PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL FILE

PPF 9
Gifts M
Feb. 1935

PPF900483

February 1, 1935

My dear Reno:

The President has received your very nice letter of January twenty-fourth. He has asked me to thank you for your kindness in sending your drawing to him and to extend his very best wishes to you.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Reno Mastracci,
516 Clinton Street,
Buffalo,
New York.

EAK

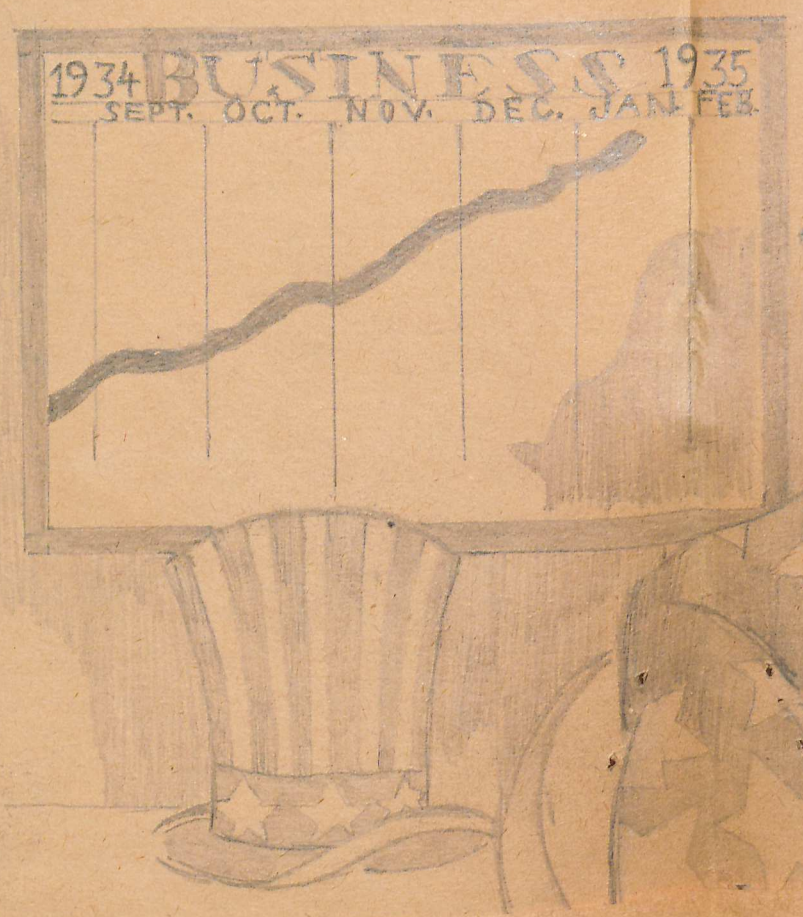
acknd
2/1/35
Cat

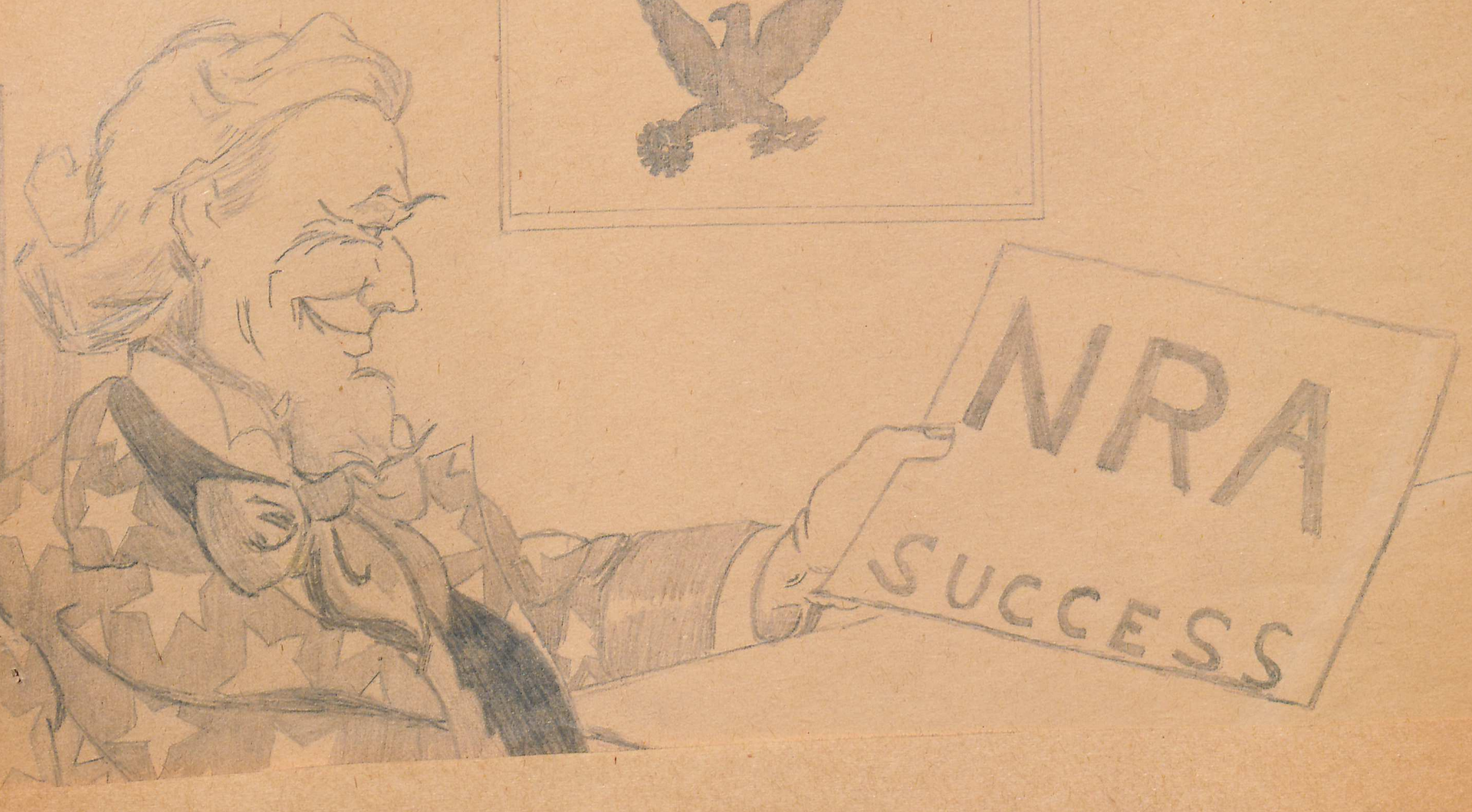
516 Clinton St.
Buffalo, N. Y.
Jan. 24, 1935

Dear President,

I am sending you this picture of "Uncle Sam" that I drew free hand. I am thirteen years old in the 8th grade and I go to School No. 6 and my teachers name is Miss Raffauf. I hope you like my picture.

Sincerely yours,
Reno Mastracci.


1934 BUSINESS 1935
SEPT. OCT. NOV. DEC. JAN. FEB.



WE DO OUR PART

NRA
SUCCESS

C.P. 7.
9-M

February 1, 1935

My dear Mr. and Mrs. Meis:

The President wishes me to tell you how much he appreciates your note of birthday greetings and the beautiful boquet to which you refer. He is ever so grateful for your kind thought of him, and, in turn, sends his very best wishes to you.

Very sincerely yours,

Artificial flowers.
Stone Ridge

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Meis,
Tecumseh,
Oklahoma.

es

Tecumseh, Okla. Jan. 28, '35.

Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt, adh
Washington, D. C. 2/
28

Dear President Roosevelt;—

We are sending you this bouquet in honor of your birthday.

These roses have been patented, only recently and are made of Oklahoma seed cotton.

I am wishing to have the privilege of having you enjoy them first.

We appreciate your policies of government in general.

Wishing you a happy birthday and many, many more, We remain

Sincerely yours
Mr. & Mrs. A.K. Meis.

gdb

PPF.
9-M

February 2, 1935

My dear Mrs. Maharon:

Please accept our apologies for the delay in acknowledging the historical souvenir which you were good enough to send to the President and Mrs. Roosevelt. They appreciate the friendly interest which prompted your thought of them and ask me to express to you their sincere thanks.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Mrs. Merz Maharon,
429 South Second Avenue,
Mt. Vernon,
New York.

gdb

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 30, 1935.

From the desk of—
Mrs. Helm

Memorandum for Miss Le Hand:

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to send you this for the President to acknowledge. It has been here some time I am afraid, and I have only just been able to find it.

P.P.F. 9-M.

y 2, 1935

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eetings and
ind thought
ou refer.
, in turn,
shes.
urs,

. LeHand
E SECRETARY

George T. McClanun, Esq.,
Fayette,
Missouri.

es

Dear Hardy,-
Ask the women
of America (over
the air) when
all Music Study Club of Meridian
you in a
Musicale and Lecture
given by the
Members of the Club, at the Library
South Second Avenue, Mount Vernon,
Sunday, September twenty-ninth, nineteen hundred thirty-six
at four o'clock
President, Mme. Myrtle B. Metz Malvaron
First Vice Pres. Julian Jarden Second Vice Pres. Alfred Walker
Honored Guest, Mischa Mischakoff
My love
Myrtle B. Malvaron

P.P.S.
9-M.

bruary 2, 1935

been pleased to
day greetings and
your kind thought
hich you refer.
sks me, in turn,
est wishes.
ely yours,

Stone Burns

M. A. LeRand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

George T. McClanun, Esq.,
Fayette,
Missouri.

es

To
Mr. & Mrs. Roosevelt

ackd
2.2.30
gdb

P.P.F.
9-M.

Mt. Vernon N. Y.
From 4299 30 2nd Cong

thanks you ever so much for your kind thought
in sending him the cane to which you refer.
He is glad to have it, and asks me, in turn,
to convey to you his very best wishes.

Very sincerely yours,

Steve Rorty

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

George T. McClanun, Esq.,
Fayette,
Missouri.

es

February 2, 1935

P.P.F.
9-M.

My dear Mr. McClanun:

The President has been pleased to receive your letter of birthday greetings and thanks you ever so much for your kind thought in sending him the cane to which you refer. He is glad to have it, and asks me, in turn, to convey to you his very best wishes.

Very sincerely yours,

Stephen Early

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

George T. McClanun, Esq.,
Fayette,
Missouri.

es

Cane.

ans 2/7/35

Fayette Mo.
Jan - 28th 1935

P.P.7.
9 - m.

Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:— As I have had lots of spare time the last 5 years being out of Employment most of the time. I have been making some Hickory hand made canes for Armistice Day for the Roger White Post # 273 American Legion of which I am a member.

