

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

**1) Letter from Harriet to her mother, Elizabeth Fletcher.
Postmarked April 6, 1915 from Biggs, California, to Elizabeth
in Long Pine, Nebraska**

My dear mother,

When this reaches you I hope you will be enjoying your sixty fifth birthday and before you are sixty six I hope to see you and help to make you happy every day. We are having the most beautiful spring weather - It's a little cloudy tho today but we are hoping it will not rain. I suppose the snow is all gone now and you are having spring in Nebraska..

The boys are very anxious to send you a birthday remembrance. If we sent all that Kenneth and Hugh bring home from school and make for you the mails would be crowded. Keenneth seems to know the grandmother he talks about and H & Jr think you must be just like me only grander in every way.

Betty is having her nap. She is a very good little girl and growing so fast as any of them. Doesn't talk at all yet but understands everything. Theo and Chas are away most of the time. They are busy getting the rice in. I haven't seen their camp yet. What cooking I do I do at home. I have a nice garden and a few flowers planted. The boys like to work in the garden and help lots if I get out at the right time to show them what to do.

I'm glad Helen is well again and hope she'll get strong again. It seems to me that some one of us is sick most of the time, especially in winter. We have had no measles around here for which I am thankful. Jr's and Betty's chicken pox is all we have had. The boys were in the Easter Sunday School entertainment and did very well for the first attempt. The cantata in the evening was fine, the first singing I've ever heard in Biggs.

There will be only three more weeks of school. All the schools are short of funds and are closing with eight months. I'll give K & H

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lessons at home from 9-11 to make sure they will make the 4th and 2nd grades. Both are doing very nicely. Give my love to the rest of the family and remember that we all love you-
your Harriet
April 6 1915

2) Letter from Harriet to her mother, Elizabeth Fletcher, postmarked Jan 9, 1923, to 6755 N 24th St, Omaha, Nebraska, from Biggs. (Elizabeth died June 1923, age 73. She had lived in California with son Charles between 1918-1922 but returned to Bellevue)

Dear Mother,

I hope you are as well as we are but I suppose you are not as busy as we usually are. It seems a long time since we've had a letter from you. I wonder if you have gone to Helen's. I'd like to see them all. I may too before another year has gone. We missed you last night at the birthday dinner (*TRC Jr and Dean both born on 8 Jan (1911, 1922) LC*) Pratts and Emil Johnson were here - making fourteen at the table. Dean sat in the big chair and was off to bed as soon as he'd seen the crowd and sucked a turkey bone. So everything went off easily. The birthday cakes were very pretty - Jrs was on your stand with twelve pink and green candles. Deans was a drop cake of the same sunshine batter as Jrs - with one pink candle. The men all went to lodge as soon as we were through eating. The rest of us played games until ten o'clock - I didn't even waste a day getting ready - I washed in the morning and cooked in the afternoon. I only dried Dean's clothes, I have the rest to put out today. We haven't seen the sun for a long time. It's been so chilly and wet. Charley went to Oddfellows & (word? Rebecca???) Saturday night. He stayed there until Sunday P.M. but we haven't seen him since. He works in the woods a few hours a day. One of the boys drives out for it when he has it ready. He still supplies the baker.

The lunch soon is going all right again. I still do the ordering but Mrs. Jackson makes out the lists and menus. The new cook seems to be good too. I haven't been down since before Xmas.

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Eastern Star installation was good. They presented Mrs. Pratt with a beautiful star pin. I had my second meeting on Saturday. Every officer was present and forty five members. There was no special work so I thought that was a very good meeting.

The Watsons came for me in the new Studebaker so Theodore and the boys didn't go. It's almost noon - I have the dining room and kitchen cleaned. & scrubbed and that's all so far. It's so chilly I hate to go to the rest of the house. Dean is up after a short nap so he has another one coming this afternoon. Club meeting tomorrow afternoon. I may take him until school is out.

Love to all

Harriet

Letter from Harriet to her sister Helen, in January 1922 days after the birth of her youngest child, Dean. Harriet had just come home. Dean was nine years younger than his nearest sibling, Betty. Unlike the other children, Dean was born in Sacramento, under a doctor's care/hospital. The doctor was Hansford Pope, a medical college friend of Alexander Taylor Cooper.

Dear Helen,

Thanks for the package. If Dean wears them all he'll have to stay little for a long time. This is what Jr. says. He thinks he has an awful lot of clothes. We are at home. Theodore and Jr. drove down after me yesterday. I went right to bed. I'm to sit and lie for another week or two - and I'm better at that than most people. I'm feeling fine and hope always to be well so I'm glad to take care of myself. So far in my life my aches and pains have been few & far between. I never had a nicer vacation and rest. Everything went so smoothly with no exertion on my part. I wouldn't mind finishing out my dozen that I started for if I could always have so easy a time.

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Mother went to Sacramento. Drs Pope and Bramhall gave her a good examination. She is feeling better now but doesn't take her medicine. The trouble with her side is due to constipation as it always has been. Her hand has seen (word) so that she can't write. The bone was cracked but she got to the Drs too late to have it set. It is healing all right and the swelling has almost left. Mrs. G came in for a look at the new boy and a visit. Then we had lunch. Now I'll take a nap and get up again when the family comes home.

We had a little real snow last night. Things looked more like Nebraska this morning than they have for several years. It didn't last tho. Your family is surely one to be proud of. They look hale and hearty. Harriet is a little beauty. Her face shows her disposition. Maybe you think I'm partial - so I'll say the same of them all. You made the same mistake on Margaret that I made with Betty's first good pictures, that is the hair (word). She looks too old for her years. They both look as tho they would be a handful. In a few years tho they will be waiting on you and their dad. I'm sorry you are leaving B (Bellevue) May be tho we'll see you out west if you get a good start. I hope you won't have too much of a pioneer's life. I haven't looked up the location of the place yet. I'm writing to Myrtle and Jeanette the first since I last wrote you. So I'll quit this and try again to write more often. Regards to Emery when you write him and to Vernon. Where is he?? Write when you have time. Mother will write more when her hand is well. Monday a.m.

love to all

Harriet

3) Harriet's letter to Helen, in an envelope postmarked Stirling City December (day?) 1935. No date on the letter but it matches the events of 1935, just before Christmas.

(3 cent postage pre-stamped; written on school lined paper)

Dear Helen and all,

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If I had another stamp yours would be a Christmas card written on the inside like the others - I have plenty of stamped envelopes so yours will be bulky if not fancy.

I know I won't have any time this week and very little after we start for L.A. This is the best place to write anyway- peaceful and quiet - no one to tell me when it's time to go to bed- or do anything else. I go to the neighbors quite often and often have company but as they all have to get up so early nine o'clock finds camp pretty quiet.

It was ten this morning when Mrs. Gilbert called me - so you see why I don't want to go to bed with the chickens.

The school children will play "Christmas in Finnegan's Flat" Thurs eve. I have candy boxes for all the children - The Sunday School leaders will make popcorn balls. Every woman will make a present for a woman men likewise - children too - School children drew names so all will get something. The tree is all ready. The ceiling is just a bower of fir. It's the most convenient place to make beautiful you ever saw. We stuck (sic) boughs between the studding, I guess it is and the roof. Anyway nothing but evergreen shows. and it lasts till spring when we'll put up some fresh. In the fall we have the autumn oak and maple.

