

## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

### Section 179, Pages 5341 - 5370

This is correspondence to and from newspaper editor and publisher Frederick W. Brinkerhoff. The bulk of letters date from the 1940s and 1950s. His first newspaper job was with the Ottawa Herald, after which he worked for the Fort Scott Republican, Chanute Sun, Chanute Tribune, Kansas City Star, Pittsburg Headlight, and the Pittsburg Sun. Brinkerhoff was also vice-president and a director of Stauffer Publications as well as director of Capper Publications Inc., the Topeka State Journal Company, and Newton Publishing Company. In addition, he was vice-president of the KSEK Broadcasting Company in Pittsburg. Brinkerhoff was well known as a journalist, serving as president of the Kansas Press Association in 1935 and as chairman of the Kansas Associated Press in 1946-1947. He also served as a member of the Pulitzer Prize jury for editorial writing in 1950 and 1951. In 1956, he received the William Allen White award to a Kansas editor for journalistic merit. Active in community affairs, Brinkerhoff was a member of the board of the Pittsburg Public Library, served as chairman of the Pittsburg Industrial Commission, and was on the board of directors and served a term as president of the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce. He was also active in Republican party politics. Brinkerhoff was interested in the history of the state and served as president of the Kansas State Historical Society in 1944. The correspondence is arranged chronologically and grouped alphabetically by individuals with whom Brinkerhoff was in frequent contact, including Roy F. Bailey, Arthur Capper, Rolla Clymer, Harry W. Colmery, Harry Darby, Jess C. Denious, Myron George, Merl Huffman, Clyde M. Reed, Richard W. Robbins, Andrew Schoepel, and Oscar Stauffer, among many others.

Date: 1909-1966

Callnumber: Frederick W. Brinkerhoff Coll. #97, Box 1 Folder 1 - Box 8 Folder 5

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## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence



*Spencer Chemical Company*  
*Pittsburg, Kansas*

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. F. W. Brinkerhoff

July 6, 1948

SUBJECT : Historical Markings

1. Over the week end, while visiting at mother's home, I picked up the attached brochure concerning Virginia. Having traveled through that country considerably, I have noted many of the markers which are shown, for example, on pages 6, 14 and 39.
2. I wish to convey the idea that I think the markers are as attractive as those which are presently being used in Kansas, but I do believe that they are much more practical. In the first place, they are easier to read because they are in black and white. Any maintenance man can keep these up because the signs are made of cast iron with raised letters so that no sign painter is required to refurbish them. I believe they are refinished by merely spraying or painting the whole thing white and then going over the top of the raised letters very much as you would see done with an inking roll on a printing press.
3. Undoubtedly your Historical Society has considered all types of markers and have received all kinds of suggestions. My chief criticism of the present marker is that it is absolutely necessary to stop a car to read the inscriptions, and further, that they seem to weather too rapidly. In comparison with the ones in the attached booklet, they are much more attractive but less practical. I have driven along many of the Virginia roads, stopping not at all, and by driving slowly one is able to read the entire inscriptions. History has always been a very fascinating subject to me, and I have said many times that if I had been independently well-to-do, I perhaps would have devoted my life to the subject. I hope you will not take offense to my suggestion.

*C. Y. Thomas*  
C. Y. THOMAS

CYT/hw



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

April 8, 1950

C. Y. Thomas  
Spencer Chemical Co.  
Pittsburg, Kas.

Dear Christopher:

I seem to be ignorant of some of the things going on in Italy. I did not know that Catholics could become Masons even over there. That would not be possible in this country, even if any cared to do so.

The newspaper organ of the Vatican is using strong language in this editorial concerning Masonry. I am surprised that it is not more careful of its statements on account of the situation in the United States and other Protestant countries. In all my Masonic experience, I have seldom heard a Mason express any radical views concerning the Catholics. In no Masonic meeting that I have attended have I heard any radical statements along that line. So in view of the situation in this country where tolerance of the Catholics is demonstrated everywhere--in business, the professions and politics--somebody was acting foolish over on the Osservatore.

Thanks for sending the clipping. I had missed it.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FEB:ls



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

June 30, 1950

Rev. Gordon Thompson  
First Methodist Church  
Ottawa, Kas.

Dear Mr. Preacher:

I go off floating on the White river for five days  
and you leave town and McCormack goes to the hospital.

You are now in my old home town and your church is  
the one of which my father and mother were members  
and which I attended. Undoubtedly since your Baker  
days you have known about Ottawa so it is unnecessary  
for me to tell you that it is an elegant home town  
and you ought to be highly pleased with your opportunity  
to live and labor there.

Through the years you were here I enjoyed meeting  
you and threshing over things. We did not get  
everything settled but you and I appeared to have  
the same solution for many of those problems.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls





## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

The  
First  
Methodist  
Church

Ottawa, Kansas  
FOURTH AND HICKORY

DR. GORDON B. THOMPSON  
MINISTER

July six  
Nineteen fifty

Mr. Fred Brinkerhoff,  
Pittsburg, Kansas.

Although I may be a bit late in getting off a reply to your recent good letter, I do want you to understand that I appreciated it.

The thing that amazes me is the confession (when it was too late) that you were once a Methodist and attended this church! You didn't dare tell me that when I was in Pittsburg. It would have meant that I would have had you there in the front seat among the chief saints, or perchance taking up the collection, which is an honored and very lucrative opportunity in the Methodist church!

Anyway, have found some of your tracks around here. Harris and Gilliland at the Herald Office seem to have some recollection of you. They accused me of running around with you some, and I countered with the statement that it was only in part.

