

From J. P. Bryan to Harry S. Truman

[page 1]

Gamma Xi of Sigma Nu  
Missouri School of Mines  
Rolla, Mo. 1-26-23  
Mr. Harry S. Truman,  
Judge of County Court,  
Independence, Mo.

My Dear Captain, Although I am addressing you as a judge of the court, the other capacity is the one in which I have the most vivid memories of you, so I use it by way of salutation.

I came up to the courthouse during the Christmas holiday, on the day your court first convened, to see you, but, because you seemed so busy at the time, I merely offered congratulations, as I thought them deserved, and allowed my personal affair to await till this time, believing it more opportune at the present.

To reach the point of my letter, I am inquiring about a job on the Jackson County highways for the summer months of May, June, and July. I shall have to return here to school for one semester at the end of that time in order to receive my degree as B.S. in Civil Engineering. I must also put in that much time in actual engineering practice for the same purpose. Beside, I need to earn some money this summer, and would very much prefer to earn it in or near Kansas City and Independence.

I have been learning from my mother, through the Kansas City and Independence papers, and other sources of

[page 2]

the cut in the forces of the County Highway Engineer. But I know that such things are not permanent, and am in hopes that the Court may be able to make some appointments on that department by the first of May. Such being the case, my wish is to place my application when it will do the most good is soon as possible.

Since you have always been friendly to myself and to my family, I naturally came to you first for advice, even if you find it impossible to give my support to my plan.

So it may be that an application through yourself is sufficient in such a case, I am going to append references and trust that you will use them in my interest if possible.

You know something of my army record. I need only add that it consisted entirely of nineteen months at Doniphan and overseas, and ended in an honorable discharge with the grade of corporal.

Before my enlistment I worked for the Standard Oil Company at Sugar Creek for three years, and after my discharge I worked in the same plant until I returned to my education here at the end of a year and a half.

Mr. G. H. Moffett and Mr. Frank Woodward of that plant can give you a more thorough report of my work there than anyone else.

My education beyond High School has consisted of one year in the engineering school at Kansas State university in 1913-'14, and three years here in the Missouri School of Mines, the three years ending at the close of the present semester.

[page 3]

At that time I shall need only ten credit hours for graduation, and should not need them except that conflicts due to changing schools and others forced on me by the necessity of working as a student assistant and instructor would not permit me to work off certain required subjects.

My referenced here would be Dr. C. H. Fulton, Director, Prof E. G. Harriss, head of the Civil Engineering Department, Prof. J. B. Butler, professor of Civil Engineering, and Prof. T. G. McCarthy, professor of surveying.

I might mention in passing that I am assisting Professor McCarthy in Topographic Surveying this semester.

I believe I have stated my case pretty clearly. I hope you can advise me soon of any further procedure would further my plans.

With best wishes for continued success, and best personal regards to yourself and Mrs. Truman, I am

Respectfully and cordially, J. P. Bryan  
P.O. Box 707  
Rolla, Mo.