

2-10-1215

Here is a summation of these several miscellaneous letters found in Mathias Zeltinger's estate. They primarily cover the period leading up to the Stock Market crash of 1929 and the subsequent Depression. Letters include some from his daughters, Dorothy Jane, Miriam (aka Pat or Patches) and Gwen. Times were hard. Money issues strained relationships. After living in Flasher, ND (1917-1927), marrying and starting a family, Matt (who was working as a clerk in the local bank) took his family to Ollie, MT where he helped liquidate a bank. Wife Laura (aka "Bob") referred to Ollie as a "hole". After the bank closed in 1931 Matt was out of work. Finally, he obtained work in Breien, ND as manager of a hardware store and lumber yard. His family remained in Ollie until they later joined him in Breien in 1932; but eventually his family left him to live with Grandpa Charles Kaiser in Miles City around 1935. During the Depression Matt sought work as a civil servant, hoping to land a job as a land appraiser with the Federal Land Bank. Eventually Laura and Matt reunited. In her letters of December 1948, Dorothy Jane wondered to her husband Dave (who was serving in Japan) if her mother would come to Riverdale, ND for my birth. In Riverdale Jane was caring for her father's (Matt's) house (Matt, worked on the Garrison Dam project) while she was pregnant with me and with my 1-year-old sister Kate was crawling around. At the time, Laura was living with her sons Jimmy and Michael in Miles City. But Laura did return to Riverdale for my birth on Dec. 27, 1948 and my baptism. Matt and Laura were living there together in 1952 as the last of these enclosed letters indicates. And they were together whenever our family visited them in Pierre, SD during the years of 1956-1960, so I suppose they worked things out. - David J. Maloney, Jr.

1-15-20 Matt to his parents Ignatius and Katie Zeltinger. Is a bank clerk in Flasher, ND at the time. Discusses farming, wedding plans. Lena and Loretta are his sisters.

2-2-28 Laura "Bob" in Flasher to Matt who is working as a bank clerk in Ollie, MT. Clothes closets cleaned out preparing to move with children to Ollie. Dorothy and Miriam (Pat) enclose Valentines cards. Bob buying hat and coat for Gwenie.

Later transcription by Jane Maloney of letters. [This is the Depression now. Tough times for all, particularly for Banks out West.] 8-7-31 Bob (Laura) to her parents Charles and Victoria Kaiser in Miles City, MT. Ollie bank has closed and moved to Baker, MT. No job offer for Matt. Pat and Toots (Dorothy Jane) at home helping. Floor boards showing through congolium. Ray and Sonny are Bob's brothers. Laura and Matt being urged to move back to Flasher. 1-24-26 Doc (Laura's brother) to Laura writes that he has been told things are not as good as they should be for Laura's family.

5-26-32 From Al, Matt's friend, in Ollie to "Math" in Breien. [By this time Matt has gone to Breien, ND where he was hired to manage a lumber mill. Laura and the kids remained in Ollie.] Says Laura does not know what to do this summer. Return to Miles City and stay with her folks or stay in Ollie.

6-9-32 From Loretta (Matt's sister) to Math. Their sister Anne is to be married next week.

6-20-32 From 11-year-old Dorothy Jane in Ollie to Matt in Breien. Milked a cow. Went to rodeo. Catching pollywogs.

7-8-32 From landlord in Missoula to Matt in Ollie but forwarded to by Laura to Matt who was in Ollie. Rent on Ollie house for two months is now overdue.

7-11-32 From Laura in Ollie to Matt in Breien. Had spent two weeks in Miles City at her parent's home. [Ray is her brother.] "Am writing you this letter to find out what you intend for us to do. I'm afraid you

will have to tell me now. And expect an immediate reply or else I will have to do as I think best. I think you have had sufficient time to let us know or it as I've always said about your not being dependable. That maybe you would change a little after leaving this hole but I suppose that rut still is your path."..."Why don't you ans Toots (Dorothy Jane) letter or are you doing as I am. Not writing since stamps are three cents now." Her brother Ray bought himself a roadster. [And Laura cannot afford a 3 cent stamp!] "You should see Jimmy now. You wouldn't know him and to think he will be a year next month." [Jimmy is Dorothy Jane's little brother.]

7-26-32 From a friend. Writes his bank went broke.

7-29-32 From Matt to landlord: \$16 to cover two month's rent on Ollie house. Matt notes that his family had moved out on 7-28-32. They will be coming to Breien.

8-27-32 Post card to Matt from Toots (Laura's "Bob's" sister). Saw baby Jim. She took flowers to Laura for Matt. Toots (Dorothy Jane was also called Toots because she looked like Laura's sister, her Aunt Toots) and Patches (Pat) and Gwen are tickled with their baby brother, Jimmy.

11-29-32 Letter from friend and bank clerk, Al, in Ollie to Matt in Breien. Talks about what happened to the cook stove in his old house. Collecting money from farm sales.

9-23-33 From Federal Land Bank of St. Paul to Matt in Breien. Received inquiry regarding position as land bank appraiser.

1-9-33 Letter from Matt's friend, Al.

9-28-33 From Matt in Breien to Mr. Roop, Federal Land Bank regarding application to be a land appraiser

9-29-33 Letter from Mr. Roop at First National Bank to Matt regarding his application to be a land appraiser

10-4-33 Letter from Federal Land Bank to Matt regarding his application to be a land appraiser

10-7-33 Letter from H.K. Jensen, Superintendent of Schools, Mandan, ND to Matt. Will give favorable recommendation to Federal Land Bank.

10-9-33 Letter from Alvin Hoverson in Ollie, MT to Federal Land Bank of St. Paul giving Matt a favorable recommendation for position of land appraiser. Matt speaks fluent German. Came to Brien in 1928 as bank clerk and stayed until bank closed and was liquidated in 1931. Has no bad habits. Since leaving has worked and manager of hardware and lumber company in Breien, ND. Must have done efficient work there in order to stay thru these times.