And knowing that you used a cane and that you have a Birthday soon. I thought I would make you a hand made Howard Co. Black Walnut cane. for your Birthday. Hoping you like it.

Very Truly Yours.
Geo. P. McClannon.

Happy Birthday. Yours truly
Gus Miller

February 2, 1935

P.P.F.
9-M.

My dear Mrs. Mara:

The President is much pleased to receive your birthday greetings and appreciates your kind thought in sending him the sketch made by your son. He asks me, in turn, to convey to you and your family his very best wishes.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Stay Room

Mrs. Edward Mara,
21 Jaques Avenue,
Worcester,
Massachusetts.

es

Happy Birthday. Yours truly
Gus Miller

To the President:
Received
Sketch of new Room

This picture is one of many that my boy has sketched of you and we thought you might like it as he is a great admirer of yours. Edward is his name and he is 14 yrs old and in his first year of High School.

As you can see it is done on the back of a calender, he sits down and sketches on

P.P.F.
9-M.

February 4, 1935

me to tell you
note of birthday
you were kind
osevelt.

t we cannot do as
requests are being
s so extremely busy
le to comply with
send you the Pres-
your welfare and

ncerely yours,

work.

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Miss Betty Main,
293 Fair Street, S.W.,
Atlanta,
Georgia.

rfb

Happy birthday. Yours truly
Gus Miller

at first

anything that is
around.
Many Happy returns
of the day from
the entire Mara family
which includes 22
voting Democrats and
21 more coming
along.

Sincerely
Mr. Edward Mara
21 Jaques Ave
Worcester
Mass.

PRIVATE SECRETARY

Miss Betty Main,
293 Fair Street, S.W.,
Atlanta,
Georgia.

rfb

Happy Birthday. Yours truly
Gus Miller

/

/

P.P.F.
9-M.

February 4, 1935

My dear Miss Main:

The President wishes me to tell you how much he appreciates your note of birthday greetings, and the gift which you were kind enough to enclose for Mrs. Roosevelt.

I am very sorry that we cannot do as you ask, but so many similar requests are being received, and the President is so extremely busy just now, that it is impossible to comply with them. However, I am glad to send you the President's very best wishes for your welfare and happiness.

Very sincerely yours,

artificial flowers & Needle-work.

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Miss Betty Main,
293 Fair Street, S.W.,
Atlanta,
Georgia.

rfb

Happy Birthday. Yours truly
Gus Nibler

at first

1-29-35

Addr 2-4
R.F.D.3

P.P.7.
9-m-

Dear President Roosevelt
Just a Line to wish
you Many Happy Birthdays
I am sorey I Cant Send you
a Better Presant But I Have
Been sick in Bed since a week
Be for Christmass. & Be for that
I was in so Many Towns that I
Cident do so good & Make
flowers & do Hand Work Like
the one I am sending you
for Mrs. Roosevelt. I Hope She
will Like it. I am sending you
My Photo. I was Born this way
I Never stood up in My Life &
Never Had My Hands to My
face I Have No Joints in My

Happy Birthday. Yours truly
Gus Miller

(2)

Boudy at all just the way
you see My Pitchure with My
arms Crossed that is the way
I do My Work. & My Hands are
twisted Back Wards. you see
I Like to travel & I Shure Wood
aprucate a Letter from you
Just saying, I Hope Every Boudy
Wood give this Little Lady a
Chance to sell Her own Make
of. articles. you see that
Wood Help me a Lots so I
Could sell My Work. & I will
more than aprucate that Letter
from you. Hopeing you Have
Lots of Happy Birthdays & May
God Bless you With your good Work.

P.P.7.
9-m

Happy Birthday. Yours truly
Gus Miller

veary Sincearly Yours
Betty Main
My address is 293 fair st S.W.
only for a short time Atlanta Ga
then I am comeing up that way

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e
in
n,

RY

es

Happy Birthday. Yours truly
Gus Miller

P.P.7.
9-m-

February 4, 1935

pp 7.
9-m-

My dear Mr. Mullen:

The President has been more than pleased to receive that fine birthday cake and greatly appreciates your kind thought in presenting it to him. He asks me, in turn, to convey his very best wishes to you.

Very sincerely yours,

LeHand

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

William J. Mullen, Esq.,
The Mayflower,
Washington, D. C.

es

Happy birthday. Yours truly
Gus Miller

et pus

Recd calce

rcvd 2/4

William J. Mullen

Superintendent of Service
The Mayflower

Washington, D.C.

February 4, 1935

P.P.7.
9-m-

X13-m

My dear Mr. Messier:

The President has received your note of January twenty-eighth, and has asked me to assure you of his appreciation of your good wishes and of your thoughtfulness in sending the old stamp catalog to him.

Very sincerely yours,

Hand

M. A. Le Hand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Alfred R. Messier, Esq.,
7 Quincy Street,
Worcester,
Massachusetts.

LPB

Happy Birthday. Yours truly
Gus Miller

at post

P.P.7.
9-m-

X13-7

February 4, 1935

My dear Mr. Messier:

The President has received your note of January twenty-eighth, and has asked me to assure you of his appreciation of your good wishes and of your thoughtfulness in sending the old stamp catalog to him.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. Le Hand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Alfred R. Messier, Esq.,
7 Quincy Street,
Worcester,
Massachusetts.

LPB

Happy Birthday. Yours truly
Gus Miller

ack. 2/4/35
LPB

Worcester, Mass.
Jan. 28, 1935.

O.P.F.
9-M.

My Dear Mr. President:

Knowing of your love for stamps. I wonder if you could find interest in this old stamp catalogue.

I am one who has benifited by the new deal, after being out of work for three years.

Dorothy L. Matthes,
1125 Michigan Avenue,
Ann Arbor,
Michigan.

es

Happy Birthday. Yours truly
Gus Miller

after your entering the White House in within three months I had offers for five jobs as a machinist which is my trade.

I have a wife and two kiddies who adore their leader a real leader.

I have had the honor of seeing you once in Boston coming out of the Statler Hotel when ex Gov. of N. York.

I have a couple of hobbies but not stamps of which I have only a few hundred. my

Rupert Rozas

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Dorothy L. Matthes,
1125 Michigan Avenue,
Ann Arbor,
Michigan.

es

Happy Birthday. Yours truly
Gus Miller

at first

P.P.7.
9-M.

hobbies are old book and travel posters, of which I have nearly 300 from all over the world and a few war posters.

Wishing you the best of health & happiness for many years to come I remain Dear Mr. President your humble American citizen and admirer

Alfred R. Messier
7 Quincy St.
Worcester, Mass.

Please Mr. Secretary dont think me a crank, I am only an admirer.

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M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Dorothy L. Matthes,
1125 Michigan Avenue,
Ann Arbor,
Michigan.

es

Happy Birthday. Yours truly
Geo Miller

/

P.P.F.
9-M.

February 5, 1935

My dear Dorothy:

The President has been p leased to receive your letter of birthday greetings and wants you to know that he greatly appreciates your kind thought in sending him the flowers to which you refer. He, in turn, asks me to convey to you, and to your father and mother, his very best wishes for their welfare and continued happiness.

Very sincerely yours,

Rupert Rose

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Dorothy L. Matthes,
1125 Michigan Avenue,
Ann Arbor,
Michigan.

es

Happy Birthday. Yours truly
Gus Miller

1125 Michigan Ave.
Ann Arbor, Michigan.
January 28, 1935.

Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Roosevelt,

I am enclosing, herewith, just a little remembrance of home-made Jasper Rosedale expression of our most hearty, sincere good wishes to you — our great and noble President — for a very Happy Birthday.

May God's richest blessings be with you this day and always.

With kindest regards from us all,

We remain,

Very sincerely,
Dorothy L. Matthes
and mother —
Louise Stanger Matthes.

(over)

C/O Michael Miller,
Knox,
North Dakota.

es

Happy Birthday. Yours truly
Gus Miller

Knox,
North Dakota.

es

Happy Birthday. Yours truly
Gus Miller

P. P. F.

February 6, 1935

P. P. F.
9-m

My dear Gus:

The President has been much pleased to receive your friendly letter of birthday greetings and greatly appreciates your kind thought in sending him the picture to which you refer. He asks me, in turn, to convey to you his very best wishes.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Gus Miller,
c/o Michael Miller,
Knox,
North Dakota.

es

Happy Birthday. Yours truly
Gus Miller

Knox, N. Dakota
Jan. 25, 1935

President Franklin D. Roosevelt
Washington D. C.
Dear Mr President:

I am wishing you a very happy birthday and may you have many more.

I am interested very much in Art and am sending you one of my paintings for a birthday present, Im not very far advanced in the work but dont have the means to continue like I wont to.

I am 12 years old and in the sixth grade, My fathers name, is Michael Miller, We live on a farm and have lots of work to do.

I have several brothers and sisters both older and younger than I, and we all join in wishing you again a very Happy Birthday. Yours truly
Gus Miller

CWS

P.P.F.
9-M.

February 6, 1935

My dear Mr. Morrison:

Your letter of January twenty-ninth has been received and I want to assure you of the President's appreciation of your thoughtfulness in sending an autographed copy of your little book to him, and of the good wishes which your letter conveys.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

CWS

Gouverneur Morrison, Esq.,
107 East Micheltorena Street,
Santa Barbara,
California.

EL CORTEZ
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

ack 2-6 ews

January 29, 1935.

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,
White House,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Roosevelt:-

It is a privilege and indeed, an honor, for having the opportunity on this occasion to send you greetings on your fifty-third birthday.

In honor of your fifty-third anniversary, I am forwarding by air mail an autographed copy of my late work, "Junipero Serra, Padre-Pioneer", California's first apostle and founder of the California Missions, as a birthday gift.

Mrs. Morrison joins me in wishing you Many Happy Returns of the Day.

With best wishes to you and Mrs. Roosevelt on this occasion, -

Respectfully yours,

Lawrence Morrison

Author.

Home Address -
107 E. Micheltorena Street,
Santa Barbara, California.

PPF
9-M

February 6, 1935

My dear Mr. McCord:

The President wants you to know that he is ever so grateful for your birthday thought of him, and asks me to thank you for the photograph with the accompanying cordial greetings.

In turn, he sends his very best wishes to you.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

John Hancock McCord, Esq.,
Fairbanks,
Alaska.

avv

aek
2/6/35

THE WHITE HOUSE
FEB 5 1935
RECEIVED

J.