Art Pope's Grace had some nice new curtains. The old ones from the sun parlor were in a clothes basket. She said she'd have to get them off to the Salvation Army - so I brought them up here. They fit our stage perfectly and all I had to do was to run a cord through the rings - she's going to save all her (word?) until I see it she says.

I got myself a Christmas present - a pair of skis (you may laugh) If it snows. I won't die without trying anyway - After it snows it's too late to send for them - and someone might have to carry them in so this time I'm prepared. I'm sorry I didn't get them for Dean but he'll probably be in snow again before he's my age (48:lc) Betty may come up when I come back before she starts school - so I 'm hoping for snow then - She will start on the fifth year work for a general high school credential unless she gets a job before the semester begins in Feb - We don't know just

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where - perhaps the Claremont Colleges, perhaps MSC, Pomona & Scripps go together as Claremont Colleges - for post graduate etc.

Betty is staying with Ted and Vergie, working part time. I suppose it's full time now in a store- she had part time in three places.

I am going to get the Christmas dinner - I told them all before Thanksgiving so I'd be ahead - It's to be at Vergie's and Ted's. They have agreed to be my guests in their home - I hope I haven't forgotten how to cook - I've had lots of fun studying the cookbooks anyway. I thought I'd look for something new but maybe I'll stick to the old and be sure.

I packed my suitcase yesterday. Theodore will be up Thursday. We'll leave Friday as soon as school is out. Stop for Dean and go to L.A on Saturday. I asked them to get us an apt in the same house as K & H (Ken and Hugh. lc) We can all eat together and we won't change anyone's arrangements. Will go to see Maude in Escondido and the (Kearns-Bud???) in San Diego. Theo has never been south of L.A. We are counting on a wonderful two weeks. I have to be back Jan 6 so does Dean, I think.

Helen the bill (*money. LC*) inside the card is yours. Not a Christmas present.

I wonder if Margaret and Harriet (*Helen's daughters. LC*) have time to write. I'd love to hear from them. Dean thinks high school keeps him too busy. Tho it isn't all school work. Theodore is having a fine time with Dean. Dean keeps him busy as chauffeur. Dean thinks by the time he is sixteen they will raise the age to eighteen (*no it, was still 16 in 1975! lc*) They are picking up all the young drivers in Turlock. Turlock has had more than its share of accidents so they are tightening up on everything.

Dean plays basketball on the last team, I think.

Mr Gilbert goes to Stirling City real early. I'm going to put the letter in his car. I'm all ready for bed. I think I'd better get it done or I'll back out. It's

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anyway below 32 degrees (F. LC/0 C) now but so cozy and warm in here. My bath water that I never empty until morning will be a good skating rink in the morning. The teakettle freezes on the stove. Then during the day we can go almost the same as the summer. I wear a light sweater to school over (word?) short sleeve dresses.

I hope you will have the best Christmas you've ever had - and a Happy New Year to the very end -

Love to you all

Harriet

D.M.Camp

Stirling City

California

Camp closed last week - we have no store or mail service - when anyone goes to town he shops for all. I have cans to last all winter, so don't bother sending me anything except for mail.

4) Letter found in the same envelope as above, but no date. Also written on school lined paper, mostly in fountain pen ink. Runs out toward the end. Date estimate: October 1935

Dear folks,

Did any of you ever eat a can of oysters? Well I have. If you never receive this it will be found here as my "suicide note". I'm especially fond of oyster soup. I'm looking over my supplies of tuna, salmon soup and canned milk the oysters seemed the best - the recipe on the can - also the price of 18 cents - maybe on the sabbath the 18 cents should have gone to the missions or the oysters to the cannibals - but I never had better soup - or more of it - or anything more full of real food - I'll just hope it was well balanced - and will stay so.

This afternoon I rode to the incline with neighbors - to see the "donkey" which was on its way over - upside down as perfectly upside down as any upside down cake you ever saw - It's heavy as a locomotive- on runners made of the biggest logs - there were five men with it - how they

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escaped was a miracle but there seem to be no end of miracles in a logging camp - the guy rope - I think that's it is fast to a tree had too much slack and pulled it right over on its nose and it somersaulted. The incline looked steeper and longer today than it did before. Mr Bailey, the camp boss, left this morning for British Columbia on business. This move has had more than its share of Jonahs - maybe not enough whales.

The woods are beautiful - enough maple and oak among the pines to furnish the reds and yellows - I've wanted to walk all week - but when the week's work is over I was satisfied to stay in - so I made my bed and tidied up my house and rested.

The Sunday School and camp women are to have a play. no one asked me to take charge - but they did ask me to send for the book *An Old Maid's Convention*. It's a burlesque - and I'm sure it will take well in this enlightened community. The Sunday School Supt not a Californian - I won't tell you where she's from - you might know her - thinks it isn't going fast enough - why she could have all the parts learned by now - She's put on dozens back home - Well if everybody can stand her until November 8 - we'll have the play and supper - and have some money to buy and organ or a phonograph - or anyway a tin horn for the school house - and I think it does folks especially women - good to get together occasionally even if they fight afterward -I never hear any of the gossip except from one at a time - I don't take sides - or repeat anything so I get along with all of them - even Mrs Bossy who used to be a school teacher!

[https://openlibrary.org/books/OL6774406M/The_spinsters'_convention_\(The_original_Old_maids'_convention\)](https://openlibrary.org/books/OL6774406M/The_spinsters'_convention_(The_original_Old_maids'_convention)) Link to the 1900 play; burlesque 1 act LC

I haven't written to Will or Charley (*her brothers, William and Charles. LC*) since I came here. I'm really going to - it keeps me busy writing to the five sets of Coopers - only four now. Hugh has arrived in L.A. so has Betty.

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She is looking for a school - was to go to San Diego this week - and to Long Beach - She plans to go to school in January if nothing turns up. She has work for the May Co (*a department store.LC*) the 26th and 27th maybe longer. She has her job on the Island for next summer.

Hugh isn't sure where he will be sent. He hoped to stay in L.A. for awhile. He had planned to bring the coupe up to me but I'd as soon leave it with Ted a little longer. I have a ride to the first teacher's meeting in Oroville Sat. - and won't be free until Thanksgiving except for Nov 11 - I haven't even a shed to put it in - I always managed to get one at the old camp - but there are no extras here.

Theodore is cutting rice - we had a terrible rain - I hope he didn't have so much. Dean hasn't had time to write since school started - He says that next time he writes it will be in Spanish - so I suppose he is composing it little by little. Theodore makes carbon copies and sends them all around.

I surely wish I had a rummy partner. I have to have a little competition in my amusements. Living alone is peaceful and quiet - but even with a small can of oysters one needs a partner.

They say it will be colder here and will have more snow. Do you think we will have more than 81 inches in the open after it's packed! and the roads will be closed for nine weeks. I was afraid to risk myself on skis but I think I'll try it if we have that much snow.

The nights are surely getting colder. My big stove isn't connected up yet -it will be as soon as Mr. Gilbert has a minute- I made him a pan of tea cakes today. They haven't an oven yet - just oil and a heater. I go over there for warmed up coffee every A.M. - even took my clothes and dressed there one morning - by the time my cabin got warm it's time to go.

