

From Harry S. Truman to Bess W. Truman, December 9, 1939

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Carroll Arms Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Dec. 9, 1939

Dear Bess:-

Well you and Vic were both wrong, Charlie Ross asked me to be his guest at the Gridiron Dinner because he was anxious for me to be there and because both Stark and Milligan had been invited. I was not panned at all and Mr. Ross made it his business for me to meet every newspaper man here who is of any consequence and asked me to come out to his house tomorrow at one o'clock for "breakfast" with some people from St. Louis who may be helpful next year. Now beat that if you can. It seems that the Hon. Burton K. Wheeler, Max Lowenthal and some of the other

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railroad investigators--and railroad presidents and labor have been saying that the junior senator from Missouri is honest of purpose. The Pres. seems to have had a hand in the situation too. Maybe things aren't so dark as they seem. Even Mr. Roy Roberts and Mr. Duke Shoop seemed to have a changed attitude. Both Mr. Stark & Mr. Milligan were in Roy Roberts room when Charlie and I made the rounds and they both looked and acted like men without a country. Stark came up and spoke to me very cordially and inquired about your health and welfare--and I returned the compliment by inquiring about Mrs. Stark--and her political career.

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Mr. Milligan panted and sat in his corner. Wheeler asked me if those two were all I had to beat. He also asked me to issue a statement for him and me on Monday that would save his face on the R.R. conference. I'm going to do it.

After we left you yesterday I remembered that I hadn't said a word about how nice you looked. You always look so good to me that I'm tongue-tied just as I was when I was a little boy hoping to carry your books. They all seemed to understand why I would go to bed every night instead of to the shows and dances after they'd seen why-you and Margie.

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We landed in Chicago at 2:20 and unloaded Minton. He was really very sorry to leave, as we were to leave him. Then we went on to Battle Creek, landed there at 4:00 P.M. Central time, 5:00 P.M. Eastern. It was so near sundown we stayed all night. The Chamber of Commerce put us up at the Post Tavern--built by Post Toasties Post. It has \$500,000 worth of paintings hanging in the lobby, coffee shop, and mezzanine floor--and they are really most beautiful to look at. Most of them are scenes from the farm, seascapes, snow pictures, river scenes, and I saw only two naked women and they weren't offensively so.

We left Battle Creek at 8:03 A.M. and landed

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here at 10:15. It is a little over five hundred miles. Saw Toledo, Cleveland, Pittsburg, Hagerstown, Harpers Ferry & D.C. almost as quickly as you read this.

The Army was on hand to meet us and so was Vic. Catherine and Rethal were almost as happy as you were that I am on the ground.

It will take me four or five days to get the mail and bills caught up. Just for fear you're out of money. I'm sending you a check. Should have given it to you in K.C. but that tongue tied feeling again I guess.

Kiss Margie, love to you, Harry

[P.S.]

Got your Guatamala letter today. It is now 2:30 A.M. Sunday. Guess I'd better quit.

Perry H. has been station here again. Guess Mrs. Revile be happy about that.