

Dear Phog,

How I got here I haven't decided yet but I'm in Barstow, California. The town is in the center of Mojave desert and is the country around here ever desolate. To put it bluntly it is terrible. Nothing but sand and sage brush for miles and miles. So far it has not been very hot but I guess it does get up to 115° or more at times.

I'm working on a telegraph line gang. The work is ^{a lot} too hard but hard enough to give me some exercise. We work six days a week, nine hours per day. Sometimes we have some climbing we do and that is rather tiresome. I fell off a twenty five