

February 13, 1975

Dear Paul:

Well, I have made real progress in my search for the materials I have sought for so long. I went to Rockville last Saturday and drove down to Belmore to the house of Edith Stokes. She is the widow of Wallace Stokes. I acquired from her three boxes of papers which had belonged to Edwin Stokes, the man who wrote for Andrew Potter in the 1920's. I have not had the opportunity to examine them thoroughly but there is what looks like a manuscript although it seems to be not the final version but a preliminary edition. But I know where the final version is and it is safely stored in a library where Edwin Stokes placed it. I can see it any time I choose.

Edwin Stokes was left with the manuscript when Potter went west in 1932 and never came back. Then before he died, Stokes gave the manuscript to the library and then before he died in about 1940 he gave the rest of the papers to Wallace Stokes. Wallace Stokes died in about 1958 and Edith held onto the papers. Quite recently Edith wrote to the university offering the papers and her letter landed on my desk. I immediately called her and arranged to look at them. When I saw what they were I accepted them and brought them back to Terre Haute with me. They are now in my research space at the library.

I have been approached by a movie company in Salt Lake City about allowing them to use my collection of material in a documentary production. The daughter of a local lawyer met a young man who is affiliated with the movie company at the Indy 500 and she had heard me speak of my collection and the young man called me. I have an appointment when I go to Los Angeles in March and it is probable that we can work out a deal.

I now have a large portion of the papers of Wm. McKee Dunn as well as what Prof. Parsons added to that, along with the bulk of the papers of Andrew Potter which includes official government documents of the national police. I also have a copy of a manuscript by a professor here and while I cannot use it I can use the knowledge contained in it and a good researcher could discover his sources in most cases. He has the material well organized.

I have the original letter which Lola Alexander wrote to John Wilkes Booth and a large bundle of correspondence regarding the assassination not before published or even cited. What I have in my personal possession can change the recorded history and I am on the verge of a historical coup the magnitude of which frightens me. My problem is that my writing skills are not as good as they should be. In fact, I have come to the conclusion that the assembly of this material into an acceptable manuscript is beyond me because of lack of time and writing skills and I am going to have to hire a professional writer. Do you know of anyone who is both talented and trustworthy? A man who has been suggested is John Brady, an

instructor in English and Journalism here at ISU but I am afraid the task would be over his head and what I need is a published author of proven abilities. If you can think of someone please let me know at once. I could make him a good deal and provide him with excellent facilities and working conditions. I want to get a book ready by the time the movie would be released so that it could enjoy maximum sales. A good literary success at this time would be most welcome and could solve all my problems.

Let me know if you have any ideas.

Cordially yours,

Richard Gemmecke

2-15-75

P.S. To give you some idea of the amount of material I got from Edith Stokes, the boxes had originally contained half-gallon fruit jars and there were three of them. They weigh in at about 90 - 100 pounds.

RHG