10-9-33 Letter from Clement Resch (husband of Matt's sister, Lena) in Tolley, ND to Federal Land Bank giving Matt a favorable recommendation to be a land appraiser.

10-10-33 From friend, Al, in Ollie, MT to Math. Trying to collect money. Got \$30 from one farmer.

10-13-33 From R.A. Mahrer to Federal Land Bank giving Matt a favorable recommendation for position of land appraiser. Matt first came to Flasher in 1917 after leaving his father's farm near Tolley, ND. Employed as a bank official in Flasher until 1927 when his services were needed in Ollie, MD to liquidate that bank. Did good banking as all depositors were paid 100%. Of good character.

2-6-34 From Matt to Federal Land bank asking status of his application to be a land appraiser.

2-9-34 Letter from Federal Land Bank to Matt in Breien, ND regarding his application to be a land appraiser. "...it will be given due consideration for any opening which might occur."

5-1-34 Letter from Democratic National Committee, Fargo, ND to Matt in Breien regarding governmental vacancies in civil service positions.

1-28-35 Letter from daughter Pat (Miriam) from Miles City to Matt. Likes school. Ink spilled. Ran out of money so cannot buy school supplies. Waiting for a box of clothes because her dress is rotting on her. Please send us girls some money for school supplies. "Mother spent the other money for clothes to go to school and still haven't got enough."

2-20-35 From young Dorothy Jane in Miles City, MT to Matt. Glad to get his Valentines. Spot on my face. German measles. Talks about her school day. "It is nice here but there is nothing to do. Grandpa (Charles Kaiser) bawls us out every minute but I guess he is getting old is part of the cause." Man next door is a goof. He fixed his house then walks down the street and turns around to admire his work. Does it every time. Kilman's garage has a monkey named Maggie. Its mate named Jiggs died. Maggie pulled the feather from a girl's hat.

[An added note from Laura, "Just a line to say I still feel the same and am afraid I always will so in as you had plans on going up to Mandan you might just as well go through with them. Judging by your last two letters it is impossible for you ever to change but of course that isn't anything to me now. Dad [Charles Kaiser] said he wouldn't make out any statements for you. Tho'h maybe you tho't I was using some of the money so made one out. Will send it around the 1st. Kids are beginning to like ??? - Bob]

2-25-35 From young Miriam (Pat) in Miles City to Matt. Tells funny story of Elmer, the boy who forgot his glasses and had to speak to Mr. Sangster three times in one day. Mentions Babe going back to Baker, MT. Babe is one of Laura's sister.

3-5-35 From young Gwen in Miles City to Matt. "(brother) Jimmy is a bad boy."

6-10-45 From Katie Zeltinger (Matt's mother in Tolley, ND) All our land is put in crop this year.

2-11-52 From Lena (Matt's sister) in Tolley, ND to Mat and Bob in Riverdale, ND. Uncle Ed's wife passed away.

January 15, 1920

My darling parents

Have received your last two letters and also your presents Laura joins me in thanking you for them, they are real sweet. Laura says that they are going into her hope box, she has quite a large one and is filling it bit by bit.

The old year has gone out of existence and we have another new year, which I sincerely hope will bless us with better crops than the past few years. We are quite well caught up with our work which always follows the end of a year, and it is not near so busy as it has been the last four months and there are indications that from now on it will slack up a good deal more, the directors had their annual meeting Jan. 6, and also advanced my salary]5.00 per month. that also helps me and is starting the new year right.

I would very much have liked to come up during the holidays but it was out of the question, as we were two busy, and I did not like to bother the board as I have not worked long enough to get a vacation thus far, I was thinking that they might look at it that way. I do not know now what time that I can get away it may be quite awhile although I wanted to come home last summer as you said in your letters also that it is really too bad, I do not want to disappoint you, and yet it is to hard to keep on again the way I am I have since last May been looking for a wedding day this coming June, and promised Laura that I would be ready at this time and that everything would be all right, and both of us have been looking forward with eagerness to that day. I have behaved myself like a gentleman ever since I struck this town as I have promised you and it is sure a rough and rugged road that I traveled, but it was well worth the price of it, and for that I cannot thank you enough for drilling me the way you did when I was home. I have been going with Laura now for over a year, she is very-very dear to me. I must have her there can be no other way, she is good, and I know her parents, they are good people, and are poor but those are always the happy families, Laura's mother stayed with her a few weeks this spring and is well as her father seemed pleased in me. Every letter she gets from home are always included best wishes for me.

I nust close now. Tell Lena I will write to her soon, also, Best happy new year wishes from Laura. Love to all,

Lovingly,

.. Kiss Loretta for me.

Math Zetterges
Copied from original
in 1981

Flasher N. D.

Feb. 12 - 1938

Dear Matt,

Your letter received yesterday
morn and will ans this morn
as I'm going to take a rest. Will
try and be there by Mar 1st
but I was thinking you wouldn't
have the money here by that
time so suppose it will be about
the 3rd or 4th. Gave the clothes
closets cleaned also the drawers
so all I have to do is pack. Most
of the dishes are packed. I dust
the basement most of all. I think
Willie Thomas will help me. I paid
him 50 cent for pumping my
wash water and mowing brock.

It has been warm as spring
here the last week. Makes a person
feel better.

Say Matt I don't believe I will
let Carol ship with me because I
think one of these fellows around
here might make Doc release or

well so I think I'll take no chances.
I'll tell Mrs. Shortridge when I
see her.

Dick said he would help me
get the car. Oh say did you know
Adele was expecting also Mrs.
Earl Brown. Was up to P. F. A.
the other evening. Had to take
Dorothy game up for the dance
her teacher was giving. They were
fine. ~~the~~ The kids are exchanging
some Valentines. Guess that I'm
sending it out to her until Fri.
a little late but I guess that won't
hurt any. Am sending you a coat
and cap for yourmie.

