

F. W. Crosby
Billings Mont.
427-30th North



Mr. J. W. Crosby
Barthle Cuba
Oriente Prov

Billings Mont. Dec 2nd 1917

Dear Sam Jerry and all
the children & friends in
Cuba

Young of 16th Inst. came
promptly was glad to know
that you all seemed in fair
health and seemed to be
doing nicely. We came here
some two weeks since from
Tolna. Have rented some
small furnished rooms
in a nice residence part of
the town and came to work
in a small planing mill.
Have worked two weeks now
at working out bills on the
jointer B.V. saw shaper planer
and shop saws. It is nice
inside work we put in there
and I am drawing \$3⁰⁰ a day

They have a regular bill cutter
so I do not have to go to the
yard very much. Rents are
very high here I have to pay
\$30.00 for two rooms, closet, pantry
with basement and storage
rooms. These are mostly furnished
and includes furnace heat
and electric lights and water.
We use a gas range for cooking
and have to pay gas bill in
addition to the \$30.00 per month
so we are cozy and comfortable
do not have to go out of doors
for anything and work is
1/4 blocks from the rooms. We
did not get any building
done on the ranch at Toluca
except the 12x14 shack that
we camped in during the summer.
I think Aguan intends to build
a good house here as soon
as the building season opens.

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George got 180 acres of wheat
sowed land left for your
city same 5 or 6 weeks ago
He talked of bringing the family
there as soon as he could
arrange for the trip We did
not care to try a Manitoba
winter where there was so much
exposure so I stayed there after
he left and built the fence for
Anson then we pulled out for
this city I gave my summer
to George and done what I
could to help him to get a start
Anson paid me for building
the shack and doing the first
work \$125.⁰⁰ If I stay about
here I may go back to Texas
and build the house next summer
I have done what I can to
help Geo to get started on

The ranch and I think he
has a fine chance there now
if he will stick Susan will
back him up for all her needs
Ole is or has been on the
war path most of the summer
The girls and Mamma had to
leave him city and she wrote
me to cut loose from Geo
some time ago and for him
to come home immediately
or not at all That made no
difference with my plans I stuck
by until the crop was out and
fenced but suppose I will need
to keep shy of her in the future
Geo wrote just as we were
leaving Tulsa that they were
coming out in a few weeks
so hope she has reconsidered
her part in the Mart deal and
that all will end well with
them What I want to do now

is to help Bertha to get on a
 better living basis she can
 not make a living on an
 average of her trade of dressmak-
 ing it seems so much overdone
 and wages are very low she
 could not get a job here and
 has concluded to take a course
 in Sten- & Type writing there
 is much demand for ladies
 in this line since the war
 she starts school in the morning
 tuition will cost ~~16.00~~ a month
 she can rush the course as
 much as she wishes will not
 be kept in line of other students
 an average time to complete
 the course is about six months
 but it seems that employment
 can be had now on a 40% of
 efficiency basis we feel that

it is the right-thing for us
to help her through so will
try and furnish her a home
and expenses while she gets the
course I can't hardly reach
the amount by myself but if
you can let me have as you
suggested - about \$ 60⁰⁰ a month I
can get through nicely if I
keep well and can hold
my little job at the mill I
have gone carefully over the
figures sent and think your
boys are doing nicely You
must use your own judgement
regarding the tractor The log
supply of course is more and
more of a problem as time
goes on and the distance to
haul increases The overcoat
got hung up at Quincy city
but got sent it all when he
got back there It is a nice fit

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and just the thing for this climate and I appreciate it so much. This has been an average season here gets a Cuban heat in the summer. The fall with very little exception has been as nice as any. There has been almost no cold weather and few frosty nights - so far clear dry bright days. Last night it rained a little and froze some but is clear and bright to day and thawing rapidly. It is said that the winds known as Chamook moderate the weather conditions and while there is some very cold weather it is of short duration and snow rarely stays on long. The air at this altitude is quite thin.

and very dry very little rain
fall and much of the valley
land is irrigated for crops
Now should it seem advisable
for me to return I can do so
most any time I think Mamas
health is improving since she
came to Mant - Personally I do
not think there is a climate
in the western hemisphere
that is equal to Cuba and
if it seemed necessary for me
to get out and face the weather
for a living I should be very
anxious to get there at the first
opportunity I guess this is
about all of interest for this
time so will close should like
to hear often how things are
there Give regards to any and
all inquiring friends
Father
J. W. Crosby
707 - 30th North Billings Mant -