President Roosevelt

The Greatest and most beloved President America ever had

And

His beloved Wife and Family,

With Sincere Wishes

For

A Happy Birthday

From John Hancock McCord

Fairbanks Alaska
Jany-30-1935

December 6, 1935

My dear George:

The President was much pleased to receive your letter of birthday greetings and thanks you for your kind thought in sending him the drawing to which you refer. He, in turn, asks me to convey his very best wishes to you.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

George Menor,
1064 Jackson Street,
Marinette,
Wisconsin.

es

Rec'd
drawing 1st pm

Marinette Wisc
Jan 30, 1935

Dear President:-

I am sending this picture to you as a birthday gift. But I am a little late in sending it, I am 14 years of age in the ninth grade at Our Lady of Lourdes High School.

This picture that I drew of you is free hand drawing. I have one brother, and two sisters

P.P.7.
9-M

142 Winter Avenue,
New Castle,
Pennsylvania.

es

and my father works in the Paper Mill as a roll wrapper. I hope you will like this picture and also when you have time please write to me telling me how you like it. I am wishing you many more Happy Birthdays.

Yours truely.

George Menor.
1064 Jackson St.
Marinette
Marinette Wisc.

Russell Mead,
142 Winter Avenue,
New Castle,
Pennsylvania.

es

P.P.7.
9-m

February 6, 1935

My dear Russell:

The President thanks you ever so much for the drawing you were so kind as to send him and asks me to tell you that he appreciates your interest in writing. He, in turn, hends his very best wishes to you.

Very sincerely yours,

Stac Rann

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Russell Mead,
142 Winter Avenue,
New Castle,
Pennsylvania.

es

Recd
Answering
Ship

142 Winter Ave.,
New Castle Pa.

P.P.7.
9-M.

President Roosevelt:- acpd 2/6 cs

Dear Sir:-

I knew you admire ships, so I am sending you one. I think it is a fine ship. I am ten years old and think it must be fine to be President

All good wishes to you

Russell Mead

Wisconsin.

hm

February 7, 1935

P.P.F.
9-M.

My dear Kathryn:

The President has received your letter and has asked me to thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending the photograph of your little sister and the birthday cake to him.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Kathryn Murphy,
Delavan,
Wisconsin.

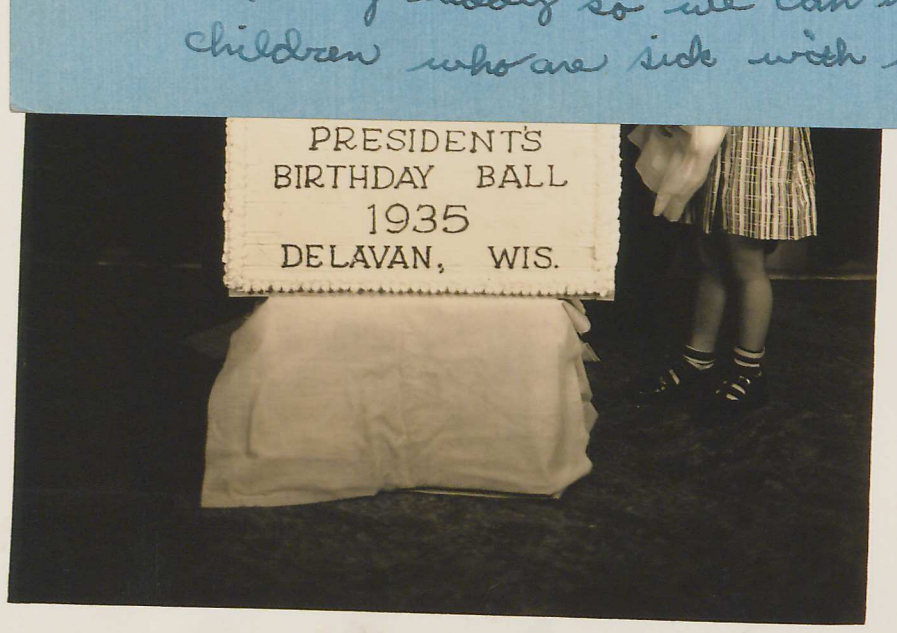
hm

Ackd. 2/7/35 Mrs

Delavan, Wisconsin
Feb. 4, 1935.

Dear President
Roosevelt:—

My daddy had this cake made for the President's Birthday Ball. This is my little sister Ann. She is three years old, she could not write a letter so I am doing it for her. I want to help my daddy so we can help other children who are sick with infantile



7.

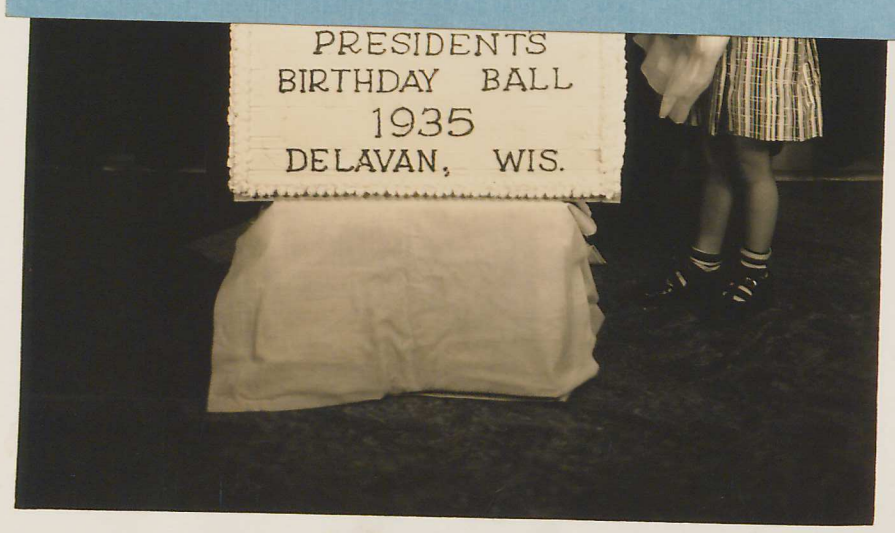
m.

es

el first name

- paralysis. I had to have mother help me spell those words.

May God bless you with love
Kathryn Murphy.



P.P.7.
9-m.

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at first name

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February 7, 1935

P.P.F.
9-M.

My dear Bill:

The President is in receipt of your letter and asks me to tell you how much he appreciates your kind thought in sending him the sketch to which you refer. He is glad to have it and, in turn, sends you his very best wishes.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Stan Rumm

Bill Manni,
762 Morris Park Avenue,
Bronx,
New York.

es

at first name

drawing of me
Yours,

8/7/33

Dear President Roosevelt,

The day after your election as President of the United States, a great picture of yourself was on the front page of the New York Journal. I sketched your picture and kept it since. Last week I decided to re-sketch your picture and give it to you as a gift. I did my best to make it look like you. I hope you like it.

From
Bill Marino - 16yrs old.
767 Morris Pk. Ave.
Bronx, N.Y.

at first now.

/

PPF 7-
9-M

February 7, 1935

My dear Frank:

Your letter of birthday greetings was received and the President asks me to thank you ever so much for your kind thought of him and for the gift to which you refer. He, in turn, sends you his very best wishes.

I am very sorry that it is not possible to meet your wishes. Requests for the President's signature have become so numerous that it simply is impossible for him to comply with them. I am sure you will understand.

Very sincerely yours,

small box of office supplies

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Store Room

Frank Ellis McKenzie,
74 Montclair Drive,
Atlanta,
Georgia.

es

at first mail

January 28 1935 .

Frank Ellis McKenzie
74 Montclair Drive,
Atlanta Georgia,

Dear Mr President .

I am just a eleven year old boy and will graduate at E.Rivers School this year , ofcourse I do not know much about politics , but I think you have as big a job as Washington had . His job was to build a buildaa nation yours is to hold a nation together . so I can see what a big job you have to handle, and I think you will do as well as Washington did .

I am sending you a small present which I hope you can use . I know you will get thousands of other presents that cost lots more , but no greater admirer will send them . Saying goodbye and hoping you will be our next President .

Sincerely yours .
Frank Ellis McKenzie

P.S. If it is not asking too much I would like your autograph .

—

P.P.F.
9-M.

February 7, 1935

My dear Mrs. Morvish:

The President was especially pleased to receive your letter of birthday greetings and thanks you ever so much for your kind thought in presenting the painting to him. He asks me, in turn, to convey his very best wishes to you.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Stw Rum

Mrs. Margaret Schroeder Morvish,
Box 264,
Sunland,
California.

es

You'll be glad to know we hear your voice over the radio. We all feel inspired and more ready at first hand.

Boy264 — Oakland California
Jan 28, 1935

ack
2/7/35

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of United States of America
White House
Washington D. C.

Reed

Dear Mr Roosevelt. I have mailed
to you, under seperate cover via
parcel post, a painting of the
California Redwoods. A great
living army bol of Americanism.
Somehow you remind me of them,
your very ideals, lofty as they
may seem to some of us, are real
& truely American, and as such,
they, shall live on through gene-
rations, like the redwoods a
treasure we shall always reverence
& love

Every time it is
my good fortune to go up & gaze
among them, I feel bigger & better
for just having been there, and
so it is while we hear your
voice over the radio. We all
feel inspired and more ready
at first hand.

bsp

help make it the greatest and best place on this earth to live & let live.

I am very sorry that conditions are such that I couldn't send the painting properly framed & ready to hang up. I hesitated to send it at all, feeling like I might be presuming too much, but somehow I just couldn't resist the temptation and after a year or so of still wanting to send it I decided I should & somehow I just knew that both you & Mrs Roosevelt would understand.

May the children & I extend our best wishes to you for a very happy birthday & God keep you well, so that you may finish this great work you have so ably started on its way.

Sincerely your humble friend
Margaret A. Schroeder Worrish.

bsp

at first hand.

February 8, 1935

My dear Professor Moehlman:

I was very glad indeed to bring to the attention of the President your letter of February fourth, and the pamphlet "The Red River of the North", which you enclosed. He is most appreciative of the friendly interest which prompted your thought of him, and thanks you also for the inscription.

Your desire to be of service will, you may be sure, be kept in mind, should the occasion arise.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Professor Arthur Henry Moehlman,
The University School,
The Ohio State University,
Columbus,
Ohio.

bsp

at first hand.

Miss Rutland
ack

COPY

February 4, 1935

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Esq.,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Roosevelt:

Please accept this small token of my admiration. "The Red River of the North" attempts to tell the story of the old frontier's movements in a particular region. You are now in the process of correcting some of the destructive tendencies of that surge forward into new land.

Two summers ago, I sat in the old St. James Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina, and heard you say "We do our part". I was on an auto trip to the West Coast and return with the purpose of seeing the various regions of the country at first hand.

I wanted to drive directly to Washington and offer my sword, which happens to be a training in regional and social history. But that seemed a bit presumptuous.

Instead I completed my trip and went back to my work as a professor of social science in the new University School at Ohio State University. There I helped the educational advisors of the C.C.C. set up some objectives and interested myself in consumer protection.

