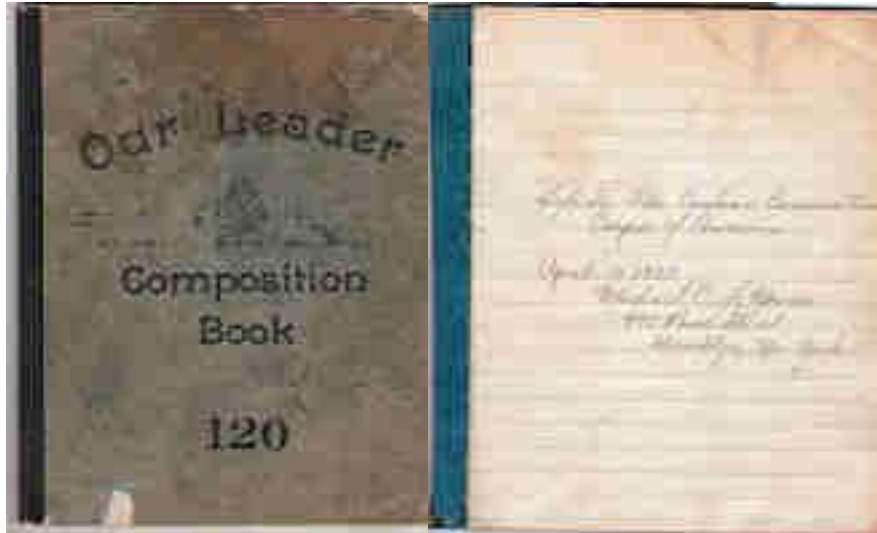


My Father in the Civilian Conservation Corps 1933



Prologue: An Introduction and Explanation

In April 1933, my father, Michael Charles LoMonico, entered the Civilian Conservation Corps of America. Over the next few months, I will be posting his entries which describe his experiences.

Monday April 10, 1933

After being examined at the Army Bldg. in N.Y.C. I was sent to the Army Base. We were assigned to our bunks, then we had lunch. After lunch we had to get stripped for another examination which was worse than the first. I couldn't get to sleep that night on account of the noise in the dormitory. Every time a sergeant came along someone razzed him and my arm pained me from the injections they gave me in the afternoon. I fell asleep at 1:00 that night.

Tuesday April 11, 1933

Got up at 5:30 a.m. and it was pretty tough because I wasn't used to getting up so early, had breakfast which wasn't so hot, then went to gymnasium had a little workout, came down wrote a few letters to some friends, played cards, lay around for the rest of the day. That night we all we got passes to go home. I went to Cala's home, stayed a while, later went to the club, came home about 12:00, went to bed.

Wednesday April 12, 1933

Got up at five o'clock for second time that week, went back to Army Base at 7:00, cleaned up a little, listened to some of the boys play guitars and a mandolin. Passed a quiet day, went home again that night, found out Jimmy signed up with the C.C.Corps. Went down to the club, danced with some of the Girls, went home at 11:30 and went right to bed.

Thursday April 13, 1933

Got up at the same time, went to the A. Base that morning. I was signed to K.P. at 10:00 for first time, and it was awful. That day we got our uniforms and undergarments. Later on we were all brought down to the courtyard and we all were sworn in. That night I met James Cala. We went to Borough Hall to look for C.C. Office but was closed. Went home and went to bed.

Friday April 14, 1933

Came in as usual, done my last morning K.P. Wrote some Post Cards, had lunch. After that we were taken to courtyard and got a good workout what I mean, came up played cards and got a special pass to go home that night. I met John Cala. We stayed down the club then about 10 o'clock John and some of the boys drove me to the Army Post and we had some sport coming down. The boys couldn't come up to the building but we walked down to the dock and saw the S.S. Bremen, one of the prettiest boats on the Ocean.



The boys went home and I went to bed. P.S. I met my ex sweetheart that night on the train and talked to her for an hour. She told me I was crazy to join up with the Corps. I made an appointment for Sunday.

Saturday April 15, 1933

Got up as usual, had breakfast, after that we were made to line up and our arms were inspected. Later we had to clean up the place. We later were given passes. At 12 o'clock we went home to come back Monday. That day I went out, had a nice time, got to bed about 11 o'clock. Found that Jim had left for Fort Hancock the day before.

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Sunday Easter April 16, 1933

Got up that morning, dressed up, went to Church with Angelo. There I met Pauline D. Went home, had a great dinner. The De Stephano's had dinner with us. After dinner, went out, talked to Chris D. for a few hours. Later went to Pete's house, stayed for an hour or so. Later went to Club, then to beer Garden and drank some beer. Then went riding with the boys. Went to bed about 1 o'clock. That was the end of a perfect day.

An explanation

In writing this blog, I've taken a few liberties. My father was only 20 when he wrote this and as far as I recall, never finished high school. The emendations I'm making mostly concern punctuation. I've added lots of commas to break up some sentences, and I've even added periods and started new sentences once in a while.

What strikes me throughout, however, was his spelling. It seems impeccable so far. Whatever they did in those Brooklyn Public Schools in the 1920s must have worked.

On a personal note, one of the things that this process is doing is getting me in touch with him. When he died, I was his age when he wrote this, and we never had much chance to discuss these events. I do recall that he was very proud of his service in the CCCs.

Monday April 17, 1933

Got up, met the boys at Linwood St. Station at 5:30, came to Base at 6:45. Cleaned up and got lined up and got another injection in my right arm which was a honey. Got a letter from M.A. with sad news for me but it didn't bother me much. It was something that could be expected. Answered M.A. letter thanking her. Listened to lecture from Medical Surgeon about health and how to keep fit. Felt sick all afternoon on account of injections. Went home, spoke to Pauline, went home and got to bed at 9:15.

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Tuesday April 18, 1933

Got up and felt very bad. Arrived at army base, felt worse. Took a physic then went to Doctor. He painted my throat with medicine. Felt better after dinner. An army transport arrived at the base with about 500 soldiers which made it uncomfortable for us for a while. Got pass to go home. Met Tony De at the house. Went out. Spoke to Louise P. Promised to write to her when I left. Went down to the club, fooled around until 11 o'clock. Went home and got to bed.

Wednesday April 19, 1933

Came in as usual, felt much better. Worked around a little, was changed into another squad after a few arguments but finally consented. Soldiers were giving uniforms away. I got a shirt and 2 coats, 2 pair of breeches. Went home at 4:00, shaved, cleaned, went out to club, met the boys and girls. Had some fun, was taken back to army base by Tony Y. with the girls in the car. Arrived at Base at 12:30. Was very cold that night.

