hope you think of us in a similar way often also. It is so different at the factory to what it was when I first came as I am kept very busy. I have a very unpleasant matter to write you about and that is that we will lose the Kansas land. I will ask Tom to write you more details as I engaged him to go to Tribune in the matter. The title was really defective as it seems that there was some claim if not on record still in the Court House pending at or about the time we had the abstract made. Some investment company is appears to me brought the claims of the other heirs and entered suit against us and another party and although it may seem a case of adding to still more loss I did not like to see the suit go without a defense and so I had Tom go to Tribune. I do not worry about this loss but I feel badly and I am very sorry that I am a cause of your loss which is much larger than mine. Although I do not see that there is any blame fore we surely did what would seem to be all that was necessary to perfect our title. I feel as though I want to pay Tom's expense in this matter however as you lose so much. I hope you will not worry over this matter. The case is not entirely disposed of but Tom left the matter in the hands of an attorney over there and they are going to try to compromise. In Tom's opinion it seems that the land is not very valuable probably about 4.00 per acre. Our title would be for what was the amount 30 or 40 acres? I forgot whether there were two or three other heirs, but I am afraid with the cost of the suit etc. there will be little to realize. I am not going to worry about this matter and I hope you will not either. It seems if a person accumulates some property he has to be on the alert that he does not lose it and perhaps it is better sometimes not to possess much property than one has none to lose. Well I have lots of work to do and will try to write to you again soon but I wanted to write you about what I have written herein. Write me at once on receipt of this letter.

Pa received letters from you and Dela and I see you are very busy also. I wish you and Dela could be with us now in the old home. Hope you are all well which we are except that Pa has trouble with his sore leg again. Well so long. Love from all and let us hear from you again soon.

Yours,

Carl

Quincy, December 7, 1907

Dear Albert;

Well how long it has been since I wrote to you. I have been so busy in the past in fact I have had more to attend to and think of than I care to have for such a length of time. In the first instance I have had a great amount of work at the factory and again rehearsals and preparations for and giving of the three days entertainments at St. Boniface Fair and besides and not the least was committee work and executive board meetings for the past two months or so organizing and drafting a constitution for a literary and debating society which emanates from the W.C.U. and which bids fair to be a great undertaking. So you see I have had little time to rest. I was greatly pleased with your letter Albert and glad of the spirit you display in that while a matter of loss is not just immaterial yet not sufficient to cause worryment. Well about as near as I can relate of the matter is this way; not wishing to let the case be won by neglect of even an attempt at defense I engaged Tom to make the trip which I understand he agreed to do as a personal favor with simply to pay his expenses except in case of being successful he should have a fee. The cost of his trip amounts to about \$39.00 of which I have so far paid him \$10.00 I have been under so much expense lately in moving and buying more furniture etc. that I have to pay him in installments. Now don't you say anything about getting any of your money to pay him because I owe you the \$15.00 which you had me to draw and which we intended to send to the attorney to look after that title and which was perhaps a fortunate matter that we did not send that. Well Tom found that our title was not entirely clear if I understand it seems as though some legal claims stood in the way which were overlooked at the time we had the title examined. The signer of the deed also when Tom spoke about the amount of acres probably did not know she had deeded that amount as stated. Tom has lately received a little encouraging news from our attorney. He has obtained a continuance and may succeed in winning the case as it seems the heirs may be honest after all and realizing what they had really done are favoring us by their statements. I suppose you will want the matter to go on don't you as I do not suppose we will lose any more than we have and we may win back. Did tom ever write of the matter to you? Well Albert I want to get to work as next week I am to have a rest (vacation) and I want to get things a little in shape. Tell Dela to consider this letter for her also and I'll try to write to her some time.

Carl

"Regards to all from all"

Quincy, December 26, 1907

Dear Albert;

Just a few hurried lines. I hope you had, as also Dela, a happy Christmas day and I also and all of us wish you a happy and prosperous New Year that God will shower His choicest blessings in abundance upon you. Well the children, and we also for that matter, had a very happy Christmas. Agnes and I went to Solemn High Mass at 5:00 and Oscar Krietenmeyer at his wish, went with us. The orchestra accompanied the choir at both the 5 and 10 o'clock services. I saw Ed Sohm the other day and he seemed greatly pleased at your remembrance. I regret to have to inform you that Johnnie seems to be very sick. He had been complaining and doctoring for some time and not feeling satisfied with his progress he changed doctors. He had Dr. Schulian attending to him and it seems as though his trouble is abscess on the liver, inflammation of the bowels, hardening of the liver, or something of that sort and I fear his condition is sufficiently serious to cause misgivings about his recovery. I do not want to cause you, nor particularly Dela, and needless excitement or fear but in my opinion I think I should inform you of my views. You no doubt are of the opinion, as well as I, that John has no such constitution as papa and furthermore his disposition at present is to be so discouraged over his illness. I will write to you in a few days again regarding the progress of John's condition. Well ta ta! Hoping to hear from you soon again and with love from us all, I will close.

Yours as ever,

Carl

If you write to Uncle Gus remember us to him. What is his present address?

Postal Telegram, Quincy, Illinois, January 25, 1908

Albert C. Ridder,
181 Preceta Ave.
San Francisco

John is very LOW and not expected to live long.
Carl.

Quincy, January 25, 1908

181 Preciata Ave

Dear Albert and Dela;

Johnnie's illness has been growing much worse since yesterday noon and there is no hope for his recovery now, he might battle along for a few days but I do not think he will last long. Father Kerr heard his confession and administered Holy Sacraments and Eucharist and Extreme Unction last night. He passed a good night and seemed a little stronger this morning but the doctor gives no hope today that he will last much longer.

