Walker, Rae
1946-52

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Walker
Rt 4 Box 1[illegible]
Corpus Christi
October 5 '46

Dearest Mrs. Roosevelt —

While I was working in the Naval Air Station Day Nursery I didn't want to mention these things, & even now must ask your confidence — when Maurice was discharged from Navy in Sept '45 our Housing Authority notified me we would have to move, as we were no longer eligible to live here. When I came here in '42 the place was rented to me as a civilian worker at N.A.S (& no man in household) When I quit work the lease was forcibly changed to Ruth's name

as a civilian N.G.S. (tho' civilian applications were not accepted at that time!) So, when Maurice came home, we were to be ordered out, because: (1) no new civilians were being accepted (2) he was a new civilian!!
So, I called a Welfare Lt. + asked for a job, saying frankly I wanted it temporarily to maintain residence here. So I got a nite shift in the Day Nursery. But then the H.G. said no, the place could not be put in my name because I am not head of house — so finally I said I would be a test case + be evicted — + then we heard no more of it + we are here. Meanwhile I came to love the Nursery! + to my great surprise! We soon could see Maurice could not earn much + I needed work + the Nursery seemed like a dream come true in my life. I found myself stuck with the nite shift. Tho I much preferred it, there were

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to Sec. Knox & which he in turn had carried or sent back here, with results. All this quite floored me & it seemed fairly obvious that my criticism must have been justified to have had such reverberations. But I was a hornet's nest which the Day Nursery had picked up & was afraid to either put down or disturb! I was much amused, & yet irritated. Felt I couldn't quit. Anyway, a new Wave Pt. came into Welfare & she said she was not to be



the Navy making me an offer which was ridiculous, in view of what I'd just proved myself worth to them, as I am home again, but not unoccupied, as many babies have followed me home — & just now the Nursery is closed for the 2nd Polio quarantine for this year.

The year just past was one of the happiest of my life. I feel enriched & gratified by my work just finished. I loved the babies & really enjoyed the Navy, Oh

browbeaten nor influenced by the past + she judged me worthy + well qualified to be Supervisor, so in April I was — but in July she was discharged, + Welfare withdrew their funds + the Nurseries both closed. There was such great need + demand for the Nursery (this N.A.S. is really a baby hatchery) + I was so attached to the babies — the Sr. Chaplain said he couldn't see how the place could pay it's way + I said I'd ~~give~~ give my time to prove it + with the Chaplain as sponsor the Navy turned the Nursery over to me (unprecedented!) + in August I more than proved it + myself — so ~~the~~ well, that the Navy (new skipper aboard) took it away from me! Which brot us into Sept + my youngun's in school + needing me home mornings +

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Henry



After I passed 40 I found myself in a job that paid decently & fascinated me completely. I only felt a little cheated, not to have been in it years earlier, tho' perhaps I was not ready for it sooner.

When you had your little auto accident I was so busy I hadn't been home nor read a paper for several days, but that morning I was home & on the run, & heard Maurice take in a gasp

breath + then say, "oh! she's O.K." —
— meaning you.

These days we stay busier than I'd ever thot possible, + my reading, writing + thinking are way in arrears, but I think of you daily — + remember you always in my prayers, + love you as always.

May your birthday be a happy milestone in your interesting life — + may you have ever so many more!

As always,

Rae Walker