Thursday April 20, 1933

Got up with a cold, felt rotten all day long. Went to doctor, gave me some pills to take. Didn't do me any good. Worked around the place for a few hours then laid down while other boys went down to drill. I felt terrible. About 4 o'clock got a pass to go home. Went home, had supper. Tony Brown was over the house. We went to the show later and saw two good pictures. Got home at 11:30. My cold was worse. Took a rub down and went to bed.

a brief interlude

My father has yet to mention anyone from his family. He had two brothers and two sisters as well as his parents--all living at home. This strikes me as odd. I didn't expect him to mention my mother (she and her family lived a block away) and I can only assume that they weren't an item at this point. I haven't carefully read any further in the log than you (my faithful readers) have, so he may get around to mentioning them later. In skimming over this book, once he gets on the road and off to Yellowstone, it gets more interesting, so stay tuned.

In the meantime, if you want to know more about the CCCs, go [here](#) or [here](#) . What I discovered here was that the program was voted in by Congress on March 31, 1933, and the first enrollee was accepted on April 7. Three days later, my father joined the program.

Here's a blurb from Wikipedia:

The typical enrollee was a U.S. citizen, unmarried, unemployed male, 18–20 years of age. Normally the family was on local relief. Each enrollee volunteered, and upon passing a physical exam and/or a period of conditioning, was required to serve a minimum six month period with the option to serve as many as four periods, or up to two years if employment outside the Corps was not possible. Enrollees worked 40

hours a week over five days, sometimes including Saturdays if poor weather dictated. In return he received \$30 a month with a compulsory allotment \$22–25 sent to a family dependent, as well as food, clothing and medical care

Friday Apr. 21, 1933

Was very sick in the morning. Did not get up to go to Army Base. Got up at 1:00, was out in the sun for the afternoon. Felt much better. Spoke to Pauline that night, Later went to the club, had some fun, went home about 10:30. Went to bed for the night.

Friday April 21, 1933

Was very sick in the morning. Did not get up to go to Army Base. Got up at 1:00, was out in the sun for the afternoon. Felt much better. Spoke to Pauline that night, Later went to the club, had some fun, went home about 10:30. Went to bed for the night.

Saturday April 22, 1933

Got up as usual, felt much better than day before. Went to work, told that I would be deducted a dollar from my pay. After speaking to my Captain, he said he would try to fix it up. Got a job at the Supply Room which isn't so bad. Went home at 12:00. Spoke to John Pas. Said he would make a trunk for me. We started and worked all afternoon. Went to a party that night. Had a nice time. Met a pretty girl. Her name was Terry. She was nice and sociable. Walked her home, then went home and signed off for the night.

P.S. James C. came home from Fort Hancock. Said he liked it there and was going back next day.

Sunday April 23, 1933

Got up at 9:00, went over to John Pas. home. Finished up the trunk which was starting to look good. In the afternoon we took a ride to Cala's house. Met Jim & Mary who went to show. Saw John. Went riding in his car. Later picked up Jim. Went calling on my friends. Later drove downtown to see Jim off to the bus at 12:30. Came home at 1:00 and signed off.

Monday April 24, 1933

Met boys at station. Arrived at army base as usual. Got our last injection which was another honey. Later started working in supply giving out sheets. Then went to laundry, worked pretty hard. Felt very bad--had a toothache all that night. Talked to Chris and found out it was no dice. John C. came around with car. Rode around, had some fun with the boys. Went to bed at ten.

Tuesday April 25, 1933

Got up and felt lousy. Wanted to stay home but changed my mind and came to work. Did a little work in supply room. Had lunch, went home at four. Got some bad news about Samie (*sic*). They kept him at the children's court. Tony Brown came over, stayed at the house for the night. Not much excitement for one night so I went to bed at 11:00.

Wednesday April 26, 1933

Got up early, arrived at base at 6:45. Listened to another lecture at morning exercise. Cleaned up supply room, shaved, took a bath & shower. Later wrote a letter to T. Rom. Got

pass from Captain to stay out for Thursday if I wanted to. Was home for supper. Grace and Ang. came over for the night. Met John C. Went for ride, got home early, went to bed.

another explanation

My father's younger brother is Salvatore but is usually called Sam. He mentions something about Samie being in children's court on 4/25, but I have no idea what that means. Uncle Sam is still alive, but I doubt if I can find out what he refers to. Grace was his sister and she was married to Angelo DelVecchio. They were divorced before I was born.

Thursday April 27, 1933

Got up at 11:00 for first time in weeks and felt lazy all day. Went down to Child Sc. in the afternoon about Samie. Couldn't see him but found out [] was over since Tuesday and he was found guilty and the verdict (*sic*) was set for next Tues. Got home and called Mr. Amato to see if he could do anything about it. Said he would come over on the morrow to talk it over. Not much doing that night so I signed over for the night.

Friday April 28, 1933

Met boys on Linwood St. Got to Base at 6:35. Missed breakfast by inches and was I dissa [?]. Cleaned up our quarter and lay around. Went to laundry. Tony Brown came down to see me at the Base. Went home at 4:00 PM. Had company at home. Stayed home that night.

Saturday April 29, 1933

Back at Base early. Stayed until 12 then got pass to go home. Went downtown, had dinner at Tony Brown's. Home later, went to Aunt's house. Stayed there for a while. Went home about 4. Changed off to shower. That day met boys on corner, went to dance that night at the Hi Steppers. Had a nice time. Met a lot of nice girls. Went home about 1 & to bed.

Sunday April 30, 1933

Got up late, pressed my clothes, painted my trunk. Took a walk, had dinner. After dinner Jim Cala came around with Mary. Stayed for a while. Went down to the club with the boys and some girls. Later went for Ice Cream in Shapiro's. Later I went to a show & I seen two pictures I always wanted to see. May West in "She Done Him Wrong" & James Cagney in "Hard to Handle." Later I went to a Wedding of a friend. Stayed a while, went home, and so to bed.

Monday May 1, 1933

Up early and at the Base. The boys got paid. I was the only one not to get paid and was I disappointed. Our squad got changed to different quarters much better than where we were. Worked in Supply room. Later went down to laundry, worked until 4 than got pass. Went home, hung around, went riding, saw Pauline, but did not talk to her. Later went for a walk with the boys, made an appointment this day with the dentist.

