

1222 N. Campbell Ave.
Tucson, Arizona

May 12, 1949

Thos Francis

Dear Alger:

Much has happened since you last wrote. We closed the ranch for the season, short termed our lease as we did not want to face another winter there and moved to the above address where we have rented a house so Frances can proceed with the cataract operations on her eyes (vision now is less than 20% in each eye). Just yesterday I returned from New Mexico where I went with the two older boys to look at a ranch I was considering managing. It wasn't what we want so will stay on here awhile looking.

Last January I was paid a visit by an FBI agent who wanted to know just how much I knew about you and your life on 30th Street in '37. Neither Frances nor I could remember anything about a certain typewriter or about the make, model and color of car you drove. I did tell him I thought it was a roadster. X

We told him all we could remember about the little houses-13feet wide with but two bedrooms and all but our house 1247 in the row with only one entrance. Ours you may recall had a side door in the basement. As well as we can recall our row was painted a muddy yellow with blue trim whereas the N street row was gray with green trim. We both distinctly recall that the 30th street row had at first horrible feathery stippled steps-black over gray-which after protest by all were later changed to just plain gray.

Frances and I were married on October 10, 1936 and moved into 1247 two weeks thereafter when we returned from our honeymoon. I rented the house from Gilliat in June or July, I think it was, and lived there as a bachelor with Kenneth Banghart renting the front room. He stayed on for a short time after we were married then moved to a Conn Ave. apartment. Ken is now a well known news commentator and radio announcer in NYC, then he managed Thos Cook & Sons Washington office. After Ken moved John B. Bayard Now a Detroit, airport engineer lived with us for a while John or "Buddy" as he is known was then Asst Chief of the Airport Section of the Bureau of Aero. Perhaps these fellows both of whom are good friends of mine might be able to add something.

We both recall that we were in and out of each others houses many times not standing on ceremony when making calls. We just dropped in for a ~~max~~ drink or to borrow a loaf of bread or the like. Timmy, whom we recall as a jovial, healthy round faced youngster was a frequent visitor. We do not recall having ever met anyone by the name of Carl in your house, in fact we do not recall meeting anyone outside of the immediate

A.H. Page # 2.

neighborhood. You and your family seemed most normal to us in every respect. We dont recall having engaged in any political dicussions. Our main interests seemed to concern how best to clear the cracks between the wide floor boards in our houses and what to plant in our tiny garden plots. We often visited over the garden plank fence and if you recall each others gardens were entirely visible from each others houses.

One could not move in our row or the N street row without ~~xxxxxxx~~ everyone else being aware of his movements. This goes for inside and out. I recall chatting from our bedroom window with the Fosters and with Billy Beall both of whom lived on N street . We didnt have to shout to be heard either.

We both remember that you and Priscilla came to a cocktail party at Frances fathers house on Prospect Ave. after we had moved to Arizona. Her family gave said party so that we might have a chance to see old friends and we were delighted that you two could make it.

We too seem to recall that Timmy did his musical scores on a piano which we could plainly hear and first we feared that we might be kept awake nights but his practice was confined to daytime hours.

Many happenings of no consequence are dimmed by time but I can certainly attest to the fact that our life and yours were perfectly normal and while I dont think I'm nosy my cowboy training taught me early to "cut sign" and watch for tracks and I never saw or heard anything to be even slightly suspicious of going on at 1245-30th St.

I'm downright ashamed of myself for not having written you long ago but I have never been busier and just now after some substantial financial losses this past winter we face an expensive operation and some uncertainty as to just where we may be a year hence.

You may be sure that Frances and I and our families who know and believe you will be pulling for you every foot of the way. We hope its all over soon and that it can be as quick and painless as possible with complete vindication for you. Our best to you both.

Mr. Alger Hiss
22E. Eighth Street
New York City

Sincerely
Jim Ross