The hardest part in my business for me is this changing of churches and communities. We liked Pittsburg. I could have remained there forever. I didn't get the town quite converted, but I did enjoy working at it there.

Ottawa is a beautiful little city, and we have found some very delightful folks here. In time we may get oriented, but right now we let our thoughts wander, perhaps too often, toward Pittsburg. We like Ottawa. But it is like getting a divorce--you have to give a fellow time.

Again let me thank you for the good letter, the fact that you would write it, and for all it said.

Sincerely,  
*Gordon Thompson*  
Gordon Thompson

MRS. ALEX M. TELFER  
SECRETARY  
OFFICE TELEPHONE 352

MRS. L. E. STOUT  
DIRECTOR OF  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
TELEPHONE 212

T. R. JOHNSON  
CARETAKER



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

July 8, 1950

Dr. Gordon B. Thompson  
First Methodist Church  
Ottawa, Kas.

Dear Doctor:

Now listen here! Don't go around Ottawa trying to find my tracks. Since I spent part of my boyhood in the town and the rest of it in the country northwest and the latter part of a growing period in newspaper work on the Herald, there were many tracks that would lead you into embarrassment. Even 42 years could not erase some of them.

You will like Ottawa and its folks immensely, I know. Furthermore I think it is easier to be a Methodist in Ottawa than in Pittsburg. Not that there is less sin per square foot in Ottawa but because there is more square footage in Pittsburg.

I have not yet met your successor but I want to tell you a funny little story.

One day about the time the conference was assembling here a letter came in from Lincoln, Neb. It was written on June 8. It contained a lot of material concerning Mary Rising. It said she was coming to live in Pittsburg. It suggested that we tell about her various attainments in spite of physical handicaps. I threw the letter out into the news room where no one had heard anything about the newcomer. Nor could anyone find out. Nor did any one know until several days later when the information was let out that Mr. Lloud Rising was to be the new Methodist minister in Pittsburg. Our fellows were in contact with the bishop and naturally were trying to get the name of the Pittsburg preacher. By rumor they had heard that Lloyd Rising would be named. That solved the mystery of the letter that came into the office four or five days before. On Wednesday morning the bishop said that the man selected had to be offered the place so that he could either accept or reject before an announcement could be made.

It seems that someone in Lincoln knew that Rising would be offered the place and would accept.



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Dr. Gordon B. Thompson--2--July 8, 1950

This is just a little sidelight on the conference in which I  
thought you would be interested.

With best wishes for happy days in Ottawa,

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

2.

Oct. 3, 1950

W. F. Turrentine  
521 New England Bldg.  
Topeka, Kas.

Dear Bill:

Just to call your attention to The Headlight as it is arriving. In the paper today, as in The Sun this morning, is a story on Andy's rebuttal statement handled extensively. In the next day or so there will be an editorial on the subject. I thought you might overlook them so I am calling your attention to them. You can see that Andy gets them.

I am magnificently mad at some of our fellows for the defeatist attitude they assume.

Suppose in court a witness testified that John Jones stole a cow. Then John Jones goes on the stand and says that he did not and that he will fight anyone who says he did. Does that prove John Jones' innocence?

I was astonished at the acceptance of Chapman's denial. But Andy's rebuttal certainly should strengthen some of our weak brothers.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

PS I saw somewhere that Andy was driving home.  
Consequently I am not writing him in Washington.

FWB



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

2.

C. J. TAYLOR  
LAWYER  
PARSONS, KANSAS  
October 5th, 1950

Mr. Fred Brinkerhoff,  
Pittsburg, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:

The time has come, or is almost here, when the district committee must chose some one to be a candidate for the election to the office of National Representative in Congress from our district to fill the place left vacant by the death of Hon. Herbert Meyer.

In casting about over the district I could think of no one that I believe could fill that office better than yourself and I am hoping that you will be chosen as a candidate, and without doubt would be elected.

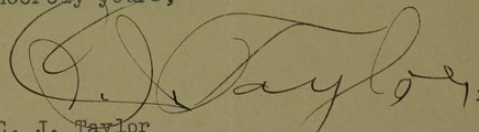
I talked to Clyde Reed, Jr., about the matter and he left the impression with me that while you were not actively seeking the place, yet you would accept the appointment as a candidate and permit your name to be placed on the ballot. I am hoping this is true.

I realize that you would be reluctant to leave your position as editor of a prominent paper but you owe something to your country. Congress needs a real honest to goodness man. Congress has needed for several years more intelligence and more patriotism. You are capable of doing your state and the nation a great service and, while it might be a loss to you financially, in the long run you will remember that the condition of our country is causing many people in all walks of life to make some sacrifice to save our nation and its constitutional form of government.

I have spoken to no one excepting Clyde Reed, Jr., in regard to your being a candidate, but I have no one in mind in the district who can better fill the position and who would be sure of election.

I shall be glad to receive a letter from you without delay telling me at least, even though you are not actively seeking the place, that you will accept it.

Sincerely yours,



C. J. Taylor

CJT:E

Copy to W.R. Hagaman

P.S. Since writing the above I have talked to Mr. Will Martin of the Martin Furniture and Undertaking Company of this city. He is very much in favor of you being a candidate and stated to me he would write you. CJT



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Oct. 9, 1950

C. J. Taylor  
Lawyer  
Parsons, Kas.

Dear Mr. Taylor:

I appreciate greatly your letter and the expressions in it. When this vacancy occurred and various men called me, I made the statement that only if the thing got into a mess and there was a general feeling all over the district that I could fill it I would then give consideration to the matter.

