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~~1204 Walnut Street,~~
1204 Walnut Street,
Philadelphia, 7, Pa.

July 14, 1947

Wyatt C. Hedrick
First National Bank Bldg.,
Fort Worth, Texas

Dear Sir: Attention: Mr. T. O. Baker

Thank you very much for your prompt attention in sending me prints A-1 and A-2 of the Will Rogers Memorial Tower. The Tower is as striking and lovely to look upon on the prints as it is to gaze upon in reality. It surely is one of those "things of beauty is a joy forever."

Mr. Baker, I've looked over the prints carefully and closely, and then wrote to Mr. Harry J. Adams, the Superintendent of Parks, who brought to Mr. Carter's attention my idea for a Carillon for Fort Worth - and where could it be better placed than in the Will Rogers Memorial Tower? - for as I see it there is one tremendous disadvantage to any Carillon ever being put in this magnificent Tower.

I wrote to Mr. Adams asking to whom I should write for advice or the possibility of a change which I and my firm feel is absolutely essential for the bells which Mr. Carter is much interested for the Tower. I wrote Mr. Adams that I was well aware of the fact that my plan is a large one - not, perhaps, in time or money involved, but in desire, for as I wrote, it is this:

"In order to assure yourselves of a maximum of sound from the Carillon you are planning to erect in the Will Rogers Memorial Tower, inasmuch as at the present there is by far a great insufficiency of aperture space in the Tower thru which bells could speak and send forth their melodies and harmonies, we propose that the area shaded in red on the enclosed sketch of the Tower (same taken from Wyatt C. Hedrick's sheet A-1, "North Elevation" drawing of the Tower) which is now brick be removed from each of the four sides, and a suitable grille of aluminum be substituted therefore.

This area to be removed is shown in more detail on sheet A-1, "Detail Upper Part Tower". It is definitely planned to leave in the stone panel running vertically up thru these bricked areas."

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Mr. Adams replied to me that "Mr. Carter told me originally that he had referred the question of the installation and the adequacy of the tower to Mr. Hedrick, and I am sure that any thing which he recommends will be acceptable to Mr. Carter. You may be assured of one fact - if Mr. Carter decides to install the Carillon he will want it done in the very best possible way, regardless of cost, and suggested that I take up the matter with you and Mr. Carter.

As you can doubtless see and appreciate, to spend any money at all on bells, let alone a sum probably over \$50,000.00 for a fine large Carillon, such as we are suggesting be installed in this Tower, would be foolish if there were not sufficient openings in the sides of the Tower through which these bells can speak. And with sufficient, unhampered space, they can sound not only fully and wholly (with all their harmonics and proper blending of tones) but will be able to be heard for a radius of at least a mile - yet not harshly to those near by, for that is the beauty of a real, true Carillon; it's tones are melodious and sweet near and far. Amplification is never used.

Thus, if the bricked areas on each side of the tower which I've outlined in red could be removed without weakening the Tower, and a suitable grille substituted (I suggest a grille simply because a satisfactory one could probably be easily designed that would blend in most inconspicuously with the Tower's architectural lines, and at the same time afford the least barrier to the Carillon music. Louvers are not essential, yet if their need be found desirable, they could be installed behind the grille) I doubt that the Tower would lose in distinction, but perhaps be even more commanding.

Surely I believe this change would be well worth the effort, for there are so many times and occasions on which and for which a Carillon such as this could be played, year in and year out, and, in your climate, year-around, that the undertaking would be a small one considering the resulting enjoyment of the public - to say nothing of the tremendous publicity of such a Carillon.

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I have suggested to Mr. H. T. vanBergen, who will be on hand in Fort Worth to personally take charge of the erection and installation of the Carillon, should Mr. Carter act favorably, and Mr. vanBergen heartily agrees that the circular staircase which goes up the center of the Tower at that elevation be left there, and the bells hung around it, so that if open to visitors, they would be able to see every bell and also see how the entire Carillon is operated.

Too, should Mr. Carter desire any special inscriptions, pictures or scenes embossed on the larger bells, they would always be in plain sight to visitors if the bells are hung in this manner. Just as information, the larger bells would be at the bottom, then the medium bells, then the small bells at the top. Just where the Clavier Room would be we have not yet decided, but preferably near the bells.

Now then, Mr. Baker - in view of what I have written you on the past two pages, what do you think of such a proposal. How practical is it; how possible is it. Could it be satisfactorily accomplished without disfiguring the Tower too much, if at all. Can you give me just a rough estimate of about how much it would probably cost - both the removal of the present walls and the construction and installation of the proposed grille, or whatever you think best - so that in my brief that Mr. Carter has asked that I prepare for him, giving him all the information from A to Z, I can include this change, for, frankly, the Carillon should hang and hinge upon the approval of this architectural change. Elsewise the bells would be bottled up in a practically windowless room and the effect would be as if you asked a violinist to play a sonata on his violin in a closet with the door closed.

The Carillon is what the Will Rogers Memorial Tower needs to completely clothe it. They are something which can be played on innumerable occasions for years and years to come. The Carillon is the only true folk instrument, reaching the hearts of all types and kinds and classes of people. I do hope Fort Worth will be able to set the pace for the country in this way, and that this scheme of ours be feasible and possible so that the Carillon can materialize.

Sincerely yours
Donald Beggs