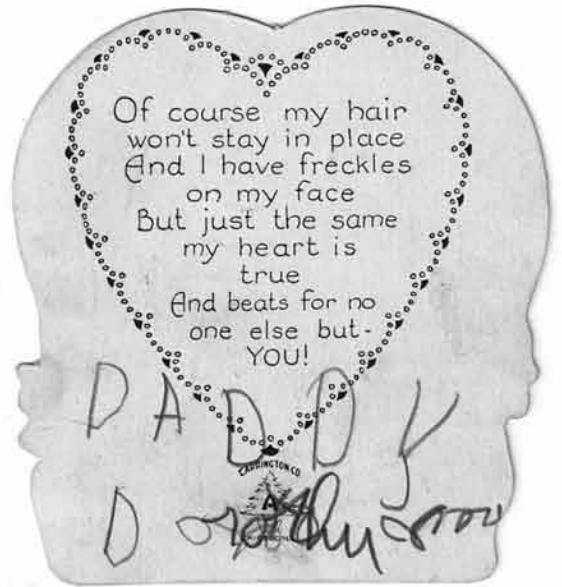
Hope you spoke for the Louse
it's awfully nice of Mrs. Kees to
offer to give us a lift.

Well had better ring off.

Write soon.

Love
Bob.





Letter to Dad from Miles City, Mont
Aug. 7, 1931

Staying in Allie
(re-bank money to Baker.)
(Money no proffer to Dad)
Go back to Flasher ok.
(Floor boards showing
through conglomeration
needs shoes - salt -

* Pat + Boots at home helping
and Faye about hauling
Ray brought Matt's letter
home (to Grampa Passer).

Ray + Sonny took man for
a ride other night pretty
lovely all burned out

Money + letter
suggest money Dad move
back to Flasher.

Cheer up Matt - nothing
is as black as it looks.

Dearest have love on the
down, lb. Love to you
and kids - Mom + Gwen

Check Jan 24 - 1929 Allie Hab Back

Dr King - 5 3/4 50

H.R. Sharp 9/4 - 1931 8/25 to 9/4

10da 15 per - 50.00 8.00 1.50
that am - 5.00 baby laundry 3.00
and

Letter to Dad from mother
Lin Savage, MT. Aug 23-1919
Lonesome - kids ok (Monsieur)

" to Matt from Doc.

U.S. Post Office per Business No. 1/24-1926

I am writing you to find
out how conditions are in
your family. It would save
me a trip down there if
you would let me know. Geo
and I have been told that things
are not as good as they should
be. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Doc.

When you answer ^{over} reply, let
me know the exact condition
and also Bob's health I have
been told she is not in good health.

Ellie, Mont.

May 26, 1932.

Dear Math; I am getting now so that I can use the typewriter a little, but it goes kind of tough, so I am going to go it long hand yet for a little.

Was very glad to get your letter, and did as you directed with the other one. Things are surely looking good here also. We have had rain of and on, now since Sunday evening and the ground is sure soaked.

If things warm up now, we are going to be assured of a grass crop anyway.

5/27

Well, here I am again. We had a frost last night that knocked hell out of the beans that were up. The kids had some pop corn that was just peking thru and that got it in the neck too. Had water in my car, but that wasn't hurt any. Believe me, I was afraid to look at it today, but finally got up nerve enough to do so.

Have a bigger garden than ever this year, and it surely ought to go over big.

I guess our cash sales are just about like yours. So far I have deposited \$163⁰⁰ to date this month, so counting the cash paid out for freight and sundries, it should total about \$175⁰⁰ for the month.

A. A. Vinclette has now gotten his golf clubs, and we have gone around a few times. Our scores are high yet, going around 40, altho I have made it in 37 while playing with him.

He got his clubs from Sears, and bought a cheap driver to begin with. The first time we were out when he had it, he just knocked the club head about 40 feet. You ought to have seen the look on his face when he turned around.

He shipped it back, added \$4⁰⁰ more and got a real club. Les. Kustad was with us Sunday, caddying for A. A. and got real interested. The Stromme Boys say they are going to get clubs, but they are rather busy yet.

Your bitter half is wondering what to do this summer. She does not

know whether to go to Miles City, go to your folks, or stay here. She asked me my opinion, and I was mum.

Things are still sailing along fine and dandy at our house, just once in a while a little spot, but nothing worth mentioning, and just gives me a chance to assert my authority, even if it doesn't amount to so very much.

Was just over at the graveyard, giving Kee's fence another coat of paint, and when that dries, I shall give it a fourth and final coat. It should then be able to weather the storms in good shape. Gina was up yesterday, and cut the grass and I am going to make some new grave markers as the old ones have rotted off.

Well, old timer, take care of yourself as I am doing, and we shall both live to a ripe old age, and possibly see each other in person again before shuffling off this mortal coil.

Af.

Tolley, North Dakota
June 9, 1932

Dear Math,

Anne is going to be married
sometime next week. Maybe the 15th
of June. We are having the shower
Sunday 12th. Come to the shower if
you can.

As ever,

Loretta

Illie Monti
June 30, 1932

Dear Daddy:

I am sorry I kept you waiting for a letter. I don't like to write letters very well. Minnie is getting big now we have a lot of fun. We were out to Sliper's for dinner and supper yesterday. I stayed all night Saturday with Inez. We had a lot of fun out to Sliper's. I milked the cow. Karl and Peter had a rodeo, they rood a steer. Peter fell of and hurt his fingers but Karl stayed on all wite. It was a lot of fun to watch them. Karl and Peter squinted ^{milk} water on Inez & Minnie and me. Patchas didn't come with us because Mae M. was with her. Pat didn't want to come either. because ~~she~~ wanted to see the town rodeo.

Mr. Slicer would treat ~~Anna~~
Anna: Anna would get
angry and beat upon him.
We were catching paley wags
this morning. Out in the
front ditch it is full of
water. Pat got a little
rabbit from Morrisons
we fed it a tea spoon of
milk. for that is all he
will eat

How are you? We are fine
Mather doesn't feel so
terribly well. We are washing
today.