His sudden collapse is somewhat of a surprise. Even Thursday he wrote considerable for his paper so you can understand that his change was very sudden. In our sorrow we must feel grateful for the splendid opportunity John enjoyed to make his preparations for death, his mental faculties were good and Father Kerr was with him for some time. He was so thoughtful to Father Kerr. If either one of you wish to come I hardly know how to advise in this letter, for John may breathe his last before this letter reaches you. I spoke to the doctor last night and he did not seem greatly alarmed and even spoke of a possibility that John might rally and struggle along for some time and so I did not telegraph to you last night. I thought John was very sick but I did hardly think he would sink so rapidly. He seemed to be getting along fairly although . . .

St. Louis, February 26, 1908

Dear Albert;

I will try and write again in a short time when I can do so without danger of being disturbed. I am doing the best I know how in regard to the Kansas Land matter but I suppose we will lose our claim to 140 or 120 acres, I suppose and only receive such share as will be granted through the legal procedure. Did Tom write particulars to you. I asked him to write to you for he could write more intelligently than I could regarding his trip etc. Monroe has written twice to compromise (I think claiming 80 acres or whatever it was) in order to stop further costs to both the opposition and us. I brought the first letter to Tom and had pa bring the last letter. I want the matter settled as best can be and in justice, as soon as possible and I hope it will be soon. I have not paid the taxes for I thought not to be in a hurry. In case we lost so much as to have nothing left of the land or returns therefrom. I thought just as well not to lose anymore. I sent for statement and received from treasurer notice that apparently the tax was paid on the other land on which we had been paying and that part left unpaid is strange to me and I think is from only 1/4 of 1/4 sec (40 acres) and have been in no hurry to pay the tax. I will write about John's death later. He had a beautiful death and I trust we all will have such grace and time for preparation when we are called from this life. I attended to depositing your coupon at the bank, \$15.00 in savings dept and \$10.00 in commercial. The balance in commercial dep't with this last deposit I think is \$77.92 not including recent checks sent to Mattie and to me. Excuse haste as I must go to work. All are pretty well. Little William fell and broke a small bone in his shoulder is not serious but has to run about with arm in sling and looks right pitiful to see the empty sleeve dangling on his side. Well so long.

Carl

Will Kemper was with us Saturday evening and Sunday part of day and evening. Is pretty well. Was travelling [sic] in the interest of the Jewelry supply Co.

St. Louis, March 18, 1908

Dear Albert and Della,

It is a month and longer now that our dear brother John has passed away and I hope he is eternally happy. He had such a beautiful death. About three weeks before he died when he had a rapidly failing spell, Father Kerr came and prepared him for death, he rallied and later Father Foley heard his general confession, I think John suggested that he make a general confession; and Father Foley told him after that then that he was now like a baptized infant which no doubt was great joy to him. Then the day before he died I think Father Foley brought him the Holy Sacrament again so you see he was well prepared. The night he died he lost consciousness about half past nine and about eleven o'clock I went to his bedside; his life was gradually ebbing away peacefully and about a quarter past one he breathed his last. Papa, Mattie, Lutie, Mr. Sibley and I being present. He certainly seemed to have a very easy death unless he had pains which one could hardly have noticed.

Did you see a copy of the resolutions of condolence by the Quincy Press Association? They are very pretty. I will see if I can get a paper or two containing articles about John's death and will mail them to you.

While it is sad to think that John is not with us here in this life nevertheless it is such a great consolation to think of his preparation for death and how calmly and peacefully his end came.

I hope he is now happy in heaven with Mama and the rest of our beloved departed ones and that they will aid us with their prayers to our Heavenly Father, that we may save our souls and be eternally happy with them in heaven hereafter.

Yours as ever,
Carl.

Quincy, March 18, 1908

Dear Albert;

I was greatly pleased to hear from you. Well as regards the Kansas Affair, in the first place you do not owe me that check for you sent fifteen dollars last year which I owe you to replace and besides I do not want you to pay all of this expense nor even in proportion to your part of ownership $\frac{2}{3}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ or whatever it may be. I want to bear more of the burden of expenses than my little share in proportion to stock subscription. I feel that I made a poor deal when I wound up the Ridder Queensware Co., and it caused you quite a loss and you might have had better foresight than I used, although the Kansas Land deal seemed for a long time not too [sic] be so bad a deal after all. I called on Tom and we already

arranged that we make a proposition Tom having seen the land, he wrote them on a basis of 4.00 per acre and they to pay all costs. They replied and declined but I think offered 100.00. I went with your letters to Tom and he has written again I do not know whether will do any good or not. The trouble is if [we] let the case go on it might increase the expense that there will be very little left, if anything as the land may be sold for much less than we may have an idea of. I am anxious to be rid of the matter although I do not allow it to worry me. When one thinks of the injustice done in the World to our Holy Mother Church the vast amount of property she is ruthlessly robed of one should not allow loss to worry one. I wish though that I had not caused you loss. Let me hear from you now and then I will also try to write to you oftener. Yes it was right pitiful to see little Willie going about with his one arm bound tightly against his body and one empty sleeve hanging at his side. But he alright again now. He is such a daring little mischief that he keeps one jumping to watch him. Recently he got a jolt bruising his head right by the eye. I wish you could be with us, you would have pleasure with the children. Carl is quite a big boy now and so sensible for one of his age. He can be sent on errands to nearby places quite reliably. Rosemary is a cute little girl. She has a sweet disposition and is so graceful. Well good by write soon, with love from all of us,

I am as ever,
Carl

Those business cards have rather an air of importance about them. Did a raise in salary accompany the cards? I hope so.