Tuesday May 2, 1933

Arrived at Base at 6:40. Had some trouble in Mess hall with a tough sergeant. Had to stay in there and help. Later went down for roll call, later worked in supply room then was called to sign roll call. Later got pass to go home, played ball with boys on the corner. had some laughs, then got call from Terry and was surprised and glad. She said she would come

around and see me soon. I got Info about transferring Jim here at Army Base. Called up Cala's, spoke to Sue. Got Jimmy C's no. Later took a walk with Butch, met Jimmy's girl Mary & Grace. Got home at 10:30, went to bed with a terrific toothache. Couldn't sleep all night.

Wednesday May 3, 1933

Got up 1 hour late, arrived late for first time, found someone slept in my bed at Base. Spoke to Captain Hawley, then he wrote to Fort Hancock trying to get Jim sent here. Got my first salary today. Got my tooth pulled out. Didn't hurt much but I was spitting blood all day and that night. Met Anna that night. She gave me a note from terry about some dance which I hope I could go. Went to bed about 10:30, my gums hurting

Thursday May 4, 1933



Got up early, had breakfast, and was off to Army base. Worked around for a while, did some exercise, took a nice nap in the sun. Went home, met Sam Stone at home, and also some nice kid was at the house. Later spoke to Anna about Terry. Then I took a walk, met Susie and Girls at City Line. I did a little shopping, then I went home found Mary Ad. there. Walked her home then came back and went to bed about 3 a.m. I got one of the worst toothaches I ever had in my life. I thought I'd go crazy. I didn't sleep any more that morning until I got to the base and saw M.D.



Friday May 5, 1933

Arrived at base with a toothache, saw the M.D., fixed my tooth, gave me some pills. Went and laid down and felt much better. Later went down and did some exercises which were very good.. Listened to Captain warn us about dangers in Woods. Later got a special

delivery letter from Jim saying everything was OK and he was going to be sent here unless something happened. Went home, had supper, got a phone call from Pauline. Made a date for Saturday. Later I got a call from Terry saying she might see me Sunday. Then Mary Ad. called me up to find out if Jim had wrote me. Later went for a walk. When I got back, I heard I got a call from Jim but I don't know what about. Hung around for a while, then went home to bed. End of another day.

Saturday May 6, 1933: At the Movies



Got up, dressed up, had breakfast, left for Base. It started to rain when I got off train. Looked like it was going to be a lousy day. Had an inspection of all bunks and clothes. Later went down to Pier to meet boat that Jim wrote about, but it never came. Dressed up in Civi. clothes, went to meet Pauline. Met her and went to a show & saw "Gabriel Over the White House." Had a nice time, left her late in the afternoon, went home, met Jim and Mary over the house. Hung around all day, nothing else happened that day; went to bed about 11.

Sunday May 7th, 1933

Got up about 11, shaved, dressed up, went out. John C. came over then we went to Larry's house. Stayed for a while then went home, had dinner then we went out. Got a telephone call from Terry saying she wasn't coming over for she had company, but would see me during the week. Later Emily called, told her about Army, was very surprised. Told her I would call her sometime. Took a walk up the Park with the boys, stayed up there till 10:30,

then came back home, met some of the boys, hung around. Then went home to bed. Found out they took Willy's brother to hospital for appendicitis.

Monday May 8, 1933

Got up, had breakfast, met boys at station, came to Base. Did some stiff exercise, then went up to work in Supply Room for a while. Then had lunch. Lay around in afternoon, got a pass at 4 PM, went home in the rain. Got home, changed, went to Cala's house. Saw Sue only everybody was out. Later met Sam & Mr. Cala on street. John had gone to hospital. Back home Sam Stone came, stayed for the night. Took a walk to City Line with boys. Went for a ride with Shapiro's car. Passed Pauline's place, saw Fay, went to bed about 11:00.

Tuesday May 9, 1933

Back to Army Base early. Missed breakfast. Went down for roll call, then went to laundry, worked for a while, then had chow with pie. For first time had a nice meal. Some of the boys were left without pie. Went down for exercise in afternoon, then went for walk. Went home at four, not much happened that night. Stayed around the neighborhood, then went for a walk, then to bed at 11.

Wednesday May 10, 1933

Got up at 6:30, later than usual. Met Pauline at station. Rode down to work with her. Kidded her all the way down. Arrived at Base at 8:30. Saw a soldier in the Hoosgow for making a riot. Went thru daily routine. In the afternoon went to Anna Morgan's house with [Olive?], put a load of wine on, went home at the usual time. Met Fay, Pauline's girlfriend, had supper, went to see John Cala, then went for a ride in Shapiro's car. Took Margie someplace, later saw Anna who had a message from <u>Terry</u>. I sent her a note, later met Millie B. and Cousin. Walked her home then stopped off at Bakery, then went home to bed.

Thursday May 11, 1933

Got up at 6:30 for second time. Felt good. Had breakfast, left for base. Met Pauline again on station. It's getting to be a habit. Rode down with her, met lieutenant on train. Found out he lived on Boyd Ave. Had some exercise then went for a long hike. It was good, then had lunch, then went to work in Supply room. Afternoon went fast. Not much happened that day. Went home and same as usual, went for a walk after supper, went to bed early.

Friday May 12, 1933

Up at 6:30 which was getting to be a habit. Met Pauline on Station. Rode downtown with her. Had some fun. Arrived at Base. Same as usual all day long. Home at 5:30. Tony Brown was there. Saw Anna that night. She had a message from Terry. Hung around the block until late then went to bed.

Saturday May 13, 1933

Met Pauline at Station. She was all dolled up. Made an appointment to see her in church on Sunday. Later took a shower then got a pass, went home, dressed up, went for a ride, bought a pair of shoes. Then went to De Vita Party. Had a nice time. Went to bed about 3:00 AM Sunday morning.

Sunday May 14, 1933



Got up at 10, went to church, saw Pauline. Came home went for a ride to Brownsville for Grace pictures. Afternoon Jim and Mary came over, stayed in front of house. Later they went to the show. Spoke to Christina for a while, then went for a walk, met the boys, stood around for a while then went to bed.

