

THE AMERICAN MERCURY *A Monthly Publication*

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November 9, 1944

Lt Commander Harold E Stassen
744 Stewart Lane
West St Paul, Minn

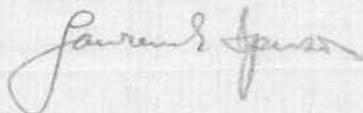
Dear Commander Stassen:

I am writing to remind you of the conversations
we had many months ago about your book.

It seems to me that it ought to be published some
time during the next two years. Can't you find
time in your busy life to do a bit here and there?
A page or two a day becomes a book amazingly fast.

I would like to hear from you about this.

Cordially,



LES:bes

1661 Newton St. N.W.
Washington, D.C.
Nov. 9, 1944

Dear Commander :-

Ever since I returned to the States, I have been meaning to jot you a few lines. At last I am doing just that.

McBillicuddy, Wessel and I received our orders a few days after you had departed. In fact, I did not even know you had gone until I dropped into your office to say "good-bye." It was then that I received one of your promotion cigars from your yeoman.

Congratulations upon your third stripe and new additional title. I think it is great and know that Mrs. Stassen and the children were quite proud of the "old man".

When your yeoman offered me a cigar, I asked him if he would ask you to send me an autographed picture of yourself. I had asked you for one shortly after my arrival from New Caledonia, and you said "O.K." Apparently your yeoman forgot to ask you or else you have been too busy, a fact I can readily understand. However, I should very much appreciate one when convenient for you to send it.

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Speaking of pictures, Wessel and I now have an office to ourselves with a Chief Yeoman working for us. It is an office in a new building into which we moved about two weeks ago. Since we are the only occupants, we decided to fix it as we wished. So, we framed pictures of Adm. Halsey, Vice Adm. Thornley, Rear Adm. Carney, Rear Adm. Callaghan and the one of you done by Bill Draper and hung them on our walls. It is quite an impressive array and really "makes" the office. I should like to replace the one of you done by "Drape-shape" with a real photograph. That is, if you do not mind hanging on our wall.

I telephoned Bill Draper's residence about three weeks ago, found him out, and learned that he was being married that Saturday. Consequently, I thought I should give the poor fellow a little time before bothering him again.

I also called Barbara Mallory, Cliff's sister, who informed me that Cliff was due in Washington about the 10th of Nov., which I learned from several letters from "the goat". So, I am looking for him any day now.

Sheff Cowles is also on duty in Washing-

...ton, but as yet I have ³not contacted him.

I had a wonderful time during my 30 days' leave, as most everyone does. I had contemplated stopping in Minneapolis on my way to Pennsylvania (which crossed us Republicans again incidentally), and if I had I had intended to tell Mrs. Stassen you were well, etc. However, you beat me home anyway, and I never did stop at Minneapolis.

Wes, Mac and I were together about 20 of our 30 days of leave — N. Y. C. Boston, Cape Cod, Old Orchard and Bar Harbor, Me., Vermont, N. H. Phila. Atlantic City and Washington. We had '90 gallons of gasoline among us and made good use of every one. Now we live together in a house rented for us by Wes's sister.

The States are wonderful but I truthfully would rather be with you all. I wish you would tell Comdr. Cheek that since I have been here I know he could use at least one person from our outfit, if he already has not realized the same and obtained one, and that I should certainly like the position and hope he wants me.

The best to you and all the boys. May God bless and keep you all. Sincerely
Bill Power

Sunset Hill
Columbia-Mo

Nov 9, 1944

Mrs Harold E Stassen,
St Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Mrs Stassen:

I want to
take this opportunity to tell
you how much I enjoyed
hearing your voice on the
radio during the campaign.
It was my pleasure to meet
Ex Gov. Stassen at a Republican

dinner party in St Louis
two years ago. Also visited
his headquarters often while
at the Stevens hotel as a
member of the Missouri
delegation to the Republican
Convention.

Knowing of the deep religious
convictions of Ex Gov Stassen
and his activities in religious
work I am writing you regarding
a matter of a religious nature.

It so happens that my grand-
father seven generations ago
founded the first organized
Presbyterian church and

next Easter nothing would
give me more pleasure than
to have a few outstanding
Republican leaders meet with
me at a dinner where all
this religious background
connected with Barnhart
Cakes might be brought to
light for the benefit of the
world.

Please let me have your
thoughts on this.