Did you catch any fish.
I suppose you got that
box of things didn't you?
Well I must close now
to get this off on the mail

Love

Dorothy Jane

307 E. Front St.
Missoula, Mont.
July 8, 1932

Ms. M. O. Zeltinger
Ollie, Montana

Dear Sir:

Just to remind you
that the rent for June
and July is due.

We would appreciate
a remittance at your
earliest possible con-
venience.

Thank you.

Yours very truly,

Anton Messmer

Ollie, Montana

July-11-1932

Dear Matt:

Well. We are at home again as you see. Enjoyed our two weeks in Miles. Ray came and got us and took us back.

My garden is real nice. Beans and peas have blossoms. Dad had new beans and potatoes all the time I was there. I have beet ^{greens} and spinach chard to can. Will send pack them this time.

Am writing you this letter to find out what you intend for us to do. I'm afraid you will have to tell me now. and expect an immediate reply or else I will have to do as I think best. I think you have had sufficient time to let us know or is it as I've always said about your not being dependable. That maybe you would change a little after leaving this hole but I suppose the rest still is your pick.

Anna + Evelyn were married a

couple weeks ago. Poor fools.
Vivian is engaged. Her man
and she are crazy about ~~her~~ ^{each other}
and he can support her very nicely.
He will get \$140^{am} after he is
married, and an income from leases
on a couple of ranches. Toots
is about to become engaged to
the deputy county treasurer, at
Forsyth. I like him real well.
Loni still or rather is getting
by. He didn't get much of a cut,
did he? -

The Charlie shepherds have
gone to the Black Hills for their
vacation. But then I suppose
Al gives you all the news
so wont bother giving you
any.

Why dont you ans. Toots
letter or are you doing as I
am. Not writing since stamps are
three cents now.

Ray is working at Sawyer's
and he bought himself a
Sport model Roadster, an Aldo. 2 to

cute. Mom and Dad are
pretty good, also the Navisites.

You should see Jimmy now.
You wouldn't know him, and
I think he will be a year
next month. He wants when he
wants to go potty. Dad sure
hated to see him go.

Well I must get the kids their
breakfast.

Hoping to get a letter from you
by return mail.

as ever

Bob.

Kingling Mack
July 26 - 1932

Dear Mack:

Wherein hell are you? and
what are you doing? God I have not heard
from you ever since. Hope you are
faring better than I am. Got
right in the middle of the Station
and the Merchants Bank in Lumberton
went broke and caught me with
my pants down. Guess they are in a
pretty hard way. understand they need
300,000 ~~to~~ to open & there no chance.
Hell I never been in such a shape
in my life. This station cant pay my
my board. No tourists and what of
there is you cant stop. There this
other guy built right alongside of me
and he splits it in two for me.
Am going to put in a lunch counter
in Station that will help me some.
stop em for lunches & then work
on em for gas & oil ect. I sure
have worked like a sucker since
I started this have done most of

it myself. couldnt afford to pay
any one. thats why its taken me
so long. now din plum broke. and
its hard to get lumber coming
Just wrote Fred Stern to see if I
couldnt get .50. ^{cent} of him.

How about mile we. Will he be able
to clean up this fall. Sure hope so
I dont know what hell Im going
to do this winter. got to take what I
can get and cant get anything
I cant lease this and make more
than summing it. Sure hope
you are making it O.K. dont
know where you are so am sending
this to Ollie. Sure have neglected my
correspondence this year - just
wrote my folks a the day first
time since 1932. Alices ~~dad~~ died
in May & she went back to funeral
that cost me 100⁰⁰. Had to go to Butte
Monday & take exam for Bachelor that was
another 20⁰⁰. but am a licenced Bachelor
now. & Hell cant stop me.
Dont like this town. there aint

no town. Do you suppose I
could get a job hunting paper?
if I tried would like to take Census
please just for fun...

if you hear of anything let
me know I can break away
from here pretty quick. I have
a nice place here & best location
believe it would make me \$250 per mo
if I rented it.

Will write & tell me all
about it. am anxious
to hear from you

Yours friend
R. G.

Wanted like to get a crack at
Johnny waterland for \$300 where
is he?

July 29, 1932

T. Anton Messmer
307 E. Front St.
Missoula, Montana

Dear Mr. Messmer:

Am enclosing my check for \$15.00 covering the June and July rent, at Ollie, my family moved out of the house yesterday, that is they loaded into P.F. car, and are shipping to Breien to-day, Mrs. writes me that she will clean up the house and my family will be coming to Breien, either Sunday or Monday.

I trust that the delay in rent has caused you no great inconvenience and that you will shortly be able to find another renter, I am,

Yours very truly,

T. A. Zeltimer.

Aug. 27.

(1932)

Dear Matt: I see Bob & baby last
week. She is getting along very
nicely. The baby is a cut little
bugger. I could steal him
myself. A chubby little rascal.

I had got the money for the
flowers & I had them sent
up today.

I suppose Bob & Patches are
ticked with a baby basket.
Gwen is tickled to death. She
saw him last week too. From
time to time how Bob & baby are. Love

Ollie, Mont.

Nov. 29, 1932

Dear Math,

Received your letter today and shall proceed to answer right now. I just got thru mailing your mail and the chess board and men, but I was absolutely unable to locate the aerial. Either somebody has swiped it or you haven't given me the right location.

I have been all around the house, looked over and under each window and still cannot see it. The parcels post charges were 21¢ for which you have been duly charged.

Christ Sheva got your cook stove. He said he was going to settle with you for it. He thought \$10.⁰⁰ was too high, but I told him I had no jurisdiction in the matter, and that he could take that up with you. Has he done so.

Joe Jarvis was over at the house looking at your heater and said he would decide in a short time whether or not he wanted it. He is either going to take it or buy a new one. I talked that heater of yours up pretty strong so I am inclined to believe that if he buys

one it will be yours. I was going to try to see it to the lodge, as they need another heater, but it is really too small for them.