As you undoubtedly know I have no desire for the job. The sacrifices that holding it would entail, including resignation from two or three national organizations that have honored me and the effect on my own business, are too much to be expected of me. Twenty-five to 30 years ago I would have enjoyed going to Congress. In fact, I definitely had an ambition at that time. But time makes changes and it is difficult to convince myself that I should change my whole plan of living for a political office. I realize as much as anyone can realize the need of Republican stability in our Congress. I think we are in a great mess. But I am most hopeful that the committee tomorrow can choose someone who not only will be an able representative but can win in November. The Democrat nominee is a fair dealer, far to the left of center and a comparative new comer to Kansas.

I thank you again for your expression and I only wish that it were possible for me to say that I would be glad to take the nomination if it were offered.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Feb. 7, 1952

Frank E. Tyler  
Dwight Bldg.  
Kansas City 6, Mo.

Dear Frank:

In the mail this morning was the enclosed card. Since this request comes from Missouri I pass it on to you.

I hope that we can get things going everywhere and that we can leave Eisenhower to look after Paris for Truman and Europe.

It was nice to see you the other day and maybe one of these days I will drop in on you. The one day I did a year or so ago you had to be out of the office.

Sincerely yours,

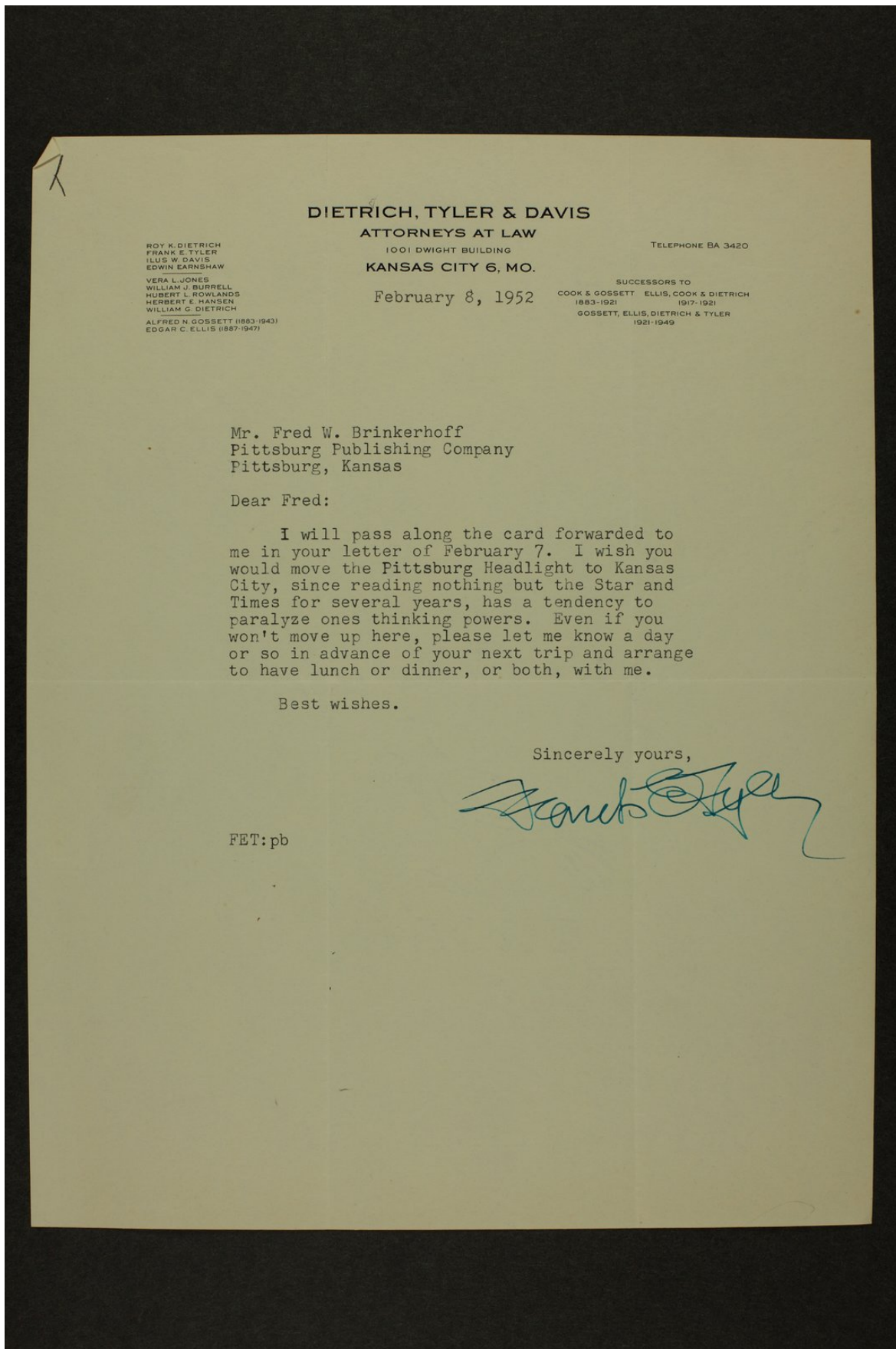
F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls





## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence



DIETRICH, TYLER & DAVIS

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1001 DWIGHT BUILDING

KANSAS CITY 6, MO.

