

MAIL ORDERS TAKEN FOR
DRESSED CHICKENS, DUCKS,
GEESE, FRESH EGGS AND
OTHER FARM PRODUCTS

Intermount Farm

W. T. PUTNAM & SONS

"THE MAIL ORDER FARM"

Lake Cushman, Wash.

INTERMOUNT FARM BUTTER,
CREAM, CHEESE, SAUSAGE,
AND FRESH PORK

Dec. 16, 1915.

My dear Mr. Deane:-

You doubtless remember what the two governors said to one another. Well it is, but we have often thought and spoken of you. The year is almost gone, and what an awful year of pain, sorrow and misery it has been for poor Europe. And there is still more to come.

We here are well and very happy in the knowlege that tomorrow the boys start home. If their train gets through on time they will catch the boat and be home Sat. night, if they are a few minutes late they must stay in Seattle till Monday. They have done very well in their work and had a good time withal.

We had a fairly good year in the hotel, but not as many guests as last year by about 100, and they were all on the move. Every man and his wife has a car, and the main ambition seems to be to roll up as many miles on the speedometer as possible. They strap a tent on the running board and stop where they happen to be. Puget Sound is one great summer resort, making beautiful camping. This season the new Olympic Highway was opened, putting the Olympic Peninsula in communication with the rest of the state for the first time. It is a wonderful country and I will send you a map of the Reserve which takes up most of the Peninsula. There is a movement on foot now in the Dept. to have what is known as the Monument, a large tract in the interior of the Reserve, set aside as a National Park, and if so one of the roads into the Park will go through our farm. It is a wonderful country, one of the most

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broken and rugged in the States. There are no regular ranges, no order. The ridges run in all directions, and the timber almost to the summits. There are several glaciers on Mt. Olympus and one or two of the higher mountain peaks, and water everywhere. The most beautiful little parks with little lakes and waterfalls, and in the fall, the most beautiful coloring I have ever seen.

I wished many times we could have had you here last fall. We had Prof. Kauffman, Botanist of the University of Mich. and his wife, and an assistant Prof. from the Mich. Ag. College. The last, a Miss Taylor, only stayed a week or ten days, but the Kauffmans were here a month. They were working on fungi, and they had a great time. They were here quite late in the fall, after the people had all gone, they had come to Seattle and gone to the University for information as to a good field and were sent to me from there. We had a little cottage which we gave them as a workroom and he fitted it up as a laboratory and set up his microscope and his library, a small stove and an oil heater to dry the specimens. Phil, my youngest boy was out of school at the time and he acted as guide and showed them round and they were very successful indeed, finding a great many rare specimens, and one in particular, which had never been found in North America before. The U. of M. is getting out a book and Prof. Kauffman had been selected to write up the Cordillaria. I just got this from Phil, and I am not sure about the spelling, but in all probability you will know what I mean. We revelled in mushrooms while they were here and learned a great many new edible species, at least Phil did, and we ate them. Some of them are very good indeed.

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Our Parcel Post work has increased greatly since I wrote you last about it, and we now have about 30 regular customers whom we supply each week. Every Saturday I butcher a pig which on Monday is cut up and the loins, feet, spare ribs and now and then a ham, sent out by Tuesday's mail. We also send a lot of butter, cream cheese and eggs and the two shoulders are cut up into sausage. Then Wednesday I select my chickens at night, and they are killed and dressed Thursday a. m. and they and another batch of cheese, eggs etc. go out on Friday. We prepared 20 chix this morning. As you can see, we do not have much time to spend on Society. If we had some one on whom we could rely to prepare the things, it would not be so bad, but we have a very nice lot of customers, and we cannot afford to let anything that is not at the best, to get away from us. We raised 30 turkeys this year and have sold 23 of them all we wished to dispose of. A great many of them were bought, by people at the hotel during the summer, and so far nearly everyone who had one took the trouble to write us and tell us what a fine bird it was. It is very nice to be able to give people good service and to have them appreciate it. There is a great difference between a well fitted bird which has been dressed within a few minutes of killing and one which has hung in a shop for an indefinite period with its entrails still in it, fermenting and tainting the whole carcass. You would be surprised to see how much cream cheese we send out. We fix it just as we put it on the table, about half cream, not quite thin enough to pour. We have a package which we get in Sandusky, a pure white paraffined paper pot, shaped like a tall flower pot. It has a paraffined paper top which fits into

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a crimp, and then we run a little melted paraffine round the top and this is packed in a small square box which is made for it, and they carry perfectly. Things leave here at 2 p. m. and reach Seattle a little after midnight, and are delivered the next morning about 9.