Monday May 15, 1933

Got up very early, came to Army base at 5:30 in Jim's car. Jim had breakfast at our place, liked it very much. Later went down to see him off at Pier at 10 o'clock. Had chow at 12 which was very good what I mean. Later went out for a Sun bath, then made an appointment with the dentist for Thursday morning. Then went home. Took boys home in Jim's car, then went for a ride in Shapiro's buggy, then went to Brownsville with the boys and Miriam. Boys went shopping. Came home, took the car to Jim's house, saw Mary & Sue in front of the house. Bid them good night then walked home & to bed. Found a letter from Kitty.

Tuesday May 16, 1933

Got up at 6:30, met Pauline on train, rode down with her a ways. Got at base at 8:30, felt lousy all day. Wrote a letter to Kitty A., had chow. After chow listened to some good advice from Capt. Genthon about camping. Went to NY, stopped at aunt's house, no one home, so I took the train and went home. Hung around the neighborhood until 7:30. Got a call from Terry. Told her I would see her Sunday at the Dinner and Dance. John Cala came around after supper and Yony Brown. Went to bed at 10:30 that night.

Wednesday May 17, 1933

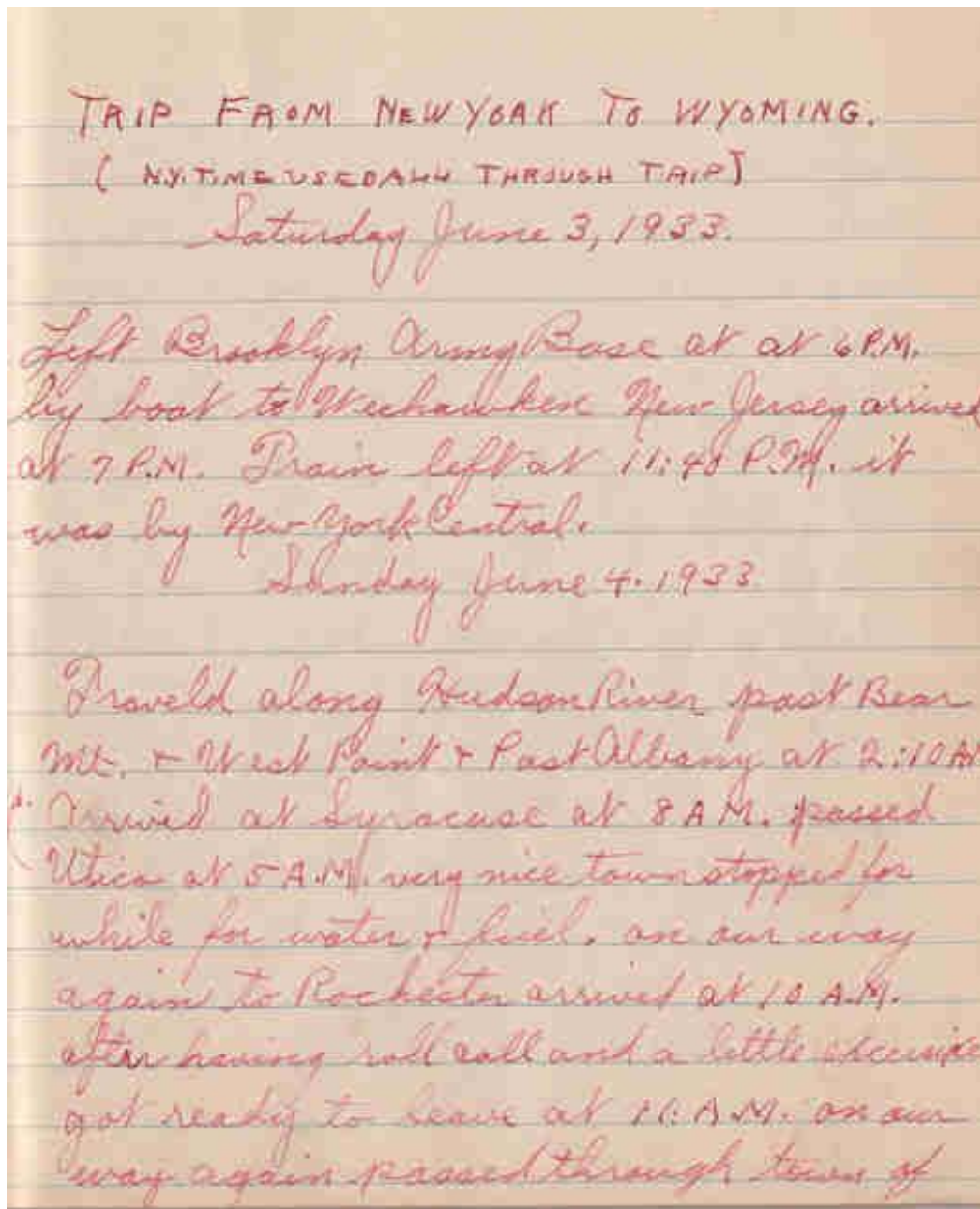
Arrived at Base at 7:00, got a pass, went to Fort Hancock, was a wonderful trip by boat. Saw Jim there. The place was wonderful. Only the place they slept in was awful. Came back to army base in afternoon, had nice dinner, then lay around for the afternoon.

The Missing 12 Days

At this point the book has four blank pages and is missing 12 days. One can only speculate why, after five weeks of diligently writing every day, he stopped writing on May 17. The blank pages seem to indicate that he meant to fill in those days, but

after the four blank pages, he left for the West. The style for the rest of the log is very different from the previous. It's written in red, and the dates flow together. Stay tuned for the good stuff.

June 3, 1933: On the train

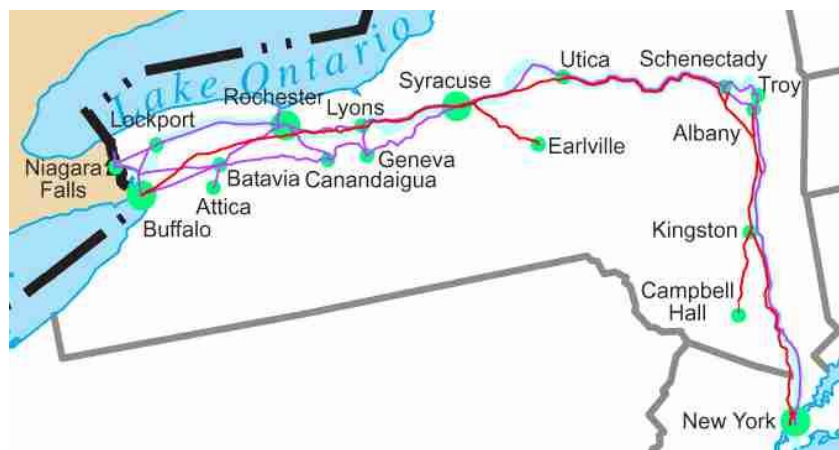


TRIP FROM NEW YORK TO WYOMING (N.Y. TIME USED ALL THROUGH TRIP)
Saturday June 3, 1933



1933 NY Central train.

Left Brooklyn Army Base at 6 P.M. by boat to Weehawken New Jersey arrived at 7 P.M. Train left at 11:40 P.M. it was by New York Central.