Quincy, June 2, 1908

Dear Albert,

I mail here enclosed the legal papers for signature. It is apparently the only course we can pursue and I hope you think as I do that I have done the best we could do. I will be glad to forget about this matter and I hope I will have no more with laws and lawyers. Tom said he would write to you and so I suppose he will. I wrote to you just a few days since and to Dela yesterday so will be brief to day. I suppose you read about all the news that interests you in the Western Catholic and Germania so I probably would not know very much news to tell you. Hoping to hear from you soon and that you are both well and happy.

I am as ever yours,
Carl

Quincy, June 5, 1908

Dear bro. Albert;

Who writes oftener than I do hear [sic] lately? One consolation this letter is a little bright even if [it] does not have any results but I wish it would have if all would be for the best. Well to explain, returning from dinner Fred Wolfe Sr. stopped me and I understand that you are very much in demand as editor of the Germania. I have heard something similar before. Has anybody written to you in regard thereto? It seems as though changes have taken place and another editor is wanted. Just what the entire situation is, if you are interested, you had better inquire about. For my part nothing would please me hardly any better than to have you about again and that you and Dela could be with us again. But I would not know how to advise you, if you should be well pleased with your present location and position and if perchance this opportunity would not develop as you would like for it to do. However as far as the work is concerned I suppose you would be in your element and no doubt you would be well fitted for the place. I may not understand clearly what the situation is regarding Mr. Bormann whether he is going to resign or what he is going to do, and therefore I tell you if you are at all interested and wish to have better or more direct information you write to Fred Wolfe Sr. (Mr. Wolfe of the Western Harness Co.) and get all the information you want as I think he is prominently interested in the paper. Well so long.

Yours as ever,
Carl

Quincy, June 23, 1908

Dear Albert;

Well I called to see Tom Scherer three[?] times as he had been away to a convention. He told me to send the papers to you and that you alter them in ink and he would submit them to the other parties. Since hearing from you and thinking matters over I almost or perhaps rather prefer that we let the matter go through court and have the court settle matter entirely. Even if Tom may believe that they have obtained a decision for three fourths and we only $\frac{1}{4}$ I am doubtful about it. I may not believe that it would develop any better to our favor but I probably doubt that the shares have been allotted by the court or by the commissioner or whoever it may be that has that part to attend to.

Also as these papers must be signed of one's free will it is a stumbling block for me for I feel doubtful about signing these papers of my free will in a certain sense. Which way it is intended to be understood I may not clearly understand? What do you think? I erased the word "their" which you had written before "1/4 interest" and cancelled N.E. quarter as that is not in our deed. Also do not know whether the word "South" after Twp 18, and also the words "West of 6th Prin. Meridian" are mentioned in our deed. Don't you think also best in the agreement to repeat $\frac{1}{4}$ in the last clause (before portion and after said) and in case of signing do you think best to alter dates and also to add post script on papers that alterations were made with knowledge of signers but maybe better not for do not know what alterations might be added after signatures if there be such a possibility that dishonest persons might be dealt with. Even so it might be better to have an entire printed paper or new ones altogether. Further do you note that the paper on the outside folder merely says "Deed" whereas we would not want to

sign any paper but a quit claim deed would we? You look the paper over thoroughly for you no doubt have better judgment and are more farsighted than I am. And think over well whether you would prefer to have the matter legally settled through the courts final decisions or whether you wish rather to settle with this sale. As far as disappointing them is concerned I do not see that need bother us for it is a matter of conscience with me and after receiving your letter I have considerably changed my mind and would not now favor signing the papers the way they read originally. Do not mind me as regards the few dollars that would be my share. How can I rather repay you for your patience and kindness? I will be glad when we will be through with this disagreeable matter, then one is not so likely to recall our business venture of years ago. I wish you were here, as it would be so much easier to talk matters over and dispose of them. I don't know but what I think the best way to do would be to let the partition suit be settled in the regular way by the courts. What do you think?

Well I have to close, in order, as I want to be sure and send this letter this evening. Do not worry about me in this matter as I am resigned only I want to do what is right and do not want to sign papers carelessly. I will try and write soon again.

Yours as ever,
Carl

Are you thoroughly informed about the defect of our deed. There can no blame be attached to Seeborn, as I understand the matter the records differ in the original bequest or transfer reading on the records to so and so and heirs and when we had the abstract made this was not discovered. Now as I understand Mr. Deterding is dead, and the maker of the deed, I do not recall the name, is very poor. Do you think it would be well to write any more about the matter to the latter party?
Well so long.

Topeka Kansas Sept 2, 1908

[Written in Carl E. Ridder's Hand]

Lee Monroe
Attorney at Law
Rooms 21,23,25,27,and 29
NE Cor 6th & Kansas Ave
Topeka Kansas

In your reply please refer to
Mr. Thos. A. Scherer,
Quincy, ILL

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 1st inst., in regard to the Ridder property and in reply will say the deed as you have changed it will not fill the bill. Let me explain to you the situation. The Ridders originally owned a one fourth interest in the E ½ of the SW ¼ and SE ¼ of the NW ¼. When the commissioners were appointed it was suggested by Mr. Reed, I believe, that it would be preferable for the defendants to have their allotments together. The commissioners accordingly awarded Samuels the SE ¼ of the NE ¼ and the Ridders thirty acres adjoining it on the north and the east thirty acres of the NE ¼ of the NE ¼. To make it plain I have made a plat on which I have surrounded . . . [cut off in scanned copy] had an interest with a red line. I have marked the forty acres which was awarded to Samuels with solid red and have marked the thirty acres which was awarded to Ridders with solid blue. Now you see from this statement that the Ridders already have been divested of the entire 120 acres by the decree of confirmation of the report of the commissioners but have acquired a full interest in the thirty acres mentioned and that thirty acres isn't conveyed by their deed. Inasmuch as they have expressly wished to convey as little as possible I have written a new deal including the tract which they originally claimed and the thirty acres which was awarded them by the commissioners. This I must have before I would want to pay the money agreed upon. You can without any difficulty explain the situation to your clients or at least can make it clear to them that they incur no responsibility by giving a quit claim deed to land which they don't own nor claim to own. I simply want their deed as I have written it. Coming now to the Samuels part of the deal will say Mr. Samuels has a clear interest under the award of the commissioners in the forty acres marked with red just the same as the Ridders have in the . . . acres marked with blue. If he had . . . court and