This is a house of mourning. It is Saturday morning and we have just had a phone from the boys that their train was delayed in the Cascades and they missed the boat. They will not be here now till Monday night.

Dec 19 Sunday a. m. 7 o' clock. Not so bad after all. At 5 this morning I was wakened by having some one come into my bedroom with a lantern. It was Bee, my second boy. When the train was late the two boys and one other who lives near Hoodsport found themselves stranded. They talked it over and decided to come home by way of Olympia. A boat was to leave shortly after noon. So they decided that Bee should go to Olympia and Shelton by boat from which point it is about 20 miles to Hoodsport, walk to there during the night and out home the next morning. Then they went to lunch with some friends Ferd, in the meantime was to go and get a cousin and bring him home with him to keep an appointment they had made with the canvasbacks. They then decided to walk to Union on the hook of the Canal, stay there what was left of the night and get a boat and row across the Canal to Hoodsport in the a. m. Our friends, however, know every foot of the road, coming over it many times a year in their car, and the Grandmother said, "Be a sport, Bee, go home, its only 30 miles" and so he and the Hoodsport boy took the boat to Shelton, reaching there at 7 p. m., got something to eat, and

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a lantern and started across country to Potlatch, where they separated, the one going on to Hoodsport, and Bee going up the hill there. About five he landed here, having commandeered the mail carrier's boat and having a long hunt for the place where he hid his oars. The last 12 miles were through the snow, and he was pretty wet and cold, so I got up and turned in with the Madame. "Oh, but this warm bed is good on my feet" In 10 minutes he was asleep, and it is now noon and no signs of his coming to. He was very lucky to have come through, for it did not rain last night, and since dawn it has been a perfect downpour. I will trace out the boys' course for you on the map. I have spent a good deal of time on this, but I think it will interest you to see how strong the homing instinct is. He had his lunch yesterday in a home worth a million, and now he is in a loghouse, but it is home. Tomorrow night the rest of the column will arrive with the ammunition and the big guns, and then the canvasbacks will get what is coming to them.

Monday morning. As you see we have been pretty busy, and I do not get much time at a stretch. Today we have a lot of things to get out on tomorrow's mail, and this afternoon Bee will have to go out to bring in Ferd and his cousin. It is raining and snowing like mad and the prospect is far from pleasant. I have never seen as rainy and uncomfortable a fall as this has been. We have not had more than three or four dry days since Nov. 1. I had intended sending you a salmon for Xmas, but on inquiry from the shipper I found the grade of fish which can be gotten now is not the best, and so for the present you must wait, I will send you a photograph some

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day which will last longer than the salmon. Tuesday afternoon. The boys came in last night. It was a fearful trip out, but it slacked up a little before they left, and with lots of slickers they got through fairly comfortably. By 11 o'clock they had a supper and were ready for bed. This morning they had an initiation into the Mail Order business. It was our pork day, and in addition we had to get out our Xmas shipments. I think there were six big sacks of mail. It was an awful rush. There was a Chinook blowing, and the water was rising rapidly, and there was a chance that the carrier could not cross a stream if he waited till schedule time, so we worked like mad and got all those shipments packed, wrapped, weighed, stamped, cancelled, and packed in the sacks, and the mail out a couple of hours earlier than usual. Today's shipment will bring us \$62.00. Tomorrow we have to butcher a beef and Saturday a pig. You can judge that there is no time for mirth or trifling here. The Madame and I are resting after our labors, and the boys are out after the ducks. We were very glad that they were here on just such a day, as it gives them an idea how we have to hustle. I will now "lay down my pen" and call it off for this year. With best wishes for a Merry Xmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year, I am,

Very faithfully yours,

W. T. Putnam

You must forgive the appearance of this letter. While I was writing Phil thought the machine needed oiling, and as you see he made a thorough job of it.



Putnam, William T. 1915. "Putnam, William T. Dec. 16, 1915." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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