

From Harry S. Truman to Bess W. Truman, August 23, 1931

[page 1]

The Biltmore Hotel, New York, N.Y.

[August 23, 1931 (Postmark)]

Dear Miss Bessie and Miss Marger:

Here I am at the Biltmore and I still wish you were here. It is about like the Baltimore in Kansas City. If I'd taken the New York Central out of St. Louis I'd have gotten off at the hotel because it's just across the street from the Grand Central Station. But you know the Pennsylvania follows the National Old Trails Road and

[page 2]

I could resist the temptation to follow it although I'd seen everything along it before several times. I read the papers, bought me an Adventure and then had all the time I could want to think my problem over. If I can just make the right approach it'll put it over.

I missed the noon train in St. Louis yesterday by going to see Wm. R. Gentry, Bennett

[page 3]

Clark and Paterson. Each of them took nearly an hour and when I was through calling the train was gone. But I caught one at 6 o'clock and got here at 6:50 Eastern Standard time: 7:50 the way they count it here. Mr. Gentry was glad to see me and said he expected me to carry his hat this fall at the Grand Lodge (kidding me of course). Paterson said he had

[page 4]

severed all connections with Kansas City, wasn't interested in the town or its people that St. Louis put him on the map and that's the town he is for. Bennett Clark hoped I'd put Francis Wilson on the shelf so he and I could put Missouri in the Democratic column again. You may yet be the first lady of Missouri and even a larger position than that isn't beyond

[page 5]

the bounds of your ability and good looks. I saw a fourteen year old girl on the train with her mother and father. She had four curls tied at her neck reaching almost to her waist wore a white hat like one I can remember and my heart jumped for my sweetheart the girl I have on a pedestal who keeps me straight on all occasions and for whom I hope

[page 6]

to be somebody for the county, state and nation.

Kiss my baby and tell her to be nice to her mamma and grandmothers and I'll bring her something from the greatest city on earth.

Love to you both from Dad.