January 28, 1953

Dear Mr. Carter:

When Mr. Harte and I talked to you Friday about the Eisenhower Birthplace, you suggested I write you a letter outlining the situation. This I gladly do.

The Birthplace was purchased and repaired in 1946 with money raised by the Herald through voluntary contributions. It was deeded to the city and has had minimum upkeep since and has been kept open to visitors only on Sundays and holidays.

With the election of Eisenhower as President, people all over the entire state are interested in maintaining the birthplace of the first Texan to be President as a shrine and place of beauty. All of the surrounding ground should be bought and beautified and the home kept open every day to visitors. Also the house should be measured and photographed and plans made for reproduction in case of fire.

The project is too large for our small city. We have a local committee appointed by the city council and Chamber of Commerce to work on plans for turning this project over to a state-wide committee. The city has agreed to deed the house over to such a committee.

The first and most important step is to get the right man to head up this committee. He should be a top Texan and friend of the Presidents's and, in the opinion of everyone interested, you would be the ideal man to inspire other top Texans to serve on the committee and obtain the support of the general public in this project.

We have been contacted by the O. T. Hampton public relations agency in Fort Worth relative to handling publicity, by souvenir

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manufacturers and others, but have taken no action until we can get the right man which would be you as Chairman of the committee.

Denison has always been regarded as a town in the Dallas trade territory although it is almost as close to Fort Worth. I know that if you put this project over, it would do more to give Fort Worth the good will of Denison than any other single thing possibly could.

If there is any other information in connection with this project you would like to have, please let me know. I would be happy to drive over to Fort Worth to talk to you about it at any time at your convenience.

I am hoping that you will consent to head this thing up because I know of no other man that could put it over like  ${\tt Amon\ Carter.}$ 

Most sincerely,

Fred Conn, Chairman Denison Eisenhower Birthplace Committee

Mr. Amon G. Carter, Sr. Fort Worth Star Telegram Fort Worth, Texas

cc: Mr. Houston Harte
San Angelo Standard-Times
San Angelo, Texas

