

Nov 4 - 1964

Dear Dorothy -

Now that the hue and cry
is over and the results are what five
all knew they would be - things can
get back on an even keel once more.
It is a rainy day, the fifth? 5th in the
past week & all the dry & dead grass
is green over night and growing as one
watches! Enjoyed your letter so much
but very sorry to hear of Bandy's illness -
& do hope the Drs. are wrong and it
is not rheumatic fever - maybe she
needs vitamins & a tonic - "Geritol", as
Ted Mack advises us to take if we
feel "tired & run-down" and do you
remember "Lidia Tinsums Pink Pills
for Pale People"? But all joking aside
it is serious - I had to be grown up
before I was told I had it when I
was a girl over home - and the effects
lingered on for years & occasionally I
still have mild attacks and of course
the rheumatism has been with me
always - but in those days we were

far from Drs. and every one did what they could for the other - tough and bull-headed & nothing got us down - that was me - to proud to be sick!

I hope Bondy's disappointment in not being able to enter college this fall will not upset her - she needs all her attention to getting well. There is always something to upset us - and with rest & destination - I got the 'i' in the wrong place - 'she will be alright soon and there are many things she can do in bed to pass the time and keep her mind occupied - if it's only playing solitaire! and you want to be careful and not over do - we can't spare you from the Museum - so "tap her light".

I still do not know what the 6th was for - but it was noted down on a slip of paper fastened to the envelope of your letter - "owe Dorothy 6th" and you are my only Dorothy! Up to the time your letter came I hadn't had time to read my desert magazine - but did so that night and me being me

3) the stories upset me because they did not know the true facts, these writers go around asking questions of the "come lately" who don't know the facts - like whoever it was, telling Russ that our mine at Mills-Paugh was an iron mine - and he stupid enough to believe it! Let him read my story - I had the pictures & the article to show him when I was at Drex's last winter - but we didn't get together - also he was on leave and finishing a book. I spent all one day with Blackie & Frances in Darwin last fall - took him around and showed him how the town used to be and we spent 3 hours at the cemetery and I showed him where all the graves are, and whose that are not marked and what does he do but fill that guy Odene up about \$8⁰⁰ murders (Nancy had \$400⁰⁰ which her killers knew about) & "lazy rattle snake" and "baliche dug out" - which he should have

looked up the definition of - just our
little old dug-outs in the hard-pan.
and the only mill Darwin had is the
one on the Hill now. there is a great
difference in a smelter & a mill.
"Blackie" is an old timer, around
Keeler - Bishop - Nevada and in Darwin
now & then - called Fopie Black by a
lot of folks - a nice person and I rem-
ember him away back when he came
to town & worked awhile at different
times - and Frances came to Darwin
when she taught school after our
school house was enlarged for the Hill -
and we heard a thousand of Jack
Stewart's "yarns" - a great & mighty
liar was old Jack! - Now to get to
Skidoo! Original locator was James
Arnold 1905 and Ramsey & Thompson
named the camp 1905 ("G3 Skidoo" a
popular expression - meaning "git-go
Skidoo!" The telephone wires were
strung across Death Valley from Pinyonite
1908 & water was piped the 22 miles
from a spring on Telescope Peak 8 inch

late 1940s

5) and all this pipe was hauled by freight team from the railroad head at Johannesburg. during 1906-07 - Saloons - The Club - The Palace - The Gold Seal - later owned by Fred Oakes & Joe "Hooch" Simpson "Bad Man". The trouble started April 19th 1908 when Simpson held up the bank cashier Ralph Dobbs for \$20⁰⁰ Simpson was overpowered & hand cuffed to a telephone pole. Judge Thiese was sent for and Simpson put to bed under guard, but he found his gun & went across the street & shot Arnold, whom he picked a quarrel with after the robbery - deputy sheriff was Harry Sellars - later masked men took Simpson and hung him to a telephone ^{pole} from the cross arms. Sheriff Naylor did not make a "hazardous trip over rough roads (what other kinds were there in those days!) via Sonapak & Rhyolite" but came through Darwin - I was there and the excitement was great when

the news reached Darium - and when
the news reached Los Angeles and
San Francisco the reporters came
flocking in a couple days later and
the citizens to oblige - re-hung Simp-
son & the reporters took pictures -
I have one on a postal card which
was sold at 25¢ each, the nonsense
about be-heading him is doubtful
George Cook, like so many - liked
to string a yarn and as the original
may have been true - some thing more
was always added as it went from
mouth to mouth. At least the picture
of the old mill is good - we "climbed
& slid" down to it years ago - was
built on a very steep hill side just
below town ^{on Tucker Mountain.} The pipe-line was brought
into Skidoo after discovery - not before.
Bob Montgomery was a prominent
mining man and his finger was in
most of all the pies in those boom
days. His brother Frank & Belle lived
at The Gem in the 1917-1919 - her daughter
Mable married Jess Session - her last

7) name is on the tip of my tongue & I
can't say it - are you like that too! They
bought and lived in for years the house
which is now your home - I always
loved the old place, we were all close
friends in those "good old days". Jess
died Dec 12 - 1951 in ^{San Mateo} ~~Sacramento~~ and
Mabel just a month later. Guess Elva
if she remembers Mabel's maiden name -
it will pop into my mind any minute
if I leave it alone - but this will be
on its way by then! The Catacombs
of Calico and "Lafayette" Mechem!
Where ever they dug up that name is
another one of those things - my husband
uncle Charlie Mechem was one of
the original discoverers & locaters!
(I got it! Mabel Schofield!) Chas
was 19 in 1881 when he & Johnny McBride
& Larry Silva plodded along the foot hills
of the now Calico Mts. - they had a
"mission" - rumors of rich silver in
the hills north east of Barstow and
for 3 days they hunted without luck
on the 4th day Charlie let loose with a

yell "We've struck her boys - Silver galore!"
The news spread like wild-fire and
the rush was on, the boys sold their
interests for a few thousand and
moved on - for 16 yrs. it was a bustling
camp - but in 1896 silver had dropped
from \$1.29 an oz. to 53 cents and Calico
died - but the record was amazing -
75 million dollars worth of silver came
out of those colored hills. Uncle Charlie
died in Los Angeles Jan 28 - 1940. I, too
wish the old stack at Panamint City
could be braced in some way to save
it - but with the road kept in repair
to accomodate Mary Thompson - is she
going to live for ever! and so bringing
all the scavengers in to destroy every
thing they can get their bloody hands
on. It costs too much to mine gold these
days - and I am very sceptical on any
thing pertaining to mining - too many
thousands sunk & nothing taken out!
Well dear - enough for this time - how
I do "run on". Remember you must
take care of Dorothy also! Do hope Candy
improves rapidly. Vaya Con Dios
and love from Elizabeth