Also, I may add, that if the Lord is good I shall try to pay you what my balance is. Tomorrow is tax paying time and I will have to hustle if I am going to pay them all, as I am still about \$30⁰⁰ shy of the requisite amount. I would rather dun myself than have you do it, even if you cannot get any money by it.

So far, I think Joe Jarvis has rather a heavy job. They are cleaning up on Blaine Bryson on Monday, Dec. 5, and by the looks of the sale bills they will realize possibly \$400 or \$500. How is that for settling old accounts.

They are going to help Geo. Rustad get a R. F. C. loan on his cattle and they may realize possibly \$500 or \$600⁰⁰ on his account. The Bank of Baker cleaned up on E. E. Orton this fall and took a loss. All the Baker National Bank got for their note off Davis was was 16 hogs. They had a sale last week and got no bids, so they just parceled them out to whoever wanted some.

Geo. Rustad got 7 brood sows, that are to farrow in Feb, on his note, and I suppose one is as good as the other. If the sows do not die during farrowing time the note may be worth something.

The school business here isn't very stringent yet, but it may be later on. The high school has been functioning all year on I.O.U's, and the General grade school has been paying cash until the latter part of this month, and I hope enough taxes will come in so we may be able to keep on paying cash. I am still clerk, and am paying my winter's supply of coal for the house on that. May have it paid off by the first of January, and then I shall start in saving for your budget next. I believe that next year I shall use lignite in both places, and save my clerk's hire for something else.

I buy all my stove repairs from the U. S. Stove Repair Co., Minneapolis. They always have what you want and are prompt in sending out shipments.

Have been trying to get some loans

for people here thru the Federal
land bank, but it seems to be an uphill
job. All the former associations are
unable to function on account of
not being in good standing, and I wrote
to them again asking if it would be
possible to form a new one or re-
organize, but so far have not heard
from them.

I suppose however, that it will
all come to naught, and I am just as
well satisfied, for it would mean a
hell of a lot of work and possibly just
a kick in a rear ~~if~~ when things
were finished.

I do not figure on getting sick
again. Things are fine at home now,
and I am just doing things as they
come here at the store. I am not
worrying overly much now, for if
things get any worse there won't
be anything left to worry over.

Greet the whole outfit from us
all.

A.

THE FEDERAL LAND BANK OF SAINT PAUL

F. H. KLAWON, PRESIDENT & DIRECTOR
SAMUEL TORGERSON, VICE PRES. & DIRECTOR
FRANK G. WANER, VICE PRES. & SECRETARY
GEO. S. GORDHAMER, VICE PRES. & TREASURER
JOHN THORPE, GENERAL COUNSEL
JOHN C. SMITH, DIRECTOR
FRANK R. COIT, DIRECTOR
CHARLES E. PARKER, DIRECTOR
SAM A. RASK, DIRECTOR
GOTTFRID S. JOHNSON, DIRECTOR

SAINT PAUL, MINN.

SEVENTH DISTRICT
NORTH DAKOTA
MINNESOTA
WISCONSIN
MICHIGAN

September 23, 1933

Mr. M. A. Zeltinger
Breien, North Dakota

Dear Sir:

Your inquiry regarding the position of land bank appraiser received and in order that you may understand how appraisers are appointed we are giving you the following information.

All appraisers are appointed by the Appraisal Division at Washington upon recommendation of this bank and the reviewing appraiser of the district.

When an application is received and the references have been checked and found satisfactory, if the bank is in need of additional appraisers the applicant is assigned out in the field for testing purposes under the supervision of a regular land bank appraiser. He must spend approximately two weeks demonstrating his ability both as to valuing lands and analyzing financial statements in order to determine the credit risk. He must, of course, know something about general agricultural conditions, soils and fowl weeds. He should be a good judge of human nature. He must also know something about valuing livestock and buildings.

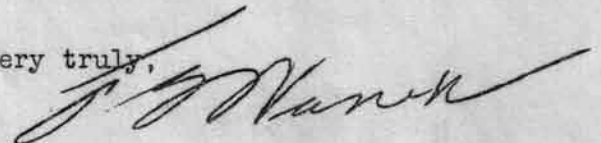
If at the end of the two weeks period a favorable report on his work is received, the bank may request his appointment as an appraiser and he then can act in that capacity for the bank if he is appointed.

Appraisers at this time are being appointed on a part time basis and will be paid for the time they work with an allowance for the necessary travel expense and five cents per mile for the use of his car.

Preference is given to men who have had actual appraisal experience and understand credits as these are two of the most essential qualities that go to make up a good appraiser. You cannot qualify if you own bank stock or are counted with any loaning institution or are secretary-treasurer of a national farm loan association, nor if you are a borrower through the land bank system.

If you feel that you can qualify, kindly fill out and sign the enclosed application blank, which when received by us will be given due consideration with others on file.

Yours very truly,



F. G. Wanek, Secretary.

FGW:OJF

MONTANA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

H. R. CUNNINGHAM,
PRESIDENT AND MANAGER
O. M. LANSTRUM,
V. PRES. AND ASSOC. MEDICAL DIRECTOR
B. C. BROOKE,
V. PRES. AND MEDICAL DIRECTOR
A. C. JOHNSON,
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



F. A. HOWARD,
TREASURER
A. J. CLEMO,
SECRETARY
R. B. RICHARDSON,
ACTUARY
GUNN, RASCH, HALL & GUNN,
GENERAL COUNSEL

HELENA, MONTANA 1-9-33

Dear Math:- Shortly after mailing you the other letter, I got the yours and am sending you Zellinger's receipt.

The wife has had an attack of the "flu" if you can call it that and, has been up and down for almost a week.

I have been washing clothes, cooking, etc, and have not as yet completed my inventory.

Have the store part completed, but the workshop and ware-house are still left, but it won't take long when I get started again. So far, I am going good, so I can't holler.

Have rigged up two radios into dry cell outfits and they are well

Look for some more of this business
shortly. I charge nothing for the
work, but get a chance to get my
profit on the turbs and batteries.