This fall, I was appointed Social Scientist directing Population Research for the Ohio State Planning Board, and have gained much experience.

Perhaps by this time, I have training that may be of some use. I would like nothing better than to work on the Government Staff as a regional planner this summer and afterward. Some of the states still seem to need consultants.

Sincerely,

ARTHUR HENRY MOEHLMAN

February 4, 1935

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Esq.
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Roosevelt;

Please accept this small token of my admiration. "The Red River of the North" attempts to tell the story of the old frontier's movements in a particular region. You are now in the process of correcting some of the destructive tendencies of that surge forward into new land.

Two summers ago, I sat in the old St. James Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina and heard you say "We do our part." I was on an auto trip to the west coast and return with the purpose of seeing the various regions of the country at first hand.

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Arthur Henry Moehlman

THE RED RIVER OF THE NORTH

BY

ARTHUR HENRY MOEHLMAN

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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To
Franklin Delano Roosevelt
Creator of New Frontiers
with
respect and admiration
Arthur Henry Moehlman

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

BROADWAY AT 156TH STREET

NEW YORK

CWS

THE RED RIVER OF THE NORTH

Arthur Henry Moehlman
The Ohio State University

THE valley of the Red River of the North is not only one of the premier spring-wheat regions of the world but also one of the most valuable fields for the investigation of past trends in settlement. Waves of settlers with wide differences in cultural heritage have worked out their own distinctive interpretations of land utilization. An international boundary cuts this vast plain with its uniform landscape conditions and affords an opportunity for the study of the effect of political influences upon the opening up of a natural region. The records are rather recent and complete and available to the student of the science of settlement.

The vast waters of Lake Agassiz once filled a shallow basin in the exact center of the continent of North America. Gradually the lake retreated until only a river meandered northward to a U-shaped remnant of the former broad expanse of water. Later, geologically speaking, tribes of red men hunted the bison herds upon the plains traversed by the river. Finally, white men transformed this hunting ground of the nomad into the granary known throughout the world as the Red River Valley.[1]

The Unity of the Valley

The Red River Valley runs north and south in the middle of the eastern edge of the great interior plains. To the west there is the gradual ascent to the barrier of the Rocky Mountains; to the east, the rocky peneplain of the Laurentian Plateau pierced by the Hudson Bay rivers and the St. Lawrence. The land-surface setting of the valley thus forms both barriers and avenues of approach to settlers. The valley is located at the meeting place of the chief river systems of North America, but the water routes are impracticable for the transport of heavy, cheap freight carried by large boats. The central location seemed to isolate the area as a center for agricultural settlement until better means of land transport than wagons appeared.

Climatically and in its vegetation the Red River lies in a transitional zone. On the north is the taiga form (D′) of climate; on the east and south is the Great Lakes form (BC′r), with severe, humid winters; on the west is the Great Plains variant (DC′d) of the semi-arid climates.[2]

A traveler in the Red River Valley notices distinct limits to the

[1] Warren Upham: The Glacial Lake Agassiz, *U. S. Geol. Survey Monograph No. 25*, 1895.
[2] C. W. Thornthwaite: The Climates of North America According to a New Classification, *Geogr. Rev.*, Vol. 21, 1931, pp. 633–655.

great plain except at Lake Traverse in the south. Here the country appears to be only a little more undulating; but closer examination reveals an old beach line of Lake Agassiz and the edge of a drainage system flowing south to the Gulf of Mexico. Westward is the abrupt rise of the Coteau des Prairies, Pembina Mountain, and the Tiger Hills, marking the eastern border of the Great Plains, with their semi-aridity and shorter grass. On the north a limit is formed by the water surface of the lakes and by the taiga. Southward from the shore of Lake Winnipeg the eastern limit of the plain is seen to be where rocky billows of the Laurentian Plateau covered by pine forest and muskeg intrude. Farther south a gently rolling, forested country dotted with lakes skirts the plains. Within these rough limits, uniformity of features exists.[3] A pilot flying at high altitude from Lake Traverse to Lake Winnipeg gets an impressive view of the unity of the valley.[4]

A vast flat sea of land stretches north and south for about 300 miles. East and west the plains extend 10 or 15 miles to a distant coast line of higher land. The traveler on the ground sees mirages above the flat expanse, silos and barns floating in the air with a thin strip of blue between them and the horizon. At the margins of the plain are slight billowings where deltas formed by glacial rivers have been heaped into dunes by the winds. A trench dug into the plain reveals a deep deposit of yellowish, marly clay, stained black at the surface by decaying vegetable matter. The margins of the valley show deposits of sand and of gravel useful in the laying of permanent ways, but the clay forms a nearly universal soil surface of almost inexhaustible fertility.[5]

The Red River winds so tortuously across the flat plain that passengers on the steamboats used to land on one side of a point, walk across, and meet the steamer coming around the bend.[6] The stream has cut a trough with sloping banks not far below the level of the surrounding prairie, and the tributary streams are similar in appearance. Floods occur in spring because of the melting snow in the upper courses and the firm ice at the river's mouth. Large sections of the prairie may be covered by water, as in 1852, 1860, and 1882. Subsurface water is easily obtained by shafts sunk 10 or 15 feet. Alkaline salts in the soil harden the water disagreeably but, as a compensation, aid in producing crops of high-grade wheat.

Originally a thick sod covered the plain of the Red River, and the chief cover is still the prairie grasses. Superimposed is a pattern of tree lines following the watercourses and the margins of the numerous

[3] G. M. Dawson: Report on the Geology and Resources of the Region in the Vicinity of the Forty-Ninth Parallel, from the Lake of the Woods to the Rocky Mountains, British North American Boundary Commission, Montreal, 1875, pp. 212 ff.

[4] Air Photos of the Red River Valley, Topographical Survey of Canada, Ottawa, File No. FA807 (70–100).

[5] Upham, *op. cit.*, p. 27.

[6] Personal communication from W. J. Healy, provincial librarian of Manitoba

ponds. Timber supplies were depleted early by the wood-burning steamers. The prairie vegetation permitted rapid breaking of the soil by use of the steel plow but necessitated the importation of wood from the forest lands fringing the valley on the north and east.

Climate is uniform throughout the valley and presents both advantages and obstacles to settlement. The Red River Valley folk perspire in summer from the excessive heat, while the winds swirl dust clouds up from the soil. Winter blizzards whip them with flying grains of snow and make it hard to find the way from house to barn. These are extremes, however. No matter how hot the days are in summer, the nights are usually cool and refreshing. The temperature seems to be generally invigorating during the six months when the land is worked and the harvest gathered. In winter it is consistently below zero Fahrenheit, but the dry air makes the extreme cold easier to bear than the moderate cold of the humid Great Lakes area. The climate may be referred to as a CC'd type—subhumid, microthermal, with a deficiency of precipitation at all seasons but with moisture enough for agriculture. Thunderstorms bring a large portion of the rainfall, which is heaviest usually in June. Snow covers the prairies a foot deep from December to March. Mean annual precipitation ranges from some 24 inches in the upper valley to 19 inches at Pembina and nearly 22 inches at Winnipeg. The mean wind velocity approximates that at Chicago, but the lack of cover upon the prairie makes the force of the wind more noticeable. A minimum of thawing in winter permits continuous use of the thin sheet of snow for sled transportation.

The Pioneer Fringe

> Ther 69 flowing fresh. river rising rapidly. many of the settlers passing out with their cattle and carts toward mountain. . . . (May 6, 1852.)
>
> noon WN.W . . . wading about in fort up to knee . . . the plains like a sea. (May 13, 1852.)
>
> Ther 59 River has fallen since Saturday. saw a procession of cattle and people crossing plains to the houses similar to what I saw when the water was rising. (June 7, 1852.)[7]

Dr. Cowan watched the progress of the flood of 1852 on the Red River of the North from Fort Garry, and from this diary excerpt it is apparent that settlement was confined to the riverbanks, where water, wood, and soil existed together. At first the prairie, here as elsewhere, repelled the settlers; yet by 1881 farmers had settled the length and breadth of the valley and by 1886 had passed on toward the Rockies (Fig. 1). To trace the advance of the "pioneer fringe" into this area is the main object of this paper.

The frontier of settlement may be thought of as a skirmish line

[7] William Cowan: Fort Garry Journals, 1852, MSS (dated in notebook April 21, 1852, to May 28, 1853).

marking the advance of tillers of the soil into new uncultivated land. The term "pioneer fringe"[8] describes its form most accurately and is used synonymously with frontier. Density of population affords a clue to the location of the frontier but must be used cautiously, checking sparseness of population, indicative of frontier conditions, against the population maximum that the land is able to support on a power level of culture. In the case of the Red River Valley we can identify and locate the frontier in terms of an outer limit of two persons a square mile.[9]

The Fringe in 1850

The pioneer fringe was far distant from the plains of the Red River in 1850. It stretched from the tip of Green Bay roughly southwest across the Mississippi toward the fork of the Platte and Missouri rivers, passing to the north of Portage City, Prairie du Chien, and Des Moines, then retreating beyond in a half circle to make a final advance up the Missouri beyond Council Bluffs. In advance of the line proper were islands of settlement, round in form at Wausau and Eau Claire and elongated from Winona to St. Cloud in the direction of the Red River Valley. The level of culture here included use of the steamboat and stage for transport and dependence on agriculture to produce food and shelter, but it still lacked the chilled-steel plow and the reaper as tools. The fur trade was passing on, and Bottineau, the scout, advertised land, plows, and wagons for sale.[10] The Red River Valley had only isolated loci of settlements within its great area, where nomad tribes hunted the bison herds.

Northwest of the pioneer fringe was Pembina, a cluster of half a dozen log dwellings at the fork of the Pembina and the Red rivers. Across the line was the Hudson's Bay Company's trading post. The log houses of half-breed hunters were scattered along the streams toward Pembina Mountain.

Red River settlement centered around Fort Garry at the fork of the Red and the Assiniboine rivers. Above the stone walls of the fort floated the red ensign of the Hudson's Bay Company. Directly across the river rose the twin towers of the Catholic cathedral, from which the bells chimed the evening vespers. From this center the "serpentine" villages radiated in a rather uniform pattern of white-washed cabins or stone houses fronting on the river as in old Quebec, with the farms stretching back in two-mile bands to the common haying fields. The dwellings increased in number around Douglas Point. Windmills used for grinding grain whirled their arms at inter-

[8] Isaiah Bowman: Jordan Country, *Geogr. Rev.*, Vol. 21, 1931, pp. 22–55.

[9] Compare definition of the criteria used in the "Statistical Atlas, Twelfth Census of the United States, Taken in the Year 1900," Washington, 1903, p. 26.