By way of further introduction
of myself may I say that
my husband Prof. T. J. Talbot
holds the chair of Horticulture

upon the faculty of the
University of Missouri and
I have reared three children
here in Columbia. My son has
just graduated from Harvard
medical school and is now
interning at Barnes hospital
in St Louis and my two daughters
are juniors in the University here
and members of Pi Beta Phi
society.

During the next four years we
must bring into the Republican
party activities more of the
basic philosophy to which the
founding fathers adhered so
that America might lead

very graciously things from
a bank vault, where it is kept
under strict custodianship,
a gorgeous solid silver communion
service which was a gift to
him from Queen Anne of England
in 1704.

We must never let America
adopt a low plane philosophy
of material values but rather
keep aloft those finer values
of life which make it different
and give us the freedoms
for which we are fighting all
over the world.
Should I decide to go back

synod upon this continent in
1691. He also founded the
Rock of Bumbarton estate and
Georgetown L.C.

Now that the name Bumbarton
Park is on the lips of the leaders
of the world it has occurred to
me that it would be fitting to
stress the religious background
of our nation's history in contrast
to the anti-God philosophies
which have sprung up in the
world to cause so much misery.

It is my habit to go back to
observe Easter in the church
which my ancestor organized
at which time the minister

the world in a finer and higher sense, and that humanity everywhere will be lifted to a plane of finer values.

You might discuss this idea of a dinner in Washington next Easter, under the shadow of the White House, with some of the leading Republican men and women in your vicinity.

I cannot see the New Deal philosophy as leading us any where but into a chaos of a distressing nature.

Lumbermen Oaks can be

made to have more meaning
and significance in the coming
post war peace program and
I should love to see the Republican
take advantage of this opportunity
to inject more of that meaning
into it.

I have all the authentic facts
at my disposal for a program
of great interest.

Please let me hear from you
regarding this matter.

Sincerely
Miss Mary M. Talbot

JULIUS KLEIN, Lt. Colonel,
Commanding Officer,
523rd Quartermaster Group,
APO 502, c/o Postmaster,
San Francisco, California.

10 November 1944

Commander Harold E. Stassen
COM 3rd Fleet,
F.P.O., San Francisco, California.

My dear Harold:

I shouldn't write you because I haven't heard from you since you left here, but I have been thinking about you quite a lot, especially the last couple of days.

A lot of things have happened since you left. A few months ago I was assigned as Commanding Officer of the 523rd Quartermaster Group, one of the largest commands at this base. Shortly after that, and in addition to my other duties, I was appointed Port Commander. Believe me, I can truthfully say that during the two months that I had both these important jobs, I spent the most hectic and trying time of my Army career. But I am proud to say that I received a commendation from my Commanding General for my tour of duty as Port Commander.

My replacement at the Port, (the former assistant Commandant of the War Department School of Transportation) finally arrived and I am now back with my first love, the boys in the field.

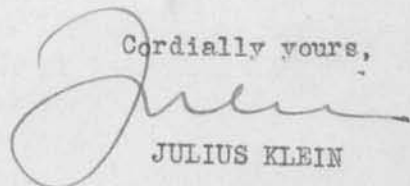
Just recently I had the privilege and pleasure of renewing my acquaintanceship with Lt. General Robert C. Richardson, Commanding General of the Pacific Ocean Areas. I was invited to a luncheon for General Richardson at the house of Major General Frederick C. Gilbreath, Commanding General of the South Pacific Base Command. The day following this luncheon, both General Richardson and General Gilbreath paid me the honor of visiting my old Battalion, the 42nd Quartermaster Battalion Mobile. After inspecting the area and chatting with the enlisted men, the Generals had lunch with the officers, and they climaxed their visit by speaking to the enlisted men in the Battalion Theater. It was a day we will all remember and cherish. Believe me, Harold, it is an extreme pleasure to soldier under such fine officers as General Richardson and General Gilbreath.

I am enclosing copy of a letter I wrote to Mrs. Willkie. I know you share these views with me, and you might care to keep this copy in your files.

Well, you fellows have been giving them hell. Let's hope we soon meet in Manila or Tokyo.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Cordially yours,



JULIUS KLEIN

November 10th

1944.

Dear Harold:

I am enclosing a bunch of clippings. It may be necessary to put them in two envelopes due to weight. I have cut them promiscuously out of the St. Paul papers for two or three days back. Some are duplications, but I thought there might be something in one article that is not in another.

Returns now indicate that FDR will carry about the same as when Willkie ran. We were off, I believe, on the women vote in the country.