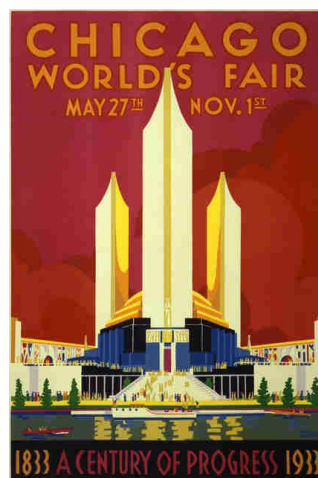
Traveled along Hudson River past Bear Mt. & West Point & past Albany at 2:10 A.M. Passed Utica at 5 A.M. Arrived at Syracuse at 8:A.M. Very nice town stopped for a while for water & fuel. On our way again to Rochester arrived at 10 A.M. after having roll call and a little exercise got ready to leave at 11:00 A.M. On our way again passed through town of Chile at 11:25 then later past town of South Byron at 11:45 A.M. Went through town of Batavia--a very nice town at 12:05. On our way to Buffalo we passed through Depew at 12:30 P.M. Arrived at Buffalo at 12:45. A very nice city, quiet and peaceful looking.

Left Buffalo at 1:20 P.M. then went through Derby & Erie PA at 70 miles per hr. and a few other small towns on the outskirts of Penn. Then we left Penna. and into Ohio. Arrived at a town called Painesville after a little engine trouble. Left there at 4:45 P.M. and was on our way to Cleveland. Arrived at 5:35 P.M. Walked around for half hour. Back on train again. Left Cleveland at 6:15 P.M. and passed thru Lindale, a small town in Ohio. Then we went over Lake Erie, a beautiful sight at 7:30 then thru some towns, Gypsum, Danbury, at a terrific speed, arrived at Toledo at 8:15 P.M.



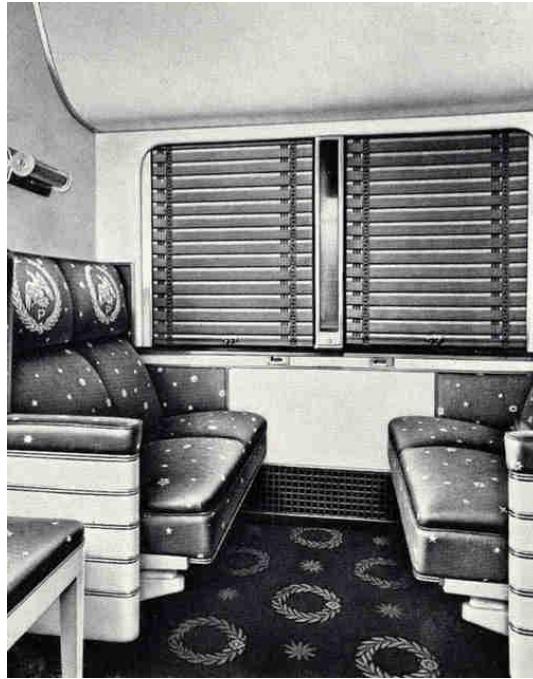
Toledo 1933

Not so crazy about this town from what I've seen although it seemed to be a very big town for manufacturing. Left Toledo at 9:05. Rode along pretty fast through Delta then thru Wauseum at 10 P.M. that night. Then into state of Indiana--a very beautiful state. Arrived at Elkhart at 11:05 P.M. a lively city. A large crowd formed at the station as the train pulled in. Spoke to some of the folks which were very sociable. Left there at 11:40 on our way again at rapid pace.



Arrived in Chicago at 12:55 on N.Y. time which was 2 hrs different already. Only a few of us were awake, those in charge of cars. Stopped for a few hrs. took a walk, saw some of the "World's Fair" and couldn't stay very long. But what we saw was very pretty, all lighted up like Luna Park only much nicer.

Left Chicago at 2:55 then went to bed and couldn't see where we went through. The Pullman train was swell. I had a compartment for myself as I was in charge of the car.



Monday June 5, 1933

Had a nice night's rest. Woke up at 9:30. rode along arrived at La Crosse, Wisconsin at 10 A.M. A wonderful looking city. Were off again, then we spied the Muddy Mississippi and rode along its banks. Arrived at Overlap, Wis. at 10:30. Indulged in some calisthenics for 20 minutes. People were very nice there. Left Overlap at 11:20 on our way again. Went through town of Analaska at 11:35. Riding along the Mississippi again at a lively rate of speed to St. Paul, Minnesota. Arrived there at 2:00 P.M. There we were told to stretch our legs for a while. St. Paul is a very large and pretty city. Our train was refueled & at 3 P.M. were on our way again and went thru a bunch of small towns which I didn't notice as I was playing cards and sleeping--my usual afternoon nap.

We were going over the Detroit Lake when I awoke. A nice lake which is along the Minn. border. We crossed the border and into the state of North Dakota at 8:30 P.M. A large city with a population of 30,000 called Fargo. We stopped, had some eats, and looked the place over. Meanwhile, our train changed engines and we were ready to leave at 10 P.M.



Went through town called Castleton which was still in North Dakota at 10:40 P.M. Then I signed off for the night and couldn't keep track of the other cities we passed during the night.

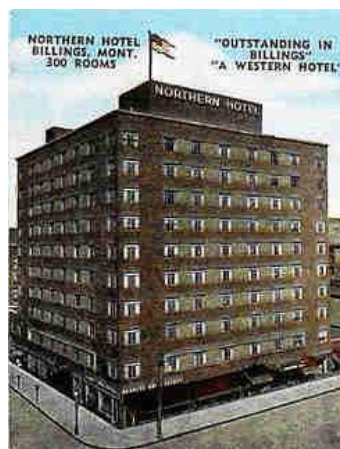
Tuesday, June 6, 1933: Into Montana

Woke up still in N. Dakota. Had breakfast, cleaned up myself and sat at the window as we passed the state line into Montana at 10:10 A.M. We then started to see mountains for the first time all day. We rode thru deserts & not many towns. We stopped at some small water tank for half an hour and refueled and were off to some town called Bull Mt. A nice quiet town at 8:45 P.M. that evening. Rolling off again through Osbourne Mont. like a flash.