Yours Truly,
Lee Monroe

never made any claim for such lien. I am willing to purchase this interest at just the same rate per acre as I did that of the Ridders. In other words the amount I am willing to pay him stands in the proportion of four to three of the amount agreed upon to be paid to the Ridders.

Kindly consult with him and learn whether he wants to close out his claims on this basis and advise me at once. I hope you will have the Ridder deed executed right away and send it to the Capital National Bank of this city for delivery.

LM__M

Quincy, September 9, 1908

Dear bro. Al;

Since writing I wish to say in regard to the Kansas land matter that I am somewhat at a loss to know what to do. The question can we sell etc., land we do not own as the clause in the quit claim deed reads is troublesome. So perhaps as I suggested yesterday you had better see an attorney and have the matter thoroughly explained. I do not understand perhaps these various legal forms.

If you think best to drop the deal with Monroe not getting the reading of the deed the way we wanted at first, alright. I am satisfied and do not bother much as you should have all of the money from the sale anyway for you are the grater loser. I am only anxious to be rid of this vexatious matter and forget about it.

Yours
Carl

Quincy, September 18, 1908

Dear bro. Al;

At last I will write a few lines to you. I enclose letter and quit claim deed from Monroe which will explain themselves. I do not remember just what the description of our original land deed was and haven't got the same handy to look and see what the description is. In case you should still find objection or not understand clearly would it not be a good idea for you to see an attorney (perhaps you have a friend there) and have matters explained. Also do not overlook your signature (which you did the last time) to form on the back of the document. Perhaps you had better do so before a notary public there.

I will try and write soon again. Agnes and I are kept pretty busy with the children and I guess we will be right along until they have grown large enough to take care of themselves so do not be disappointed at us if you do not hear from us promptly. Let us know what your address is. Am glad to hear that you seemed to gain quite an advantage in the new house particularly in saving. Are so glad to hear of your visit next year. Wont we have a happy time though. No doubt you and Della will be surprised and I hope pleased with the children. They are happy and mischievous little brats but not bad. Well as I said before I will try to write soon again. I want to hurry this mail to the office so there may not be too long a delay. Well so long, hope you are all well. Tell Dela I will try and write soon. With love from all to both of you.

Your,
Carl

[Inserted at top of letter is this brief note in Henry Ridder's Hand']

Albert; If you think or find it necessary for future safety on your part, you might in some way make a separate clause in your deed to the (on their Enclosed deed if by you accepted) the party's you are

selling to, that: All Previous documents as deeds and any and all other instruments of writings, bearing on this transactions by yourself and the other party or parties are hereby cancelled. Carl encloses folded large blank envelope for return of documents, should you not [have] one on hand. On request of Carl—HR.

“Letters from Chas. R.” [Reprint and maybe paraphrase of Carl’s letter in Albert Ridder’s Hand?]

Quincy, October 26, 1908

Dear Bro. Al;

Yours received and hope to hear from you often. Hard to tend to matters during business hours; easier to say than to do; different when we’re own bosses. Hardly go to funeral unless pall bearer. Seems cold and unfeeling but not master of our own time. Or[?] be careful not to plan oneself under obligations with some people or bosses. I am getting heartily sick of my present position. Thoroughly disgruntled with employer and some of the employees; my work relations. Much of conservative, labor and independent vote may go for Bryan and Dems. Harmony is splendid. But coercion, threats of calamities, loss of employment, financial ruin, destruction of industry etc. also has its effects. Globe Democrat has an absurd article by Hugh McKittrick recently. What do you think about Election. Write soon again. Della read this letter as for her also.

Yours Truly Carl

“Letters from Chas. R.” [Reprint of a letter In Albert Ridder’s Hand?]

Quincy, December 16, 1908

Dear Albert.

Well how do you like the music stand. That is your Xmas present from us. Had Frank Menke order it sent direct from Jenkins. Don’t know if your light nickel and is complete. Finally obtained settlement of Kansas Land matter and will enclose statement thereof (was not enclosed). I am willing to leave the balance which we received net to you as you lose so much through the transaction and I so little in proportion. I wrote you a letter (Oct 26) which I will enclose herewith if not too stale. Many of our acquaintances died last year; recently Mrs. Katie (Dick) Smith, --Mrs. Figgen and today Mrs Helen (Hackmann) Sharer will be buried here. We sent flowers to Figgins from H.R. & family. Helen died in Washington and remains brought here for burial. W.C.U. literary club had lectures by Monsignor Schrembs at Empire Theatre on: “Popular Objections to the Catholic Church Refuted” -- Dr. Coyle on: “Barry the Father of the Am. Navy” at St. Francis College Hall – Father Bremman on “Socialism” at St.