The days are perfect - I never had better kids. We haven't a thing for playground equipment. This week the flatcars made perfect "follow the leader" thrills. Two big tanks dumped off made perfect slides - even the

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six year olds learned to climb them - we have a nice flat playground for balls and games. Maybe if I'd started teaching 30 years ago I'd be past all this now and missing the fun of the youngest students. It doesn't seem possible that I've been here almost nine years in three different schools - besides the night schools.

Jeanette I think I can write almost as fast long hand - I can't think either way - I can write "the quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog" and the alphabet - as fast as the students of the Turlock High School night class - I spent all my extra minutes there - and was on hand in case Mrs. Brockway needed me other than my regular nights. We had the typewriter at Betty's but I never used it much. I'm sure you could read typed letters quicker - I have to stop to feed the fire often enough to prevent writer's cramp. I'm **hungry** but I think I'll go to bed. Margaret S. is too unless she's sleeping right now. I hope the rest aren't (over)

love to you all
Harriet

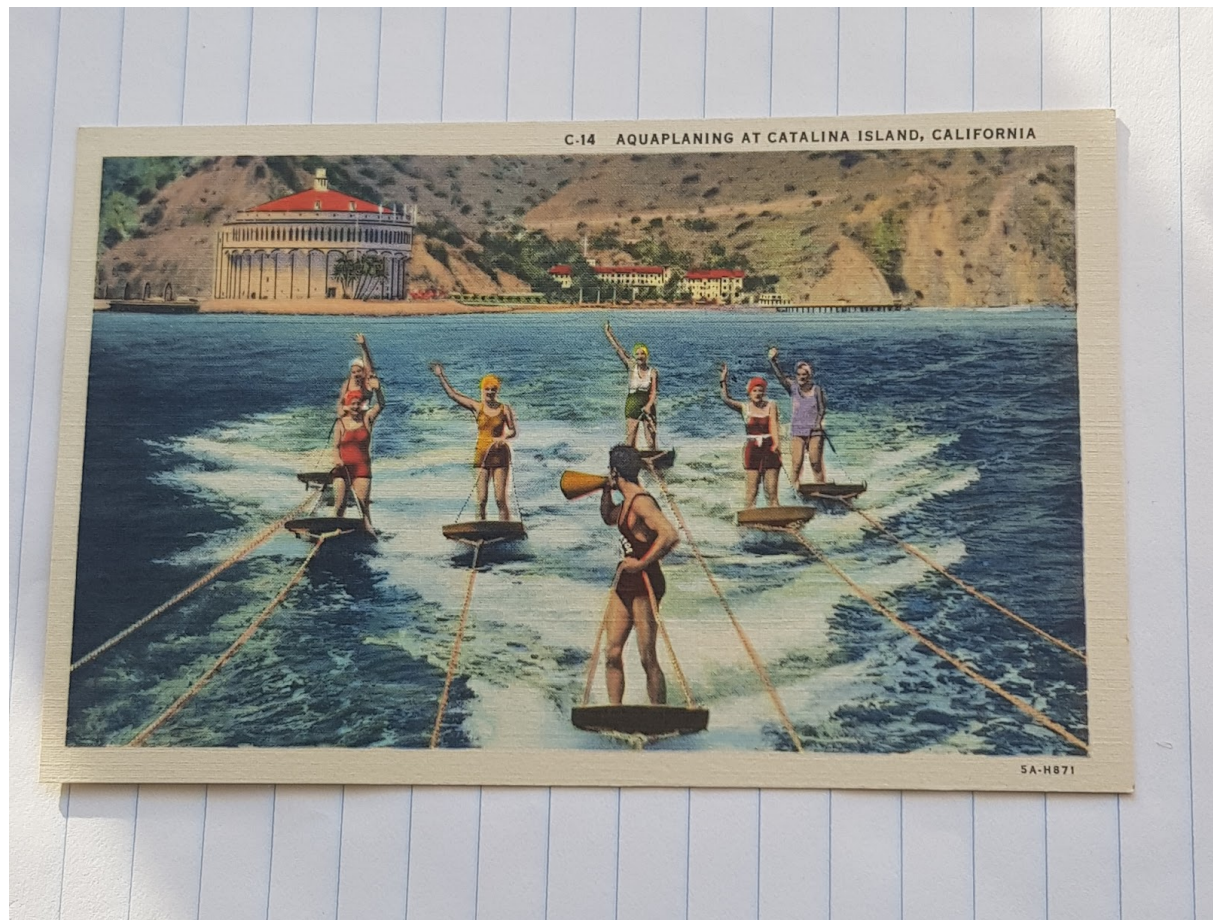
This picture of Ted was taken before he was married - I'm not sure of the year he was the "Instructor". The picture was in several papers - a friend wrote to the boys from Boston and another from Kansas City but they just put it on postcards (*I have two of the postcards:LC*)
Betty will send me more, if you want another just say so.

(In pencil)

Eight deer were brought into camp the first of the week - we've all had plenty - The season is over - so every body will get stoves up cupboards in porches on - garages built - I wouldn't be a man in a logging camp! I don't blame Old Rip Van Winkle for walking out with his dog and his gun - There are plenty Mrs Rips here but I might be me if I had to get up at five to get breakfast and lunch.

Notes: the "move" she talks about is moving the camp. The cabins were literally dragged on skids to the next camp. There they would reattach the porches, build the garages, set up the stoves again..... LC

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The postcard of Theodore Reynolds Cooper Jr. aquaplaning instructor at Catalina Island

5) Letter dated 5 October 1935, written on foolscap paper

Dear folks,

I can quote Caesar as well as Franklin D can. Today I have "come, saw, and conquered" not the Boulder Dam but the Diamond Match Incline. Mrs. Gilbert and I walked - less than two miles if you know the way - not so wonderful if you've seen it before maybe - but I was thrilled. I wanted to see something come across - the crane was coming between 12 & 1 - so we walked home and back - but taking a longer road. Mrs. G wants to try them all - we just missed the thrills. There was a hoist house on the other side - a cable $1 \frac{3}{4}$ in pulls the train's crane or what not 12 0000

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tons - up the steepest hill you ever want to climb. All the logs from the old camp have been coming that route for years. The mail from Stirling City too went over on the train. It is all to be dismantled now. I just never got over to see it. Goldy Locks and Little Red Riding Hood never had a nicer walk through the woods.

Folks work a whole year to save enough for a week or two in the pines . and I can stay until June with pay.

It surely seemed as tho we were on the top of the world where we could look out over the tops of the tallest pines.

We saw the donkey "work" . They were putting a new cable on one. Some of the logs they were lifting were so big that 6 filled the car - others took 10 or 11. The "cats" were hauling to the "gammer". We saw them load cars too - a whole train load of them. I'd seen those before but I never get tired watching them.

When you think of the miles of track to be laid - just to be torn up again n and the amount of machinery necessary the price of lumber doesn't seem so high.

I don't wonder either that the men want to pull off their boots the minute they get home, and eat. All the "daddies" have to spend their evenings now on porches, garages, and things that had to be torn off in the move.

It won't be long until these daddies will be shoveling paths to school and digging the wood out from under the snow drifts. The nights are cold now. I keep my window open all the night. At night I open the door wide - so I have just one push to make in the morning.

This meadow is an old farm. There are apple trees all through camp, right near the pine trees. We eat apples at recess at school. Some girls went with me to the big orchard where I got a whole box. I never knew that apples would grow in a place like this.