TELEPHONE BA 3420

ROY K. DIETRICH  
FRANK E. TYLER  
ILLUS W. DAVIS  
EDWIN EARNSHAW

VERA L. JONES  
WILLIAM J. BURRELL  
HUBERT L. ROWLANDS  
HERBERT E. HANSEN  
WILLIAM D. DIETRICH

ALFRED N. GOSSETT (1883-1943)  
EDGAR C. ELLIS (1887-1947)

February 8, 1952

SUCCESSORS TO  
COOK & GOSSETT 1883-1921  
ELLIS, COOK & DIETRICH 1917-1921  
GOSSETT, ELLIS, DIETRICH & TYLER 1921-1949

Mr. Fred W. Brinkerhoff  
Pittsburg Publishing Company  
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Fred:

I will pass along the card forwarded to me in your letter of February 7. I wish you would move the Pittsburg Headlight to Kansas City, since reading nothing but the Star and Times for several years, has a tendency to paralyze ones thinking powers. Even if you won't move up here, please let me know a day or so in advance of your next trip and arrange to have lunch or dinner, or both, with me.

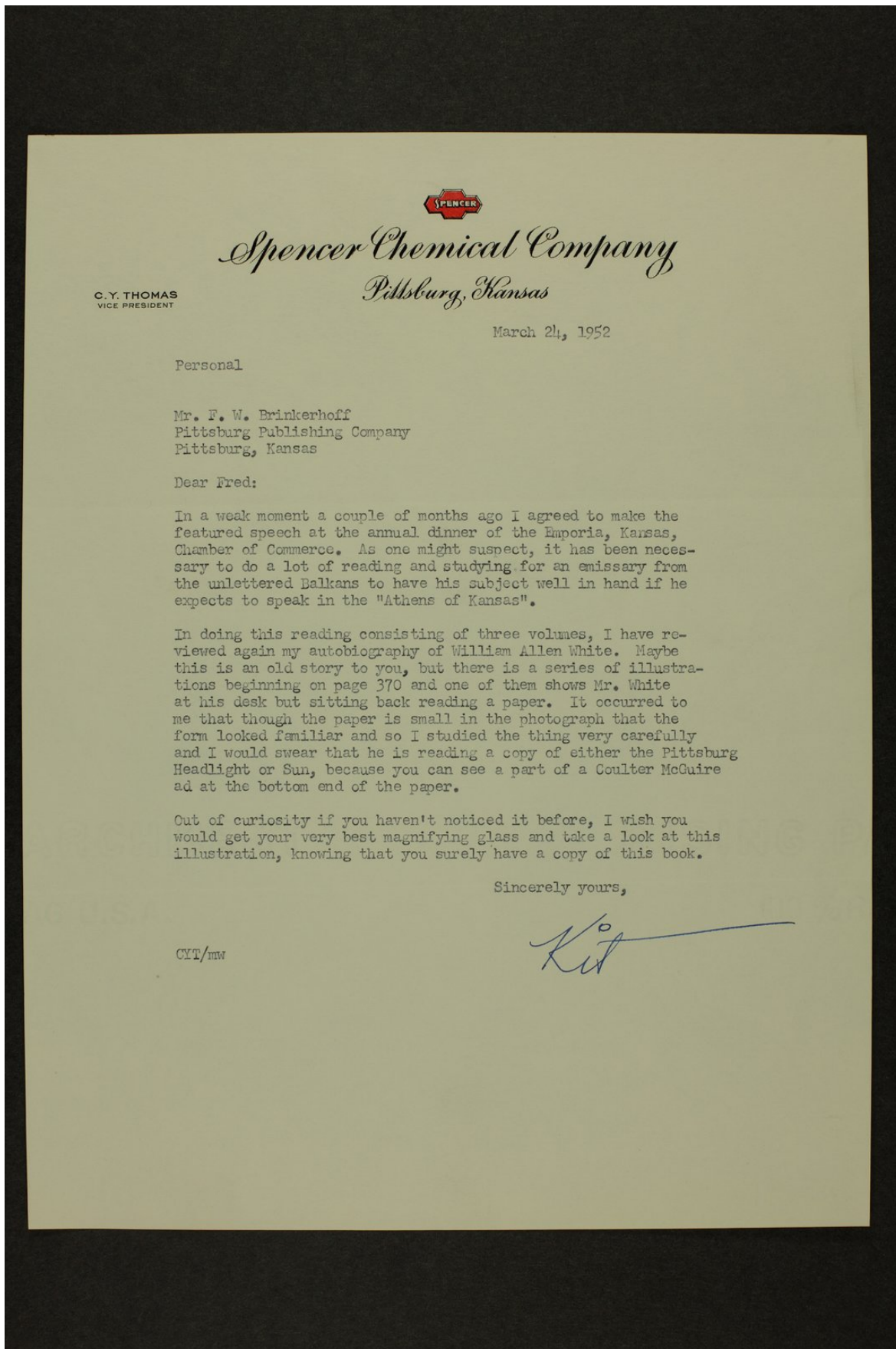
Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

FET:pb



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence





## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

ANDREW F. SCHOEPP  
KANSAS

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 30, 1952

Mr. F. W. Brinkerhoff, Editor  
The Pittsburg Publishing Company  
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Fred:

Thanks a million for your nice letter and the complimentary subscription to your fine newspaper. It is indeed appreciated, both by Andy and myself.

I am very glad you had a nice visit with Andy when you were there. I know we have a lot of spade work to do, and I am glad that some of your folks are willing to take of your time to help Andy out in such a wonderful fashion. Give me a ring when you are up this way. I would enjoy having a visit with you.