Boniface Hall – Father Christopher on “Spirit of Societies” at St. John’s Hall and Jan 11 (09) Father Foley will lecture at Empire on “Why I am a Catholic.” Oscar Huck was President last year and was re-elected this year. Would you not like to become of a member of the W.C.U.? Take small insurance and cost not great and is a good society. Yow are you, Della and all friends? We quite well except pa with his Erysipelas but otherwise well. Best wishes from all for a most Happy Xmas. Love from all and hoping to hear from you soon

As ever yours

Carl

Quincy February 13, 1909

Dear bro. Al;

Your welcome letter received some time ago. I have deposited your coupon in the bank although was rather forgetful and did not do so until eleventh of this month. I enclose a statement of the pass books which you will probably like to have. I have made use of the money and let pa have \$30.00 but it will take some time for me to pay it back as I do not want to draw any from my bank account as it has dwindled down and I don’t manage to replace what I draw therefrom.

I don’t agree with you as regards balance we received from the Kansas land and it is well I know you or your words would look rather bitter. Be cheerful Al and I hope you agree with me that what happens the Lord permits to happen for the best although He does not sanction wicked acts or deeds or wickedness in any way.

You are having rather severe weather in California this year are you not? We have had a very nice winter and although they secured a pretty good ice harvest here the weather was not so extremely cold only a few days of blizzards that were somewhat rough. Did I write you about Frank Brockschundt being so very sick. He will probably not recover, although he may linger for a while. I liked him and he was a good hearted boy. I am sorry to see him so severely ill. Katie Schlag is also dangerously sick. She is afflicted with what seems to be a cancer or fibrous tumor.

I understand Dolphy had a sick spell some time ago. I have written her but have not had an answer from her lately. Well what news can you write about the prospective trip. We are anticipating a happy time when you come and look forward with immense pleasure to the time when you will be here. You will be surprised at our little family and hope pleased at them. We think they are a bright company.

Carl Anthony can find his way to Aunt Mat’s now and no doubt will frequently visit her. Rosemary is the cutest little girl and is so good. Little William is a comical little chap, just beginning to talk fairly well. His favorite pastime is to play ride on my shoulders or on my knees. Little baby sister is a little blue eyed miss and ought soon be wanting to crawl. She has begun to cut teeth and sits alone at the table in the high chair. Papa is pretty well but probably not able to get around as he has been. I wish he could dispose of that Spring Street property but I do not have much faith if an[/] in the deal he was figuring

about. From appearances it would appear that it might be better if it did not materialize. Agnes and I are quite well and I hope you both are enjoying the best of health.

I had some good jokes and if Aggie saved them will enclose them. Well hoping to hear from you soon, and particularly that before long that you will start for Quincy.

I am as ever Yours

Carl

[ends 150]

[152] I met Dr. Tibbetts day before yesterday as I was returning from dinner at Miller Arthur Drug Co's store and had a chat with him. He seems to have farming interests here. He remarked to me that he wished I understood farming as he would have a good proposition for me. I told him I had wished that myself that I knew how to farm. He said, well it isn't too late yet. Now I have written a pretty good letter and that ought to make up for lost time. I should write to Dela also. I am helping one of the boys here who has started a laundry, by managing his clerical or rather office work which for the time being I am doing gratis but if he succeeds it may be the means of helping me considerably. Well so long let us hear from you very soon are hungering for a letter from you. How are Kastens?

Yours as ever,

Carl

Lizzie Krewet was quite sick some time ago but as I understand is pretty well now.

[153] I wish you could see Tony at school and at his studies. I do not want to flatter myself but I am surely proud of his talents. He certainly has got a good brain and intellect. I was simply amazed at him the other day when he totaled quite a column of figures in addition summing up somewhat over a thousand correctly and also reading the sum. I dare say many a child older than himself could no do so. He is also good at memorizing. He can recite such prayers as the Apostle's Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary, Acts of Faith Hope and Charity and Contrition. His reports are about as nearly perfect as could be expected. His last was perfect with the exception of three and they were as high as 95%. You do not blame me for blowing do you? I am talking about the pupil and almost forgot the teacher and the school. What do you say of the above as an argument for our Catholic parochial schools eh? It speaks for itself.

[155] We are quite well here. The children are growing and progressing. I wish you could see them. They would amuse you now. They are becoming so interesting. Carl is doing well at school. He is very bright and if he would but try he would progress still more. But being talented his tasks are comparatively easy to him and he becomes somewhat careless and that's where he falls down. And

then he is full of play. But altogether he is a fine little fellow and does very well. Rosemary is beginning to learn her studies pretty well but is not so talented as Carl. Willie is the same happy little chap. Recently he got quite a burn on his arm but is getting along nicely. He also had an outbreak of a sort of rash. "Wewe" is the star. She reminds me of our own mother. Agnes thinks she is a wonderful child. She is cute and bright and good. The children surely brighten pa's days. The all are much attached to him to his great joy and he is also very fond of them. Yesterday "Weewee" got at the piano and said she was going to make the music talk. Well hoping to hear from you soon again with love from all.

As ever yours,
Carl

[156] Quincy March 16, 1909

Dear bro. Albert;

Enclosed hand your clippings from Jenkins Catalogue. Discount is Δ17 but keep the discount confidential as per Frank Menke's request. Of course if they ask a little profit we cannot object. The catalogue is so heavy and Frank apparently would like to have it till he can get their new catalogue. I thought would just send you these leaves. I will not take time to write a letter now as will hurry this information to you as no doubt you are patiently waiting therefor. With love and regards from all to all. Frank Brockschmidt is I suppose hardly expected to live very long. There is scarcely any hope for his recovery. Katie Schlag died several days ago, which you probably are aware of by this time.