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I have a cozy fire - sweet potatoes in the oven - applesauce and the wash boiler on top - and here I sat to wonder if I'll have blisters on both heels or one and if I'll be as stiff in the morning as I am now -

Anyway I am going to see the Mill in Stirling City if I have to walk . In 1919 we drove through Stirling City on our way camping. We all liked it so well - and I saw that the hotel was steam heated so I promised the boys a trip to the snow. They never got the trip - but have I?

It won't be the same now. A fire wiped out the town a few years ago. *(during the 30s. Can't find exact date yet.LC)*

You can't tell how peppy I'll feel when I'm cleaned up. This might go on indefinitely so I'll stop.

These circulars never used to leave California but since I've been out I'll increase the circulation.

I hope you can all find some school paper and return for *(word/word)*

Love to you all

Harriet

Stirling City

Diamond Match Camp

California

October 5, 1935

(in pencil)

Sunday:

Another trip - Mr Gilbert went hunting - about 4 o'clock - He didn't get a deer - but we saw the most gorgeous sunset - investigated an old mine, so old that big pines were growing right up in it - and also found another apple orchard. Mrs. Gilbert had her apron on so we got it full of apples. We are only about eight miles from the old camp - as the crow flies - about 50 around the road, I know.

No more you'll thank me!

Harriet

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Note: FDR Boulder dam speech was given 30 September

<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/address-the-dedication-boulder-dam> LC

6) Letter from hospital after the broken hip 15 October 1945. in pencil, to?

Dear family

Thanks for the Robin - Harriet Z is coming this afternoon to address envelope.

I've been pretty flat for a month - on my back except for a few hours a day on my face - I have a gym bar and one foot out. One strong person can turn me now - it used to take a crew.

I've forgotten the horrors of the first and second weeks. Everyone is lovely and I have the best of everything. I'm getting used to the "heavy as lead" cast. I'm so thankful my arms are out!

My school was perfect. Lovely location - climate - fine homes and lovely children - The teachers and supts (*superintendants*) were fine too. I'm sick about having to have someone take my place when everything was going so beautifully. I think I've found the place I'll love - when I find a house!

Family is well. Dean was down twice probably ready to go out again - Betty may be back from Managua in March - Hugh and Ted and families take good care of me -

I'll probably be in hospital until I can care for myself -

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7) A series of postcards/letters to Helen, during the hospital stay in Room 304, California Lutheran Hospital, 1414 S Hope Los Angeles 1945-1946

Postcard stamped 7 Dec 1945:

to Mrs E.E. Zimmerman, 1015 N Carroll, Carroll, Iowa (Helen)

Dear Helen,

Many thanks for the lovely stationery that Harriet (her niece, Helen's daughter) brought. She came Monday and meant to come back the 29th with the gift. If she had had the date right she would have got in on the birthday cake Vergie brought. We had candles and everything around the bed. Visiting hours begin at 2 and Ted had to be at work at 4 so it wasn't a long party. Arlene and Teddy have both been sick since Thanksgiving taking turns on colds. I have no idea how long I'll be here. I stay until I can take care of myself. I get hot every time I write - I don't know whether it's the exertion or time of day. I suffer more from heat than anything else - I surely get the jitters. I'm by an open window now - heat is turned off and I'm hot.

More later, love to all Harriet

Letter, nd, but sometime end of December 1945

Dear Helen,

Will you please send this to Will. Leave the envelope on so he will know it started in time - this is the last address I had from Nellie's letter I think. I should have taken it from Harriet. I don't remember seeing it on Robin's letters (word?) sent it to him.

I'm not writing much yet. I feel fine lying down. Tell your children that I appreciate their cards and letters and I will try to answer them sometime.

I am still in the cast. Will have more x-rays soon. X-rays done Dec 19 showed it not ready. It's still hot and scratchy and horrid. I'm not complaining - there are so many worse off than I.

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Temperatures have been in the 80s this week - one day 84. I'd love it if I wasn't in this cast. It's lovely outside.

I'll surely be glad to see the sun set - hear the music of a mountain brook and feel the ocean spray.

I'll not worry about going back to work or visiting or doing the things known to the busy world. I'll watch the clouds. The sunset. The ocean. The mountains and all the nature I've been enjoying before.

When I can drive again I'll go to the mountains to enjoy a good storm. I miss something from every place I've been. The desert has the most beautiful sunset. I used to drive out a few blocks from the "rubble" of town and trains to sit and enjoy it.

Mary Flynt was in yesterday. She is quite frail. I feel sorry that she has to brave the crowded street cars to come to visit me. I've been going to Pasadena to see her instead of meeting in L.A. as we used to.

I haven't written Emelie yet - soon - It's hard to get all my materials out when I can write so little at a time.

love to all

Harriet

Jan 1 - I'd send a stamp for Will's if I had it. No one had time to get them today.

Postcard, postmarked 11 January 1946. Tiny writing in ink

Dear folks,

Cast came off Saturday. You'll never know how hard I've been working to get limbered up. It took four hours to get my feet together. Five days hard work. I can sit up with feet in chair but still need help getting bum leg back in bed. It will be some time before I think of walking. I feel I can do more for myself in my hard bed than I could in wheelchair. I still can't lie on my side but I'm keeping at it.

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I hope you are all well. I suppose Harriet and Ed have come and gone. Harriet wrote from Butte Mont. Betty will probably teach in Costa Rica. She'll have a much better position - better climate etc. Mary D. visited me recently. Ruth Anderson was here X'mas afternoon. She looks fine - is very busy - Mary D is better too - but still very frail -

Tell me about all of you Love to all Harriet

347 Ocean Center Bldg

% Hugh Cooper

Hugh will forward if I stay here much longer -

Postcard, postmark 18 January 1946

Dear folks

I'm in a wheelchair for the first cast came off a week ago Sat. Bone not healed enough to bear my weight but the union is perfect. It surely takes work to get back into shape. I work all the time I am awake. Could have been in chair before but that doesn't give me any exercise. Family well. I see them often and they take care of all my needs. Betty may accept position in Costa Rica - school begins there in March and not return to until her last (word). Dean works for Merchant Marine though he has his discharge - can work with the same rating any time during the next five years. He'll probably get to school in March. I have no idea how long I'll be here. Anyway until I can take care of myself. On crutches. I hope I'll learn to use them as well as I did before. I can't think of many things I couldn't do on them, even playing ball with the kids after a fashion. I hope H and Ed are happy out of the service. I'm still sorry I couldn't show them California.

Love to all,

Harriet

Jan 11

Postcard to Helen, postmarked May 27, 1946. Return address is 6826 N Lewis Long Beach 5, California. In pencil

Dear Helen,

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Robin came last week. I'll try to get it off before leaving for Denver - I have reservation for Pullman June 2 - but will not pick it up until I see doctor etc. - However I'm making all my plans to go. I'm in library now. have to see M.D. this afternoon so came down in morning with Hugh - I'm glad you are better - Why fuss about cleaning - it will keep - You didn't tell me where Harriet and Ed teach - If I can't go to Denver now I'll plan to arrive later - I'll also make plans for Costa Rica after I get to Denver.

love Harriet

419 St Paul

Denver

May 27

7) Letter from Helen to Harriet, dated 11 December 1960, postmarked 12 December 1960. Helen is writing about their family in 1888, the year their father died.