Our next stop was in a nice big town called Billings. There we saw some real cowboys at the station, some of them were talking to us and trying to discourage us about the woods saying it would kill us to work there, but we kidded them right back. When we got started, some of the cowboys gave us a reception and were riding along with the train on their horses and hollering like Indians while we laughed ourselves sick at them.

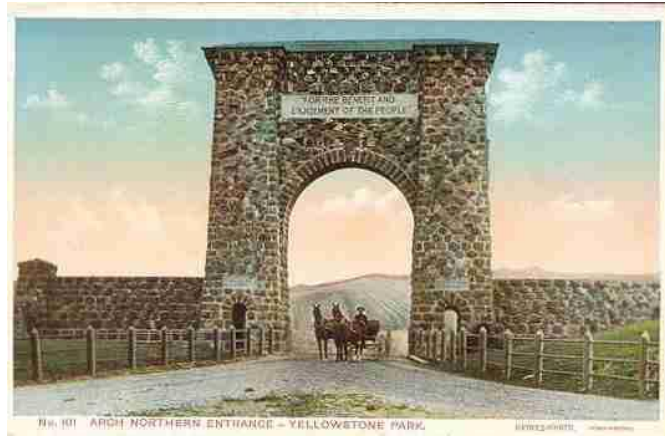
We were going along pretty fast for a few hours till we came to a Wonderful town called Livingston which I'll never forget as long as I live. The train stopped for the night. Some of us were given leave until 5 A.M. and then the fun began. We first visited a saloon just like in the movies, bar, gambling tables, the first time I started to realize I was really in the West. I gave the man behind the bar a \$5 bill and he gave me change in Silver Dollars.



Then we went to a section of town called B Street and there I saw things I never saw before, which I can't explain in this book. Then we went to the Cafeteria for a bite to eat and I met

the sweetest girl in the West. Her name was Marie Grasse. She was very nice and pleasant to talk to. She got stuck on my style, so I walked out with her and learned she was stopping at the Northern Hotel in Livingston. I went up to her suite (2 rooms) and had a very nice time, almost missed my train which left at 5:15.

Wednesday June 7, 1933 Yellowstone--Day 1



On our way again after a night of Surprises & wonderful experiences. After riding for a few hours thru plenty of Mts. with 2 engines pulling our train, we finally arrived at Gardner, the North Gate to Yellowstone Park. The town was very small but nice.



There we unloaded the trains, got on trucks and we started for the Camp. We rode up Mts. like I never seen before, valleys, cliffs, canyons, falls, volcanoes, everything was very pretty. Every once in a while we would see a bear or elk and many other animals. Everything was

new to us. Then we passed the Grand Canyon. I stood amazed at first. It was so deep and the rock was all colored and there were large water falls twice as high as Niagara Falls. We were on our way again up the mountains. The higher we got, the colder it got. We almost froze before we reached the camp, which was 54 miles away from the North Gate. What a hike. Everything seemed pretty tough the first day. The eats were not ready and everybody was disgusted.

There was plenty of snow all around the place. It was cold at night. The next day we were still disgusted, but after walking around and looking the place over, I changed my mind and made up my mind to like the place and I certainly liked it after that. Most of my friends were always crying. They wanted to go home and they never were satisfied until they got sent home and it was a pleasure to get rid of them.



We used to go walking around and exploring the mountains, the small tourist camps, and camp fire meetings the rangers used to give every night. They used to have entertainment and lectures every night and all the tourists used to come and they were very sociable and we got along very nice with them, especially one girl I met at the lake whose name was Sally. She came from Idaho and I had plenty of fun with her.

The work begins

We started to go out to work at last but we never did much work. We used to go swimming instead of work and nobody knew the difference. One day some of the fellows put up a squawk about food and they started a riot. The rangers were called out. About 25 of them came armed and 2 trucks full of fellows from Camp 1259 with clubs in case of more trouble. Ten of the ringleaders who started the trouble we put on trucks under guard and were taken to Livingston. I was on the truck to see the boys got to town all right and we had a motorcycle Police escort and what a trip it was.

I was in town all that afternoon until 11 that night. I seen some of the girls I knew from my first visit to that town and I seen Marie and found out she was going back to her home town

but she would write. That night, coming back to the camp I was nearly frozen to death until we got back to camp. We used to go fishing and have fish after supper. Then some of the boys used to play guitar and mandolin and we used to sing for hours. I started to really like this life very much. When we went to bed at night the boys all started to sing and crack jokes and we would never fall asleep.



Sulfur Springs

One Sunday we went on a tour of the Park to see the scenery. We started off by truck. We first visited The Dragon's Mouth Volcano. Then we stopped off at Sulfur Springs. Then we visited the Grand Canyon from the Upper and Lower Falls. Then we went to Artist Point and then Inspiration Point. Every place was prettier than ever.

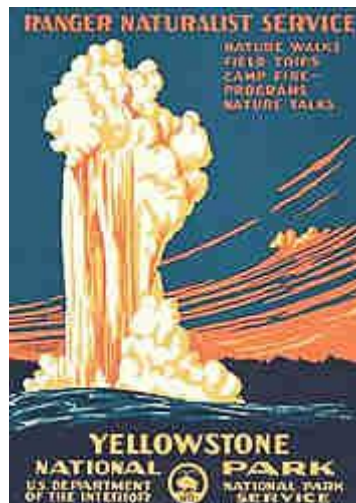




Artist Point

Then we stopped at a museum and saw many exhibits of stones, birds, and animals. Then we stopped at the Lower Geyser basin which had about 50 small geysers of all sorts and shapes. Then we passed some clear water pools as Morning Glory and Handkerchief Pool. Then we saw the Upper Geyser Basin which was prettier than the lower basin and many more things.

After that we visited a place called the Paint Pot which is a large pool of lava always bubbling up and as all colors.



Finally we were off to "Old Faithful." We arrived. At the place there was a large Hotel and General Store, and a large Gas Station. And I got my first glimpse of Old Faithful. There were benches around the geyser about 100 feet away and there were people waiting for the geyser to go off. During that time we took a ride on some horses that were for hire and then we took some pictures. Then I met some people from California. I talked to them for a while.