Yours as ever,
Carl

[157]

Quincy March 30, 1909

Dear bro. Albert;

From Mar 30 to Apr 3 not much time left will have to hustle to have a letter arrive for you Apr 3rd. How fortunate that good wishes are so easily obtained and given otherwise poor people would not have a great abundance to present would they? Well accept our hearty good wishes for your anniversary of which we wish you many happy returns. I hope you will have an unusually happy day on the occasion. Received your letter and went to Menke's Saturday evening and had Frank to order the articles you wished from Jenkins as stated in your letter. As Franke happened to mention the matter I though it a good idea to act upon so authorized Jenkins to send a substitute for the bow in case we're out of the first choice in stock. Have you hear of Frank Brockschmidt's death? I was one of the pallbearers at his funeral. Well, good bye let us hear from you soon.

As ever yours,
Carl

[158]

Quincy April 23, 1909

Dear Bro. Albert;

Well time is traveling along and so I better try and write one more letter before you leave San Francisco for your visit to old home sweet home. You will find somewhat of a home too I assure you for the happy bright little children make surroundings light up as it were with a bright cheerful sunshine. I will be interested to see how you and Della will act when you see Carl, Rose, and Willie and Louise, especially the older ones. What a difference to have Carl and Rose talk to you amusingly and not only rationally but also quite intelligently. Carl is remarkably big and powerful for his age. One would probably consider him a boy of eight years not only judging from his size but also from his degree of intelligence. He has learned pretty well to catch a ball and is becoming so interested in playing base ball that he waits to meet me when I come home and then I have to toss the ball to him. Della would laugh to see him sing his little sister Louise to sleep which he does finely and then you should hear him warble. He likes his little . . .

[159] very interesting talk with him. Do you remember Herman Rolekes Gronau Germany? It was the gentleman. Well we talked for quite a while about Gronau and some of the people we became acquainted with and he told how shortly after we were there he emigrated to this country. He is located at Bethany Mo. He probably intended to go out west but when leaving Chicago it seems in some manner they got off the train at Bethany and while there he found a tailor who wanted help (he's a tailor) and began working for him from week to week till finally he remained there and has been there ever since. As I understand a son of his is attending Gem City College here and I suppose he came to visit him and in some manner looked up our address and paid us a visit. Well this letter is out of the ordinary and hope will cause you pleasure. I will try and see Frank Menke about your bills glad the articles arrived safely and in good time and that they please you. Well with love from all to you and Della.

I am as ever yours,
Carl

Tell Della to consider this letter as meant for her also.

[160]

Quincy May 6, 1909

Dear bro and Sister;

Albert you will find enclosed the bills from Menke DG Co. Frank seems to have misunderstood me and instead of simply rendering a bill for such item has rendered duplicate bills of both items. Well I guess you can erase what you do not want to appear on the one of the bills. Well time is passing along and I earnestly hope that we will soon have the great joy of seeing you both here. Faithful Father Weiss has at last had to yield and go to the hospital. He is seriously ill and I question whether he will recover or not. He is afflicted with Anemia the same illness John Erner died from, as I understand. Remember him in your prayers. Well I will have to close as I am busy. Let us hear from you before you leave there.

Yours as ever,

Carl

[162]

Quincy Oct 21, 1909

Dear bro Al;

Well do you think I do not care to write or what do you think? Well you probably remember how matters were when you were here. Have been very busy and I become so tired of writing that I am glad when I have a rest. A peculiar phase of business this season is the large amount of orders which although they are very small cause lots of labor through their quantity. Business at the present time and as much as I know the outlook for future trade are very good. Whether it is due to a generally existing condition or whether this firm's line of goods is so attractive this season?

I am quite anxious to hear from you as we are always so pleased to have a letter from you. Dela has gone to St. Louis and from there to Dolphy. Dela is a puzzle to me. I cannot understand why she will not be satisfied here. She could be so happy. I wish I could persuade Dela to change her disposition and also make her understand what we are all doing for her. She does not seem to fully realize how we all have to struggle to get along.

If I were you Albert I would try to persuade Dela to remain here and not to come to California as I do not think it is good for Dela to be out there. And I think you can get along better as you are now situated, can you not? If however you think it better that she comes there, Albert I would advise you to use more authority and be not too lenient with her. I wish Dela would use common sense and not act so peculiarly.

I hope you are getting along nicely and enjoying the best of health and spirits. We are all quite well and the children are a bright and happy quartette. Carl is making a fine record at school. I simply rejoiced at him. His first month's report was perfect as to punctuality, attendance both at mass and school, and in regard to the various studies was I think very good. It is really astonishing to see how such young chaps

can be taught. Now he has only been going to school about [151] a month and a half and you should see the progress he has made particularly in German reading, and in numbers and addition, also in memorizing generally. His conduct is very good, although he has had one scrape with Herman Lubbers' boy but they made a treaty of peace. He takes great interest in going to school and delights to be amount the first to arrive so he can be among the leaders when they march to and from church. I hope he will keep up that commendable spirit. It is perhaps needless for me to say that Agnes is pardonably proud of her young son.

Do you receive any news from Quincy? If you do not I will occasionally send you a paper. Dear Father Weiss is alarmingly ill. He suffered a severe spell about last Saturday and perhaps his end is near as regards his life in this world. Do you know that Joe King died within a very short time recently?

Quincy, January 24, 1910

Dear bro. Al;

Was indeed mighty glad to hear from you at some length after not hearing from you for some time excepting cards. Had received your first letter and a day or so after received the next, Aggie saying to me there's a letter from Al and I replied "He's getting good", then she said "you'll think so when you see the letter." Well many thanks for your generous gifts which were all received. Pa is still at Dolphy's and will probably remain for a month or so still. We have had a regular old time winter and plenty of snow and ice. The ice harvest was an abundant one the ice averaging about 13 to 15 in. thickness and of splendid quality. The weather is slackening somewhat although still winter weather.

