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1908-03-10

**Letter from Helen [Muir] to [John Muir], 1908 Mar 10.**

Helen Muir

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For you know how tick thin  
is to be done in my shanty, and  
I am happier without a hired  
girl. And besides Mr Van Dyke  
wants Mary to learn housekeeping  
just so long as there is no one to  
put extra work on her shoulders.

Write and tell me if I can  
ask Mrs Funk to board me. And  
please dont worry. I'm all right -  
I simply want to stay that way,  
and have found that the present  
arrangement isn't going to work well.

I wish you could be here to  
enjoy this glorious day. Spring has  
really come.

We are all well. Mr Van Dyke  
ask for you. Always yours Helen

Daggett, Cal.  
March 10-08

Dear Papa -

This is a beautiful sunny  
day on the desert. Calm and  
warm, and I am going to ride  
as soon as I finish this letter.

I received the package of  
post cards a few days ago. Thank  
you. My shanty will look gay  
when I get them all on the walls.

There is something I want to  
ask your advice about. Since  
Miss B. left I have been expected  
to help Mary so she wouldnt have  
any extra work on account of  
my being here. I find that this

place wont work, for tho' I dont  
do much, that it tires me. Whether  
Mary or Mrs Van Dyke see any  
reason why helping a little with  
cooking etc. can tire me, but and  
I dont see why either, but it does.  
Now dont worry thinking I have  
hurt myself for I havent, but I  
wanted to talk to you before I did.  
Now what I want to do, is to let  
Mrs Funk, the lady who lives just  
across the yard, board me. She  
understands my case perfectly,  
is a nice kind woman, and a  
good cook. This change would  
have Mary with the same amount

of cooking as she had before  
we invaded their household, and  
I would have nothing to do but  
keep my little shanty in order,  
and continue to grow fat. I have  
not said anything to Mrs Funk  
for I wanted to ask you first,  
but I know she will take me at  
the same amount we pay <sup>the</sup> Van Dykes.  
I feel sure the Van Dykes will  
understand and not think we  
are ungrateful. But as long as  
I board with them I am expected  
to help a little. And toward summer  
Mary helps outdoors with the hay  
etc. so an extra person here would  
give her a little more trouble. There  
is no use in my having a servant