

Sept 19, 1928

Wednesday.

Dear Dad:

After I got away the other night I spent sometime before going to bed thinking over my visit with you-all and I can't say that I felt very proud of the way I had ~~managed~~ done. Your letter today made me realize even more keenly how ugly my disposition has been. Although I appreciate your letter more than you know I can never enjoy it for knowledge of what evoked it. One of those traits you mentioned--in my case--seems to be the unfortunate one of hurting those I love best, often when I'm just kicking out at a feeling of frustration.

I don't want you to get all tangled up in that Huntsville business. You know, I asked Jim Howard if you went ~~into~~ at all, what effect would it have on your position at the bank? He knows that you can't take money out of your set-up without weakening yourself and I don't want you to risk anything on a fresh newspaper venture. So don't tie yourself up in a knot, however much I may want this start out for myself.

Of course I want the opportunity because it seems to me to lead somewhere. One of the reasons for my dissatisfaction is that I can't believe that I'm going anywhere, financially or spiritually; the end of salaried newspaper work is too clear to me. Another motive is to be nearer home---I don't suppose anyone ever got more home-sick than I or ever loved home more---yet when I get there I let my nerves get loose and I alienate myself from what I want most. It isn't that I dislike Bob Henry particularly for when he grows out of his kid ways I'll like him more than most anyone. I believe it's all pretty well traceable to the fact that I wanted my life to develop finely and to meet some ideal of which I've fallen short. And I'd like to see Bob Henry come a lot closer, yet I know he has a lot of my own faults. Perhaps he'll do better at outgrowing them than I have.

I don't know that there's much I can say for myself; it will be better for me to keep working and show something more than talk or words. I haven't achieved anything, according to my standards, but perhaps I've scratched the ground for something substantial later on in life. No one can predict what he will accomplish; my best is to hope that my life and work will be ~~in~~ not only profitable but ~~in~~ cast in surroundings conducive to some sort of consecutive thinking, necessary to decent writing/. I can't have that here; we know that.

In regard to the Lane option: I haven't had time in the past two days to ~~approach~~ approach Cohen for money. You see I went straight from the train to work, thence home yesterday; today was stormy and bad. ~~IE~~ I will try him before Saturday, however. I don't know of any other source except Jen and I've forgotten whether you said it would be decent to ask her to take any stock in the business or not. I ~~have~~ had so many things to keep in mind in two weeks there. What was your opinion? And the amount, if you think her a fit victim for solicitation?

Thinking over Ike's attitude I would be rather surprised if he got any money and came back. His farewells were all of the "might get back up here some day and come to Florida sometime" style. Not very positive.

So last night Mamie, Shelby and I were discussing the matter and Shelby said Jim Ed Parks of Tampa almost moved back to Huntsville last

summer. I considered his business training, selling experience and the fact that he had taught from four to six years each in Madison, Meridian, New Hope and Monrovia and knew many Huntsville people. It occurred to me that if he still wanted to come back there he might make a very good business manager for the paper and an amiable partner. He is a high Methodist (assistant to his pastor in Tampa), a teacher, salesman, credit manager and fairly good politician. With his acquaintance in Madison county he might be a good man.

Therefore, I wrote him today and told him what Mamie and I planned about moving to Huntsville. I sketched our plans with regard to Ike and suggested that if he still felt like coming back, and Ike fell through, we might strike a trade. Nothing finally committal in the proposition but a feeler out as to his plans for leaving or staying in Tampa. What do you think of that step, frankly? I recall that Holder was a possible business mgr., but he's advertising for a job, and there was some fellow on the Times mentioned by Lane as wanting to move to the C.B. Will Charlie reassure those two fellows who advertised?

Don't take up a lot of time with this thing because we have about eight weeks yet before the option expires. But above all don't try to finance it yourself, because you won't have time to pull the chestnuts out of the fire in case I flop with the business. I'm pretty well satisfied now to let it work out as it will, whatever the outcome, if only things develop clearly enough to give us a basis for decision.

You know I had a good time while I was at home--but I don't see how you-all could have had. So try to square me with Mother and B.H. and
With regret and affection,

Your devoted son,