Dear Harriet:-

I've been writing Christmas notes to go with my typed letters. Have $\frac{2}{3}$ of the envelopes addressed. I didn't use my head when I bought them or I'd have had enough and have that all done.

Your blue note paper is fine - but not big enough. I suppose it was a birthday present. You ask about what I remember, and I often wonder why I don't remember when you and Myrtle were born. I can remember the "baby drawer" and the nice white clothes in it - and that we never touched it unless mother sent us and told us which pile to take things from - everything in perfect order. I can remember the cradle in which 9 babies slept. I can remember Charley and Jeanette and probably you climbing over father and playing as he lay on the sofa - and his remark - "If you don't be good I'll send you to Ma." I remember as we gathered around his bed when he had died I said "I'll go and see if baby is alright" and went into the back room where we all had slept so no one would see my tears. The day of the funeral planks were put from chair to chair to make seats. Will and Mother and cousin Alex & his father went from the (house?) Mrs Deyo (Mr Kempton's mother) stayed with the 4 of us.

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

Charley and Jeanette were walking around on those planks - which I thought was wrong, because of the use they had been put to - Mrs Deyo told them to stop - but they didn't and you wanted up. When she stopped you - you held your breath and had us all scared and trying to get you out of it. She picked you up to take you to the kitchen for water. She caught her new black sateen dress on the door knob as she went through the little hall and tore a big 3 cornered tear in it. She dashed water on your face - and we all calmed down.

I can remember Will putting you in your highchair on the porch when it rained - to watch your hair curl!

I can remember some things earlier than that such as playing with David George - and wiping dishes when he washed them. The fall Jeanette was one, she had the tumor removed from her shoulder. D.G. and I washed supper dishes that fall and winter with the wash pan on a chair and drainer on the table. Mother always had cooking dishes done first so while we did that she got Jeanette read for her evening bath. We hurried & took turns rolling up the long bandage as she took it off so it was easier to put it back on again. It was yards long and padding was changed night and morning from October till middle of Jan. The night it was off I took diphtheria - I don't remember that and not a great deal about D.G. gone until Charley began wearing his clothes. Maybe you will be sorry you asked - or that I answered.

I'm glad you had such a nice b-day with so many of your family home. I hope Ted's ear trouble is soon over. That's about as miserable as anything can be. (*TR Cooper jr/Grandpa Ted had Meunier's syndrome, it never went away LC*) I'm quite sure I put the wrong number on the card I sent. Maybe they haven't gotten it and it will come back to me. You surely will miss them if they move but if they can be nearer work, it may be better. Whenever you need to go, you can drive in so short a time.

You are in quite a city and it has grown quickly. It is like Harriet Z's addition. Theirs was the 7th house contracted for and now they are

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

needing their 2nd big school house. They have just organized a new Presbyterian church with 209 charter members.

Your time is well taken up with 18 hours. You need some time for other things and recreation. Your Christmas project sounds interesting. I wrote Donald that next year I'm going to stay home, have a little tree and other decorations and any who want to can come home. I don't put up anything when I'm going to be away.

I plan to go to Margaret's the 23rd and to divide 3 weeks or a little more with the three families, longest with Harriet for she missed out on my last two trips. I'd like to be home for Star installation (*Eastern Star/women's Masonic organization. LC*) on the 16th but that will be a little too short.

Donald's are well pleased with their move. They have a larger school - more subjects etc - but grades just a little behind with their work. All are happy but Julia. She doesn't like the upstairs bathroom. They had a potluck dinner after the first service so all kids could stay - or be there for the Christmas practice. They turned it into a reception and "pound" party. Donald said they should call it a "ton" party.

Have heard from all and all are well. Vernon writes interestingly about his work in Chile. Helen is going down in Jan.

Gordie's taped oration was judged first in the district. He and Jane go to district tournaments almost every Sat.

I think you have all our family addresses, haven't you? Will Hugh and Lois want copies too? (*Helen is talking about the written account about William Fletcher done by the Zimmermans. LC*) such as those in N.Y.? Tell them I wish them the best of everything on their trip and will be glad to hear from them!

I took a pain pill for a nerve pain in my shoulder. It helped my arthritis in my knee so Dr. had me get more of them. After the 4th I walked to the

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

medical center - 7 blocks - & home which I hadn't done since the middle of Aug.

I'm going to close now and get back to my Christmas notes. I'd like to have a big mailing ready for the 1st one.

Best wishes to all yours. I'd like Dean's address when convenient. Remember me to all, with love,
Helen

Note: Helen's husband, Rev Emery Earnest Zimmerman, died in 1954, shortly after their brother Charley. LC

8) Fragment of a letter from Harriet, probably early 1960s, to the cousin in Victoria, BC or Vancouver???

...family. She will probably not tell you how fine and smart they are.

My brother Charles (Dutch) died in 1954. Dropped in the yard after a trip to the library. I went to Buffalo Wyoming to the funeral then on to Carroll, Iowa where Emery Z. was very ill. He died soon after. Charles had been in California since 1910 - went to Buffalo about 1946 when Myrtle and George Sloan were living there. The nephews and nieces that knew Charley knew what a grand person he was.

Alex Cooper died in San Juan Puerto Rico in 1948. He left a wife and two adopted sons. He retired from Army in 1941 but was interested in School of Tropical Medicine -

Theodore's sister and husband live in Escondido. Betty and I visit them often. Maude was a 1908 graduate of Univ. Nebraska at Lincoln. We often see the younger brothers and sisters too - all have done well.

I'll leave this for Edith and Isabelle. My best wishes to you all and my thanks for the interesting letters.

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

9) Letter to Helen from Harriet, postmark Jan 2 1964. Home address is 530 El Modena

Dear Helen,

This letter from Greta came before Christmas. Sorry I didn't get it off earlier.

Kenneth Kenny Tina & Dennis left for Denver today - will drive right through to be there for Kenny to register at Fort Collins at 8 Friday morning.

I'll go Jan 18 - maybe sooner. K will be in Denver. We had a fine Christmas Dean Pat & three sons flew down Dec 24 - back Dec 26 - all were here but Hugh and Lois - and Arlene & family.

We had dinner with Arlene and John the Sunday before Christmas.

The young folk were in the ocean every day - We had a fine time - saw Hollywood - Griffith Park Planetarium - Knotts Berry Farm - They seemed to like Newport Beach and the ocean best of all.

Hugh and Lois are due tomorrow. They will call - we'll see them soon.

I wonder where you will go next - I hope the weather is fine wherever you are.

I am not crazy about going back to the snow but I know I'll be comfortable in the house. I'd like snow if I had two good legs and could use my skis.

I'll have a check up with the doctor - attend to income tax and a few business affairs - see a few friends - and since I'm not working I may as well be in Denver. Kids expect to be out here next summer. Kenny hopes for a job in Alaska. I do not know what Kenneth would do - but we have several months to decide what is best for all (*note: I doubt that he went. At Easter 1964 there was a huge earthquake/tsunami in Alaska. LC*)

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

I had a long nap before dinner. Caught up on the news - TV - tonight. No bridge. No cooking. (Word?) have had two tables of bridge - couple playing cribbage - three in bed - all Coopers. Last night only one table of bridge - changing off - all to welcome 1964 -

Tomorrow I'll try to write a few thank you notes - but some (word) may turn up-

I didn't go to see Maude when others went before Christmas - so I'll go whenever Betty can -

love to all

Harriet

Jan 1 1964

9) Extract from a letter to Harriet from a Canadian cousin, Helen Gordon Stewart, 3 Feb 1964.