[10] T. C. Blegen: Minnesota Pioneer Life as Revealed in Newspaper Advertisements, *Minnesota History*, Vol. 7, 1926, pp. 99–121.

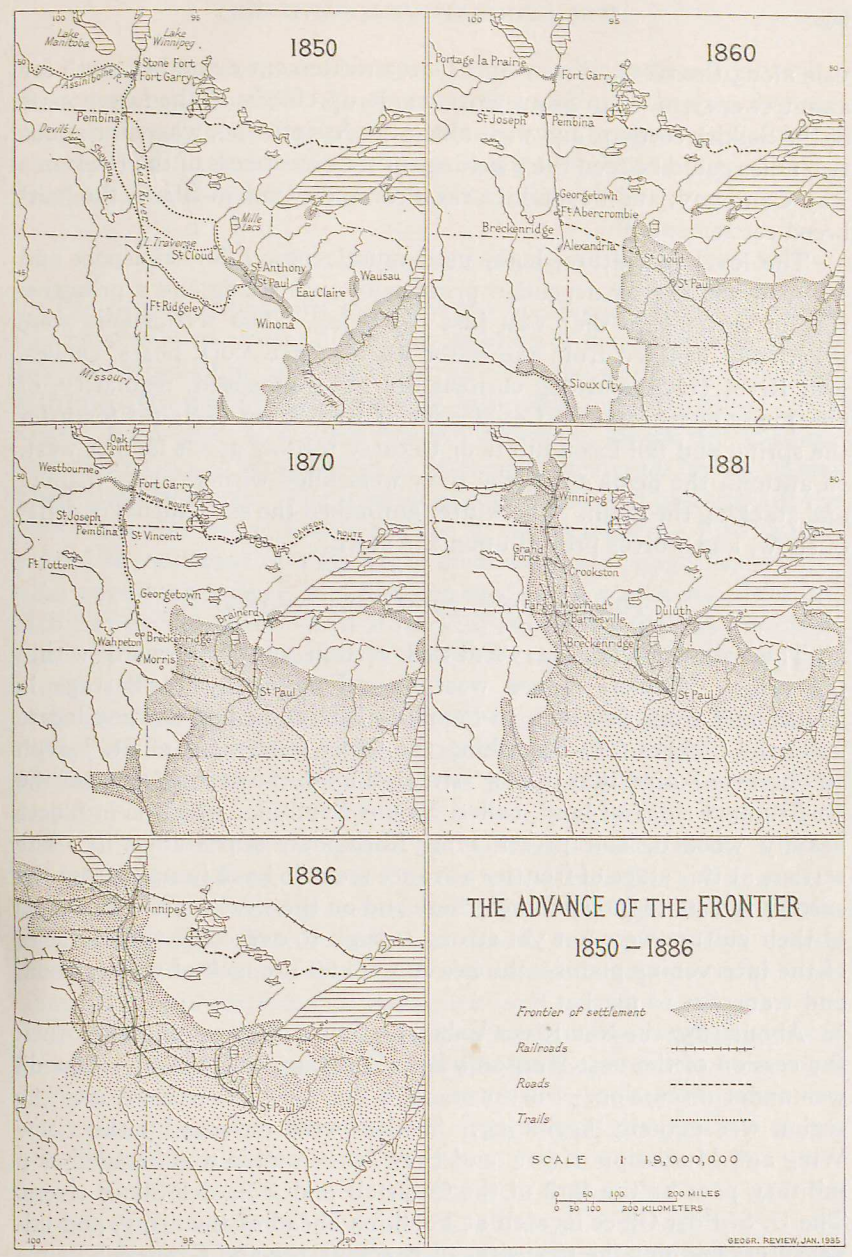


FIG. 1—Maps showing the advance of the frontier of settlement and the chief communications in frontier territory. The population figures were taken from the records of the United States, Dominion of Canada, North Dakota, and Minnesota censuses together with the early population enumerations in Assiniboia. The areas upon which the densities were plotted were drawn from the corresponding descriptions in the Statutes of Manitoba, Statutes of the Dominion of Canada, and the parish areas noted in Hind (see footnote 15). Contemporary maps and descriptions were used in the final drawing of the lines. The route locations were plotted from the annual reports of the Northern Pacific, Canadian Pacific, and St. Paul and Minneapolis railroads, from the Dominion's Department of Railways and Canals, and from contemporary records.

vals along the river. From Fort Garry settlement extended north for about twenty miles to Stone Fort, made up chiefly of the farmhouses of the Selkirk settlers, and west along the Assiniboine, where for about two miles could be seen the dwellings of the pensioners of the Hudson's Bay Company, and beyond, to the Prairie du Cheval Blanc, the half-breed settlements.[11]

The level of culture, here, used muscle power for transport and for food and shelter depended principally on hunting and a primitive sort of agriculture that was just beginning. The settlements were practically isolated from the outer world, since York boats, canoes, Red River carts, and dog carioles did not give speed, regularity, or cheapness of transport. Cavalcades of Red River carts set forth for the spring and fall bison hunts or to carry trading goods farther west. In autumn the fields along the river were filled with workers reaping and stacking the grain. The winter entombed the settlements in drifts of snow, and wolves preyed upon the stock.

The Advance from 1850 to 1860

The following decade witnessed certain surges forward within the valley. Settlers moved west from Fort Garry to Portage la Prairie and from Pembina to Pembina Mountain but did not locate upon the prairies. In describing the latter settlement of St. Joseph an observer stated that it was "situated upon the eastern slope of the longitudinal ridge of land, called Mount Pembina, which is in places heavily wooded, and presents an Alleganian appearance."[12] The settlers at this stage of frontier advance seem to have jumped from the eastern forests to forested areas here and on the west coast. The tools of their culture were not yet strong enough to overcome the obstacles of the intervening plains—the heavy sod and the lack of water, wood, and transport to market.[13]

About 1857 the Red River Valley became a center of interest, when the cession of the vast Hudson's Bay Company territories to Canada was under discussion. Furthermore, a drive northwestward into the region was actually beginning. Settlers were moving up the Crow Wing and Mississippi rivers, and Fort Abercrombie was founded as a military post at the fork of the Ottertail and Bois des Sioux rivers. The U. S. Post Office located at Pembina ahead of the army, and adventurers laid out the townsites of Breckinridge and Graham's Point.

The transport complex of the advancing frontier struck out up the Red River Valley in 1859. Anson Northrup carried a knockdown steamboat across the prairies to the Red River, where he put it together and steamed down to Fort Garry. The Burbanks built a stage

[11] J. W. Bond: Minnesota and Its Resources, Redfield, 1853, p. 288.
[12] *Ibid.*, p. 276.
[13] W. P. Webb: The Great Plains, Boston, 1931, pp. 8–9.

line from the Mississippi to the Red, and dots of settlement grew up along the route from St. Cloud to Breckinridge and Georgetown, the head of navigation. A printing press was even transported north by ox team from St. Paul to Fort Garry, and the *Nor'Wester* appeared as the first newspaper in the Red River Valley.[14]

The Fringe from 1860 to 1870

The pioneer fringe now ran from the Menominee River on Green Bay northwest to a point above the junction of the Crow Wing River and the Mississippi and there turned directly south on a parallel with the 95th meridian to cross the Minnesota near the Blue Earth River. From there it made a concave curve and struck the Missouri near Sioux City to send fingers of settlement upstream on the James River and the Platte. The frontier of settlement still hesitated at the edge of the Red River Valley, waiting in the forest area. Life had advanced beyond that of 1850, since steamboat and stage reached the outer edge of the fringe, and farming machinery was coming into use. McCormick had moved west from Virginia to the edge of the plains where he was needed, and by 1860 his factory was turning out 4000 reapers a year at Chicago.

Beyond the frontier of settlement, life in the loci of the Red River Valley was centered around the maintenance of transportation and communication until one reached the junction of the Red and the Assiniboine rivers, where there was more progress in the field of agriculture. Travelers were put up at stage stations, while wagons and horses were changed as at Dayton and Alexandria. Georgetown served as a transshipping point from wagons or stages to the steamboat, while Fort Abercrombie functioned as a protective center. Pembina partially controlled trade, maintained transport and communication, and carried on some agriculture.

An observer of life in the "serpentine" villages radiating from Fort Garry noted various strata of culture, ranging from the fur traders and plains hunters to the steamboat men, freighters, and prosperous independent farmers. But plains hunting was still a primary source of livelihood, in contrast with farming. Cultivators kept to the riverbanks, repelled by lack of wood, the troublesome Indians, and the scarcity of markets for their products, although they had better tools brought from St. Paul. Beyond the tentacles of settlement at the fork, growth was to be noted at Portage la Prairie and some mere dots at Oak Point on Lake Manitoba and at Islington and Rat Portage up the Winnipeg River.[15]

Many forces conspired to block the seemingly imminent forward

[14] *The Nor'Wester*, Vol. 1, No. 1, Wednesday, Dec. 28, 1859.
[15] H. Y. Hind: Narrative of the Canadian Red River Exploring Expedition of 1857, 2 vols. London, 1860; reference in Vol. 1, p. 156.

thrust of the pioneer fringe. The fur trade of the Hudson's Bay Company was threatened by any agricultural advance and held its land north of the 49-degree line practically closed to settlement. The Plains Indians went on the warpath in the autumn of 1862 and drove the pioneers back toward the Mississippi. Then the intersectional conflict in the South drained men from Minnesota. Settlers even in the years following seemed to trek across these woodless plains to reach the wooded mountains and valleys of the farther West.

Advance of the Railroads

The annals of settlement in the valley are scant until 1870, but a drive forward began in 1869. The Northern Pacific Railway was ready to strike from Lake Superior across the Red River, and the St. Paul and Pacific was about to resume its progress northwestward from St. Paul toward the valley. Not only were the means of penetration about to appear but the land north of the 49-degree line was also being opened to settlement. The Hudson's Bay Company had sold its territory to the newly created Dominion of Canada, which was anxious to fill its land with settlers and hold it against "manifest destiny." A new tool for the conquest of the prairies was being perfected by Oliver—his steel plow, which could easily break their tough sod. The frontier was now backed by powerful forces.

Thus the pioneer fringe had pushed forward toward the Red River Valley in the shape of a forked tongue along the headwaters of the Mississippi and the Minnesota, but it still hesitated in the forests at the southeastern edge of the prairies. In 1870 the skirmish line ran from the middle of the west shore of Green Bay to the 93rd meridian and from there northwest around Lake Mille Lacs to the source of the Crow Wing River. Thence it passed south through the Ottertail chain of lakes, turning southwest at a point opposite Lake Traverse to cross the Minnesota River at the 96th meridian. More venturesome dots of settlement advanced beyond the fringe along two lines of transport toward the Red River.

