

BURLINGTON ROUTE - THE NATIONAL PARK LINE

May 24, 1925

My sweet Ambrose:

I am on the way to Sheridan - left Cheyenne yesterday at 1:15 p.m. & will get to Sheridan at four this afternoon - longer than it takes to go to Chicago - I'm glad it affords me an opportunity to write to my dear son. You may wonder that I never seem to have more time - I'm making this discovery - that no man Governor has the demands made upon him that are made of me - That's because I am the first woman Governor - There is no end to the interviews & I must be nice to everybody - I am sure many people in the state & from outside come in to see me just to see what kind of a looking person I am - And they write me from everywhere wanting me to come to make addresses & I can't send a letter too be read - Many such requests I can not ignore.

Now I have before me an address to the Stock Growers Convention at Douglas - Another to about 2000 Shriners who are coming through Cheyenne. No doubt, too, I'll have to make one at Sheridan - And now a message comes from Gov. Harder asking me to respond to the address of welcome of the Gov. of Maine at the Governors' Conference - I am afraid to do it & yet I can't refuse for I don't want them to think I can't.

Did I tell you I am to be the guest of the Gov. of New Hampshire & his wife - I was so attracted to them when I met them in Washington & the Gov. of Maine writes to me so cordially about my coming & about my bringing Bradford.

Dear little Bradford it will be a great trip for him & I will feel so much better to have him with me - going so far.

I miss you so much my sweet son, & it does seem too bad for you not to be near enough to even keep in touch with what your mother is doing. I can not find time to write you all about everything.

As I've said often - I know how fickle public opinion is, but so far the public has been wonderfully kind to me. You should have seen how kindly I was treated in Denver - The Woman's Press Club gave me the loveliest reception (I had to beg off from other organizations) - There were hundreds of interesting people there. I am wondering whether you heard your mother's speech broadcasted (sic) & whether it was clear, from K.O.A.

I was out at Rock Springs on Hospital Day - You know we have a State Hospital out there - I got up early in the morning - leaving at ten at night - You should have seen the way they put me through - I think nobody could have done more in one day - I had to speak four times - Nearly every organization in town came to see me in a body or had me appear before them. I was met at the train by a crowd of men and women and 250 girl scouts who marched through the streets after my car as an escort - They kept that up all day and a crowd of them was at the train when I left. There were 2400 school children came in a body to meet me - upon the hospital lawn - Imagine how I felt to have so much honor shown me - quite overwhelmed & really very unworthy -

The Lions Club had me as guest of honor at a luncheon (90 present) I had to speak to them of course - Imagine your mother making speeches.

Night before last I was at Wheatland (?), honor guest at a dinner of 250 - where I was the main speaker. Do you wonder I am busy? The demands in the office never abate - If I can just keep well I can get on all right - sometimes I get very tired, but you know I used to get very tired before I was Governor & I think I have been blest with almost abnormal strength.

Son you would laugh to see how much "Tuss" they make over me on these trains. A waiter in the dining car recognized me & the word quickly spread through the train - At Denver there was a R.R. official at the station waiting

to look after me- It's all very fine & I appreciate it but you know dear Ambrose that all the honors in the world can not compensate for what I have lost in your father's dear companionship - In a way I feel like a soul adrift - & though I don't often allow myself to think of the years ahead I shrink from them when I do.

Did you know I am going to the formal opening of the Yellowstone Park - leaving June 16th - I am to have a private car - tendered me by the Union Pacific & I am to take a party of seven including myself. I have invited Miss Almon, Mrs. Bennett, Ruth Harrington, Nancy Haggard & Mr. & Mrs. Walton. I am not going to take Bradford even- I think its something that he can forego as I'm going to take him to Maine & he has been to the Park. And it offers me an opportunity that perhaps I will not have again, to honor some of the families ~~xxxx~~ to whom I am most deeply indebted- It's going to be a wonderful trip- The Governors of Utah, Montana & Idaho & their parties are also to be in the crowd-

Your mother is to make the main address - O, Ambrose that is the one thing about the office I don't like - this eternal speech making - It will either develop my mind though, or ruin it so I'll be ready for an institution, soon- Really the strain of applying myself to so many subjects is terrible.

Whether I do well or ill, I speak entirely without notes of any kind. Don't you think that is a pretty good idea?

You will find this letter hard to read & - of course you know I am writing on a moving train.

I suppose I & will be in Sheridan about two days - I am to meet the other members of the Board of Charities & inspect a new institution the State has bought & plan the furnishings of it- Do you remember the Verner Z. Reed summer home? The state has bought it for a girl's industrial home - It's a beautiful property. The Kendricks are in Sheridan now - I'll see them & my dear friends the Marshalls - Mr. Scales & his mother - & so many other nice people I know there. Between you & me (don't ever quote me) there are more aristocratic people in Sheridan than any other place of its size I know.

George was home a week ago - He looks very well- He ran for President of the student body & lost by three votes. I haven't seen him since- I expect he feels pretty much disappointed but it was quite an honor to come that close.

I forgot to tell you that we are to be three days in the Park - We are to be entertained in Salt Lake where I believe we are to stop seven or eight hours - I wish you & all those I love down there were going to enjoy it with me.

Do you think your Uncle Alfred is ever going to come to see me again? You may tell him that my heart is beginning to feel a little hurt that he doesn't feel that he must come while I am in this unusual situation - In fact it seems as if they all should.

You know Aunt Nellie said Howard & Elizabeth she thought would come this summer. I do hope they will. I will be gone most of the time till the middle of July and after that I think I'll be home most of the time, I want them so much.

Miss Almon is back with me - I think she enjoys life at the Executive Mansion pretty well - And she is so nice - She is a perfect genius at thinking of things to give me relief. She has nothing of course asked of her. It's not necessary.

Hollie goes on as usual - So far I have no household worries, for

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which I am grateful.

The support & assistance I receive from my good friends is wonderful- They make me feel that nothing is enough to do for me. Don't you know how I appreciate them.

Son, this is a family letter - See that both families have a chance to read it if they care to. When I am at the office I have great difficulty getting time to dictate even official letters - & can not get time to write each one of my family separately as I used to-

You might tell your uncles that I feel sure that they wonder that I haven't been able to save & invest any of my salary yet- You may say that these demands incidental to the office & other demands that they know nothing of- for instance out of a sense of decency I lately subscribed \$200 to the deficit of the Dem campaign fund- My friends had given to the limit of their ability for me.

Then taxes to me amount of several hundred dollars for sidewalk & paving in Holdredge Addition confront me. I am paying installments on them

And I find that while I dress quietly, being on exhibition all the time & traveling around means much wear on my clothes & its expensive to keep in condition.

Tell the boys I realize the importance of saving money - & yet I know that neither you or them would want me to be shabby in character by ignoring or shirking real obligations.

Ambrose I am so interested in your position & hoping so much that you are "finding yourself" & that you are going to develop in such a way that you are going to be outstanding - Oh, my son, don't reconcile yourself to being just mediocre. How could you with such a father!

Couldn't you do best in the branch of the lumber industry that would take you out into forests - may be judging lumber - or something of that kind- I know you love nature & the out of doors. Somehow I can't think you were cut out for an office man but maybe I'm mistaken -

Love to all my dear kin - & great heartfelt for my boy - Mother

P.S. Did you see the article in the May number of Good Housekeeping about your mother?