

Feb 19, 1948

My Dear Brother Kenneth -

I received your letter today and altho I am sick in bed recovering from a seizure of pneumonia I want to write immediately. You asked me what to do. With no sentimentality or as you say bitterness entering into the picture there is only one thing for you to do and that is move and move quickly so the man who has bought the farm can take possession in time to put in this year's crops. Otherwise we lose this sale and several thousand dollars and remember you lose along with the rest of us.

If you do not act quickly suit will be brought against you for a complete accounting of the last ten years and believe me Kenneth you won't have a dime left. The amount you have paid as taxes + mortgage runs about \$1000 less per year than cash rent would be so figure it out for yourself. There rent would of course run more and there is ~~of course~~ the question of stock and equipment. Also you will be sued for any amount of money lost by our losing this sale. It looks as tho if you

keep on that the Boise lawyers will become the sole inheritors of the Chas. H. Smith Estate.

Your claim to the farm is of course ridiculous. Years ago when Edna came to Ogden doing a lot of talking Dad said "Let her that it doesn't hurt anything the farm belongs to me and Kenneth knows it." Also Kenneth you have written too many letters and said too much for your claim of tenancy to hold up. The only thing you are doing by bringing it is, as I said before, to hold up the settlement and lose yourself and the family considerable money. Also Kenneth the papers you signed last spring would probably hold up in court and if it come to legal action you would probably lose your share entirely. This that I have written is all simply common sense, Kenneth do forget your self-pitying attitude and look at things as they really are not as you would like them to be.

Now from the more personal point of view. The bulk of the money Dad left was tied up in that farm, the store and every thing else had very little value. Neuman and Mother had a very difficult time of things up until 1942. Thro those years I supposed she was getting rent from the farm and as I told you before I was terribly shocked when I found she had received only \$600. You see I was not home for some six years. When I went

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out there two years ago I found these things out  
and more then insisted she probate the farm because  
I foresaw exactly the thing that has happened, the  
drying up of the income from the store. At  
that time I thought the entire farm would  
go to her under Idaho law. That year I understand  
you rented out to arver and did not move a plow  
your self. Kerman paid Mother very well during  
the years he made money there but now all  
Mother has is the money from the sale of the  
store building and that will certainly ~~not~~ ~~the~~  
~~keep~~ her and Loney very long. Of course you know Loney  
is not capable of supporting herself. There for Mother  
simply has to have her money from the farm. She  
is 74 yrs old and believe me Kenneth you are  
doing terrible things to her with first your  
promises and then your not keeping them and  
so on and so forth.

As for your family, you and Grace  
are alone responsible for them. You brought  
them into the world of your own volition and  
cannot expect others to shoulder your responsibilities.  
We also have children and Paul is older  
than you and I nearly as old. Paul works  
some days as much as twelve to fourteen  
hours and receives very little for it considering

the high prices. Only the farmers have morsey to pay present prices and believe me they have plenty. They eat butter and beef steak, we eat oleo and hamburgers some times, we have no home for our children and are at present living in a basement house. In the last few years we have had notice to move four times and eviction notice once because the houses we lived in had been sold.

I taught ~~the~~ school last year and the year before in an effort to help our finances but with my doctor bills it gained us nothing. I weigh exactly 98 lbs and am in need of medical attention which I cannot have until I get my money from the farm. With these facts you see how ridiculous it is if far you to ask that the rest of the family give up that which is both legally and morally ours.

You talk about not being present where money was being made. You of all members of the family have been in a position to make money, farming has been at all time high and has been increasingly good since 1933 far longer than any other business. I have not read this in the papers but have gotten it straight from farmers of all classes. One of the simplest men was here recently and he told us the Boise valley was booming. I simply can

and never will be able to understand your  
 lack of money unless you just simply have not  
 farmed the land. Of course farm help has been high  
 but farm prices have more than paid for it. I know  
 one family that has paid a hired girl \$100 a  
 month and another that paid a girl \$125 with  
 board and room but when you talk to them  
 about it they say their income is enough  
 to stand it. Consequently ordinary people like  
 me cannot get domestic help no matter how badly  
 I have needed it. I did my own house work while  
 teaching and don't forget I'm 44 yrs old and  
 have children to go on to help much.

The sooner you move and get your self  
 something you can handle the better we will  
 all be. Go on as you are and you'll have  
 absolutely nothing.

Yours as ever,  
 Madeline

P.S. I write you this letter simply in an effort to make  
 you see that you are doing yourself more harm than  
 good by the course you are taking. I could hurt you very  
 much if I really told Dad's attitude toward your  
 handling of the farm through the years. I hesitated two  
 years before writing you at all. The family is not asking  
 you to give any thing, all we want is a legal  
 distribution of our Father's property. You have always known  
 this would come some day because to my knowledge you were told  
 many times