Yours very truly,

*Bill*

W. F. TURRENTINE  
Assistant to Senator Schoeppel

WFT/jf





## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

ROBERT A. TAFT  
OHIO

COMMITTEES:  
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE  
FINANCE

I. JACK MARTIN  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

*United States Senate*  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 18, 1952

Mr. Fred Brinkerhoff  
Pittsburg Sun  
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:

I wish to say how greatly I appreciate the support which you gave to my campaign and the work which you did in the State of Kansas. I was very proud of the Taft organization; and, if that could have brought about success, it certainly would have done so. We were all fighting for a cause--to keep the Republican Party free of New Deal influences, in order that it might be successful in the election, and thereafter conduct a government based on sound Republican principles. We can still continue to carry on that fight in the states both before and after the election this Fall.

Of course, I was disappointed about everything, but even more when I think of you and others who spent so much time, energy and money in my behalf without result.

I want you to know that I shall always remain grateful to you.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

RT:mrm



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Aug. 21, 1952

Robert A. Taft  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

Thanks for your letter of Aug. 18. There are many of us out here who were more disappointed than you were. But I know of no Taft man who regretted what he did. In my case with a clear right to election as a delegate, according to the system we have followed in the Third Kansas District for years, I was made the object of attack by the state administration in Topeka which dominated most of the county committees which selected delegates to the district convention. In my own county, Crawford, which is the only one in Kansas that maintains a precinct caucus and county convention system thus giving every Republican the right to participate, the delegation to the district convention elected at the county convention and spread over our county, was instructed by the unanimous vote of the convention--nearly 450 delegates--for me. A neighboring county where the committee was not under Topeka control also stayed with me. As did Dick Robbins out in the Fifth I went to the end with the fight and there was no motion for unanimous election in the interest of "harmony."

I sent Clarence Brown the other day an editorial which I ran recently concerning your part in the coming campaign.

It is certainly interesting to note the frantic scrambling by the Saturday Evening Post and the New York Times to persuade the Eisenhower headquarters not to ostracize you and all those who supported you.

I assume you are aware that the other bunch has in mind the elimination of Andy Schoepel two years from now. That we do not purpose to permit. I am confident that in the Senate setup the junior senator will continue to be a junior.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls





## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

CHAIRMAN  
THE REV. S. G. WIDIGER  
LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S FRIEND SOCIETY  
WINFIELD

VICE-CHAIRMAN  
M. ERIK WRIGHT, M.D., Ph.D.  
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS  
LAWRENCE

SECRETARY-TREASURER  
FRANK J. ANNEBERG  
MANHATTAN RECREATION COMMISSION  
MANHATTAN

### THE KANSAS COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

B. W. TUCKER  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

HEADQUARTERS  
MASONIC TEMPLE BUILDING  
TOPEKA, KANSAS  
PHONE 4-0494

May 8, 1953

F. W. Brinkerhoff, Publisher  
Pittsburg Headlight & Sun  
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:

Not too long ago I received from a Kansas youth, stationed at a military installation in Texas, a letter posing the following query which had received some attention at earlier meetings of our organization:

Would newspapers, if properly approached, refrain from publishing names of juveniles who have come into conflict with the law?

This topic was explored further at a subsequent meeting of our Executive Committee, having been introduced by one of our youth members. He emphasized the frequency of appearance in the public press of the names of juveniles who have become involved in conflicts with the police and law enforcement officers. He added that particularly in those instances where it is a "first offense" type of act, then the youngster may be penalized for some time -- or in some cases, for life -- in his home community if too much attention is given to the incident in the newspapers. He pointed out that publicity given to "misbehavior" of children and youth could be very injurious. He urged that the Kansas Council for Children and Youth seek cooperation from the newspapers of Kansas toward the discontinuance of the publication of identifying data of any sort -- by name, race, institution, or picture -- of children in conflict with the law.

Another member, whose daily work is concerned with so-called "delinquent" boys underscored the importance of the problem. He noted that rehabilitation is jeopardized when the youth's name is stigmatized. One agency official noted that many Kansas newspapers are observing the practice of non-publication of names and that the other newspapers would cooperate willingly if they were apprised of the damages to the youngsters in many cases.

Following further discussion, the Executive Committee recommended that the Kansas Council for Children and Youth enlist the support of the editors in Kansas in the non-publication of names of juveniles involved in conflict with the law.

Therefore, we earnestly enlist your support in this matter. May we have your reply to this letter noting your reaction?

Sincerely yours,

B. W. Tucker  
Executive Secretary

BWT:rh



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

May 14, 1953

B. W. Tucker  
Executive Secretary  
Kansas Council for Children and Youth  
Masonic Temple Bldg.  
Topeka, Kas.

Dear Mr. Tucker:

I have given your letter of May 8 consideration.

With respect to the query concerning suppression of names of juveniles who are charged with lawlessness, I would make the answer that I have made to other questions of policy. I could not set up a rule or a policy to be followed strictly. Every case of this kind coming into our office is given separate consideration. In some cases the names must be used. In other cases they should not be used. So far as we are concerned it is entirely a matter for editorial discretion. Circumstances cannot be the same in every case and unless the circumstances are the same, or approximately the same, a hard and fast rule cannot properly be made.

I agree with the general idea and we follow that in our publications.

Yours very truly,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

*Frank G. Theis*

ATTORNEY AT LAW  
301 A. C. OFFICE BUILDING - PHONE 911  
ARKANSAS CITY, KANSAS

March 23, 1954

The Pittsburg Publishing Co.  
Pittsburg, Kansas

Attention: F. W. Brinkerhoff, Editor

Dear Fred:

Rex Woods has just shown me your editorial in the Pittsburg Headlight of Monday, March 22, 1954 entitled, "Salome Wants the Job". I am very much interested in the Salome candidacy and have been doing everything possible to make it a successful one.

