

From Harry S. Truman to Bess W. Truman, February 12, 1931

[page 1]

[The Lafayette, Little Rock, Arkansas]

Feb. 12, 1931

Dear Bess:

I hope this reaches you the morning of the thirteenth, because while I'm not there I'll be thinking constantly all day that this is her birthday and I'm not there.

I don't know whether you entirely appreciate or not the tremendous

[page 2]

amount of strain that's been on me since November. My two former associates as you know were just full of anxiety to obtain any funds that they could because of their positions, the finances of the county were never in such shape since Miles Bulger handled them, and every person I've ever had any association with since birth has wanted

[page 3]

me to take pity on him and furnish him some county money without much return. On top of all that, the refinancing of the farm at home has been getting deeper and deeper into difficulties, and if something unforeseen should happen there that good old woman who made me an honest man would pass on.

You and I have had our own difficulties to look after

[page 4]

and with it all I was becoming so keyed up that I either had to run away or go on a big drunk. That latter alternative never did have much appeal, so I've taken the other one.

My head hasn't ached and I've slept like a baby because I know the phone's not going to ring, and that no one's going to stop me with a tale of woe when I

[page 5]

walk down the street. I shouldn't write you like this but I ought to be home today and, like all men since Adam, I've got to justify myself for not being there with an alibi.

This jaunt would be perfect if you and Margaret were with me. We'd have the best time in the world and see some very good things to see and they'd look a

[page 6]

lot better if you were here. I saw Governor Parnell this morning and he inquired what he could do for me, and when I told him not one thing he said I was doubly welcome. He asked that he and Mrs. Parnell be remembered to you and invited me to come back. We go to Shreveport by way of Hot Springs and Texarkana

[page 7]

this afternoon, and I am anticipating a pleasant ride.

Tell my girl she must go to school and learn all about everything and someday you and she and I will go see it all.

I hope we see sixty more birthdays together. Harry