

Mr. Carter: I regret exceedingly that I was unable to attend the dinner last night and see you honored, even if I do think it a very small portion of the honor that is due you for your work for the city. It was one of those situations where I couldn't help myself.

A friend of ours several days ago invited Mrs. North and me and Jimmie Record and his wife among others to dinner. Mrs. North accepted knowing I was out of town and could have no conflicting engagement. Yesterday shortly before noon when I heard of the dinner to you, I tried to break the dinner date and Mrs. North ~~wouldn't~~ ^{felt we} do it. Then I proposed to fill it and Jimmie and I would go to River Crest later. That was our intention and I felt sure we would make it. However, it was 9.30 when the dinner ended and an opportunity to break way came. Then I felt it too late for by the time I had taken my wife and kid home and driven to River Crest I felt the dinner would have been over. That accounts for my failure and Jimmie Record's to show up. I didn't wish you to think even for a moment though I am sure you wouldn't have anyway, that any lack of appreciation or interest on our parts accounted for our absences.

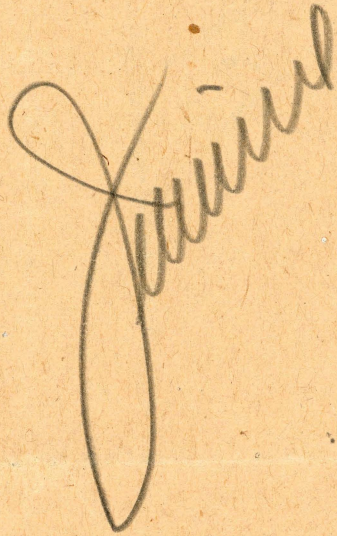
Doubtless you have been in similar mixups yourself many times before and know how difficult it is ~~to~~

However, it looks after all that the town is waking up; that it has begun to realize the many things you have done for it and to show its appreciation. It's a fine sign, for usually, folks wait until a man is dead to discover what a fine fellow he was and how much he did during his lifetime. Fort Worth owes you more than it ever can repay and while I know you have done what you have done simply for the good of the town and the sake of accomplishing worthwhile things, it does all of us good to know

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that the leaders of the community- socalled- are willing to give credit where credit belongs.

May you keep your health and go on to greater accomplishments and greater successes, is my sincere wish.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, written in a cursive style. The signature is slanted and appears to be the name "J. J. [unclear]". It features a large, looping initial letter and several smaller, connected letters following.