Along the advancing frontier could be seen log cabins, with shacks and sod houses in the open prairies at the edge of the woods. Slow-moving oxen drew the heavy wagons of the farmers, and first crops were sometimes obtained by planting corn and potatoes in cuts made in the sod with an axe. The breaking plow was coming into use and was often used in common by many neighbors. The railroads were at last striking out steadily toward the Red River. The St. Paul and Pacific was advancing toward Breckinridge by way of Morris, while the Northern Pacific was under construction from Lake Superior past Brainerd toward Fargo. An outlet for crops raised on the plains was appearing.

Down the Red River the loci of settlement were growing at Breckinridge and Wahpeton, at Fort Abercrombie, and at Georgetown. Farther downstream settlers and speculators were hovering near the site of the present Fargo, but then there was a wide gap until Pembina and St. Vincent were reached. Again there was little settlement until the outliers of the farmsteads radiating from Fort Garry were reached. The little village of Winnipeg was growing, and the nucleus of the future great metropolis of the Canadian Northwest was to be found in its twenty-five or more buildings. But still the settlers shunned the plains and clung to the rivers.

Settlers were drifting in all along the Red River Valley, but they kept to the wooded streams. Young men, packing their guns and fishing lines, often went in advance to spy out the land, while families followed in covered wagons, far ahead of the railroad, away from the services of doctor and teacher. Alongside were the symbols of the past, as Red River carts passed lightly over the thick prairie grass, and Indians on their ponies loped silently past.

But the forerunners of the railroads were just gaining full strength. The stage bumped and rocked along the route from St. Cloud to Georgetown, while the *Selkirk* prepared for her first trip to Fort Garry. These means of transport, joined to the railroads and the Dawson Route, brought passengers and freight to the Red River Settlements.

There at Winnipeg was a foretaste of the future as the Dominion surveyors planned to lay off the plains in sections in the United States fashion and the first Dominion census was being taken. But the newspapers of Winnipeg still carried the list prices of prime furs beside those of agricultural implements.[16]

During the next few years settlement advanced in the valley, but only in the form of thin lines clinging to the wooded streams and the new railroads. The rails of the St. Paul and Pacific reached Breckinridge, and immigrants paralleled and preceded its advance. Moorhead and Fargo grew as the Northern Pacific touched and crossed the Red River. The Dawson Route from Lake Superior to the Red River helped to swell the tide, and settlers from Ontario took up land along the route, on the Boyne River near Pembina Mountain, and on the Red River south of Winnipeg.[17] Other settlers located near Stony Mountain northwest of Winnipeg and out along the Assiniboine. The depression of 1873 retarded growth in many ways, though a prize crop of wheat by a homesteader on the Sheyenne west of Fargo pointed toward the future.

The pioneer fringe really began to penetrate the plains in 1875, when Mennonites from southern Russia traveled downstream by

[16] Canada, Sess. Papers, 1876, No. 7, xli, pp. 102 ff.; *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, Oct. 14, 1876.
[17] *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, Nov. 9, 1872.

steamboat and dared to locate on the open plains north of the 49-degree line and east of Pembina Mountain. Six thousand Mennonites brought their old culture from the Russian plains to a similar landscape.[18] Settlements in the *strassendorf* form soon dotted the plains, and the land held in common was farmed efficiently according to the Old World rules. A deep religious spirit pervaded the communities, and their communal devotions compensated for the lack of contact with the outer world. These nearly self-sufficient Mennonite communities were established on the plains of the Red River far in advance of the railroads. The inherited culture of these pioneers was perfectly adapted to the new environment, and there was no need to revert to the primitive culture met at the edge of the frontier of settlement.

South of the 49-degree line the power-machine culture of the United States helped to conquer the resistance of the plains by making large-scale farms profitable. By 1875 breaking plows were ripping up the tough prairie sod near Casselton for the Cass-Cheney Farm. The bonanza crop reaped attracted a rush of large-acreage purchasers intent on bonanza wheat farming. This accomplished the purpose of the two directors of the Northern Pacific who had bought the land for the following reason: "We needed something larger than the small fields of the homesteader to attract farmers with means and give the road something to carry."[19] The steamboats, flatboats, and freight wagons carried in heavy loads of lumber and tools and began the export of wheat in 1876, in addition to the fur bales. Yet a north and south railroad was needed to tap the wealth of the valley, and that did not materialize until December of 1878.

Meanwhile settlers moved in from the south and east. The western prairies near Buxton received settlers from Sætersdalen, Norway, and these pioneers used all the tools of their old culture from farm implements to skis in conquering the plains. The railroad reserves often constituted an annoying man-made difficulty for these settlers. Swedes and New Englanders were taking up land along the Park River, halfway between Grand Forks and Pembina. Icelandic settlers even left the shores of Lake Winnipeg, where the heavy timber and swamp made progress difficult, and settled near Pembina Mountain close to old St. Joseph. They avoided prairies farther to the east because "logs for houses could be had without the necessity of hauling them from a distance" and because "it was sometimes difficult to get water on these prairies."[20] Many of the settlers walked south to the huge

[18] Alexander Begg and W. R. Nursey: Ten Years in Winnipeg, Winnipeg, 1879, pp. 115 and 122; Adam Shortt and A. G. Doughty, edits.: Canada and Its Provinces, Edinburgh edit., Vol. 20, Toronto, 1914, p. 295.

[19] J. B. Power: Bits of History Connected with the Early Days of the Northern Pacific Railway and the Organization of Its Land Department, *Collections State Hist. Soc. of North Dakota*, Vol. 3, 1910, pp. 337–348; reference on pp. 344–345.

[20] Sveinbjorn Johnson: The Icelandic Settlement of Pembina County, *Collections State Hist. Soc. of North Dakota*, Vol. 1, 1906, pp. 89–131; reference on p. 99.

Grandin Farm to work in the wheatfields and acquire the capital necessary on the more recent frontiers of settlement.

There were many gaps even at the time that James Hill was pushing the railroad forward over the eastern prairies. There were unsettled spaces from Moorhead to Crookston and again from there to St. Vincent. From Emerson just across the border settlement was progressing. There was a gap from Winnipeg to the Mennonite settlements in the west prairies, and from there to Grafton.[21]

However, at the beginning of 1879 a rail line ran from St. Paul to Winnipeg over the eastern prairies and up to Fargo on the western prairies, which were also tapped by the east-west rail line from Lake Superior.[22] The great surge of settlement reached its full stride, and by 1881 our saga was completed.

The pioneer fringe had figuratively flowed down the Red River Valley, washed against the eastern shore of the old lake basin, and was spilling over the western shore. That is, the frontier in 1881 ran from the western tip of Lake Superior, curving northwest above Mille Lacs, across the Red Lake River to the 49-degree line at the eastern edge of the Red River region, and thence to the east shore of Lake Winnipeg. The frontier crossed from Gimli on Lake Winnipeg to Oak Point on Lake Manitoba. There were scattered settlements northwest from there toward Riding Mountain, but the real pioneer fringe curved south from the west shore of Lake Manitoba through Pembina Mountain, passing east of the Sheyenne River toward the Coteau des Prairies and the Missouri. There appears to have been a gap in the marshy area between the Morris River and the Boyne later remedied by railroad and drainage.

The density map of five years later shows the pioneer fringe rolling westward beyond Devil's Lake and into the Canadian Northwest, though some turn back with bitterness in their hearts, as expressed in the legend seen on a covered wagon in Alberta (1917): "Fifty miles from water, Fifty miles from food, To Hell with Southern Alberta, We're leaving there for good."[23]

The Red River Valley, then, was a valuable halting place for the far-flung frontier of today. Here men experimented with the problems of the Great Plains—the lack of wood and water—under favorable conditions. The new tools such as railroad plow and reaper were tried out. Governments tested methods of land survey, land sale, and railroad subsidy and were faced with the clash between nomads and farmers. Statesmen wrestled with the problem of extending eastern culture to new communities, which were often of foreign stock. The necessity of constructing railroads to the Red River Valley and the

[21] James J. Hill: History of Agriculture in Minnesota, *Minnesota Hist. Soc. Collections*, Vol. 8, 1895–1898, pp. 275–290; reference on p. 285.

[22] *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, Dec. 5, 1878.

[23] Personal communication from J. C. Cameron.

coast brought Canadians in contact with the problems of the Canadian Shield—too much water, wood, and rock. They overcame the obstacle, which may assume its old role of binding the Canadians together not by the fur trade as in the past but by the exploitation of minerals.

The International Boundary and Other Questions

The Red River Valley is a natural region cut by an international boundary. Did the 49-degree line distort the progress of settlement?

Before 1870 the line appears to have been a barrier to settlement northward, since entrance of farmers by steamboat and stage was hampered by the Hudson's Bay Company. Yet trade and other contact between St. Paul and Fort Garry were not halted even by annoying duties imposed at the boundary. After 1870 the line began to exert a more effective influence over trade, as when the Mounted Police ejected the American fur traders. The boundary was used by both governments as a means of restricting the transport of goods. Freighting by Red River carts was brought to an end in 1871, and steamers were debarred in 1880. However, both were being superseded by better modes of transportation, and settlement does not seem to have been retarded. Following 1870 the boundary was opened wide to the currents of settlement, except for the land reservations on either side. Many United States institutions, such as the quarter section, and also tools were adopted by our friends across the border as an aid in conquering the plains.

During the ten years in which the frontier swept most swiftly across the Red River Valley (1875–1885) we observe little distortion in development, except perhaps some retardation because of lack of railroad facilities in Manitoba. That requires further research. The pattern of development in this natural region seems to have been little distorted by the presence of an international boundary. The question is raised whether there can be international planning for the utilization of a natural region.

The progress of the frontier in the Red River Valley, when viewed as a whole, accentuates the point that transformation of the landscape began to occur when the forces synchronized. Only after 1875 did new tools, presence of transport facilities, population drive, and freedom to settle upon the land without disturbance from nomads harmonize. Can such a harmonization be planned?

The speed of advance is striking, since within a short decade a grassland was transformed into a wheat granary. In contrast with earlier frontiers, the area was covered with remarkable speed. Is rapid expansion the wisest path to take, or do we need more control?

The complexity of the pioneer fringe is very apparent as regards race. German Mennonites emigrated from southern Russia and took

up land on the plains east of Pembina Mountain. Canadians settled along the wooded Boyne, while French Canadians broke ground along the streams east of the Red River. Swedes, Norwegians, and Danes settled in rather solid blocks within the valley. How well have these different stocks adapted themselves to their new environment and attained unity of action?

