

see Martin
I have another
line direct!

Aquone N.C.

July 12, 1915 -

Messrs Marshall Robson & Co.

Dear Ovid, Mick,

Friends & Neighbors:-

Your lively and most acceptable epistles of date the 6th inst came in quick time and were as stimulating as Mountain air and the bellowing of hounds in the chase of the elusive Bob-Cat.

We have had several expeditions after the cat lately but no pets to show for them; but in the meantime they have not been in vain for we have added to our menagerie, at least, and will

2/ Some points
proceed to get ~~the~~ down
for a reminder to the old
boys around Orid who
used to run bobcats into
the tamarack swamps still
called Cat-holes.

Our noble hounds are named
Wallace and Jack respectively
and respond quickly to the
call for dinner, also to the
call for the chase which
our host, Bob Barnett,
can produce in imitation
of the hunting horn, ~~which~~
~~are also~~

It is only a step into the
Mountain wilds and up the
valley of the Nantahala river
where the hunt is likely to
begin. It is twelve miles
up before ~~you~~ one finds

another habitation. A beautiful road follows this most beautiful of ~~the~~ rivers, ~~I dare say~~ which is practically untroubled ^{in places}, not even showing a dog track. The mountains rise from the river's edges to many hundreds of feet and all heavily wooded where the gigantic hemlock grows on the shady sides. While the sunny sides ~~are~~ ^{are} covered with white oak, chestnut, & hickory which furnish food called mast, for the squirrel, the possum, the wild hog, the turkey, and Old Brown himself the master of all. ~~Indirectly the bobcat gets his living also for he lies in wait for all the young ~~of~~ all ~~except~~ bear cubs~~

Indirectly Mister Bobcat gets his living from the same source, ~~also~~, for he likes squirrel & possum, while a young wild pig is counted ~~not~~ not only filling, but a toothsome dainty, and, eating too much ^{more} is easily tread, or runs to an ignominious death.

Bob gave me a fine skin from a twenty two pounder which he shot to save old Wallace from getting a cutting up. The ~~cat~~ was only twenty feet in the lead. His stomach was full of pig.

The road becomes our base of travel while the hounds lead the way taking up the river bottoms & the mountain sides,

When the imitation horn blew, the signal was given for big game, - no rabbits today Jack & Wallace,
 Wind, 5

Bob fills us with bobcat love, hore + raccoon love there but is quickly shut up when Jack opens up from the river bank + leads away into the glooms of the hemlock wallace follows and there's something doing in music if not in business.

The mountains love the racket for they hustle the echoes backward + forward + backward again.

But Bob says "I reckon hit's a Kewon, Hit's the beateest thing how that Jack will pick up a Kewon ~~had~~ trail", And a soon it proved to be for Jack soon got disgruntled + reported back.

A little farther on old ~~Jack~~ Wallace began to sing + led the way to a big ^{hemlock} log which spanned the river bank to a large floodwood and up the mountain side he labored through dense copses of Rhododendron.

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laurel & dog hobble almost
impenetrable ^{and} buried deep in the
gloom of the mighty hemlocks.

And Bob says "Hits a cat
sute this time and he hasn't been
gone half an hour, I know Jack's
song when he's ~~after~~ after a cat.

We will wait here and maybe
they will run him over the
ridge and ^{back} along them rock
ledges & down here and we will
get him". So we sat down on
a big log & watched & listened.

Up & up hundreds & hundreds of feet
~~they~~ ^{they} ~~fell~~ ^{hollowed} their way now slow now
fast, now lost altogether, then caught
again and up, and beyond the
hemlock line to oak & chestnut
& still up & over the crest they
go at last.

Bob says "they will run him
over into Bear Creek Valley into

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these laurel thickets. and if they
can get ^{them} out of there right, hee
may shoot back here. You see
them cats have got their trade
well learnt. They crawl ^{along} them
rhododendrons sometimes a hundred
feet & then jump off twenty
feet, then double around
backwards & overwards & tie
them dogs up in a hard knot.

The way to git em out is to
go thar and holler like hell
and they'll leave for another
thicket - & you can shoot em up
while they're crossin' over,

Why I've seen a cat run a
log with the dogs ^a followin' and
then turn & run ^{along back} under the log
while the dogs were on top of the
log & get a big start of the dogs
that-a-way. Then when they git

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into the hard wood they will
climb up & run through the
tree tops a hundred feet or so
and then jump off same as ^{they} do
do in these thickets. Then when
they come to a tree top they'll
sashay through that & jump again
and then they'll climb a tree
a ways & then jump 20 feet
or so off one side. They are
plain the beatest - rammint
that ranges these North Carolina
Mountains

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A bobcat likes to lie around
them rock ledges ^{up there} in the day time
& seem hisself ~~as~~ just like our
little bitty cats likes to sit
around the ~~fire~~ ^{up} at the fireplace
and when night comes they goes
out prowling for birds & such like."

of Mountain side
Bob climbed up that, ~~ledge~~
at last. He said he slipped
+ ^{went} back a dozen feet one time, but
he made it; but could ^{hear} nothing
from the dogs. They no doubt
had lost the track over in that
thicket. I went up the river
with the camera. A couple of hours
later Jack came ~~back~~ swimming the
river to me + proved a fine
companion, especially at lunch times;
until he struck a track and
I saw him no more until I got
back to the "Home of the Buesome
Pines".

~~I cannot close this~~. I enclose
with this letter a ^{top} ~~branch~~ of ~~Rhododendron~~
Rhododendron, a branch of laurel, and
a twig of ^{dog hobble} ~~dog hobble~~; they are all
evergreens and combine, when
massed together, a thicket

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distinctly repellent to the hunter;
~~They make a noise~~ ^{and mean} they are 10 to 20 feet in height in
 favorable places; ~~they make~~ a fine
 retreat for deer; a home for the
 moonshiner's still, and a cover
 for cats. The dog hobble is
 low as the name indicates ~~and~~
~~for it is down~~ and right-
 where it proves such a nuisance
 to them. The Rhododendron is a
~~the~~ flowering variety and grand
 when in bloom. The laurel
 is a filler and helps to make the
 charm both firm & good.

Faithfully yours
 L. E. Jackson