

LAW OFFICES  
**JENKINS & JENKINS**

BANK OF KNOXVILLE BUILDING  
KNOXVILLE, TENN.

RAY H. JENKINS  
ERBY L. JENKINS  
AUBREY JENKINS  

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FRED G. MUSICK

August 24, 1957

Mr. Robert K. Bell (and Sweet Carolyn)  
Attorney at Law  
Terry-Hutchens Building  
Huntsville, Alabama

Dear Bob:

Your letters are masterpieces. I am keeping them for the stories they contain.

Your comparison of Nature Boy Nickerson with a cocker spaniel chasing butterflies while his "wife" was having puppies which he had fathered was most amusing and an apt comparison and especially when you told me that the Colonel was out water skiing while his wife, Carol, was uptown paying his bills with her own money.

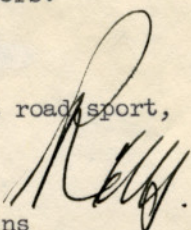
I was on a party with General and Mrs. Vogel last night and told them about this story you had written me and they split their sides laughing, also the story of the collision of the automobiles of the Methodist preacher and Catholic priest-a good one to tell when the party is getting a little rough.

Hell yes, I miss all of you, and as I have said before, I will never get you out of my hair.

You are damn right, you and Carolyn and Charlie Zimmer and Nell are going to be in Knoxville for the Tennessee-Tech football game. I have the tickets for the four of you and you are staying at mine and Eva's house. (Oops, excuse me, Eva's house.) She is really anxious to have all of you here and get acquainted with you. You and Charlie Zimmer have got quite a reputation to live up to as I have given you a pretty big build-up both as lawyers, men and story tellers.

Best regards always.

The old dirt road sport,

  
Ray H. Jenkins

cc: Lt. Col. Charles Zimmer



LAW OFFICES  
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KNOXVILLE, TENN.

January 25, 1958

RAY H. JENKINS  
ERBY L. JENKINS  
AUBREY JENKINS

FRED G. MUSICK

Mr. Robert K. Bell, Attorney  
Bell, Morring & Richardson  
Huntsville, Alabama

Dear Bob:

I am writing you for two reasons. One is purely social. This letter will call for an answer and you will have to tell me how you and sweet Carolyn are and all about the Bells. Dog-gone you. I think of you often and will never forget our months of association in the Colonel Nickerson case. So, Old Boy, sit down and write me a letter and tell me the news, and incidentally tell me two or three good stories.

Now, let me talk to you about a very serious matter. You know a lawyer does or should feel flattered every time a prospective client comes to his office. I always remember that when one comes to me for advice or counsel, he has chosen me over about five hundred lawyers and I try to be as patient and as considerate as possible.

There is sitting in my office at this time a poor, uneducated, but hardworking man, named James Graves, who lives at Rockwood, Tennessee. On August 28, 1957, James Graves was working for a contractor named, Ed Bently, in the construction of a road near the Alabama-Georgia line. A heavy drill fell on Mr. Graves, crushing his pelvic bones, rupturing his bladder, and inflicting such serious injuries to him that he has been hospitalized in the Campbell Clinic at Chattanooga until last Saturday, January 18. His doctor and medical bills amount to around \$3000. He is unable to control his kidneys and wears a clamp. He is on crutches. His several doctors in Chattanooga advise that he is totally and permanently disabled. Bob, I have advised him what the law would be if he had been injured in Tennessee on the job and in the course of his employment. It would be a Workmen's Compensation case and that remedy is exclusive and the limit of the company's liability would be \$11,000.



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January 25, 1958

He tells me that the insurance company is claiming he was hurt across the state line in the State of Georgia and the insurance company is being niggardly about it and tells him that his limit of liability insofar as hospital and doctor bills are concerned is \$500, since the accident happened in the State of Georgia.

On the assumption that it happened in the State of Alabama, what is the limit of liability as to doctor and hospital bills? Furthermore, on the assumption that he was hurt on the job and in the course of his employment, is his remedy under the Workmen's Compensation law of that State exclusive? I am afraid it is.

I have no intention whatever of paying you any fee for this advice. I have been practicing a long, long time and never did charge even a rich man for advice and I know darn well you and I are not going to charge James Graves anything.

Hug and kiss Carolyn for me. Do this in the dark. Tell her to imagine it is me doing it and the little girl will get one tremendous thrill and kick out of it.