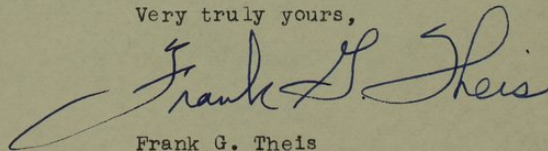
Right now with the high party brass in the Democratic party trying to hand pick a candidate, your editorial did seem to hit the nail on the head. I would appreciate it very much if it were possible, for you to have someone in your organization save the mat from which this editorial was printed, and mail it to me or to William C. Salome, 1445 North Yale Blvd., Wichita, Kansas. It is probable that we shall want to get a reprint job done on this by your paper for distribution among the Democratic party workers in Kansas.

We have recently done this with an editorial in the Arkansas City Daily Traveler and it was much handier to do it off the original mat.

I should appreciate hearing from you in reference to this matter. While you are at it I would appreciate it if your job printing department could give me the cost on printing five thousand reprints of the editorial.

Withbest wishes, I am

Very truly yours,



Frank G. Theis

FGT:sc



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

March 24, 1954

Frank G. Theis  
301 A. C. Office Bldg.  
Arkansas City, Kas.

Dear Frank:

Under separate cover I am sending you a cutout of a mat containing the Salome editorial. We do not operate a job printery. In fact, some of our inside office work is done there by the Traveler.

I am watching with interest the developments. The pattern which is being developed is to have Democrat leaders, about one a day, endorse Docking. Bob Lemon does so today. I told Bill Salome that his only chance lay in getting the rank and file voters interested enough to get out. Otherwise the sparsely used Democrat primary in Kansas would be dominated by the organization which evidently is not for Docking. *Salome*

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence



### *Spencer Chemical Company*

DWIGHT BUILDING

*Kansas City 5, Missouri*

C. Y. THOMAS  
VICE PRESIDENT

August 16, 1954

Mr. F. W. Brinkerhoff  
The Pittsburg Headlight  
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Fred:

For almost a year, we have been constructing a new polyethylene works at Orange, Texas. Up to the middle of June, thirty-three of our staff had been to England for studies and conversations because we, like Du Pont and Carbide, are licensing the process from Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. It was my good fortune to be able to take our last team of eleven, including myself, to England in mid-June. We have just gotten back and the entire group, with the exception of the writer, has gone to Orange preparatory to making final inspections, to training a crew and then to starting up little by little about the first of December.

I spent much of my Sunday going through the accumulation of all the Headlights since I left. It would be more proper to say, "since we left", because Dottie and our older daughter, Dottie Lou, went along with us. I have about caught up on news as it was published and I am fairly well along with a big stack of correspondence. I did not ask for an absentee ballot, and so for the first time in a long time I did not cast a ballot in this August Primary. I have been following a number of the details with considerable interest, and particularly that of the race for Governor. Last Kansas Day, in the Jayhawk hotel at Topeka, I told both Lawrence Gibson and Bill Hagman that I had been receiving reports from all over the state which would indicate that Fred Hall would be nominated; but, they couldn't see it that way at all and said that he was getting no house at all around the hotels at that time. I have had various letters from some very good people to avoid Hall because he is a radical labor leader and is a servant of the CIO and AF of L. This I have never been able to prove and I say to you confidentially that if I had been in the state I would have voted for Fred Hall because I have felt that the Arn group has done a very poor job of running our state. I wish it were possible to get all the figures to show the results when I am certain that Arn's administration has been just about the most extravagant that we have ever experienced.

I have known Lloyd Ruppenthal since 1930. At that time he was a partner of Harold Spencer's in a retail coal yard here in Kansas City and I suppose you know that his wife and Hazel Spencer are sisters. I know Lloyd very well



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

### *Spencer Chemical Company*

- 2 -

Mr. F. W. Brinkerhoff  
Pittsburg, Kansas

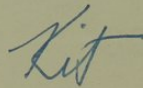
August 16, 1954

and have visited with him on a couple of occasions since he got back from a very extensive tour in the Far East during the war. Someone has done a very good job of poisoning business against Fred Hall. I have talked with some of our people about Fred and again I say that we have never uncovered anywhere in his background that he has been a slave to the big labor leaders. Certainly the old guard finds themselves now in a most embarrassing spot, and it pleases me no end.

I hope all the local races went to suit you and if you have time within the next few days, would be glad to have you give me a word about any of the local races which might be interesting, and then I should like to have a word of some kind from you as to what you think I should do as an individual, or perhaps, we should as a company do concerning Fred Hall. By this I do not mean great campaign contributions, but more what our attitudes and beliefs should be. Naturally, it would be easy to jump on the Hall bandwagon at this late date, but I am simply not that sort of person and at the moment, unless I am convinced otherwise, I should like to be helpful not only during his campaign, but later on. I know that we certainly don't want George Docking in the Governor's chair, and it might very well be that many of our so-called good Republicans might be voting for him secretly, rather than to support Fred. At the moment, I have no idea how hot the campaign might get or whether Docking really has a chance.

I thought you might be interested in the attached. I know that Bob appreciated no end such generous recognition. Hope to see you before long.

Sincerely yours,



CYT/ej  
Attachment



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Aug. 18, 1954

C. Y. Thomas  
Spencer Chemical Company  
Dwight Building  
Kansas City 5, Mo.

Dear Christopher:

You should appreciate this weather having been away from this section of the world a good part of this summer. There has been nothing like it in the way of heat and drought in my days in Kansas. I hope I never will see such a season again.

