

COPY

Minneapolis, Minn.

Jan. 27, 1925.

Dear Mr. How,

By way of introduction maybe I'd better say that I am Alma's brother "Carl."

The reason ~~that~~ I am writing is that someone has to break a sad bit of news to you, and Alma is very busy and tired.

Frank is now very ill with Pneumonia, coupled with his old sickness "weak heart."

Not having met you nor having read many of your letters, the Frank very often had me read his letters from England, it is rather difficult to write you about Frank's case, and not worry you too much at this time, and still impress upon you the seriousness of his condition.

Perhaps I better start by telling more clearly how it first started.

Frank came home from his railroad trip on Monday Jan. 19th with a bad cold and feeling very weak. They treated it as they always did his colds, but with Alma trying to encourage his being quiet in bed. But even ~~although~~ he has always been very restless during an attack of cold, this time it was useless to try to impress upon him that he needed to keep quiet. Of course that bothered his heart, and Pneumonia set in, in a mild form. During this time Dr. Pettit had told him to stay quiet, but the poor fellow would get up in spite of all and the doctor said to me this morning that it was a very very serious case. I spent the night here with Alma and the children, and did what I could. We have a good trained nurse here to look after Frank, so he gets all the care one can give him according to the doctor. I brought our electric heating pad down here from my home, so we have keep his body warm and his lungs have never stepped up as is often the case with Pneumonia. If his heart is only strong enough to keep up we may get through alright. It is needless to say that I sincerely hope it will come through alright.

The doctor just called and it seems that Frank is quite far gone. I am so sorry. We are doing all we can for him. I will write again tomorrow, and keep you posted.

How can I impress on you Waldo that we are doing all we can? Your father was a Mason I believe and I think Frank once told me you were a Mason. I belong to the Minneapolis lodge, and want to say that we are doing all we can for Frank. I seldom mention my lodge, this way, but I am so anxious to have you know that we are doing all we can.

I will write you each day and let you know how he is. The children are all well, but Alma is rather worn out.

Give my regards to Aunt Nell.

Well I will finish my letter. I was called away from this writing a third time. This time to be with Frank as he passed away. He had no pains at all. His heart was not strong enough. He did not struggle much, and talked a little up to the ^{very} last.

I have neglected or rather waited to finish this today till I had the funeral arrangements pretty well finished. You folks were not here and Alma had only myself here so I have helped her with everything. Looking after my home and helping her, and staying

at her house nights too has worn me out. We are to have the funeral tomorrow, Friday the 30th. We have had him taken care of at the Parlors at 27th & Lake Street. Will have him taken back to the residence at 3149 - 29th Ave. at 10 o'clock Friday morning for a home service and then to his church for the 2.30 service and then to the Lakewood Cemetery where Alma has now arranged for four lots. She intends to have little Kenneth taken back from the Kosota Cemetery and placed with his Father here in Lakewood Cemetery later on. The Lakewood Cemetery is near Lake Harriet. I am mentioning this so that Aunt Nell can explain more fully to you. I will have Rev. Lattimore write you. And Francis and Donald, and Alma as soon as she can. She is all worn out. I try ~~so~~ hard to comfort her, but Frank was pretty dear to her, and everything brings up new thoughts to cause her to break down again. The children are bearing up pretty well. Frank looks wonderful in his sleep, one could almost expect him to open his eyes to talk. Frank called quite often at my home, he seemed to enjoy our little home, and my wife always enjoyed having him call.

I will write you again in a day or two giving you all the details more fully. Will try and have Francis write you soon. We will try and have him finish his University studies and keep Donald in his High School through till spring when he graduates. Gordon just finished the 8th grade and entered the High School..

Alma has none to much to work on but the boys all like me pretty well, and I am going to do all I can to encourage them to finish their education. My wife is quite a bright girl and knows the value of an education so we will both help keep the boys at school as long as it is possible. They are wonderful children.

Tell Aunt Nell to write me and ask questions at any time and I will be glad to answer and keep her posted; all about the children. I will send you photos etc. etc. if you wish. Frank had so many friends, and all are anxious to help Alma and the children.

We expect Alma's mother and Brother and his Wife from Kosota. My brother Alf has wired that he has started for Mpls. from Denver, Colorado. Poor old Frank surely wanted to go home to England this coming summer to pay you a visit - how little we know what is before us.

You can write to me at Alma's home any time, and I can stop in there on my way home from work evenings. I live one full mile from Alma's home, and can see them at any time.

I am quite worn out and upset, so I hope you will overlook a patched up letter at this time.

Very truly,

(sgd) CARL.

My home address -

C. J. Benson,
3100 - 44th Avenue South,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Uncle Waldo,

Uncle Carl has just read this to both Donald and me. We all will do our best. I didn't think that Pa would leave us so soon his father and mother lived to such an old age. I know one thing and that is that he was prepared. I will write you very soon.

(sgd.) FRANCIS.

Dear Uncle Waldo,

Jan. 29th 1925.

I am very well how are you. I had a very nice time. I am interested in the scouts magazine that Gordon gets from Aunt Louie. I will write to you some other time.

Yours truly,

(sgd.) BENNETT JHON HOW