Faithfully yours,

*Hosueh!*

Ray H. Jenkins

RHJ/sg

P. S. A man named Bob Bell married a beautiful girl named Carolyn. Returning to their home after the wedding ceremony in a buggy, the horse balked and stopped when they came to a little bridge. Bob roared out, "One," and got out and gave the horse a good whipping. Pretty soon they came to another bridge and the horse again shied away and balked at crossing, and Bob roared out "Two" and got out and whipped the horse nearly to death. Finally, they came to a third bridge and again the horse balked and Bob hollered out "Three," jumped out of the buggy and shot the horse dead.

By this time, little Carolyn was pretty badly scared. She looked up at him meekly and said, "O, Bob, why did you shoot and kill that perfectly beautiful horse?" Thereupon, he glowered at her and yelled out, "One."

The meek little thing has never again raised her voice in protest to anything that Bob has done.



January 27, 1958

Mr. Ray H. Jenkins  
Jenkins & Jenkins  
Bank of Knoxville Building  
Knoxville, Tennessee

Dear Ray:

I have your letter of January 25, 1958 and as usual am always glad to hear from "Ole Jose."

Taking the more worthwhile matters first, I wish to advise you that under Title 26, Sections 271 and 272 of the 1940 Code of Alabama as amended, the Alabama Workmen's Compensation Act, if applicable, excludes all other rights and remedies. Our Code also provides for the presumption as to acceptance of provisions of this Act in that it states: "All contracts of employment made on or after the 1st day of May, 1936 shall be presumed to have been made with reference to and subject to the provisions of this Article unless otherwise expressly stated in the contract in writing, or unless written or printed notice has been given by either party to the other prior to the accident as herein provided that he does not accept the provisions of said Article." I am afraid that this does not leave your friend, Mr. James Graves, in very good shape on his accident of August 28, 1957 on the road construction job near the Alabama-Georgia line. If you feel we can be of further service to you and Mr. Graves in this matter, please know that you have but to call upon us.

As for the welfare of the Bells, I am happy to report that we are doing fine except for the fact that I spent last week in New Orleans where Carolyn had an operation on her vocal chords at Ochsner's Foundation Hospital. Fortunately, the pathology reports were negative; and, after some two weeks of no talking and a severe soreness in the area of her throat, she will be perfectly all right.

You will be interested to know that a good many articles are appearing in our papers, particularly the "Birmingham News," as to the vindication of John Nickerson and the fact that he should be returned to the States and put again in the missile program. You no doubt noticed the press reports where Congressman Watts from John's district in Kentucky and whom you will remember we called on in Washington, has made a very determined request of the White House that Nickerson be restored to this type of work.



January 27, 1958

You have also noticed that Estes Kefauver has been heard from on more than one occasion in this connection. Lt. Gen. Ned Almond, Retired and now residing in Anniston, is just about making it is fulltime vocation to get some action taken in John's behalf. He has written letters to Chief of Staff, National Commander of the American Legion, etc. etc.; and they are really strong and quite outspoken letters. He has sent me copies of them and I believe I am going to have to get a new filing cabinet to take care of these letters.

We are still enjoying the very pleasant and happy memories of our weekend with you and Eva for the Tennessee-Tech game, and particularly getting to know so many of your wonderful friends there. General Vogel called me a couple of weeks ago over the phone and asked me to instigate a little spade work down in this area for an idea that he and Arnold Jones have as to the future welfare of this area; and, as I think exceptionally well of their suggestion, I am happy to comply with his request.

As I am dictating this letter to Mrs. Lyon, I am afraid I will have to forego the type of story that would have any appeal to your highly sensitive and delicate sense of humor; but I do want to relate one little silly yarn I heard in New Orleans last week:

This Texan was having dinner at one of the better-known New Orleans restaurants and upon his completing his meal, the waiter came bowing and scraping by and asked, "How did you find your steak, sir?" The Texan replied, "I guess I was just damn lucky; I moved a small piece of potato and there it was."

Please give our love to Eva and we do wish that the two of you would come down and pay us a visit in order that you can renew many old friendships herein Huntsville and that Eva can get to know some of our wonderful friends.

All the ladies here in the office, together with my partners, join in sending you our very warmest and affectionate regards.

Always sincerely yours,

Robert K. Bell

RKB:mfl