W.

Breien, North Dakota
September 28, 1933

Mr. N. I. Roop
Bismarck, North Dakota

Dear Mr. Roop:

I am placing my application with the Federal Land Bank for an appraiser, it is quite a lengthy affair and among one of the questions that I need a help on is the following, know that you can give me some good suggestions.

Question "Discuss briefly what you consider to be the chief factors in appraising agricultural lands for loan purposes."

My views on this are as follows:

The soil and consistency thereof, size of farm, the number of acres tilled and tillable acreage, number of acres smooth upland and bottom land, the number of acres slightly rolling and rolling, those to rough for cultivation on account of rocks, swamp, natural groves or otherwise.

Water, source of same, quality and quantity

Foul weeds quack grass and sow thistle

Fencing, general appearance of the place, home life of family

This may not be worded the way it should be, I scanned over in a hurry and will have to dress it up, its near train time, and want to get this to you to-day. Thanks a lot for your help Roop.

Very sincerely,

P.S. Am also sending your name in as reference.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

C. B. LITTLE, PRESIDENT
E. T. MCCANNA, VICE PRESIDENT
N. I. ROOP, VICE PRESIDENT
E. W. LEONARD, VICE PRESIDENT



F. E. SHEPARD, VICE PRES. & CASHIER
B. F. LAWYER, ASST. CASHIER
H. E. HANSON, ASST. CASHIER
L. P. WARREN, ASST. CASHIER
C. A. HEUPEL, ASST. CASHIER

BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA.

September 29, 1933

Mr. M. A. Zeltinger
Breien, North Dakota

Dear Mat:

Referring to your letter of the 28th with reference to your application for the position as Land Bank appraiser, I would add that the earnings are an important factor in determining the amount to be loaned, otherwise you have covered the subject fully.

Very truly yours,

N. I. Roop

NIR:M

THE FEDERAL LAND BANK OF SAINT PAUL

F. H. KLAWON, PRESIDENT & DIRECTOR
SAMUEL TORGERSON, VICE PRES. & DIRECTOR
FRANK G. WANER, VICE PRES. & SECRETARY
GEO. S. GORDHAMER, VICE PRES. & TREASURER
JOHN THORPE, GENERAL COUNSEL
JOHN C. SMITH, DIRECTOR
FRANK R. COIT, DIRECTOR
CHARLES E. PARKER, DIRECTOR
SAM. A. RASK, DIRECTOR
GOTTFRID S. JOHNSON, DIRECTOR

SEVENTH DISTRICT
NORTH DAKOTA
MINNESOTA
WISCONSIN
MICHIGAN

SAINT PAUL, MINN.

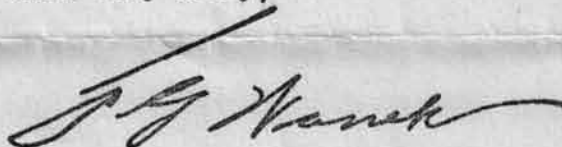
October 4, 1933

Mr. Mathias A. Zeltinger
Breien, North Dakota

Dear Sir:

We acknowledge receipt of your application for the position of appraiser. We will check the references and hold in our files along with others we have until such time as we are in need of additional help. Each application will be given careful consideration and you will be advised in due course should your name be considered favorably.

Yours very truly,



FGW:OJF

F. G. Wanek, Secretary

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

MORTON COUNTY

H. K. JENSEN, SUPERINTENDENT
C. A. BUGBEE, DEPUTY

MANDAN, NORTH DAKOTA

October 7, 1933

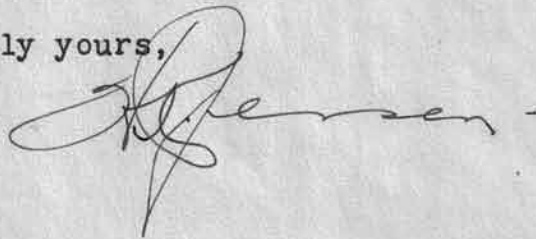
Mr. Math. Zeltinger,
Breien, North Dakota.

Dear Math:

You bet I will give you a good recommendation
if the Federal Land Bank Office at St. Paul request so.

Seems to me that there is no reason why you
should not get in on such a job because your experience
has been right along with their business.

Sincerely yours,



I did today.

HKJ:JA



Ollie, Mont.

Oct. 9, 1933.

The Federal Land Bank of St. Paul.

St. Paul, Minn.

Attention: F.G. Wanek.

Dear Sir:- Regarding the letter from you requesting information as to the character and other qualifications of M.A. Zeltinger, I am glad to state that he would be an apt pupil, a conscientious worker, and would carry out the bank's program to the fullest detail.

He is of German descent, speaks that language fluently, and if placed where there were accounts of such a nature, would be better able to get details than one who could only speak English.

He is about thirty three ~~##~~ years of age, has had high school and some college experience, and besides that he has had stenographic work, and also banking experience.

He came to this town in 1928, as cashier of the Ollie State Bank, and stayed in that position until the bank liquidated and closed up in 1931.

He was well liked by all the patrons of the bank, and as far as I know he treated them all alike, regardless of any personal feeling on his own part.

While here he was also clerk of the school board, at the same time that I was one of the trustees, and his books were always neat and correct to the minutest detail.

Since leaving here he has been occupying a position as manager of a hardware and lumber establishment at Breien, North Dakota, and he must have done efficient work there in order to stay thru these times.

He has no bad habits of any kind that I could observe. He smokes, but does not chew, or drink intoxicating liquors. He carries himself well, and his disposition is not erratic.

I think the applicant will fully come up to all I have said about him, and in addition I might add that I would not hesitate to hire him in my own business.

Yours truly,

Alvin Hoverson.

TOLLEY, N. DAK.

October 9th, 1933.

The Federal Land Bank of St. Paul,
St. Paul, Minn.

Gentlemen: I have your letter of October 4th asking for any information I may have regarding the qualifications of Mr. Mathias A. Zeltinger for a position as a land bank appraiser.