Just talked to Mines, and apparently the labor end fell down badly. He was the man appointed for Minnesota, and the only contact he had throughout the campaign was one letter from Herb. At Ed's request he got about thirty labor men to come in for a half hour conference with Tom. What little funds they got to spend was from Ed. I think if it were not for you personally, Elmer would throw up his hands and say to hell with it, but he is going to stay in there and pitch. He and Groner will be at the Convention in New Orleans November 18th to 30th. I hope to get down there for a day or two. It is his understanding Big Bill at Indianapolis was never approached, and, as far as he knows there is no key labor man in New York to handle anything. He said they got two bundles of literature and most of it was so vindictive they didn't have the nerve to hand it out, and thought it would have been very poor judgment to do so. My-O-My-O-My!! I think that proves the independent groups properly handled might have done something.

Believe I wrote you that I am writing everybody I can think of, congratulating them on the grand job they did, etc, etc. In the case of some men, like Saltonstall, I am writing them in some detail.

I am going to Aberdeen Proving Grounds with several men from here November 28th, and will spend a couple days in Washington shaking hands.

Ohio will be tough next time because this man Lausche has really got it.

I have been waiting all afternoon for a call from Mattingly just to say hello. My guess is they lost everything. The final returns show Donnell as winning. I think in certain places they were a little too cocky this time. Hickenlooper did not have the plurality we thought he would have. I know nothing about it, but the consensus of opinion seems to be the Chicago office was a farce. It was under the direction of McKelvey, ex-governor of Nebraska.

I will make an attempt to see Herb in New York, but only to say hello and good-bye and congratulations on a swell job. I hope Stanley High will be able to tell me what they plan on doing the next four years.

Tomorrow is Saturday --Armistice Day. Warren and I will see Joe at ten in the morning.

Believe I wrote you that Ed and Myrtle will be leaving tomorrow

I am out of the "game", but sure am going to do a lot of side-line sitting in the next few months. I think a great deal can be accomplished. I am arranging for Doc to take one or two trips between now and February 1st, the idea being when he happens to be going through certain places, like Topeka or some other place for instance, he will stop off to say hello. He is leaving to spend two weeks in Chicago to take some special course in medicine. I am meeting him there Tuesday night. While there I will get in touch, purely on an informal basis, with people we know.

I have just talked to Esther (5:30 Friday afternoon). I could hear Kathaleen talking and Esther said she had written you today, and that she and the children were 100%. I have tried my best to call Esther at least every other day and let her know what was happening and what our opinions on various things were, and I have guaranteed her I have sent you enough miscellaneous clippings to keep you busy for at least a half hour.

As I have said, I will get papers from each of the larger cities and send clippings from them to you.

November 10, 1944

H.E.S.

I am enclosing some more clippings. As soon as I can get the National picture compiled, I will send it to you.

More or less, the typical reaction on the part of the conservatives is, "O well, we couldn't win, what's the use of talking about it", etc. So, they will sit and fret until two years from now, then they will want a Republican congress produced in three weeks.

We should be able to replace both the Congressmen Starkey and Gallagher, if not with Republicans, at least better Democrats, and by "better Democrats", I mean more capable.

This Gallagher thing in Minneapolis, of which I sent you clippings this morning, is a great surprise, as you undoubtedly deducted from the clippings.

I have written all the other seven Congressmen, congratulating them on their victory and tried to point out the need for cooperation in the future. I have tried, in a general way, to show that we need:

1. The independent vote
2. Some answer to the problem of the ages 18 to 30 vote, and that must be brought about by progressive leadership.

Tom's comments would indicate he might try again in 1948. Rumor has it that Herb will move to Washington and build up the Republican party along the lines of the editorial I sent you this morning from the Chicago Journal of Commerce. This may work, but I am afraid that crowd are pretty well associated with machine politics and the "Street" (Wall).

There is no question but what the Democrats will have a working majority of 20 in the House, and will gain two or three seats in the Senate. However, there are many Democrats returned to the House who do not go along with Roosevelt in his domestic policy and they will probably keep the thing right side up.

Joe is here. I am going to try to see him, with Warren, some time in the next two days.

I think I have told you the whole story on that. There may be minor details I have left out, but believe I have given you the basic picture. You can well imagine the vindictiveness in these two cities toward him, but Warren and I have been doing all possible to temper it, and I think it will pass over pretty fast, and I believe that whether he endorsed Dewey or not, it would have made no difference in the outcome of the election.