Dear Harriet Cooper,

....you are a marvel for getting about so spryly after your devastating accident last year. I had never heard of a "walker" before you mentioned yours, but have learned a little since from various relatives and friends.

...

Harriet broke her hip again. I knew there were two accidents but was this one in the El Modena house? There were stairs between the house and the garage apartment where the washing machine was.

LC

10) Letter from Helen to Harriet, 18 Feb 1965,

Dear Harriet,

I've finished my set tasks for the day and it is too early to go to bed so I'll be extra prompt and answer your letter received this a.m. I'll begin with Helen Gordon's so I'll not miss it.

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

Ada and George were children of John and Hannah F (Fletcher). John a brother of Charlotte Fraser so not cousins of the Fraser boys. They visited us in the old farmhouse, which was probably 1888 after father's death. (Tree says John died in '77 and gives George's birth as '78) Hannah later married Laird and had 4 children. I think we didn't see them when in Ont. (Ontario). Ida has been in Chicago since before Will left there. They used to see each other often. George stayed in our home in Wahoo to attend teacher's institute and taught in Ogallala Nebr for some time after becoming M.D. We used to hear from him then. Edith's birthplace is given as B.C. I never knew much about her. I'm going to write Harriet and Daniels, asking to find Ida's address in Chicago. I have it but not sure where right now. I've looked it up many times in the Chicago phone book thinking of calling her - but never did. I wish I had! She has done well to learn to walk for she is 5 years old than I am.

I didn't write ?? A.G. at Christmas time. I knew he had gone to Calif. - but had no address. Emery heard from J.M.Y after he went there. I can't recall his wife's name, but a Vail girl who married and went West always reminded me of her.

I don't agree with you about the snow - for I hope to shovel more next winter. It's quite a temptation to go out and make straight for the paths the boy made but I know I dare not. The shovel doesn't feel as heavy now as when I first lifted it. The broom doesn't either!

It's interesting to hear from Lucile Betz. She sends messages occasionally via Myrtle - but never has written. If I remember rightly Janice is in Platts-mouth (? location?) Your valentines are better than mine - (sentence unintelligible) I got two beautiful cards and a few like I sent.

I haven't let my mending slip for a few stitches - such as a sleeve ripped from arm hole - or a little tear saves a garment. I have used a few "ironed-on" patches - some very good.

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

I hope you find your crocheting material and get started on something nice. I've thought of knitting and many things if I get all my store rooms cleaned up.

You told me before that Dennis was to change schools. I'm glad he likes it and work is better. I heard a H.S. senior interviewed on radio tonight. Last summer he went to a big H.S. in Chicago and plans to do the same this summer to be used to big classes before entering Iowa City pre-medic.

Didn't really think of going to Oregon and haven't begun to think of any other trip yet but hope I may go someplace before too much time elapses. I could name many nice places to go!

I read of the new Canadian flag - & saw a poor black and white picture but not good enough for much inspiration.

I hadn't heard of Hazel and Christian for a long time and wondered if they had gone to Cal. Too bad they found no one at home. I'm always glad to hear of Maude's improvement & hope it continues. Eyes are important.

I haven't any special family news to repeat tho' I've heard from some of them since I wrote to you last. Donald spent a night at Gordon's on his way to McPherson Kans. flew to K.C. I suppose he got home. Margaret is getting organized after all kinds of extras. Jane enjoyed a few days with her between semesters. Did I tell you Mary Jane is engaged? I guess I did. Gordie's summer job is waiting for him - if he's going to school next year - and he is planning to.

Eletha (*Helen's stepdaughter*. LC) is happy in fixing up their new home as she wants it. It has been much warmer than the old one. Vernon (*stepson*) is still having to be careful but has no more attacks. He works some about the home.

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

Harriet's are trying to plan their vacations. Ed is to be away the 1st of Aug to London, Portugal and ---Lebanon so they have to plan around that. They may be here during spring vacation Palm until Easter.

I think Myrtle must be gaining strength. She mentioned going to see a neighbor and going downtown with Margaret. She had done very little of either one and just writes short notes. Her hand writing has kept good and plain. I hope you can figure mine out. I must stop now or you won't see the end. I'm always glad to hear about the school work and glad to hear that Kenny is going back to college.

Hello! to the 4 C's - and those out home in Cal. (*Harriet must have been in Denver when this was written. The 4 C's would be Ken, Kenny, Tina and Dennis. Ken's wife, Mary, died in 1963. LC*)

11) Letter from Harriet to Helen, written 6 May 1967 but not postmarked in Iowa until 16 May.

Dear Helen,

Thanks for letter. No news from Canada - I send Margaret a "hello" note of some kind every few days. I'll write to M.B in Vancouver again - but I'm sure she would let me know if any plans are made.

All well here - Betty too busy - guests tonight Elizabeth Work, Maggy & Boyd Lewis - the Lewis' are going to Europe next week.

Guests tomorrow - Ted Vergie Arlene John & kids, Ted II & Julie and kids. dinner at 4 o'clock - all over by nine - turkey and all the fixings - I'll make the cake soon - (easiest dinner there is - I can have a nap after turkey goes in)

Betty will cook roast tonight in our Christmas rotisserie - It's a dandy - but I'll stick to the oven.

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

No plans for trip to B.C. Betty still thinks she wants to go. Will take it easy - stopping at motels - we sent for maps and lists of travel needs. If I go alone I think I'll fly to Vancouver and go by bus from there -

I hope you'll have a good trip - don't worry if you don't get letters - I'll write to Carroll (Iowa) unless you say otherwise.

Love to all
Harriet
May 6, 1967

11) Letter from Harriet to Helen, May 11, 1967. Postmarked 12 May, 1967, Newport Beach. Helen was in Napierville, Illinois with her daughter and son-in-law, Ed Daniels. Helen seems to have been traveling about between family members.

Dear Helen,
Just a note to tell you I'm thinking of you on your travels - and to wish you a happy Mother's Day.

I have an envelope addressed to the Daniels', but in all these weeks I haven't taken time to tell them thank you for their good wishes. There are several others, too.

I can't stay awake long enough to write letters but when we have guests or I go out I'm fine.

We had Vergie's birthday here on Sunday - almost a week early but time best for all 14 - all of their families are nearby.

Stewart and Scott's birthdays are past. Kevin's next May 20.

Betty still thinks she'll drive to B.C. I haven't heard from Margaret O - so we can't make plans yet. I write every few days but do not expect answers.

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

Jessie said Rayen past 90 is in a home very comfortable and content near daughter's home.

I do not have the clippings ready - anyway they will be better when you get home.

Louise - the second Mrs. BF Good - was a high school teacher in Wahoo - 1902 - She had the younger Killian children in school. I think she married, for she spoke of her daughter. Then married Mr G. Annabel died a year or so ago - Paul has had a fine life and big family - Pauline Killian - first husband Rudolph Anderson - still lives in Hollywood. She is now married to an old friend, a lawyer whose wife died about the time Rudolph did. I haven't seen her or any of the boys All live near L.A. I think.