The pattern of settlement has a wide range. Along the streams are long, narrow strips of land with single rows of dwellings at the edge of the bank or clumps of dwellings with the fields round about as at Graham's Point. Upon the prairies homes are scattered through the sections, but in contrast is the *strassendorf* of the Mennonites. The "bonanza" farm pattern is again different. What are ideal rural groupings?

These pioneers lived on varying economic levels. The huge farms, such as that of the Grandins, represented an immense outlay of capital, while the Norwegian settlers near Buxton operated on a subsistence level. The Mennonites borrowed heavily to pay the first costs of their settlement. How may pioneers be most efficiently financed?

The actual form of progress assumed by this pioneer fringe was not a steady surge down the valley, as the density maps of 1870 and 1881 seem to indicate. Loci of settlement were shot far ahead along the wooded streams and at the river forks to the south and north. Settlement then filled in along the streams and gave the valley a skeleton leaf form of settlement, the streams corresponding to the veins of the leaf. Patches of settlement began to appear in the interstices on the prairies, but only to the north and south, leaving great gaps in the central area, which were finally filled in to form the picture seen in 1881. Should communal groups be planned for the pioneer fringe as holders of the far-flung loci?

These are some of the questions that arise in a survey of the progress of settlement in the Red River Valley and that appear to have significance in planning for the utilization of new and old lands. The state and local planning boards of the United States are even now attempting to solve some of these problems as they shift people into more favorable areas than those into which they were cast by uncontrolled movement of the old pioneer fringe.

Roses-

PPT.
9-M

February 8, 1935

My dear Mr. Malagarie:

Your letter of January sixteenth has been received and is being referred for the consideration of the United States Employment Service.

While your thoughtfulness in sending the spinning wheel to the President and Mrs. Roosevelt is deeply appreciated, they do not feel that they can accept it. I am therefore returning the wheel to you.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

CWS

M. Malagarie, Esq.,
Lafayette,
Louisiana.

The spinning wheel was received broken and returned through Post Office Inspector, - Feb 8 - 1935.

Roses -

Returned Parcel
3935
from M. Malagarie
Lafayette La
addressed to
The President
Wash DC.

Received parcel to be
returned to pm
Lafayette La
to be returned to sender.
M. Malagarie.
P.O.

(Smaller Spaning wheel)

FROM
THE ~~WHITE~~ HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

M. Malagarie, Esq.,
Lafayette,
~~Indiana~~. La.

Patriotic Roses -
Very

P.P. 7.
9-M.

February 8, 1935

My dear Mrs. Moore:

The President has been especially pleased to receive your friendly birthday greetings and more than appreciates your kind thought in sending him the beautiful flowers. He, in turn, asks me to convey his very best wishes for your welfare and happiness.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Mrs. Elizabeth Moore,
6606 North Ashland Avenue,
Chicago,
Illinois.

es

Read Artificial Roses
Wishing you a very
happy birth day and
many more.
Please accept this humble
tribute made by myown
hands for you.
May God Bless you.
Mrs Elizabeth Moore
6606 N. Ashland ave
Chicago Ills.

ahd 2s

P. P. F.
9-M.

February 8, 1935

Gentlemen:

The President has asked me to thank you most cordially for that fine picture you were so good as to send him. He is glad to have it and greatly appreciates your kind thought in sending it to him.

Very sincerely yours,

Steve Rowe

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Montana Relief Commission,
1st National Bank Building,
Helena,
Montana.

es

February 8, 1935

P.P.F.
9-M.

Gentlemen:

The President has asked me to thank you most cordially for that fine picture you were so good as to send him. He is glad to have it and greatly appreciates your kind thought in sending it to him.

Very sincerely yours,

Stu Rowe

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Montana Relief Commission,
1st National Bank Building,
Helena,
Montana.

es

P.P.F.
9-m.

February 11, 1935

My dear Rosemary:

The President has received your note and thinks it was very nice of you to send him a birthday message. He sends you his very best wishes.

Very sincerely yours,

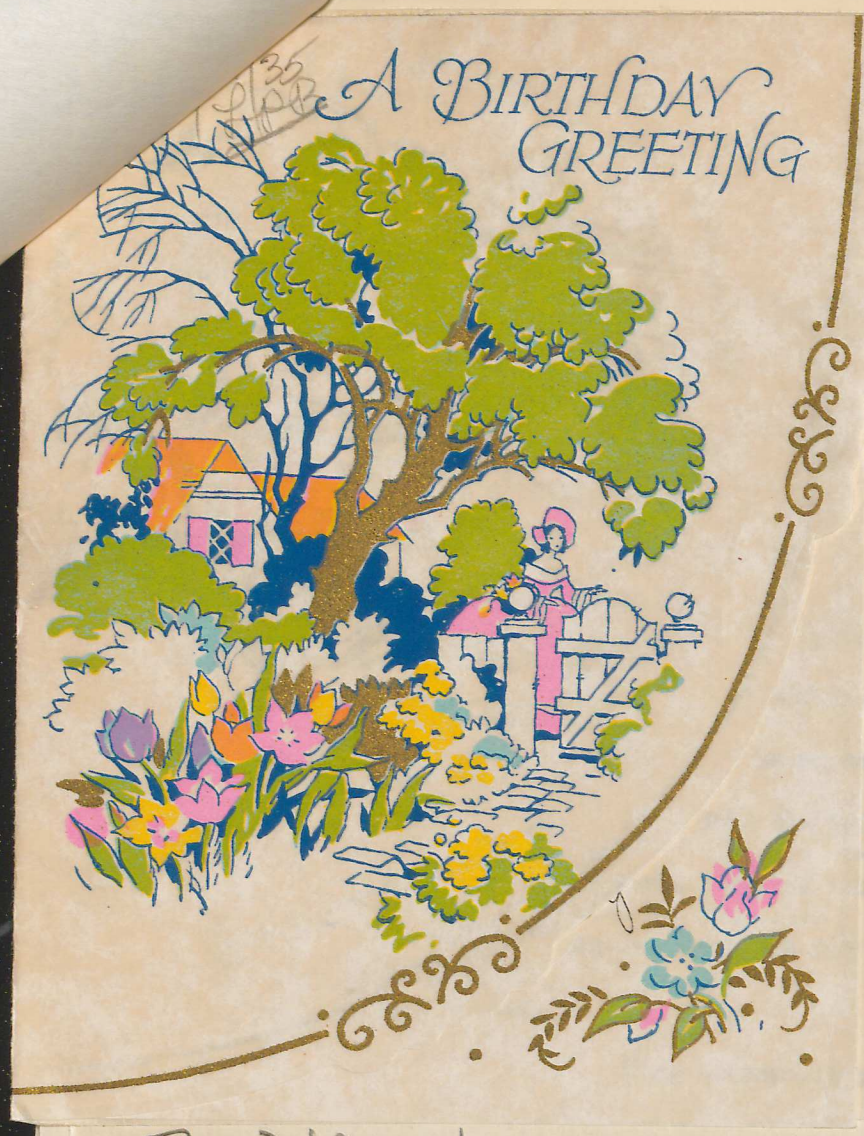
gave away

/handkerchief

M. A. Le Hand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Rosemary McNally,
568 Fairfield Avenue,
Stamford,
Connecticut.

LPB



P.P.7.
9-m

y 11, 1935

ally pleased
greetings and
ciates your
um of photo-
n, asks me
your welfare

ours,

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Mrs. S. Mitchell,
119 West School Street,
Visalia,
California.

es

TO BRING
"Best of Wishes!"
and "Many Returns!"
To hope that your birthday
is brim full of cheer,
To be a reminder
I'm thinking of you
TODAY and TOMORROW
and ALL THROUGH
THE YEAR!

From
Rosemary
McNally

P.P.7.
9-M

February 11, 1935

as especially pleased

birthday greetings and

ch he appreciates your

him the album of photo-

He, in turn, asks me

wishes for your welfare

sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Mrs. S. Mitchell,
119 West School Street,
Visalia,
California.

es

Dear President,
I put the H
on myself. I am
10 years old. Please
use my hanky.

Yours Lovingly
Rosemary McNally
568 Fairfield Ave
Stamford, Conn.

P.P.F.
9-M

February 11, 1935

My dear Mrs. Mitchell:

The President was especially pleased to receive your friendly birthday greetings and wants you to know how much he appreciates your kind thought in sending him the album of photographs of Giant Forest. He, in turn, asks me to convey his very best wishes for your welfare and happiness.

Very sincerely yours,

To Howard

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Mrs. S. Mitchell,
119 West School Street,
Visalia,
California.

es

Leahy, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas,
West Phila., Pa.,
Feb. 12,1935, Ack'd.

Birthday greetings. Sends cards and medal to the President. Prayers.

SEE P.P.F. 310-L

P.P.F.
9-M

February 12, 1935.

Dear Dave:-

Just a note to thank you ever so much for the books on the life and history of Barbar The Elephant. They are most amusing.

My best wishes to you,

Always sincerely,

Hon. Dave H. Morris,
American Embassy,
Brussels,
Belgium.

Brussels

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Jan 24

My dear Franklin,
My daughter Alice
gave me for xmas some
books on the life and
history of Babar the
Elephant which are written
for children and which
are so amusing, that I
am sending you copies
for your enjoyment and
profit also. When

es

the cares of office bring a frown or your philosophy becomes tangled, just open these books at any page and the charming illustrations with the whimsical text will show you how simple life is after all. And if you falter, take your grandchildren on your lap and they will explain it to you with delight to all concerned.

yours as ever

Dwight D. Eisenhower

February 14, 1935

PPF. 9-M

Gentlemen:

The President was much pleased to receive the February issue of "Municipal Utilities" and thanks you for your kind thought in sending it to him.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Municipal Utilities,
500 Shoreham Building,
Washington, D.C.

es

February 14, 1935

PPF. 9-M

My dear Mr. Miceli:

The President is in receipt of the drawing which you were so kind as to send him and wants you to know that he greatly appreciates your thoughtfulness. He asks me to convey his very best wishes.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Notes
Stud Room

Ignazio Miceli, Esq.,
212 East 117th St.,
New York, N.Y.

es

February 14, 1935

P.P.F.
9-M.

My dear Mr. Martin:

The President is in receipt of the gift which you were good enough to send him and wants you to know how much he appreciates your kind thought.

He asks me to convey his very best wishes to you.

Very sincerely yours,

Perfume

Threw Away

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

F. E. Martin, Esq.,
1156 Iris Court,
San Jose,
California.

es

CELLER, Hon. Emanuel,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.
February 14, 1935

Writes Col. McIntyre with reference to the desire of Eli Dantzig, the famous dance orchestra leader and composer, to come to the White House to present the President with the original manuscript of his March which Mr. Dantzig dedicated to and named for the President, and played for the first time at the President's Birthday Ball at the Hotel St. George in Brooklyn, N.Y. in the presence of Mrs. James Roosevelt, the President's mother, who expressed keen appreciation of the honor bestowed upon her son, etc. Mr. Celler would like to accompany Mr. Dantzig when he makes this presentation.