Then a bus arrived with a party of people from Hawaii. The girls were very pretty. I got to talking to them and they consented to take some pictures with me, and we had some sport. The boys were kidding me plenty. Finally someone said the Geyser was going to go off. Everybody was watching eagerly. It was the prettiest thing I ever seen. It shot away up in the air for over a minute then it ceased.



The people started to go, and we stood for a while and took some more pictures with the Hawaiians and then we left. But we were told they were coming near our camp that evening. On our way back we stopped at some other waterfalls which were very nice. We saw some bears on the road and chased some. We arrived at camp hungry and tired.

That night we went to fishing bridge where they had the campfires and we saw the Hawaiian Girls again. They played for us and sang. Then we took a walk with some of the girls and had a nice time that evening. Got back to camp late. I got a package from Mom and she sent plenty of stuff including spaghetti & macaroni & salami & biscuits.

During the week we did some work chopping trees, pulling out stumps, and making firewood. It kept us busy for 7 hours a day. At night we sat around, sang songs or played ball, went for walks with the boys to the Fishing Bridge or to the General Store.

One Friday night my tent ran a dance. Our tent was called the Savoy Plaza. As the mob of boys came in, the music by Paul Metranga and Orchestra was the payoff. The Captain and Lieutenant were the guests of honor. It was the talk of the camp.

Saturday, July 1, 1933

On Saturday July 1, we got paid and everybody was in high spirits. On Sunday, we all went to Livingston. The town was celebrating their 50th Anniversary. The town was in an uproar. They started off with a big Parade which consisted of all the cowboys and cowgirls in the nearby towns and their children, all on horseback from 2 yrs old and up. It was a treat to see

kids riding horseback. Then a mob of Indians from a nearby reservation came down on old stage coaches & the young Indians were on horseback.

Then as usual there were some clowns or comedians in the Parade. Later we went to a restaurant and had a meal. Then we went to B Street and saw some of the girls we knew. We stayed there for a few hours then we went to the Rodeo with the girls. The fun and thrills I seen Rodeos in movies, but not like this. It started off by some of the Cowboys & Cowgirls giving some bareback riding which was better than the circus riders. Then there was some bronco busting. Some of the cowboys were hurt very bad, busted heads & legs or ribs. Then there was steer roping & calf roping. Then steer dogging, then some relay racing on horseback. Meanwhile the clowns were always clowning. One of the clowns had his son there. His name was Little Hank Jr. He was the child wonder of the West. He also played in moving pictures. I got the biggest kick out of the kid than anything else in the Rodeo. Later I got a picture of the kid and he autographed it. Then the Indians came out and started going crazy, riding full speed & war dances & making all kinds of noises. Later, after some more races, the Rodeo was over. It was the best and the first one I ever seen.

We went to a hotel for the night, then we had supper. Then we went out and took the town over by storm. We went to a dance. It was swell, but not so good at dancing, but very sociable. I walked one girl to her ranch which was 2 miles away. On the way home, we stopped at the lakeside park. We had a nice time then finally we left for her home. I got back to the hotel at 3:30. The boys kidded me along as usual, But I didn't mind. It was worth it.

Next day we saw another parade; walked around town. Some of the boys got into an argument and cut some guys up and we got marked lousy by the town Police. That night at 6 P.M. we left Livingston to go back to camp. After 5 hrs. of mountain tiding and cold breeze, we arrived at camp.

July 14, 1933

Things went along pretty nicely for a few weeks. I got mail regularly, went to Fishing Bridge quite often, met girls, and had nice times. I was made foreman of a work gang which was not so easy, but I got along with the boys alright.

On Friday, July 14, the priest came to camp and we received Holy Communion which made me pretty good for the day. That night I received mail from friends & Marie G. Her letter was pretty sad and made me feel bad about it.

Things went along pretty nicely for the next 4 or 5 days. I received Holy Communion the following week also.

Then one night we were called out to go and fight a forest fire. Everybody was excited & everyone wanted to go, thinking it would be easy. But we found out different. We got there about 6 o'clock. The trucks couldn't go any further. We all got off & then the fun began. The fire was on a peak of a mountain called Pelican Peak. We started to climb hills and mountains which were very steep and we had to tie ropes to the trees so that the boys could climb. Boys were falling, one after another, exhausted from climbing. The air was getting thinner the higher we went.

Finally about ten o'clock after four hours of climbing, we arrived at the fire. We were very tired and hungry and thirsty. We had some water, but we had to be careful with it because there wasn't any up there in case we ran short. We were up 11,000 feet above sea level. Thousands of trees were blazing and plenty of smoke. It was some sight to see. We were put in squads and separated and we were shown what to do. Some were put on ax crews, some pick ax crews, some on road work, and I was put on the powder crew blasting rows of trees and rock. The noise was getting the best of me. We were hungry as hell, the food didn't arrive yet. They were sending it up on mules and pack horses also. We were getting one hour rest after working 6 hours then work again.

Finally the food arrived the next afternoon some of the mules fell over the mountain with food and all so we couldn't get much to eat. We were getting tired but we had to keep on working and I mean work. Some of the boys deserted the fire, they went back to the camp they hiked all the way back a distance of 24 miles but we had to carry on. The Rangers were always on top of us hollering their brains out telling us the quicker we got it out, the quicker we went home. We prayed for rain but it never came. Finally after 3 days of hell and fire it started to rain and it fell like barrels at a time. That helped us a great deal. The fire was finally out and we started to go back to the camp hiking down the mountain again falling half asleep and dog tired. It started raining again, we got on the open trucks and was on our way to the camp soaked, half dead and almost asleep. We got some reception when we got back. After a hot shower and nice meal we went to bed and fell asleep like a log. The next day we took it easy.

I got a package from Kitty and it was a surprise to me, and a letter from home saying another package was coming for me. I got that package a few days later we had some tobacco from John, Butch, and Joe Rox. It made me feel good to think that my friends still thought of me. On Saturday I went to the girls house as per usual and stayed over night and had a great time and we plan to go to California to visit her relatives the following week. She was going to get her dad's car. That next week we went to California. The next week we went to California. The country was beautiful. Every once in a while we stopped and admired the scenery or to have a bite to eat. All at her expense. What a day that was. I was never more satisfied in all my life. We finally got to her aunts after driving 10 hours. They was surprised to see us. At first they thought we were eloping and I nearly dropped from blushing. They owned a large ranch house which looked like a palace. They didn't have any children and they were very wealthy. All the time we were there, they treated us as if we were old friends. He even wanted to give me a horse for a present, but I told him I could not accept it because I couldn't take him back with me. We stayed there 2 days and they made us promise to come again before I left for New York. I like those people a whole lot. We had a nice trip home and was one day late at the camp. I went on as usual having sport galore.