The new home in the avocado grove is Jane and Hilly's - Mrs Jane Pettit - same school as Betty. Dorothy Hilliards is a high school teacher - about Betty's age - They have been partners for years - Jane has two sons living - one whose wedding I attended was killed in auto 1963 - They plan to retire in June 1968 and become agriculturalists. Now they are looking forward to a happy retirement.

(a couple of paragraphs about past students at Wahoo, no clear ties to Harriet)

Betty & Vergie plan a Mother's Day picnic in our backyard on Sunday - not my idea - but I'll try to cooperate - more than 14 this time.

love to all

Harriet

May 11, 1967

The following letters are from different senders:

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

1) From Helen (Bellevue) to Margaret Grant (Bagot Maine), 26 June 1909

Dear Margaret,

Here's your third - you're going to get two more of one kind because I forgot which I sent last. You mustn't wait for them all before you write. Hope you aren't having as hot weather as we are - I have a regular little bake oven here - am loosing (sic) some of my flesh too - Write soon Lovingly Helen



The photo postcard. The house where the Fletcher sisters lived when studying at Bellevue?

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

2) Postcard from Elizabeth Fletcher (Berkeley CA) to Helen (Bellevue) She was visiting Theodore, Harriet and baby Kenneth. They moved to Gridley the following month.

Went to San Francisco Saturday afternoon on this boat - Mother
Tuesday, May 25, '09



The photo postcard, which cost 1 cent to send.

Note: there were no bridge connections then. And the office building where Theodore worked (Forest Service, in the new 1st National Bank Building) was one of the modern buildings after the 1906 earthquake/fire.

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

3) Postcard from Helen (Bellevue) to Margaret (Bagot Maine) 5 June 1912. Margaret was now Mrs Bert A Oliver) *The commencement mentions might have been Myrtle's from Bellevue College.*

Dear Margaret,

Just a card to show you where we live. The name is a mistake of the photographer. The house faces the east. Have a large living room and dining room open together on the south with kitchen and pantry behind. 3 bedrooms and bath on the north. The attic will be finished without partitions. The basement has furnace room and cellar on north. All the south side will be finished as one big room - someday. I like it better than the other but Mother likes — upstairs and misses the extra rooms. Will answer your letter as soon as commencement is over. Lovingly Helen.



Photo postcard of the Elizabeth Fletcher house in Bellevue.

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

4) From Betty to her Aunt Helen, from Denair, California Feb 26, 1931. Betty was a high school senior at the time (also written on the envelope!) To Mrs. Emery Zimmerman, West Bend, Iowa

My dear Aunt Helen,

May I act as Mother's secretary as well as my own? We certainly enjoyed your letter but wish they could come oftener (sic). That is a great deal to expect when our correspondence is as irregular as it is tho!

Mother is as busy as ever, if not busier. She teaches the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades in a three teacher school about two miles from Denair. She also teaches at night, whenever she is needed. It is quite regular tho'. Mon. Wed. & Fri. nights from 7 P.M. to 9 P.M. Sometimes it is just from 8-9. She teaches Americanization classes. She certainly enjoys her work. Besides keeping up with teaching work she must keep up her "social life." She and Father belong to a Denair Bridge Club, which meets once every two weeks. Thursday nights. Out of the eight times she and father between them have brought home five prizes. Just between you and me, I'd say they are bridge crazy. Mother certainly enjoys playing and father loves it just as well but me I can't say I like it as well as they. It's too much concentration work for me.

Hugh is a junior at Univ of Nevada. After he graduates from there he wants to attend the Stanford Medical. His high hopes are to be a doctor.

Ted is staying out this semester and is home now. He is going to help father farm. Kenneth has been working in fruit offices but has not been able to get steady work and is expected home soon.

Father is "gambling" on melons again this year. He is planting about 100 acres. Here's hopes for success!

Dean is in the fourth grade and goes to school with mother. He enjoys school a lot.

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

We have moved to Turlock four miles from Denair so we three have a nice ride every morning and evening. We like it fine here. In fact, I like it lots better but of course I still go to Denair Hi.

I dislike school this year more than ever. Isn't that terrible to say? I'm taking Chem, Eng, Household Arts and Civics. Chemistry is the one that takes the joy out of life. I am on the girl's "B" basketball team, also on the Hi school athletics committee, which, by the way, is not very active. I am treasurer of the Senior Class which is a very minor office. I work occasionally on a few committees and other than these activities I do nothing. Last year I was chairman of the athletics committee, therefore putting me on the Student Affairs, which was a bigger honor.

I hope to graduate this June. Right at present Denair has been stricken hard with the flu! They are thinking of closing the Hi (high school). They were 18 out Tues ($\frac{1}{4}$ of the school) and 21 today. I was one of the 21. I haven't the flu real badly yet - but I have a miserable cold. I slept all day though, so feel considerably better. I've been up late a good deal last week which didn't help matters much. We had a girl's gym class party last night and I was on the committee, so that meant late hours working on it.

Denair won our league's championship in basketball and had to forfeit our playoff games for the "big" league championship on account of illness. The whole squad is in bed, but one!!!

Aunt Myrtle wrote to mother asking for her picture. We looked through everything but it isn't here. Mother has hers. She said that Grandmother gave it to her just before she left for Nebr so mother thinks she must have taken the others with her to Aunt Jeanette's. Grandmother's postcard album is here. Mother and I intend to sort out all of Grandmother's things and all the pictures and things that came from you we'll send back to you, the same with Aunt Jeanette's and Aunt Myrtle's etc. I am afraid that we won't be able to do that much before school is out but we'll try to do it all at the earliest time. We planned on doing it for a long long time and regret that we haven't done so, however Grandmother's things, what are hers are all put together and are safe.

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

Uncle Alex is a major in Denver and has two adopted sons. We had a Christmas card from Aunt Maude. I can't remember the town but is somewhere in Southern California (*it was Escondido, which Betty will know well later in life!* LC) We haven't seen or heard from her in a long time. I think it's terrible the way these people write to their brothers and sisters. I intend to do better!

Charlie is here - or I mean about 30 miles from here. Merced. He is working in the rice. His address is the same as ours. He comes here quite often. He seems to be happy and carefree as ever. He came up twice last week and stayed all night.

I hear from Janet Smith (*Jeanette's daughter. LC*) quite regularly - so I keep in touch with that branch of mother's family for her. I'll try to do better in your family too.

I don't know what I'll do next year. I'd love to go to Oregon State. But I don't see how I can. I imagine it will be Modesto Jr. College - and I'm not looking forward to that so very much. However I'll be so glad to get out of high school! I haven't quite decided what I want to be. It's between Eng and PhysEd teacher, librarian or a pharmacist. That's what mother would like me to be.

I have no steady boy friend like most girls do - but that worries me very little. I am very much overweight which does worry me! That's not "just modern girl talk" either!

You had better plan on coming here this summer. Mother and I have planned on visiting all of you for so long but as yet have not been able to "materialize" our dreams. I do wish at least Mother could visit all of her relatives and friends there tho'.

Aunt Helen, you must excuse the writing and all errors 'cuz with this cold I don't know what's what. Lots of love to all of you
I'd better take a clean piece so you know who this is really from -
your loving niece,

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

Betty

P.S. Our address is still in Denair till school is out in June. From then on it will be Turlock. Box 34.

