

(1933)

*On back side of picture
of Cliff and two other young men*

Recd in letter written Nov. 1, 1933 to Cliff
from Allen Richardson. Cliff in the center.
Possibly one of the others is Allen.

My brother Clifford Joseph Higgins with
two pals. Born *December 2, 1914.*

My name is Orland Robert Higgins, born
February 26, 1912 at Smithville Oklahoma
(12 days after Arizona became the 48th
state on Feb, 14, 1912 (Valentine day –
Arizona is often called the Valentine
State). Son of Robert Arthur Higgins and
Allie Evalyne Higgins (Maiden name
Liner). Born on my fathers 37th birthday,
just after my mothers 20th birthday
(George Washington's birthday (22nd))



Sams Valley, Ore
Nov. 24, 1933

Dear Cliff:

I got your letter quite a while ago but have not got around to answering it for lack of time and something to write. Still in the same old place I guess Ill just buy 80 acres of brush up on some of these hills and settle down and stop kidding everybody about leaving such a fine country. I was glad to hear that you got to Phoenix O.K. and sorry to hear that you hurt your leg but it only cost \$4.00 to ride the stage you didn't lose much by it and you probably got there sooner and easier that way. We have been working on the car we went to church one night and when we started home we broke the drive shaft of the car and had to walk all the way home got home at 3 in the morning when we got the car fixed we started cutting wood for Mr Messer and then we cut some and took it to town. I was up day before yesterday and stood around in the way while Chas. Wilson took up the bearings on his Chev. So I have been pretty busy, but havent anything to show for it. It is cold here almost all day now. Eskridge's moved over into Klamath County but Harley is still at the place there some of his folks from down south are going to come up here. There is a lot of talk about work here now they are going to hire 609 men from Medford and a bunch from Ashland and other places in the county they are going to pay 50¢ an hr. for common labor and \$1.20 for skilled and they say they are going to hire all of the men who are out of work in the county they will let them work steady for 9 wks, we are both signed up but it will probably do me about as much good as the C.C.C. did if I don't get on this I am going to leave here sure as hell even if I am broke go to Frisco and maybe get something there can't lose anything by it anyway. They have a part time recruiting sta. in Medford for the Army if I can't do anything else I may join but I don't think I will.

How are things down there have you found work yet, so you were stepping the women out the first night you got there I was glad to here that now maybe you will give me your interest in Vesta I was wondering which end of her you claimed I guess it was the back end wasn't it Ill try to keep my business out of the red untill I find out. Well I can't think of anymore to write so Ill sign off for the time

Your Friend
Allen Richardson

P.S

Excuse my poor writing I was in a hurry but probably would not have did any good anyway

Gold Hill Oregon, Feb 8th (1932)

Dear Son: This is the month that you and Mom & myself will have a birthday. I have been thinking about you a great deal of late, but I am not particularly uneasy about you, if we can hear from you occasionally, altho we would all like so much to see you again. In thinking it all over, I believe you are doing pretty well, (all things considered) in making your own way, alone on your own resources, just depending on yourself alone. I know from experience that one really learns more that they need to know just that way. Possibly & likely you are in the best place, at least at this time of the year. One cant do a thing here now. There is nothing to do.

Rather bad news from your Uncle Milt! The Bank failed along with about 200 others in Nebraska. They will no doubt leave there before long. Said he had not heard from you since (*you*) left there, & was glad to hear of you (*though*).

We have not heard from Travis & Grace S. for some time, but they were discouraged the last we heard because they said they had not raised scarcely anything.

We hear from Roy and Frank at intervals. Roy says he cant find any kind of job & hardly has stamps to write. A man came here yesterday (Sunday) & told me he might bring Frank from Brookings over here in about a week to look at the White Horse Mine, up on the mountain above us here. The man is trying to buy this mill and mine, and he lives at Brookings & knows Frank quite well.

This is Tuesday morning. I will go to Gold Hill today, so will finish the letter now, so I can mail it. I think from the way Milt writes, (as he asks for info. about the coast, south Oregon &c) that they intend to come to north Cal, or Southern Oregon. Says it will take some time to get things cleared up. Several months perhaps.

All of us have had light epidemic of Flu (*or*) something. Cliff first, then your Mom & me. Your Mom & Myself are recovering now. We have had a rainy & cloudy & foggy time of it but the weather seems to be clearing now. It has not been very cold here. Cliff & I have had a time getting enough wood. But we have a fair supply on hands now. The timber & streams here are very beautiful & the mountains are fascinating! There are three kinds of trees I will mention. He most beautiful is Mountain Laurel (Madrone). It is evergreen & in the winter has pretty red berries & round shiney green leaves, & golden yellow trunk which looks spotted & lacy. Then there is the Manzaneta which is smaller & makes such a hot fire. The wood looks like walnut when dry. Then the Chaparral.

