

*C. J. [Signature]*

December 18, 1923.

Mrs. Harry Bedford,  
Bowie, Texas.

My dear Mrs. Bedford:-

It sounds kind of strange for me to be addressing you as Mrs. Bedford instead of Mrs. Jarrott as you are still Mrs. Jarrott to me. It has been a long time since I have had the pleasure of seeing you or Harry either.

Several months ago, I had Cecil Thomas secure a photographer and make me a few pictures of the old hotel as a remembrance of the time, more than thirty years ago, in which I rapped on your side door and made inquiry as to whether you wanted to hire a boy or not. I still recall your cheerful, pleasant face and manner in which you asked me what I could do. My reply was to the effect that I could do anything. Whereupon, you asked me if I could wash dishes and I replied that I was an excellent dish washer and you hired me for \$1.50 a week. I was cautious enough to ask, at the time, if it included my board and you laughed and said, "Certainly."

After a day or two of washing dishes, I was promoted to headwaiter, (there being only one waiter), succeeding you in that position. And I recall, very pleasantly, that Harry Bedford, Chap Loving, Tam Lindsey and the famous Mr. Shorty Tarpley, who was working in the Rock Livery Stable at that time, all of whom, with one exception - namely Mr. Tarpley, were exceedingly nice and generous to me. As you know, the food was all placed on the table in a kind of a free for all style. However, we did allow them the privilege of choosing the manner in which their eggs were served and, as stated before, everyone was exceedingly nice except Shorty Tarpley, who seemed to take a delight in trying to annoy me in every way possible, as well as to criticize my method in trying to serve his food, for which he was paying \$15.00 a month room and board. This particular morning, I asked Mr. Tarpley how he would like to have his eggs and he stated, "Kid, bring me one straight up and one over the fence." And I remember going out in the kitchen where you was cooking and asked if we had any guinea eggs. You referred me to a half bushel basker of eggs which had been brought in from the country, (three dozen for 25¢), in which I found a small guinea egg and asked you to fry it real hard. As a result, it was about the size of a nickel and I procured one of the large steak platters, (think it was 10¢ a pound then), and served this egg to Mr. Tarpley, whereupon



Mrs. Harry Bedford

December 18, 1923.

he became highly indignant and asked me where the hell the other egg was. It was with a great deal of pride and satisfaction that I informed Mr. Tarpley that his other egg was over the fence. This seemed to please Chap Loving, Harry Bedford and Tam Lindsey and some other that I do not recall at this time and they bought me a complete new outfit. Harry gave me a suit with knee pants. By the way, the first that I had ever had with a belt and buckle on it. Chap bought me some shoes and stockings. Tam Lindsey bought me a cap and they made up a purse of about \$3.00. You can imagine that I was about the happiest boy to be found anywhere.

Later on, having been promoted from headwaiter to office manager in which I had the privilege and distinction of meeting the trains and soliciting business for the hotel and carrying their baggage across the street, assisting in cleaning up the rooms, etc.

All of these things happened to me years ago. However, they still carry with them some of my most pleasant memories and recollections of the time when any kind of a friend meant a lot to me and you and the boys were always friendly and did many things, small as they might have appeared at that time to you, that contributed greatly to my happiness and I want you to know that as Christmas time is approaching, I have no pleasanter thoughts or recollections or kindlier feeling for anyone than I have for you and I am enclosing, herewith, a check for \$50.00 with the hope that it will bring you as much pleasure as it gives me in sending it to you and that you may buy with it anything which will please you or make you happy. Please extend my best wishes and kindest feelings to Harry.

With much love, I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. H. Carver". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,". A horizontal line is drawn underneath the signature.

AGC.KM