It is with pleasure that I am able to say that in my opinion Mr. Zeltinger is well qualified to handle such work. His experience in business and banking should be of considerable value to him in carrying on work of this nature.

I have known Mr. Zeltinger well for a period of about twenty years and he has always been honest, industrious, and conscientious. In his sound conservative judgment and business ability, I have every confidence.

Very truly yours,

Clement C. Resch

Ollie, Mont.

Oct. 10, 1933.

Dear Math.

I received the communication from the bank the same time that I got your letter, and I sent it out by return mail. I am herewith sending you a copy of it, so that you may know what I think of you.

I have been pretty busy this fall, ever since my brother left for the west, and it seems as tho it is pretty hard to catch up. I feel fine a dandy however, so that helps a lot.

Have been trying hard to collect something on old accounts this fall, and so far have had pretty good luck.

Old Lloyd Mc. Farland had a sale this fall, and from what I understand, I am about the luckiest mortal born, to hear the other creditors mourn.

This fall when he started threshing, I went up there and eased out \$30.00 from him.

When he had his sale the stove brought \$21.00 more, and as he had sold one of the horses that I had a mortgage on I still have him where the hair is short. He said that before he left I would get the balance, which amounts to about \$30.00.

I am pretty well rushed this morning, and will write you a more lengthy letter soon, but it really is your turn. We are all well, and things are still going about so and so. The wife hasn't had a headache for about five moths now, and she has been feeling pretty good all summer.

af.

*Found my best
in my humble self
Robert*

Copy

October 13, 1933.

Federal Land Bank of
Saint Paul, Minnesota.
Attention Mr. F. G. Wanek, Sec'y.,

Dear sir:

Re: Inquire Mathias A. Zeltinger

The writer has known Mr. Zeltinger, your applicant, since 1913, and has been in constant touch with him ever since.

He first came to Flasher, North Dakota, in 1917, leaving his father's farm near Tolley, North Dakota, to engage in the banking business. He was continuously employed as a bank official in Flasher until 1927, when the Directors of the Bank at Ollie Montana, required real service in order to liquidate that bank. He became its cashier and completed the liquidation in 3½ years paying the depositors 100%. He was connected with such work as general banking, collections and land appraisal.

He has a good knowledge of farming, acquiring it by applying himself with his father until manhood, and also as appraising land. He is well versed in banking and general business. His character is beyond reproach; is a willing worker, honest and used good judgment. He also is acquainted with human nature and knows how to work with the public, and is well liked in every territory that he has lived. He is economical, careful and thrifty, and as a land appraiser for your bank will make an excellent man. He is well able to investigate personal risks and the valuation of and recommendations of credit on chattel security including personal property and crops of the farmer. He is at present employed by the Albrecht-Johnson Company.

It is with pleasure that I can recommend Mr. Zeltinger as qualified in every way for a position with you.

Yours truly,

R. A. Mohrer,

Breien, North Dakota
February 6, 1934

Mr. F. G. Wanek, Sec.
Federal Land Bank
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Sir:

On October 4th you acknowledged receipt of my application for the position of appraiser. You also stated therein that I would be advised in due course should my name be considered favorably.

Not having heard from you further, I was under the impression that either my name was rejected, or that no appointments were made during the winter months? I dislike to trouble you in this matter, but being anxious to secure a position, would like to know

Thanking you very kindly, I am,

Very sincerely,

M.A. Zeltinger

THE FEDERAL LAND BANK OF SAINT PAUL

ROY A. NELSON, PRESIDENT
SAMUEL TORGERSON, VICE PRES. & DIRECTOR
FRANK G. WANER, VICE PRES. & SECRETARY
GEO. S. GORDHAMER, VICE PRES. & TREASURER
JOHN THORPE, GENERAL COUNSEL
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JOHN C. SMITH, DIRECTOR
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CHARLES E. PARKER, DIRECTOR
SAM A. RASK, DIRECTOR
GOTTFRID S. JOHNSON, DIRECTOR
GARFIELD FARLEY, DIRECTOR

SAINT PAUL, MINN.

SEVENTH DISTRICT
NORTH DAKOTA
MINNESOTA
WISCONSIN
MICHIGAN

February 9, 1934

Mr. M. A. Zeltinger
Breien, North Dakota

Dear Mr. Zeltinger:

We have your letter with reference to
your appraiser's application.

Due to cold weather, our appraisal staff
has not been working. However, when work begins in
the spring, most of our available positions will be
filled by the men who worked last fall and early winter.

We have your application and complete
record on file, and it will be given due consideration
for any opening which might occur.

Yours truly,

EMPLOYMENT OFFICE

By 

RWB-MMB

H. H. PERRY
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEEMAN
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

May 1, 1934

Mr. M. A. Zeltinger
Breien, North Dakota

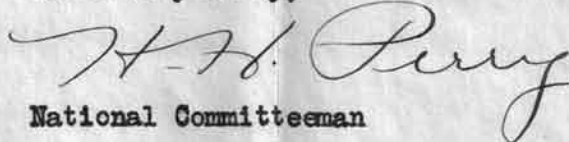
Dear Mr. Zeltinger:

I am in receipt of your letter of April 30 and regret that I am unable to give you a list of governmental positions where vacancies exist or where vacancies may be expected. I do not know of any list of this kind that can be secured.

When there are vacancies in civil service positions, notices of time and place of holding examinations are generally posted in the lobby of post offices. It might be well for you to keep watch for notices of this kind.

Regretting that I cannot give you the information you desire, and with kindest personal regards, I am

Yours very truly,


National Committeeman

HHP:E

Miles City

Jan 28, 1935

Dear ~~Dad~~; Daddy

This is the second time I wrote and never got an answer. We are all alright. I started school today & I sure like it. I have got 5 teachers but don't know their names. Just a little while ago I pressed the ink well & spilled it & it went all over the table & on the paper. You can see some of the ink in the corner.

I sure have lots of fun.

