



Sylacauga Fertilizer Company

INCORPORATED 1904
MANUFACTURERS OF

Parker's High Grade Fertilizer

COTTON
BUYERS

OPERATING
SYLACAUGA BONDED WAREHOUSE
U. S. BONDED

SYLACAUGA, ALABAMA

Seed Cleaning Department

March 8, 1957

Colonel John C. Nickerson
Redstone Arsenal
Huntsville, Alabama

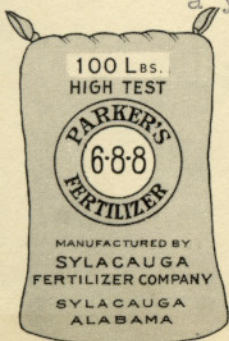
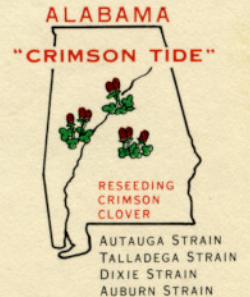
My dear Colonel Nickerson:

A lot of water has passed over the dam since you and I served with Division Artillery of the 8th Infantry Division. You were commanding the 56th Field Artillery Battalion and I was a First Lieutenant in Battery C 45th Field Artillery under Colonel Green.

I do not know if you will remember me as a junior officer in your sister battalion, but I recall a number of things about you which have always stuck in my mind. I remember Tent City in Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. I recall our division artillery firing for school troops at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. I recall the snow and ice at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri; desert maneuvers in Arizona; the GHQ tests at Camp Forrest, Tennessee; and I also remember Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, North Ireland, Brittany Peninsula, Breast, Luxembourg, and Germany. I remember that at age 28 you were a Lt. Colonel and the youngest battalion commander in division artillery.

As a reserve Second Lieutenant just out of Auburn, I held a West Point officer in highest esteem. There were a lot of things I admired in particular about your command. I admired the manner in which you disciplined both officers and men under your command. I admired and respected your knowledge of army tactics as well as the vast source of know how you brought to the Division as a young West Point officer. Above all I admired your

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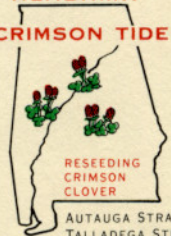
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ALABAMA
"CRIMSON TIDE"



AUTAUGA STRAIN
TALLADEGA STRAIN
DIXIE STRAIN
AUBURN STRAIN

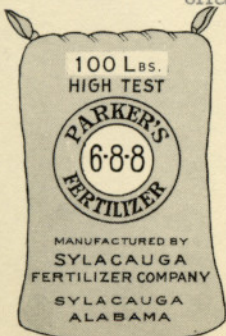
character and the high moral standards which you set before your men.


Some few months ago I learned you were at Redstone and had hoped to stop by and see you sometimes. Every good American should be most concerned about the controversy which has been raised from the Secretary of Defense Wilson's Washington office over guided missiles. I know you must have spent countless hours in worry and anxiety over the manner in which certain segments of our Armed Forces have maneuvered themselves into the guided missiles field. I am sure that you must welcome a court martial to bring out many facts hitherto undisclosed on guided missiles.

I understand that one of the charges brought against you deals with violation of security regulations and I do not pretend to know enough to judge whether security has or has not been violated under your command.

I am very concerned that some of the charges and/or specifications indicate espionage. I do know this charge is entirely without foundation. Having had the privilege of serving with you for some four or five years, much of that time having been spent in actual combat zone, I can personally vouch that I know of no more consecrated officer to the service of his country than you displayed while serving with the 8th Infantry Division.

I am guessing that Buster Bell will have more capable witnesses than I to vouch for this fact, but I assure you that I stand ready and willing and would welcome the





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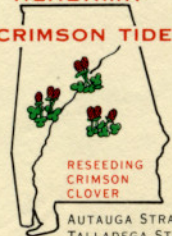
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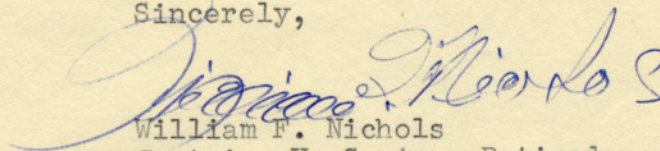
AUTAUGA STRAIN
TALLADEGA STRAIN
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privilege to appear in your behalf before any court martial and tell them something about your character, ability, loyalty, and service to the United States in World War II.

Brigadier General Pickering, I believe, is still living in Atlanta and he would make for you an excellent witness in regard to this charge. I was retired shortly after the war and visited him on several different occasions when I was in the army hospital in Atlanta. I have been retired since 1947, having lost one leg and a partial paralysis of the other leg from a mine explosion in the Hurtgen Forrest, November 30, 1944. I am sending a copy of this letter to your most able attorney, the Honorable Buster Bell, to let him know that I stand ready to help in any way I can.

With warmest personal regards and best wishes to you and your family, I am

Sincerely,



William F. Nichols
Captain, U. S. Army Retired
0-379281

cc: Honorable Buster Bell
Attorney at Law
Huntsville, Alabama

