

15 September 1949

Mr W C Simons,
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. S⁺mons:

Your letter of September 1st in regard to our mutual friend Mrs Edna C Whitver as she is listed in the telephone directory came a few days ago. I called Mrs. Whitver this evening and she was very delighted. We have made plans for meeting her in person next Sunday. She requested me to convey to you that she is well, very happy in her work, that she just returned from a visit to Europe and within the next few years was returning to the states to live in her home in Orlando, Fla. I am sure that Mrs. Lessenden and I will be able to add another very charming friend to our list upon better acquaintance with Mrs. Whitver.

We are in the midst of our rainy season here. The weather is quite delightful in that it is very cool at nights, a blanket and a sheet is very comfortable, and it is not too hot in the day time. Upon returning this time I have set out some plants and bulbs which grow as well in the states and they are doing and growing like they were happy.

The army is undergoing contraction pains. No doubt you have noticed this in the news reports in the states. All of the Air Force installations here are being abandoned and there are some which are very large. This means a possible reduction of some three or four thousand civilian employees, almost all of them however, citizens of Panama. Probably ten per cent of them American citizens who will be returned to the states. As I work with the Quartermaster, ground Forces and in dealing with food, it is not likely that I will be affected.

Mr. Simons, it seems to me that Mr. Williams, the Postmaster told me some time ago that he was almost ready to retire. I have the rating as a permanent Civil Service employee and if or when Mr. Williams does retire, if you would with your tremendous influence in the City of Lawrence keep me in mind for the Postmastership. You may be sure that I shall appreciate any help you may do in my behalf.

Appreciating your introduction to the acquaintance of Mrs Whitver and with kind personal regards to yourself and the staff of the Journal-World, I am

Cordially yours,

Chester M. Lessenden
Chester M. Lessenden

P.S Hope you have been able to meet our Doctor son Dr. Glenn A Lessenden Tonganoxie, Kansas who has just recently hung out his shingle in your sister town.