It gave me a lot of satisfaction to know that you spent a lot of time going through the accumulated Headlights to catch up on things.

In your reading you undoubtedly noticed the storm that came up over the heat reports. Some of the boys down the street blamed us for the heat. They howled about the reports hurting business. Last summer a Chamber of Commerce committee called on me to do somethin'. This year some of the fellows wrote letters to the Chamber of Commerce. Actually the reports sent out from Pittsburg that attracted attention in New York, Florida or California to the in ense heat could not hurt business in the stores in Pittsburg. The thing that hurt business in the stores was a heat so intense that nobody could stand it on Broadway or on any other street in the business district. I never expected to see anything like it. But at their insistence we were able to get a government thermometer set up out at the College under a tree with plenty of air and so the government is putting out hourly reports on our temperature. We run our own thermometer as usual to show downtown temperatures and we do this merely by showing the differential. The differential is from four to five degrees. So we are just where we were. Anybody with a little arithmetic can add four or five to the government report and get Pittsburg's downtown temperature.

You had the correct dope when you talked to the distinguished statesman from Pittsburg in Topeka last month. I said the same thing but many of them would not believe it. I said and you may have read my editorial the day after the primary in which I said that Ed Arn started Fred Hall off to the nomination two years ago. Hall carried Crawford County by about 200. He carried the city of Girard about 2 to 1. Ethel McNaughty boasted that she



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

C. Y. Thomas--2--Aug. 18, 1954

could assure Templar of 100 percent support in Girard. Ethel is one of the politicians who weighed in the balance and found me wanting.

There was little real organizational work done for Templar in Crawford County. Dick Caskey and Lawrence Gibson and Bill Hagman were the principal supporters of Templar. Hagman should not have supported any candidate because he is county chairman. He should not have permitted the post of chairman to be used for supporting any one Republican candidate against any other Republican candidate. Caskey never has known how to do anything politically. Gibson is efficient in know how and in doing. One of the principal supporters of Templar both by conversation and by donations was Frank Freeto. Freeto was listed as one of Templar's supporters. He got much excited. Mrs. Semple reported him as one of her heavy contributors in Cherokee County. He was quite friendly with her in the days ahead of the primary and even on the eve of the primary. His attitude was changed Wednesday. Supporting Hall were A. B. Keller, Paul Wilbert, P. E. Multon and Carl Pingry, to mention some of the active lawyers who took part. Strong support was given Hall by the Pittsburg and Midway boys. I was told that the P & M force was 100 percent for Hall which left some of the Templar leaders slightly dazed. Yes, I knew that Lloyd was Harold Spencer's brother-in-law.

We have reorganized the county committee retaining Bill as chairman. We eliminated Mrs. Fauvergue of Arma as vice chairman. She is one of Effie's ladies-in-waiting up here, Ethel being chief maid of honor. Bill had done a good job of organizing for county campaigns. In spite of that I had to do some talking to Hall supporters to keep down a fight on him. But we have not had any factions in the county for fifteen years and I think we can keep them out this time.

Purely confidential and personal: You probably knew it but that bunch in Topeka, Moyer, Pees, Wes Roberts and Darby have tried to punish me for not subscribing to their greatness or for expressing myself clearly if not justly with respect to their political morals and such like. After the battle Bradney and I had to get Caskey in as commissioner he has succeeded in being against me on every possible political matter that has come up so far. After getting permission from Gibson's employers for him to run for representative, a task in which Mr. Davis functioned for three years, and after helping him on other things he continues to be against anybody I support in the state. In fact, I have told some of the fellows that the only candidate Gibson and I have been able to agree on for many years is--Gibson.

Pardon me for taking so much of your time but I thought you might be interested in these things.

The old crowd simply cannot afford to have the Democrats elect a governor in Kansas in 1954. It would be too much of a blow to Ike.



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

C. Y. Thomas--3--Aug. 18, 1954

Thanks for what you said about Bob Lemon. I am sorry he had to be taken away.

Regards to Dottie and family. And when you come down this way be sure to put my name on your list for a visit. Pearl and I expect to be in Kansas City before very long and if we get time will give you a ring and have a chat over the phone.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Jan. 13, 1956

C. Y. Thomas  
Spencer Chemical Company  
Dwight Building  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Kit:

Thanks for the clipping from the Capital.

You will be interested in this. A very prominent member of the senate today--as he was eight years ago--was running for re-election in 1948. That was the year we put Dellinger up as a candidate. During the campaign this senator and his wife were visiting relatives in Pittsburg. His wife talked to me about the situation and said that Dellinger was probably all right but he was so old. Whereupon I examined the roster of an organization in Pittsburg where ages of members necessarily are given. I found that Dellinger was born in 1877 while the senator whose wife was complaining to me about Dellinger being rather old for the job was born in 1875. In other words at that time Dellinger was 71 and the other man was 73.

The other day in Topeka the same veteran senator and I were talking about Keller and the fact he was coming up. The senator said Keller was a little old. Whereupon I said, "how old do you think he is?" He replied immediately, "83." I corrected him. Keller was born in 1880 which makes him sometime this year 76. Whereas my senator friend now eight years older than he was in 1948 when he was 73 finds himself 81.

It is funny now fellows will try to keep younger than the other fellow.

