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MC325: Folder 8: Clark, W. S. to Clark, George H. 1917 January 14

This transcription from the original letter contains language contemporaneous of the time and is being presented as part of a historical record.

Paradise, Cal. Jan 14th '17

My Dear Brother-

I thought I would just drop you a line and let you know were all alive and well, and hope you are all the same.

We rec'd the box of useful and pretty things you sent for Xmas and thank you all very much. Georgia was awfully pleased with what she got, and she always appreciates what she gets.

We had a regular back east Xmas, cold and lots of snow, but it is all gone now and the weather is fine. I am working about 3 miles from home now, and come home Wednesday and Saturday nights. Am putting out an orchard of 10 acres to prunes and walnuts for a man in Tonopah Nevada. He bought 65 acres of timber land here and has 10 acres cleared and planted to trees every year. Have been pulling stumps this week, and tomorrow have a crew of men coming to dig holes to plant the trees. I have all I can do in taking care of this place and what I have to do on my own place. I wish you could be here now. You would enjoy this fine weather. I got a letter from Dad a short time ago and he says he is in fine health this winter. He was awfully cut up over the election and thinks people were crazy to elect Wilson. I am not so sure but what it is all right for I believe a change in administration at this time might get the country in trouble. I believe that now that everything will turn out all right and we will keep out of war. I hope we will soon hear that the war in the old country has stopped I think the Allies will come to time after a while, and try to settle things. They cant whip Germany I don't think, in the next 5 years and they will all be bankrupt before then.

Have you seen Aunt Joan this winter and how is she getting along. I got a nice letter from Ms. [Gorch?] a few days ago. She says they are going to build a good size vessel at Emmons & Littlefield ship yard. It must seem strange to see ship building start up again after so many years. It looks as if Uncle David's yard ought to be worth something for shipbuilding business ought to be pretty good from now on, as vessels are in big demand. At the price of freights now a vessel will pay for herself in two or three trips.

I wish you could be here and see where I am working. It is on ground that was mining ground called the "Mineral Slide Mine." This man I work for bought the top of the ground, and the mine still own and work the underneath. They have a gang of 20 men working there now prospecting for gold. They know there is gold there, but it is clay soil and hard to save the gold, but they are putting in new machinery now that they say will save it. The mine is going continuously- never

stops. One gang of miners go on at 7am to 3pm another from 3pm to 11pm another from 11pm to 7am.

I have a little cabin 12x12 where I stay and cook and sleep. If I get lonesome nights I take my lantern and go down and see the miners an hour or so at night. I have an old chap clearing land and cutting wood that is well acquainted with Irving Pitts. He says he is working at the Springer Mine about 5 or 6 miles from here. His address is De Salbo [DeSabra], Butte Co. Care of Springer Mine. This place, De Sablo [De Sabla] is just a small place on Butte Creek where there is an electric power plant, and all the miners for miles get their mail here, as the mail comes from Chico by Stage. We are having quite a little time here over the water question for watering our fruit trees. They voted last March to put up an irrigating dam at an expense of \$350,000

The district is very poor and we had to bond our land to do it, but the bonds run for 40 years and make the tax comparatively easy to pay Everything has been finished but the Bond Election, which comes off next month and it is almost sure to carry.

It will be a big thing for this country for we can raise most anything here if we only had water. Well George I have no news to write so will close. We all send best love to you all, and hope some day we can all meet again. Am glad you have plenty to do and wish you had this weather to do it in.

Yours truly,

W. S. Clark