Was out to St. Francis Church last evening. Are having Forty Hours Devotion there. Father Timoth preached a powerful sermon on the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. A vast crowd of people was in attendance.

We are all quite well and hope you are also. I wish you could see how rapidly Carl Anthony is progressing at school. He attends church and school so willingly and regularly that it is a grat pleasure to me. Rosemary, Willie and Louise are all getting along nicely and lively little youngsters especially Willie. He is full of vigor and is developing a stocky powerful build.

What do you think of the popular movement, starting to reduce prices?

Well so long, hoping to hear from you very soon again and wishing you the best of success, with many thanks for your kindnesses

We are as ever,
Carl and Agnes

Enclose a letter to you that has been forwarded from there to here. Seems to have been mailed by someone in your city.

Quincy March 8, 1910

Dear Bro Albert;

Well do you think or don't you think that it is about time you were hearing from me? Having been here last summer you know how matters are and probably do not blame me for not writing very often. Besides I also help Comiskey with his office work at his laundry and at times that requires quite a bit of time.

I deposited Feb. coupon in your savings account at the bank and also sent Will the St. Louis draft for £AIX as requested by you. I enclose a card from Ricker National Bank for you to fill out with your customary signature to checks for identification as they seem to have none at the bank and they request this favor. Papa arrived safely from Union and is about as usual. He is at present in seeming good health but probably shows that he is aging. We are having quite a tussle with whooping cough and such a merry time as we are having. Rosemary, William, and Louise are the little sufferers, Carl escaping. They are surely having the cough with a whoop and no doubt about it. I hope after this week they will be pretty well through with the ordeal.

Little Dorothy Rakers is threatened with appendicitis. Typhoid fever seems to be prevalent in the city at the present time. We are having a very successful forty hours services at St. Boniface Church. The attendance at the services is very edifying. Papa seems to have given up going to California at last for the present and I think it is well he does. If it were not the endurance required and besides the hazards of the journey I would not oppose him travelling that distance. But when I think of these and then his age and declining strength it appears risky that he should undertake such a strenuous trip. Well how are you well and happy I hope. With affectionate regards from us all.

I remain as ever,
Carl

[168]

Quincy November 22, 1910

Dear Albert and Della;

You must pardon us for not writing oftener but the necessity to do things that were before me crowded matters that I would like to have done out to be put off when I could do them. We have been unusually busy at the factory at this time of the year, then again I gave much of my attention to poor bereaved Charlie and he is so appreciative and seems to hunger after sincere words of consolation and encouragement. Then the various demands made upon my spare time are so many that you will surely make allowance for me. Take the past week and this week for example. Looking after a little office work of a laundry, orchestra played at annual opening of the social club, two laborious nights at auditing and arranging St. Peters W.C.U. books besides my little duties of the household, this week, last night rehearsal, tonight I want to try and go out to St. Francis School Hall, as they will close their jubilee celebration. Wednesday and Thursday are two days of fair and entertainment of our St. Boniface Congregation. Then I have to figure on my time for laundry office work and completing work on society's books. So you see how my time is taken up. I have a paper or two that I wish to send to Father Anselm and someone else about our beloved Dophie's death.

Charley intends to come to visit us with the boys at Christmas time and we are so glad he will do so. I think the trip will to him good and besides the company of a lot of happy innocent little ones has a soothing influence over one.

Our little family becomes more and more interesting and you would be so amused at them. Little Will's arm is ok again. It is slightly curved but there is no stiffening of the muscles and he seems to have a good strong arm again. Rosemary and Carl are getting along fine at school and are so regular and punctual that at least on that score they have very good reports. And on other points of study they do well. Carl's difficulty to attain a high percentage seems mainly to be in conduct and his desire for play overlooking at times some of his studies. He is getting to be a strapping big fellow and bright as a new coin. Willie is a happy little chap and he and little Louise are comical little play mates. Little "weaver" is a star. She is such an affectionate little creature. She goes about loving the birds, the chickens and the flowers and is such a happy little creature. Papa is pretty well but since about the last two weeks or so he has become so very hard of hearing that one has to shout in a loud voice to make him understand you, so of course it will hardly do to leave him alone with the children anymore.

Did you hear of the sudden death of John Weltin's father in law Mr. Sickinger? He went to mass last Monday morning and from there went to Dr. Schullian's office and hardly got into his office when he expired. I went to Weltin's one night and kept watch over his remains.

Father Anderson is here for the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the St. Francis congregation. I had recently received a pretty letter from him as also from Sr. Aquinata, to each of whom I had written and sent a paper concerning our dear departed Dolphine.

I called to see Mattie for a few moments last Saturday as she was sick in bed from a severe cold. Gussie's little boy was also very sick at the time and Sunday morning they feared for his life. He had a severe attack of bronchitis. As much as I know though he is probably getting along pretty well now. He seemed better later in the day on Sunday.

Well dear folks write as soon as you can and tell us about you. I will be so glad to hear from you. Charley sent a package of 2 little boys coats an overcoat and two base ball suits and you should have seen the joy at home of the two boys.

Well so long we are all quite well and hope you are the same. We have been having I might say regular California weather for about two months past, just beautiful weather. Hoping to hear from you soon and with love from all

Yours as ever,
Carl

Tell Dela to regard this letter as written to her also.

[173]

December 20, 1910

Dear Albert and Della;

We all wish you a happy Christmas and New Year. Though conscious of the loss of our dearly beloved Dolphy we may still be happy at this time in the right spirit as the church militant on Earth rejoices with the church triumphant in heaven. Charley is becoming more and more endeared to me as it were, since he is displaying a beautiful and noble character. Recently I had a beautiful letter from him full of appreciation of the Catholic priests and extolling the virtues of dear Dolphy. I sincerely hope he will come to visit us during the Christmas time for I think it would be well for him to do so.