See P.P.F. 1-B

P.P.F.
9-m

P.P.7.
9-M.

February 15, 1935

My dear George:

The President was much pleased to receive your birthday greetings and greatly appreciates your kind thought in sending the sketch to him. He asks me to convey his very best wishes to you and to your family.

Very sincerely yours,

Stag Room

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

George Meshel,
1158 Springdale Avenue,
Youngstown,
Ohio.

es

Happy Birthday ~~Teddy~~ ~~Bobbie~~ ~~88~~

Received
Pencil sketch
of tree from Mother & Dad 2/15/38
From Meskel family

I am going to be twelve
years old Jan. 30, too.

George

1158 Springdale Ave
Youngstown
Ohio

x ref 1
3.0
m

es

PPF 1
9-M

February 20, 1935

My dear Miss Meadows:

The President was much pleased to receive your friendly letter of January twenty-sixth and more than appreciates your kind thought in sending him the beautifully painted birthday greeting card.

He asks me to convey his very best wishes to you.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

PPF 1
3-10
M

PPF
9-P

Miss Thelma M.C. Meadows,
c/o M. C. Wisler,
Nevada City,
California.

es

Read
sent to House

Nevada City Calif.,
January 26, 1935.

P.7.
9-m.

Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House,
Washington D.C.

Our Beloved President:—

All your friends out here in Sunny California wish you, Our dear President a very Happy Birthday on January 30th. Hope you shall continue on in the best of health and may your optimism be transfered to each and every one in these good old United States of America.

We all love you and are so thankful for the splendid work which

mgs

you have accomplished.

May God and your guardian Angel lead you ever down the light path and may you, Our Beloved President find peace and contentment at the end of that path.

With all kind thoughts and best wishes for your own dear self, and kind regards for Mrs. Roosevelt

I am
Yours Sincerely
Thelma M. C. Meadows
Nevada City,
c/o M. E. Wisler. Calif.

P. S. I hand-painted a Birthday Booklet for you and hope you receive it alright. I should like to paint a picture for you.

Buckley

February 20, 1935

P.P.F.
9-M.

My dear Mr. Misiti:

The President has received your note of February sixteenth and asked me to thank you for your kindness in sending the picture to him. He appreciates your friendly interest.

Very sincerely yours,

Stor Room

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Mike Misiti, Esq.,
225 Mill Street,
East Port Chester,
Connecticut.

mgs

COPY

February 20,1935.

My dear Mr. Rook:

Your letter of January twenty-eighth has been received and the President appreciates your kind thought in sendinghim the copy of the publication "Ham and Eggs" to which you refer. He is indeed grateful for your expressions of loyalty and support.

By the President's direction, I am referring your letter to the Federal Emergency Relief Administrator for consideration.

Very sincerely yours,

magazine

M. A. Lolland
Private Secretary

Carl E. Rook, Esq.,
462 Almyra Avenue,
Youngstown,
Ohio.

FERA: Has a proposition to put in side walks and eliminate ditches on certain suburban streets -- the property owners to pay for materials and the FERA to furnish the Labor. Says side-walks are much needed as children on way to school have been hit by cars. Commends the Pres. on his relief legislation but thinks the CWA has done the most good.

SEE P.P.F. 9-R

P.P.F. 9-R

PPF
9-M

February 21, 1935

My dear Mr. McCormick-Goodheart:

I am indeed grateful to you for the fine gift which you presented to me for my birthday. I did not have this picture - in fact, I had never seen it before - and I am particularly happy to have it, especially in such a delightful condition. Very many thanks.

With my best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

ad

Mr. Leander McCormick-Goodheart, O.B.E., V.D.,
Langley Park,
Silver Spring,
Maryland.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Write nice note of thanks
for the President's signature saying
he has not got the picture - in fact,
he had never seen it before and is
particularly happy to have it, es-
pecially in such delightful condition.
He is very grateful for his thought
of him and send best wishes.

M. A. L.

Leander McCormick-Goodhart
Commercial Secretary
British Embassy

LANGLEY PARK
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

ackd
2/21/35
ad

Respectfully Heard,

Mr President.

on the occasion of

your birthday,

January 30th 1935

by Leander McCormick-
Conrad

Secretary, British Embassy.

Commander, R.N.V.R., retired.

em

ashington,
ervous
rather
certain
olic man
idential
erse printed

and Mrs.

Pf 1
4-M

February 25, 1935.

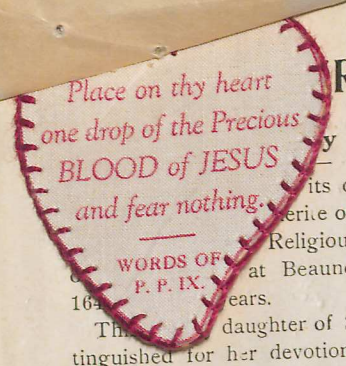
Respectfully referred to the
Federal Emergency Relief Administrator for consideration and acknowledgment.

LOUIS McH. HOWE
Secretary to the President

em

FERA - Let. from MARIE BLOSEL, 619 M St., Centralia, Washington, 2/14 - writer afflicted with lung trouble; is highly nervous and fears that if confined to a hospital it will harm rather than aid her condition; in need of financial help for certain foods, medicines and clothing. Keeps house for a Catholic man and has found consolation in that faith; encloses two identical bracelet-like articles of black beads and heart with verse printed on it.

(Rosaries with note that they are for the Pres.and Mrs. Roosevelt - retained).



P.P.7.
9-m.

ROWN

y Infant Jesus.

its origin to the zeal of
erite of the Blessed Sacra-
Religious, who died in the
at Beaune, France, May 26,
ears.

daughter of St. Teresa was distinguished for her devotion to the Holy Child Jesus. Her writings have received ecclesiastical approbation, and the cause of her beatification is now pending before the Holy See at Rome.

Her "Life," written in French and English, has had extensive circulation, and been the means of attracting many souls to the practice of the virtues of the Sacred Infancy, of which her own saintly career was the faithful mirror.

Inspired from above, Ven. Marguerite of the Blessed Sacrament made a chaplet consisting of three Our Fathers in honor of the Holy Family, and twelve Hail Marys in memory of the twelve years of the Sacred Infancy of our divine Saviour. To this chaplet of fifteen beads is attached a medal of the Holy Infant Jesus. During the lifetime of Ven. Sister Marguerite the chaplet received the approbation of Superiors, and on August 9, 1855, Pius IX. granted an Indul-

February 25, 1935

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than appreciates your

g it to him.

sks me to convey his

or your welfare and

happiness.

Very sincerely yours,

Steve Rogers

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Ben C. Mayes, Esq.,
603 Pulliam Street,
San Angelo,
Texas.

LITTLE CROWN

OR

Chaplet of the Holy Infant Jesus.

THIS devotion owes its origin to the zeal of the Ven. Sister Marguerite of the Blessed Sacrament, a Carmelite Religious, who died in the odor of sanctity at Beaune, France, May 26, 1648, aged 27 years.

This worthy daughter of St. Teresa was distinguished for her devotion to the Holy Child Jesus. Her writings have received ecclesiastical approbation, and the cause of her beatification is now pending before the Holy See at Rome.

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P.P.7.
9-m.

February 25, 1935

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g it to him.

sks me to convey his

very best wishes to you for your welfare and

happiness.

Very sincerely yours,

Steve Morris

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Ben C. Mayes, Esq.,
603 Pulliam Street,
San Angelo,
Texas.

gence of 300 days, applicable to the souls in purgatory, for its devout recitation.

On the medal the following invocation is said. "Divine Infant Jesus, I adore Thy Cross, and I accept all the crosses Thou wilt be pleased to send me. Adorable Trinity, I offer Thee for the glory of the Holy Name of God, all the adorations of the Sacred Heart of the Holy Infant Jesus."

Each "Our Father" and "Hail Mary" is preceded by the aspiration: "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us." On terminating the chaplet, say: "Holy Infant Jesus, bless and protect us."

The Divine Infant revealed to His faithful servant how pleasing to Him is this holy practice; He promised her that He would grant special graces, above all purity of heart and innocence, to all who carried the chaplet on their person and recited it in honor of the mysteries of His holy infancy. As a sign of His approval, He showed her these chaplets shining with a supernatural light.

Our Lord, likewise, revealed to Ven. Marguerite of the Blessed Sacrament that those who piously recite it in memory of His abasements at Bethlehem, in Egypt and at Nazareth, would not fail to experience the divine assistance in their spiritual and temporal necessities.

BENZIGER BROTHERS, NEW YORK, CINCINNATI, CHICAGO.

P.P.7.
9-m.

February 25, 1935

has received your let-

th and read it with

ed to have the quirt to

than appreciates your

g it to him.

asks me to convey his

very best wishes to you for your welfare and

happiness.

Very sincerely yours,

Steve Early

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Ben C. Mayes, Esq.,
603 Pulliam Street,
San Angelo,
Texas.

P.P.F.
9-M.

February 25, 1935

My dear Mr. Mayes:

The President has received your letter of February seventeenth and read it with interest. He is delighted to have the quirt to which you refer and more than appreciates your kind thought in presenting it to him.

The President asks me to convey his very best wishes to you for your welfare and happiness.

Very sincerely yours,

Steve McCrary

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Ben C. Mayes, Esq.,
603 Pulliam Street,
San Angelo,
Texas.

Record
Leather white

to President of U S a
Franklin D Roosvelt
Washington D.C.

Angelo
Sanangelo Texas
February 17 1935

Dear President
as I am an old worout cowboy I
Know the good of Rawhide Quirt
and as you are in the Stock Buisness
I am Sending you one So you will Be
Ready for the Spring Roundups
Vice President John Garner can tell you
all Bout it they are my own Make
Yours
Ben L Mayes
603 Pulliam St
Sanangelo
Texas

(Raw for old age Pension
me 71 years old

PPF
9-M

March 4, 1935

My dear Mr. Martin:

The President is greatly pleased to receive the Indian arrow head which you were good enough to send him and asks me to tell you how much he appreciates your kind thought.

He sends you his very best wishes for your welfare and happiness.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

H. W. Martin, Esq.,
Talco,
Texas.

es

Rec'd
Indian Arrow
Head.

Talco Tex

The President
Dear Sir.
Please accept this gift
from an old Man 74 years
old, born and raised in
Texas -

your friend
H. W. Smart