

March 16, 1964

Mr. M. O. Lee, President
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Reading, Pennsylvania

My dear "Whitey":

Well, we had a great day up in that "Apache Chief country", where they finally did catch that great Indian Chief, old Geronimo, and sent him to far away Oklahoma; but he left about 1500 of his Indians over in that part of the country, and we have had them to help us take good care of the deer and wild gobblers at McIntosh, where Aaron Burr was captured after he killed Alexander Hamilton.

Well, two or three years ago, your able and wonderful Vice-President, the Honorable Ward Ostberg, asked me to get hold of my son, Dick, and tell him to do a little job for him -- build a corral and fill it up for him. Well, we did that. I told him the other day that I was going to invite you down on a hunt and that I was going to tell you about this, but he said: "Don't tell him; I will get Walter Grille and a few more of the officers of our Company and we will be there - "with bells on". So, Mother baked Old Ward and Walter a beautiful pound cake -- and I have a new chauffeur now, whose name is "Little Charlie"; we also have a new jeep - and it's a honey; it cost about the same as a Cadillac, but I wanted to try to get a good one to take up there, so we would know you would have a way to get around if it rained, etc. However, we found after we got there that Dick had fixed up the roads so good that the Cadillac does just as well as this jeep. However, we can use it, as it runs in the sand as well as it does in the bogs, etc. But down in this country we don't have bogs any more.

Anyway, I told Mother she had better get a couple of bottles of champagne, along with a little "sheep", as they both promised they were going to bring Irene and Jenny. Of course, we wouldn't have gone up, if they hadn't promised us that; but lo and behold, when they drove up in a "silver chariot" driven by two men - one with a shotgun - there was no Ward and no Walter. However, after waiting about an hour and getting the champagne right cold and keeping the cake kind of warm - as Ward likes warm things, you know - we saw a very beautiful long car, which turned out to be a beautiful Cadillac, rolling along - and they seemed to be "singing a song" - and here they were.

March 16, 1964

Well, we went out to meet and greet them - and there was our Vice-President of the Vanity Fair Mills, that great Company that has done so much for all of these great places down here, as well as all of Alabama and all mankind. Ward had on the most beautiful boots I have ever seen. They were Texas boots. He also had on a Texas hat - and a honey of a hat, too. Well, he had on one of these "golden" shirts. I later found out that Ocllo had sent it to him two or three years ago; and I also heard she sent you one. Well, I remember that we bought them in Scotland, where they say they make very good clothes - half as good as they make at the Vanity Fair Mills - and that's going some.

Then, he had on these black breeches - and Brother, he stepped out of that big Cadillac - and Walter Grille, this young buck who has been over there and done so much good for so long, opened the door and we marched down. There we were - and these wild turkeys with their big red heads and the beautiful little hens that were just starting to lay were "tiptoeing through the tulips". Well, Dick is raising some Beagle Hounds - and he had fourteen right there, and I thought Ward was going to take those hounds, too; but I begged off and told him to save them, as they were not big enough to run deer now, but he did take a lot of pictures of them, so he will know them the next time he comes back, when I imagine he will take them away from Dick.

Well, we went in Dick's den, and Ward said he had some kind of lent promise, and Walter Grille said he didn't drink champagne anyway, but he did eat "sheep". So, after we got the beautiful silver van loaded up, Dick, Ward, Walter and I drove down through the pasture. Well, I had been bragging about how many deer and turkeys we had, but I forgot the new moon had not come out yet, and the deer don't start grazing until the moon shows up a little bit; so, we didn't see anything. Then, we went on up to the hunting lodge -- and Dick has done that over. He has some beds in that little guest room downstairs that are 300 years old, which we inherited when we bought an old castle up near York, Alabama, on the Tombigbee River. Well, after he fixed that room up pretty good, he decided to put new beds in every room. Then he decided to paint it, put new sills in it, put down a new well and whitewash all of the trees - and there are about a million of them down there; then he fixed a new fence for the cows - and I see he used cypress lumber. Then he dug a hole for a new lake - 22 feet deep - but he finds he is going to have to put down a new well - and Lord knows, he put down a new well this past week. So, we are going to have a lake there, where we will be able to fish. We will plant azaleas and other flowers around it.