It is interesting to note FDR's plurality by only about 3 million, the lowest since Wilson in 1916 with 570,000. When you subtract all Southern states, his plurality is very low, which means probably 700,000 votes could have made a victory for Dewey, and although most people say he couldn't have won under any circumstances, I am personally a little inclined to doubt that.

Please excuse my writing so many letters to you, but they are between Directors meetings, telephone calls, conferences, etc., and for the life of me I can't remember what I have said and haven't said, so guess a little repetition won't hurt.

Ed and Myrtle are leaving tomorrow noon for a four weeks trip to Mexico City, which they need and are surely entitled to. ER will be in tonight at 1:45, and, as I understand it, will leave Sunday for some place. He is all through in Michigan and was Master of Ceremonies there last night at their final banquet, so you can imagine it was screaming --at least I can.

I have not talked to Esther today on the phone, but I have been talking to her almost every day the past three weeks. She seems cheerful, and as I have written you, the children look grand. In spite of the fact I have four, I would like to steal Kathaleen. She really is a honey.

Jones is having the Legislature meet November 20th, and of course he and Hall run the show again, but Ed is in a pretty fair position with a majority of 250,000 votes. It is my sincere belief our friend Georgie is trying to get himself lined up for governor.

Warren and I are going to work on the State picture after the first of the year and really try hard to do something with it. I think we have a great deal better foundation now than we had a year ago.

I doubt very much if Ohio would have been in the Republican column, in fact I personally am sure it would not have been, had it not been for John Bricker. I wrote you that Taft made it by only 20,000 votes, and Lausche, who I predicted would go to the top, went in as Governor by over 100,000 over Stewart of Cincinnati. Pennsylvania dumped Davis. I think, perhaps, that might have been okay.

I was a little surprised to see New Hampshire in the Democratic column again. I thought they would make it Republican. Our friend Salty surely has a hold on the people in Massachusetts. I think he could run for anything and be elected, and I think he would make a great man for second place in 1948.

John Quinn saw several people at the State House in Lincoln the other day and he said five out of eight of them made the remark, "It will be HES in '48". I believe that feeling is pretty general among people who know you, or know about you.

You may definitely rest assured that no moves will be made of any kind regarding 1948, for at this time it would be poor sportsmanship and poor judgment, although I do expect to get around and say hello and in a nice way let them know what we tried to do to help Dewey.

3.

I may try to send Doc on two or three trips sometime soon. We have in the bank all the money we agreed to raise for the Judd performance, which ran to \$16,000.00, raised in about three days in Minnesota.

I am going to discuss with Warren the advisability of immediately starting a special fund, and getting out a letter, maybe twice a year to a selected business list, asking for donations to this special fund. Then when we start out to run our campaign, we will have the money in the bank and not have to lay awake nights worrying about it. This, of course, will not be done in the near future.

John Quinn handled the prohibition issue in Nebraska. They were trying to make it bone-dry, and only one county went dry. Six years ago 28 counties went dry, so Quinn is satisfied he did a swell job for the allied liquor crowd, which includes the beer companies, etc.

I will get in touch with Cake, Baker, Sinclair Weeks, etc.

I can't recall whether I wrote you about Willkie. He had a heart attack while in Rushville, and went back to New York ill, reported as a stomach illness. There he had another attack which caused his death. I guess the first one was so bad there was no chance for him pulling through.

Next week in New York I will see Johnnie Haines, Lem Jones, and that bunch, just to say hello, etc.

I am writing Saltonstall, Kelly, etc., congratulating them on their victories. I have written to all Minnesota Congressmen, and will write to a good many other congressmen around the country as the definite returns come in.

The past few days I have almost felt like the AP wire service in writing you. My legs haven't recovered yet from walking up and down in front of the machines, hour after hour, Tuesday night and Wednesday.

Best,

P.S.- I am having sent to me all the Wednesday and Thursday papers from the leading cities, and will clip articles from these and send them to you. Hope to hear from you sometime soon.

November 11, 1944

Dear Harold:

I am enclosing clippings from the Detroit paper dated Thursday November 9th. I think they give a pretty clear picture on the Michigan situation. However, as you might expect, there will be some duplications in these clippings I am sending you, but trying to stay in business more hours than average and trying to keep track of what is going on, I haven't taken too much time putting these together -- and I am sure you will realize this when you start looking them over.

In another envelope I am enclosing clippings from the Chicago Tribune. I note with interest the editorial entitled "Republican Citadel."



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