We have a pet R.I. hen. She lays about every day & is like one of the family, she is so smart!

We are just doing the best we can until spring opens up & it seems near now. Cliff heard a Meadowlark when he went for wood yesterday. Cliff is developing into a real man. He looks well & he is (*as*) tall as I am - 5ft 10½. I think if you saw (*him you*) would be proud of him.

I am going out to do a little job today at Gold Hill painting a scenery screen in front of a fireplace for a shoemaker. This was a trade job & well all get our shoes fixed up good. Money is so scarce that there is lots of trading now. We are harder cramped for cash right now than we have ever been I think. But still I think it was better to stay here this winter. The car is under the shed since Jan 1st. Cant run it till I pay about \$8.00 license to July 1st (last half year in Oregon). I owe about \$ 18.00 storage at Wieckers & it worries me some. The gun is in hock with a friend for \$20.00. If you can spare any cash send it along for I need it now, but if you cant spare it, write to us anyway. I am glad you are writing signs. Hope to be able sometime in the future to help you in that line. I am making better pictures than you ever saw mw make.

Love from all of us

Your Dad

Bob Higgins

Gold Hill, Oregon
March 14th 1932
(Monday)

Dear Orland: -

I will now try to answer your kind letter rec'd several days ago. I have been to Medford the past week doing sign-work & a little sketching of a store front & designed a letter head for plates. They will be Zinc Etchings. I should have written you before I left, but I went away in a hurry. I am just barely squeezing thru but I think that spring is breaking here now, and I will perhaps do a little better. I have had such a cold in my head that I have been sick & actually suffering for two days the past week, but I got some Cold Tablets, Salts &c & am about well this morning. It is raining today and I may not go back to M. until tomorrow because I have such a good place here to recuperate. There has been a general epidemic of cold(s) especially at Medford.

Orland I can not fully express, just how much good your letter did us especially myself. I can read between the lines, and there is one thing I want to tell you right now. You are doing better than you really think you are. I know all about the conditions.

Yes it would really be fine indeed to have you with us at any time you want to come.

Is Jim Marris still running his yard?

Is Graham's still down there, and is he boring wells yet? Did he get rich at it like he thought he would?

Your Mother looks better than she has for ten years. She has been using Haarlem Oil Capsules, & it has straightened her out fine and she is gaining every day. Oh she just looks fine. She says tell you she is expecting you & Frank up here this summer.

Cliff & I are going to Gold (Hill) this morning for some supplies & I will mail your letter too.

There is so much I could write but when we finally meet again we will have so much to talk about.

Mom says tell you Old Mother our champion R.I. Red Hen is laying every day but one in the week. She is the smartest chicken I ever saw. She knows more than some people.

Cliff is having the time of his life in this picturesque country on the beautiful Rogue River & in the mountains getting wood, boating, prospecting &c &c. He is a regular big gamut mountaineer. He makes me think of that big old Giant that drives that team & plays his violin down there in south Phoenix & talks like the rumbling of a volcano down deep in his lungs. Mom says we have a nice range in our two room tent home & if you & Frank come, or you (come) alone you can have all The Pie, Thick Apple Pie you can eat, & other things too. We want Frank to come too if he can. You two can get enough work here in the summer to get by.

Orland this is not a bad place here in a great many ways. Of course we would like to see you mighty well too. Write us soon!

I will close for this time.
Your Dad

Gold Hill, Ore.
Dec. 20 - 1931

Dear Brother:

We rec'd your letter, also the one you sent to Eureka was forwarded. Was sure glad to hear you are in good health at least - that means a lot. By the way - this Mr. Abbott turned out to be a crazy religious fanatic. He got sore at us because we turned down his religion and would-be-prophet, William Irvine. You know we wrote this would-be prophet last summer in Joffa, Palestine, a suburb of Jerusalem. We still have his letter, I'm going to keep it as a curio.

(Missing page two)

deer hunting last night, but no luck. We have had two light snows so far but it's not very cold, in fact it's warm for this time of year, and very little rain. We are getting free rent in a 2-room tent house on the Rogue River. We get all the wood we want for nothing. My friend and I have been cutting wood the last two weeks.

We got a letter from Roy. Said he was broke but well. He said Milt's bank was closed for a year or so until times got better.

Well, Christmas doesn't mean much this year, but I'm thankful for what we have and that we are all well.

We all send our best wishes to Frank.

Your Brother,
Cliff

P.S - I'm enclosing Roy's letter.