MRS. SELDEN BACON
BITTERSWEET COTTAGE
ONTEORA CLUB, TANNERSVILLE, N. Y.

Dear Idaren:—

Hurray for you! I wish I could bring you the bittersweet and snow berries and barberry that still flame out here.

I'm the only person on this side mountain, plus a courageous Valley woman, who breaks the ice on the rain barrel, every morning, and helps on lug in the logs. We've had four snow storms and a cloud burst, and in an unheated frame house, neither of these is a joke, I'm here to tell you! I am bogged down here with a dentist job, and as it's the hunting season, my young dentist is out after deer and fox all day, and operates neatly in his hunting clothes! It went down to 10 last month, at night, and in my living-room it's 46 in the center, and 60 in the fireplace.

Talk about Lincoln—I'm not

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Ever anybody but a New Englander could take it! He may have split the logs - but did he carry them in? Dim full of splinters - but I haven't done a Kelly, Lucy Addcox, yet. Perhaps he really was abler.

But if you could have seen me, sailing angrily out in the cloud burst, in a policeman's rubber coat, with a pickaxe and a hoe, breaking open a blind drain, and detouring the local waterfalls, so that I got the flood down from my kitchen door sill in five minutes! And then, cocky with pride, I constructed a small dam with the mud I had out, and turned off another small river, and drained the wood shed! Engineers are over valued and over paid, in my opinion - anybody can do it.

We've had no Indian Summer at all, and I hear that a bear was seen near my place recently, which would be all I need to complete the picture.

Little Selden is now a professor of sociology and criminology at Penn State - Can you imagine it? With a baby that talks and walks. Deborah, having spent a year in the Arctic Circle, driving sledge dogs and nursing Alaskan Indians, is now back, and Anne is composing ballets and organizing the

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modern dancers. And Kin dragging in Cops and writing fairy tales. And you're showing everybody how to play the game, generally — and showing them grandly.

We all take off our hats to you, and wish you many of them, these birthdays of yours. There's some sense in them, really.

Much love from,

I. D. B.

Mar. 3, 1937

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