Have you heard of the death of Mr. Fred K. Wahl. He was buried from St. Rose Church last week. Aggie wrote a letter to you last night and probably she had more to tell you. I will only write briefly now as I want to get the letter off today. I am sending a shirt for you Albert with best wishes from Papa, Agnes and myself. I hope the shirt will please you. I have been very busy for some time past with work at the factory especially at inventory time, the I do a little book work for Comiskey's Laundry which does not net me much returns but I get family washing and shirt and collar ldry in return and that helps a whole lot. Then I have been elected recording secretary of St. Peters Society W.C.U. and have served on an auditing committee for the same society and now am on the same kind of committee for the Orphan Society. Then I hope to have a job again at W.T. Dukers inventory. So you can see I do not have much idle time. Carl had a sick spell for about a week some time ago, not serious, but as it seemed to be measles we kept him from school. Little "wee-wee" had us worried last week as she had quite a severe spell but today she seems to be herself once more and I think by the time Santa Claus comes she will be

ok. We will send Dela \$1.00 from Agnes and myself and she can buy her gift as we hardly know what to get her here. Well so long with love from all to all

Yours lovingly,
Carl

[175]

Quincy January 26, 1911

Dear Albert and Dela;

Albert I received your welcome letter some days ago. Pa has written to you and I think it is always pleasanter to receive letters following after another than to receive them all at one time. I suppose you have about received Pa's letter. Agnes will write to you some day. You must have a little patience with her as the days are much too short for all she would like to do, and when evening comes it would be hard to find anybody more tired than she. "Of course she is getting older too." I told here every year made me younger than she, that is, it lessened the percentage of the differences in our age. Yes Charley and the boys were here at Christmas time. They came Saturday on the 6 pm train and remained till Wednesday morn. In the true sense of the word we spent a happy time. Charley seemed to be right happy to be amongst us and seemed to be quite at home. The children all seemed to have a good time and the little ones surely help much to brighten life. We spent the time in quite home life amongst ourselves and it was Charley's wish to have it so. Christmas day he went with Pa to Holy mass. Monday afternoon I went with him and the boys and Carl to the college to call on Father Fortunatus. Unfortunately Father Fortunatus was very ill with Erysipelas and for fear of the contagion in Erysipelas it was advised best not to enter the sick room. Father Edward, present vice rector, then took us through the various departments of the college. Mrs. And Mrs. Phil Koch and Mrs Emma Brem [?] called one evening and we passed the evening pleasantly playing pinochle and dominoes. Charley had a beautiful letter from Father Monahan S.J. who attended Dolphy in her last illness. I should like to write to Father Monahan and hear from him an account of Dolphy's last moments. I wish I could have seen him personally. I had a splendid letter from Father Anselm and as no doubt you will find pleasure in reading it I will enclose it but be sure to return it to me. Also have you got the last letter I received from Dolphy? I want to save that letter.

Mrs. Maas' brother John Blickham died a few days ago at Kansas City and now his son Dr. Blickham is very critically ill. Last Saturday they did not expect him to live. There have been so many deaths in Quincy this winter.

We have just passed through a time of political agitation in Quincy on the fad of "Commission form of Government" but the people defeated the proposition decisively at last Tuesday's election. Personally I

do not see any good [154] features in the system while on the other hand it appears to me to be a menace to true welfare. One especial feature that I oppose was the election by the people of but five officials and giving over to them the power of appointing the balance of the officials thus decreasing the voting or elective rights of the people and increasing the appointed power of the elected. That don't seem as good reasoning to me, at least not in instance of this sort.

I had a very nice letter from Willie. Willie seems very much affected by dear Dolphie's death. Yes I do sympathize with Charley. He displays such a nobility of character and he is so appreciative. He speaks so well of the priests. I am sorry he did not get to speak to Father Fortunatus while here but I hope he will be back in the near future. I wish our family lived near for I think he would be happy to have us about him. Have you gotten over your colds? Pa received Dela's letter and see therefrom that you are bothered with colds. I hope you will be well by the time this letter reaches us or rather before then. . . .

[177]

Quincy April 3, 1911

Dear Al;

Am rather late in sending you birthday greetings but nevertheless they are none the less hearty and sincere. We wish you a happy birthday anniversary and that you may live to see many happy returns of the day. We sent you "the same old 76" as they say. A little remembrance from Pa, Ag, and myself. We didn't go to much expense but know you will appreciate the gif just the same. Ag wrote a card and perhaps you will have received it in time, for your birthday anniversary. We are having a siege of measly measles. Carl and Rosemary began with their spell of measles about two weeks ago now. Billy and Wee wer are in the infirmary. And such a time. Yet, at all that, we are all pretty well and happy. Carl and Rosemary are tripping to school again and the old lady keeps pretty cheerful. She had a good time sleeping yesterday. It was just a fine day to stay at home and rest. In the morning some hail and the day was rather wet and cool. We went to church in the morning and in the afternoon we remained home. The two little ones not being very well. It is pitiful to see the little patients and yet comical and still more trying to one's good nature when during the night they have you going like on a treadmill to suit their whims, for a drink of water. It is such fun to be roused out of a good sleep to get them a drink of water and then see them drink about a teaspoonful and then drop off to sleep again and be aroused again and again. But while it is no fun at the time it is fun to talk about those events afterwards. Pa is thinking of going to Union this week. Have had two letters (to Pa) from Charley. I won't stop to write a long letter today but will write again later. I do not feel in a writing mood today so excuse me on the grounds of at least making an effort to write and let you hear from us. With love from us all

I am as ever,

Carl

[179]