Another Fire

One night we got another notice to go to another fire. I at once said to myself: another few days of hell. We were told to bring our blankets and working clothes and axes and shovels. We started out on trucks. After an hour of truck riding we arrived at the lower base camp of the fire. We were fed and given food and started hiking up the mountain. It was starting to get dark and we were walking through woods and jumping over ditches and mud holes. Finally it got dark and we couldn't see a thing. We only had one lantern and the guides on

the horse had it. We couldn't keep up with him and we didn't have no light. We were struggling over everything. We couldn't even see trees in front of us. Everybody was hollering for the guy to slow down. He did but we always lost him after a few minutes. Everybody was full of mud and water. I fell in a mud hole and had to get help to get out. It was real torture but I got a great kick out of it. Watching everybody swearing and falling down every foot of the way. Some of the boys wanted to stop for the night and camp, but the guide said we had a few more miles to go so we kept going. We finally arrived at the fire base. It was another site to see the whole mountain all lit up by fire. It was after 1 o'clock so we were told to lay down and sleep until 5 o'clock to start fighting. That day plenty of food came up there thank God. And we ate plenty and we had good food for all the time we were there. We were there for five days and nights. We had the fire under control but we had to stay and see that it did not start again. We found out that there was nine different fires in the park at this time and all the camps were taking part in the fires.

August 21, 1933

Finally, one day, August 21, it started to snow and we were sent back to camp. It snowed all day long. It was a pleasure to get back and sleep in our bed again after sleeping under the stars with nothing over us but three blankets and sleeping on a bunch of pine boughs. It was some experience; the sky was beautiful. After I got back to camp I got a bunch of mail from my friends and from home. My sister wrote and told me that I old sweetheart Nettie Parinello has been over the house and looking for me. I was greatly surprised. I answered all my mail including some from Jim Cala who sent me some photographs of himself, Mary, and Sue and a large one of Mae West who he knows is my favorite actress and a letter that made me go hysterical with laughter. As usual he was a corker at writing letters. After a good night's rest I took another trip to California with the girlfriend of mine and stayed over for a few days. I also found out from her that she was very serious about me staying up there for good and living with her folks. Right then and there, I stated to her that I had no intention of staying there after my term and that made her very unhappy. But she got over it before we got back to Wyoming, thank God.

One night we went to a dance at Fishing Bridge Hotel we were all dressed up in civilian clothes. We were having a nice time. All evening, the women were sociable. About 11 o'clock one of the boys asked a girl for dance and her escort passed a remark and asked him if he was a CCC man. The fellow said yes and the girls escort said that no CC man could dance with his girl. Where upon, an argument started and the place was in an uproar. We all started to fight. The Rangers were summoned and we had to jump out of windows and porches in order to get away from getting locked up. After that night we all were barred from going to the dance. What a break for us.

The Last Days in Yellowstone

I got a new position as a chauffeur, which was another racket driving boys to and from work and also going to town for supplies and excursion trips which were 100 miles at least and over. And driving in those mountains was no cinch: narrow roads on top of mountains which means death if you make a mistake.

September 1st to 3rd I was in the hospital and I certainly enjoyed it. I had some trouble with my throat. There I met some pretty nurses and we used to sit out on the porch at night and tell stories. Finally they got wise to me and sent me back to camp. I was sorry to leave and

they was sorry to see me go, as so they said.

One day we took another trip to Gardner and raised hell. Most of the boys got drunk on beer and we're going wild stealing horses and making plenty of trouble. Finally after a few of them were locked up. The rest of them got on the trucks and we started back to camp. When we arrived we got a bawling out as usual but nothing was done about it, our captain being one of the best army officers in the US Army and a good sport. We all chipped in and got him a swell gift, and he was certainly glad to get it from us. Snow was coming down regular but it used to melt in a day or so. Bear fights were very common especially black and brown against Grizzlies which ended in murders among them. And they hollered to make your blood chill.

We finally got news that we were going to leave on September 20th. The boys went wild. Nobody could sleep for a few nights, breaking beds, hanging them on trees was a hobby. And another fire broke out again a few days before we were going to leave. We fought like hell to get it out. We didn't want to get stuck out in the fire for the 20th. I got a truck one day and took a bunch of the boys out for a tour of the park for the last time. Everything seemed as interesting as the first time I seen them. I hated to leave the park. It was a beautiful place and I enjoyed myself while I was there immensely.

Union Pacific R.R. Wyoming to N.Y, September 20, 1933.

Left camp at 8 a.m. sharp on trucks to West Yellowstone. Arrived at Station 11 o'clock. After looking town over for a few hours, we were given eats and put on the train, and given our berths. And we were ready to take off. We pulled out at 2:45 Mountain Time. Went through towns of Big Springs at 3:30, later through Truckee. All very small towns also Island Park and Eccles and Pine View, another small town called Warm River. Then into Ashton Idaho a pretty nice town at 4:50 o'clock. Chester, Twin Groves and St Anthony. And then we stopped at a town called Pocatello . Please stop there for a few hours. A swell town. We had plenty of fun there with some girls and almost missed our train. We then fixed our berths and went to bed. We woke up at 6:30 in a town call Rawlins, a nice size town. Stopped there for water and on our way again through deserts, and all we could see was sand and sage brush. And then we went through lots of small towns such as Fort Steele, Wolcott, Hannah, Medicine Bow, Rock River, Lookout, Laramie , Hermosa, Sherman, Buford, Borie, Corlet Junction. We then came to a town called Cheyenne which was the capital and a large city. We walked around awhile etc. Archer, Hillsdale, Burns, Potter Connor, Sidney, Chappe, Julesburg, Colorda, a nice town Big Springs, Ogalalla, Buxton, Sutherland or follows Hershey. Ofallons, North Platte. We raise more hell and nearly missed the train.

Sugar City
Rexburg
Thornton
Lorenzo
Rigby
Ucon
Idaho Falls
Shelly