

July 9 1931

Dear Etoile,

It seems that the folks in Chicago have heard the Macedonian call and have come over to help you. I think it was mighty fine of Charlie, Julia and Joe to help you take care of the situation. I sent Joe the tools, etc., salvaged from the old Cadillac and presume he received them all right although the receipt was not acknowledged.

I can have a slight idea of conditions which may prevail at Macedonia from the conditions which I understood to prevail thirty-five years ago at Hopeville, Iowa. A small community can often be one of the best or one of the worst places on earth and when things get to going bad it is pretty hard to stop them.

You never told me what was done at the reading of Dr. Gowdy's will nor what disposition was made by the court for the payment of bequests.

Modern method of business, hard surfaced roads and impaired service on railroads are fast putting the small towns out of business. You will remember that I wrote you perhaps two years ago that I thought conditions would never be any better in Macedonia for the sale of property but that on the other hand it might become worse. As I am in the loan business, by reason of being a director of the Lawrence Building and Loan, I keep a little closer in touch with these problems and with values than would otherwise be the case. We have made a number of loans in Baldwin but in such cases the amount loaned is a smaller proportion of the real value of the property than is the case in Lawrence and even here we are being very careful to be conservative in our work.

As you probably saw in the Journal-World, it was dreadfully hot here for a couple of weeks. We had a splendid rain on the Fourth of July and so far this week the weather has been quite pleasant.

I had a nice letter from Julia today remembering my birthday and inviting us to go to Hoinville Hills for our summer's outing. While we appreciate both the offer and the spirit in which it is made, I hardly think we will go to Hoinville Hills for more than a brief stop, if we go there at all. So far no definite