

January 17, 1944

Mr. J. B. Eakin  
Box 306  
Santa Rosa, New Mexico

Dear Jess:

Your letter of December 23rd was received in due time, and I am always glad to hear from you. As a matter of fact, Jess, as I may have previously mentioned, you are about the only tie I have now with Hodgemann County.

I had a pleasant hour a few weeks ago at the home of Mrs. E. P. Houser with Sam Button who lived for years at Hanston and who still may make his home there, although his wife, Jessie Ruff, passed away a few years ago. He is a mighty fine gentleman and I had such a pleasant visit with him. Maybe he found that I had aged as much as I thought that he had, but surely there has been quite a change in the robust, vigorous man of 25 or 30 years ago when I made a visit to Hodgemann County.

I hope that Mrs. Eakin's health is improving and that you will find frequent opportunities for seeing your children.

I am going to send you a copy of a letter written by Irving C. Lamberton, a member of the Marshall Field force at Chicago, who also wrote the beautiful tribute to the store entitled "Cathedral of All Stores". It expresses Julia's life and activities there.

Your story of the farmers and their conditions and their cattle is the same old story that we can find the length and breadth of the land. According to the present federal administration, the only persons entitled to real prosperity are those belonging to unions. The farmer doesn't count. Men who had cattle and sold them at the increased price made some money, but everyone who bought feeders or who held the young stuff over for feeding, has suffered considerable loss. I sometimes think that hell yawns for some of the men who have worked so hard and effectively in tearing apart the America that we love, and in burying future generations under an avalanche of public debt.

With best wishes to you and the good wife, I am

As ever  
Your Friend