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July 19, 1957

Mr. Robert K. Bell
Attorney at Law
Huntsville, Alabama

Dear Bob:

I recently saw your picture staring out of the Paris Edition of the New York Herald Tribune. It was a picture of yourself and Colonel Nickerson during the recent court-martial hearing in Huntsville. From your picture you look very well and I was glad to see you even through the medium of the newspaper.

I remarried two years ago and my wife and I made a two and one-half months' trip to Europe. I saw Charley DeMeo some time ago and he told me that they made a trip to Europe with you and your wife last year. My wife has a friend in Huntsville by the name of Mrs. U. E. Willis who sent her a copy of the Huntsville paper last March showing a picture of yourself and enclosed an article concerning the Nickerson case. By the way, let me congratulate you. You did a great job on that case and got a wonderful result. I often think of the very enjoyable Caribbean trip we had together. Mary often said it was the most restful trip she ever had. She died about a year after that trip.

I certainly hope that you and your wife come to San Francisco some day and look us up as we would love to entertain you at our home. Kindest personal regards to both of you.

Sincerely,

Tom Ryan

July 26, 1957

Mr. Thomas C. Ryan
Ryan & Ryan
Attorneys at Law
800 Phelan Building
San Francisco 2, California

Dear Tom:

Needless to tell you, I was delighted to receive your recent letter and particularly interested in your comment of seeing the picture of Ray Jenkins, Colonel Nickerson and me in the Paris Edition of the "New York Herald Tribune." This is indeed a small world, as I have received about seven clippings from this edition from various friends who were traveling in Paris at the time and from my Frenchman friends.

I am delighted to hear that you and your wife have just completed a most enjoyable two-and-a-half months in Europe. As Charlie DeMeo told you, we had a fine six weeks motor trip through Western and Southern Europe last September and October, during which we were guests of a very fine client of mine in Reutte, Austria and an old Army friend in Frankfort, Germany. Needless to tell you, Carolyn and I were terribly distressed over the news of Mary's death and know of no one on our Carribean cruise that we enjoyed anymore than you and Mary; and I often laugh when I think of the wrestling match that she and Vincent, the deck steward, had when he tried to induce her to participate in some deck game that she did not take such a fancy to.

We have been planning to take a trip out West and will likely do so in the next year or two. If and when this occurs, you may rest assured that we will look you up; that we are not only anxious to know the new Mrs. Tom Ryan but to renew a very devoted and affectionate friendship that we both feel for Tom Ryan himself.

You were most kind in your remarks about our efforts in the Nickerson case; and, ~~needless to tell you,~~ ^{Samuel} we were pleased with the outcome. We also deeply appreciate your kind invitation to be entertained in your home if and when we ever get that trip to the far West in. We sincerely hope that the two of you will be this way in the not too distant future, as we would love to have you stop by with us a few days. You can rest assured that you have never received a more genuine invitation in all your life.

Mr. Thomas C. Ryan

-2-

July 26, 1957

With warmest personal regards and thanking you again for your fine letter,
I am

Always sincerely yours,

Robert K. Bell

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