Jewel is down here. She came tonight. We ran out of money now we can't get any school supplies. We are waiting for our box of clothes because my dress is rotting and me
over

Sister Miriam

Please send us girls some money
for school supplies. Mother
spent the other money for clothes
to go to school & still haven't got
enough.

Miles City, Mont

Feb. 20, 1935

Dear Daddy,

We received your valentines
and were glad to get them.
This morning I noticed red
spots on my face nobody
knew what it was. Mother
said to see the school nurse
about it. I went to the nurse's
room but she was not there. I
went to my gesses. Then at
study period, Miss Dickson
the music teacher came
to me and took me down
to Miss Hall, the principal's
secretary to see if she knew
what it was on my face. She
said I had the German ^{sign of}
measles. She said these measles
usually showed in the mouth
she looks in my mouth and
above the pallet. There were
little tiny bumps on the skin.
Other pupils in my class have
been having them too. I am in
the 8a w section. In the 8th
grade there are the W. O. R. K. Sections
There are some kids in the
8a w - 8a o - 8a v + 8a k - 8a k's
are the ones who don't know
so much.

Our first bell rings at
8 thirty the last bell
at 8:45. Then we have the
roll call. Then we pass to our
classes. In the morning we have
two subjects and study hall.
an hour for each of these which
is 3 hours. at 11:45 the buzzer
rings and we have to quit
studying and get ready for
dismissal. The principal comes
to the assembly. (The assembly
is my home room + principal
is my home room teacher.)
He paces up and down the
rows to see if there is paper
around the desks if there is
he goes to the next row and looks
at it, while the row with paper
in it has been cleaned.
The ones with paper around
their desks are dismissed last.
Some army planes come
here Monday. They come from
Frickburg. Major Royce
was commander. I will send
some clippings telling about
it.

J. It's nice here. But there
is nothing to do. Grandpa
hunts us out every minute
but I guess his getting old
is part of the cause.

The man next door to us;
who we always goof, has fixed
a lattice worked porch on
his house. When he goes
up town he gets a little way
from his house. He turns
around two times and looks
around very fine we see him
start out we watch to see
if he turns to look at his
house. He does it every time
Up at Kurlmans garage there
is a monkey. Its name is
Maggie. Its mate died and
his name was Jip. A girl was
watching Maggie one day and
the monkey reached into the
wind netting and pulled the
feather out of her hat.
She got scared but she
laughed anyway. I will
have more to write later
With love
Dorothy Jones

Just a line to say
I still feel the same
and am afraid
always will as if as
you had your plan
on going up to Jordan.
You might just as well
go there with them.

Judging by your
last two letters
is impossible for you
ever to change, but
I course that isn't
anything to me now.

Dad said he wouldn't
make out any statements
for you. That's maybe you
that I was using some
of the money so made one out.
Bill sent it around the 1st.
Kids are beginning to like it.

Bill
Wey

miles city mont.
Feb. 25, 1935

Dear Daddy:

I had to laugh in school because of funny things in my classes. I have each teacher for each class.

In social science ~~there~~ there's a boy named Elmer Bunch. In the hall Mr. Sangster had a talk with him ~~before~~ and was 10 to 15 min. late and we laugh until we screamed. He walked into the room and his teacher said, "Elmer" he answered, "Hu" "Where is your glasses?" "I left them at the ranch." "Go after them, and then we went to English class. Miss Anis had a phone call and she said, "He's here" Elmer when she got a little ways from the telephone she said to Elmer to go to the office and we laughed again because that was the third time he had a talk with Mr. Sangster. Babe went back to Baker Sunday.

Designed by

Mrs. Close

Miriam

miles city
march 5 1935

Dear daddy

Ray is pretty sick with pneumonia.
First he had the flu.

How is everybody?

On the 5 of March we are going to
see if he gets better.

Mamma is taking care him.

Grandma is coming home.

See I wish you were here.

How do you daddy?

Daddy where is air log now?

Will you send us something?

Will you send me 5 cents?

I haven't got much to say.
Today is a cold day and I went to
school.

Granie came down today.

And helped with the work.
Jimmy is a bad boy.
I will have to quit now.

Love Gwen

M. Dak Tolley
June 10 1945

Dear Matt & all.

How are you? we dont hear from you often.
We got a letter from you the Jan 23 and
were glad to hear from you.
Ed. is sick since yesterday morning and
last night had to call the Dr. in Melall
he came here last night, he didnt get
out of bed yesterday nor today, his throat
is swollen up & he had a fever of 102 in am.
Friday he was doing summer plowing
and it was so hot, I guess it was too
hot for any thing else.

Dad & I are feeling quite good, he says
all the clothes he wore are shrunken up, he says
all pants is waigh to big for him now.

Ed. wife had a litle boy, but he came a month
too soon, he is so litle he weight only 4 + some ounce
he sleeps all the time. he came the 9 of June.

Louise is going to Minot summer school,
all our land is put in crop this year.
Ed. rented the land of Shoers, + Rudwald + Refuge
he put that in.

I have a bive garden, we are eating radishes
lettuce + onions & Rhubarb already, and potatoes
state are redy to blume.

Well I have to close now.
with love

Mother
Say Matt are you coming up here, bring the family
along if they want to come.

Tolley, N. Dak

Feb. 11 - 52.

Dear Mat, Bob.

The folks got a call from St. Cloud last night from Uncle Ed. Mother took the call as no one else was there I had just gone home.

Uncle Ed told her that his wife passed away at 9 o'clock last night from a stroke.

I thought you would like to know that's why I'm writing. His address is:

Ed. J. Ethen

629, -9th ave. No.

St. Cloud, Minn

Dad says he feels O.K. for the time being, and I guess the new pills are helping him. He is smoking his pipe.

Enclosed is a card that came to us some time ago. You can take care of it.

Wonderful weather isn't it? Had about an inch of snow last Thursday but it has packed away so it won't blow anymore.

Hope you are all well — Love from Mom & Dad

L.