Keller will be all right up there and he is entitled to enjoy it--if there can be any enjoyment around a legislature that is trying to find more money to spend.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence



### *Spencer Chemical Company*

DWIGHT BUILDING

C. Y. THOMAS  
VICE PRESIDENT-OPERATIONS

*Kansas City 5, Missouri*

November 15, 1956

Mr. Fred W. Brinkerhoff  
Pittsburg Publishing Company  
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Fred:

I have been traveling a great deal lately and for one reason or another a lot of mail which was on my desk seemed to work its way to the bottom and simply got overlooked, among them was your letter written October 31.

I attach my personal check in the amount of \$75 which I should have sent to you a couple of weeks ago. I assure you that this is pure oversight on my part and hope you won't get mad at me.

While I would make no claim to being any sort of a politician, it is evident to me that the people are sick and tired of the Republican leadership in the State of Kansas and I say this without pointing a finger at anyone. I think we need to start clear down to the precinct level and get a lot of new faces in the party, or Heaven help us four years from now, and this goes for Kansas as well as a lot of other states. Be sure and come in when business or pleasure brings you to Kansas City.

Sincerely yours,



CYT/es

Attachment



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Nov. 19, 1956

C. Y. Thomas  
Spencer Chemical Company  
Dwight Building  
Kansas City 5, Mo.

Dear Christopher:

The check arrived nicely and we thank you greatly for it. We had, everybody that I talked to said, the finest highway meeting you ever saw. There were 107 present with Under Secretary Rothschild, who heads the road business for Uncle Samuel, the head of the department of engineers in the bureau of public roads, Harry Darby, Frank Carlson, Myron George, two highway commissioners, the chief engineer of Kansas, the mayor of Kansas City and the justified good wishes of everybody along 69.

Getting on the federal system will take a good while but our point is that we should be in there at the front fighting for it. Otherwise, when the inevitable route south of Kansas City is selected, we might have no chance.

In the meantime we intend to work for the improvement of 69, the elimination of bad spots, including the route through Fort Scott, and let the federal government pay half of the expense.

Kansas City, Kas., is up and coming now, having seen the possibilities in 69 and also the possibility of trouble for 69 across the state line.

So your check was very much appreciated and we are sure that the meeting did a lot of good. The original idea was that I would name a committee to go to Washington to see Mr. Rothschild and bureau officials. The delegation would have included Darby. It would have cost us a couple of thousand dollars a piece for the jaunt which might have turned into just another visit to Washington. But Darby and Carlson put the thing up to Rothschild to come out and he accepted. Thus we saved quite a bit of wampum.

Regards to Dottie.

Sincerely,

FWB:ls

F. W. Brinkerhoff



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

C. Y. Thomas--2--Nov. 19, 1956

PS We are using the cut showing the receipt of the Spencer  
award by Dr. Elvehjem at your hands. Thanks for sending it.

FWB



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

March 21, 1957

C. Y. Thomas  
Vice President  
Spencer Chemical Company  
Dwight Building  
Kansas City 5, Mo.

Dear Christopher:

Gordon Evans of the K. G. & E. was just in my office. We were talking about cabbage and kings and things, including water as a community asset. He said he was going to New York not long ago and in Kansas City picked up a Star and read an account of a speech you had made up there about water problems of Kansas. As he recalled you said there were 52 cities in Kansas that were in water trouble, or better lack of water trouble. He expressed regret that you said nothing about a city in Kansas that has all the water it needs. He regretted that you did not give some publicity to Pittsburg as a town with plenty of water as well as other towns with no water. I join in the regret.

Every two or three weeks I plug in my feeble way the idea that Pittsburg has a tremendously influential asset in water and has not taken advantage of its opportunity to exploit it.

Nearly every industry that I have ever known anything about seeking a location talked about water. We have the water but apparently have not made effective use of this asset.

Help us with the propaganda, I implore you.

Regards.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

PS Had a nice note from W. R. McCormack in which he mentioned a luncheon conversation he had with you. A day or so later I came back from Topeka to read that Alice had fallen and had a break. I am very sorry.

FWB



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence



### *Spencer Chemical Company*

DWIGHT BUILDING

C. Y. THOMAS  
VICE PRESIDENT

*Kansas City 5, Missouri*

March 26, 1957  
(dictated March 25, 1957)

Mr. F. W. Brinkerhoff  
The Pittsburg Publishing Company  
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Fred:

I am always glad to hear from you and I think that you are probably correct in reproving me for not mentioning the cities in Kansas which do have water. I suppose it is the same old story in that we simply don't pay much attention to people or cities or institutions which, for one reason or another, are getting along or have no serious trouble on one or more particular items.

You might recall that the Legislature gave us \$35,000 the first year, \$75,000 the second year, and this year, after a very, very careful and detailed study, we asked for \$136,000 in order to get some very necessary work done and primarily in order to complete a reasonable plan for each of the 12 drainage areas for the State of Kansas within 2-1/2 or 3 years. To date, we do not have any word about our budget but I have understood from the grapevine that the House Ways and Means Committee has us set up for \$117,000. George Docking, after all of his pounding the table, and telling the people of the State of Kansas how badly we needed water, recommended only \$77,000 for our budget this year, which is hopelessly inadequate.

You can be sure that I always keep in mind the things which could in any way at all be helpful to Pittsburg, and I shall always do so. You can be very sure that as time goes on, whether it be personally, my business connections, or the State Water Board, I will do my best whenever possible for my old home town.

I am going to Houston tonight to be there for a couple of days. Dottie left this morning on the KCS for Pittsburg to be there today and tomorrow. It seems like there is a PEO birthday party or something like that, and of course, Dottie never misses an opportunity to visit with her good old friends. Maybe you will see her. Hope this finds you tip top. Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

*Kit*

CYT/es