(added in pencil, from Harriet)

Dear Helen,

Betty seems to have done very well for a beginning. She did it while I slept - I lay down to listen to Dean read a story. I was asleep before he was, then got up and had a bath at 2 a.m. I'm still the spoiled baby at our house. I work all the time I am awake, so everybody tries to help. Betty is an excellent housekeeper. She's a hustler. It has just about killed my spirit trying to make ends meet. I have to rustle for a bigger salary next year. It makes me sick that I can't keep the children in school. Ted is out now for the first time in his life and can't get a job.

I'm afraid I've spoiled Betty's letter -

Kenneth is still working for the American Fruit Co. - but is laid off half the time. If the farm goes well next year we'll pull through.

Love to all

Harriet

The following are the few written between Harriet and Theodore. None have dates, but from the context, I think Harriet's are from the first winter at Diamond Match camp, while Theodore's might be later in the 30's

Sunday

Dear Harriet,

It rained here all night - but it doesn't matter for we finished off this rice crop yesterday p.m. After paying (freight?) we have about 3750 bags of

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

rice. We are not selling any but will hold until sometime after the first of the year. It will take me two or three days to pay off bills and get everything settled. If Ted doesn't come up I'll get away either Wednesday or Thursday. Dean thinks he can manage alone here for a while. There isn't any news I feel too tired to write much if there were. Wish we could both pack up and hit for the equator - any place where it is hot.

Here is a letter from Mr. Foster.

Love,

Theodore

PS Write me directions to get there

Fairyland

Dear Theodore

Mr Cobeen is going to ski out tomorrow if it doesn't storm. We've had snow almost continuously - every morning it is 18 inches deeper than the night before. We tramp it down. It took just two hours for me to tramp the toilet trail yesterday. Everyone is good, dividing up supplies etc. Mrs. Simmons is going to bake bread for us. She said for nothing but I say 50 - 50. I haven't time. All the men had two days work shoveling roofs. Part of the barn caved in. Several trees fell across two houses but no damage was done. We can hear them crashing in the woods all the time. Snow around the house keeps it warmer but it's plenty cold in the mornings. Two of our windows are completely buried - we shoveled the other side - to the woods and to the street.

I know I like this better than I like the mud. I'd rather be here than along the valley rivers when this melts. We walk on a level with the windows now and the trenches are shoulder deep. I wish Dean's sled was skis. I'd send for skis if I thought we would ever get them in.

It's almost two weeks since we've even had mail. Mr. C. is going to try to bring back a toboggan. The road may be closed all winter.

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

I hope to get letters from you all when the mail comes in - I missed institute. School will go without supervision for awhile. I hope it will be satisfactory.

Tell me about your work. I know you are glad it isn't you who is here. Did Chas. hear from Myrtle - or anyone -

Love
Harriet

Dean sends his love to you and Shorty

Dear Theodore

I'm sending the note 87.57 to the bank. The \$ 18 didn't bring it down very much - wasn't it just \$ 100.

Don't mail any vegetables - or cod liver oil. Every time anyone goes down they go to Chico and do the shopping. Those who are snowed out drive to meet them. Then others meet them at the place cars stop and they pack it in. The mail is 11 miles from here. They brought a load of vegetables & butter & meat yesterday. Mr. & Mrs. Beavers and Mr. & Mrs. Cobeen went Wed. a.m. & came back Fri. P.M. The Aharts had been down in Chico several days. They tried to bring a load in with a (word?) but left it at the snow line and divided the load. Mrs. Ahart was nine hours walking & skiing with a broken ski. She walked ahead thinking the (Ford..) would catch up to her so she beat her husband and his partner by several hours. The road may be opened as far as West Branch soon. When it is that will leave about 2 ½ miles for the camp folks to open.

Dean and Darwin Simons (10) walked to West Branch this morning. The snow was frozen solid. I haven't ventured out of the beaten trail. The trail near the school is only 4 ft from the ground now. Mr. Cork keeps the measurements.

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

As far as I'm concerned the snow is fine - Everyone else is anxious for camp to open - as I am too - it will mean 23 kids instead of 9. and I'm plenty busy now. There will be plenty of wood too.

Stanley Keesy is going out in the morning. He's going to Stirling on the train and may be gone for several days. We'll get the mail again when he comes in.

I paid \$ 1 toward the toboggan which wasn't much considering the fact that I didn't take a turn going out. I try not to ask for more than my share -

When you get ready for a garden I'll send the seed - we ought to have some of everything. I'm not going to buy food next summer. I'll work for my board tho' either at home or elsewhere. Don't plant it when the neighbor's animals will get it -

We've been to the dance - I danced one with a woman - Dean is learning fine. I'd much rather play bridge but I have to go. The music is A no. 1 so is the food.

I have to be up to get these these to Keesy's. I didn't write to Betty and the boys now. You tell the boys I'll get to them the next time anyone goes out. I'll write Betty a postal.

Hope you get along at your new place. Wish I had some of the room and you had some of my fuel - chores too. Do you want to buy Able's big car for 100 dollars?

love from Dean and me
Harriet

Letters from Charlotte Cooper to Harriet. Charlotte was Harriet's sister-in-law, married to Col. Alexander Taylor Cooper, medical officer US Army. Both are buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

(Letterhead)

Mrs. Alexander T. Cooper
Fort Meyer, Virginia

January 16, 1933

Dear Harriet,

Your nice newsy letter arrived this morning. Alexander will talk about you for months. It's people like you that give us courage and faith! Oh my dear your letter was an inspiration to us both.

I am glad Dean is with other children and that he loves his books. Please tell him I'm sorry I did not know about the birthday in time but here is a dollar for him and a big kiss goes with it from us.

We are well and have been ever since we came here. Alexander's work is not as confining as it was in Denver and we often slip away and motor all around this historic State of Virginia. Also we go to Morristown New Jersey, where my sister (name?) lives and where my Mother is in a hospital.

Mother doesn't know any of us anymore. She has no pain but soon will be oblivious of everything about her. Her trained nurse is a wonder and everything is done for her comfort.

Heléne is in Europe with her husband Major Fales. and their son. It is almost a year since they left Washington. Major Fales is going to a school in France to study the French Army methods. Sherman is married and is going to the university in Boulder, Colorado. He is working for his M.A. Commodore is still in Los Angeles. He has been in a naval hospital on account of arthritis - had several teeth extracted, but is now at large. He doesn't do anything for a living except sign a weekly check from the Philadelphia Trust Co.

Dad Cooper is now so failing he no longer knows the names of his children and is difficult to (word). He is with Anna, the oldest daughter.

Transcribed letters from Harriet, mainly those to her oldest sister (Catherine) Helen Fletcher Zimmerman. Ca 1909-1967

Thanks again for your letter. You are a marvelous woman and we admire you so much.

Love to you and Dean,
Charlotte

Note: Dad Cooper (James) died in 1934. LC

small note, no date, no letterhead. Is this when they are leaving Ft Meyer?

Dear Harriet,

We are all packed up and the house is empty except for government furniture and our clothing.

We had planned to spend this week in Atlantic City, but Alexander had a touch of the flu Sunday night and we are not going.

It was a great treat to us to have had your two sons Hugh and Kenneth with us early this month.

Each boy is so different and yet so appealing in their individualities. Hugh's quietness was so like Alexander's and Kenneth seemed so like you. We loved them both.

They wrote us such a sweet thank you note on their return to Pittsburgh, that I feel that they wished to include us in their list of friends. We certainly envy you your big family.

Love, dear Harriet
from Charlotte