Well, we drank some of Bee's coffee - and Bee said: "I seed two or three turkeys and so many deer you couldn't count them." So, I thought they were down there. Well, we sat there and talked about the old times and the new times and all sorts of things. Then I insisted that we go back again, as the new moon was coming up. Well, the first thing we saw was a bunch of deer behind the hunting lodge; then we went on down - and we saw about a 25-pound turkey down in your old place where they have the pecan trees. Then, when we turned the curve, there were deer after deer - big bucks and beautiful little does - as well as turkeys and everything else. Then we went on down to Jepp Hammock - and Brother, we "had it made". The water had them backed up there to the magnolia trees, where Homer Gruenther, Assistant to the President of the United States, kills his and where you have killed so many, and we just saw them everywhere. We went on around to the "Ed Ball Stand", and there they were waiting for us. Then, we went on down to the "Bob Sikes Stand", and there were some of the most beautiful turkeys I ever saw - and the deer, of course, were everywhere. Then, we went on down to the "Whitey Lee Stand" -- and Brother, you get Ward to tell you about that. I saw they had built a house up in a tree, and I asked them what in the world that was for. He said that sometimes he was afraid that those big bucks were going to get after you, and that was the way you could escape - and you could blow your horn or use your "walkie-talkie" and we could come down there and rescue you.

Anyway, "Whitey", they were there by the hundreds. Ward said he wanted to give me a check for the turkeys - and asked me what they were worth. I said: "You ask Dick." Of course, Dick told him he had been feeding them for two years, that he had built a pen, and this, that and the other, and had a man doing nothing else, etc., and told him that we paid \$25.00 apiece for our gobblers in Pennsylvania and North Carolina, and \$15.00 for the hens. Well, Ward said that you were the President of the Company and he supposed he would have to see you. So, now we have got to invite you down again, as we have done a thousand times; but, of course, you must like something they have up there in New York, because you won't come. Anyway, we are going to have a hunt, I believe, this week end. So, if you don't come, we are going to put out a warrant for you - or maybe send Bobby after you.

Anyway, Ed Ball is having a terrible time - and I don't believe he will be able to come, but I hope he will. He has put up a wonderful fight. He called me yesterday morning and talked to me for an hour. He is truly a great man and is fighting for some little part of our way of life - just like you have been doing so good.

Mr. M. O. Lee

- 4 -

March 16, 1964

Dick has now planted over 50-million pine trees, and the Good Lord has planted over two billion. I don't know whether that is enough or not. He has also given us 37 producing oil wells between Citronelle and McIntosh, but we need about a hundred. I believe, "Whitey", we will soon be getting about 200 wild turkey eggs a day, and Dick and I have talked about giving Old Ward two or three hundred eggs - and he could use an incubator, because it takes a lot of turkeys to fully stock a 6,000-acre tract, which is what I understand you have on your hunting preserve in Monroe County. We will be glad to do this or anything else that will help, because what you all have done with your mills all over South Alabama is almost a miracle, and you have made so many people happy, healthy and wealthy. I want to say again that I am so glad I met that wonderful Treasurer of the Vanity Fair Mills, so many long years ago, out in the halls of the Congress of the United States, and told him about the glories of this part of the country. So, we moved the whole Vanity Fair Company out of Reading, Pennsylvania, down to Alabama -- and you don't know how much good it has done. You will never realize it, and you don't know the fine job that Ward Ostberg has done and is doing - just like you did when you were down here.

I believe the hunting season starts on March 20, which is this coming Friday, and I believe that is when the boys from Washington want to come. So, don't you let us down, because we expect to have a great time, and maybe do a lot of good. When you come, I want you to take off about twenty minutes and see what we have done in the development of the chemical business in McIntosh.

We miss you. May God bless, help and keep you, now and forever.

Devotedly,

ALL OF THE FRANK BOYKINS

By: Frank W. Boykin

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