

Hooker, Henry S.  
1945-52

HOOKER, ALLEY & DUNCAN  
COUNSELLORS AT LAW  
50 BROADWAY, NEW YORK 4

HENRY S. HOOKER  
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JAMES BRODEUR

GORDON AUCHINCLOSS  
1920 - 1943

CABLE ADDRESS: AUCHDUN  
PHONE DIGBY 4-7020

January 9, 1947

Dear Eleanor:

This is a report of the events of yesterday at White Plains.

There is no contradiction on the record, as far as you are concerned, as to whether you used the expression "I must have dozed off" at the time of the accident. It is not denied. We cross examined no-one on this point.

Your testimony was covered by your affidavit which was filed and which assumed full responsibility and stated that "At the time this accident happened the afternoon sun was shining directly in my eyes. There was a momentary lapse during which I crossed the white line and the accident resulted." I got this language from the statement of facts which Tommy prepared and gave me when I was at Hyde Park. That statement was as follows: "The sun was shining in my eyes the afternoon of the accident. There was a lapse during which I crossed the white line and the accident resulted." In my opinion there is absolutely no difference between stating that you had a momentary lapse or that you dozed off. They are different ways of expressing the same state of facts. I am covering this in detail so that you will have clearly in mind that there is no difference between what you said at the time of the accident and what is set out in the affidavit in case this point ever should be brought up.

The apparent controversy indicated by the press reports grew out of the fact that Mr. Rose signed a statement for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles the day after the accident which contained the allegation that you had said to him that "I must have dozed off", and repudiated it when the Referee examined him yesterday. He said that you had never made such a statement to him and it must have been typed into his statement without his realizing it. We knew nothing whatever about this error Rose seems to have made and therefore were not concerned one way or another.

I think it was very fortunate that we submitted an affidavit rather than have you appear there personally as the scene had been set for a Roman holiday. They called the hearing in the Surrogate's Court Room so as to accommodate the expected crowd and there were many reporters and two photographers. There was a representative from the Chicago Tribune and also one from the Daily News.

The only point which I brought out was the fact that you remained on the scene of the accident until everybody who had been injured had been taken care of.



WESTCHESTER COUNTY PUBLISHERS, INC.

80 GRAND STREET  
WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK

Editorial from White Plains Reporter Dispatch

Mon. Jan. 6, 1947

**MRS. ROOSEVELT'S DRIVING**

IT IS possible to draw the conclusion that Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, summoned to a hearing on her automobile operator's license, is being inconvenienced because of her frankness in admission of error, as contrasted with many others who got off lightly because they "didn't remember" what happened just before the crash.

When Mrs. Roosevelt drove across the white line into opposing traffic on the Saw Mill River Parkway on the 14th of last August, she was quick to admit that she "dozed off at the wheel." Whatever may be the opinions with regard to the former First Lady's many and varied activities in politics and national affairs, it must be admitted that she has not endeavored to shield herself from possible penalty by lack of frankness. That is why she must appear and give testimony to determine whether her driving license shall be revoked, suspended or continued.

Other persons involved in the accident have praised Mrs. Roosevelt's attention in their behalf. With the exception of her "dozing" it must be admitted she has been extremely fair and above criticism. And while we are without knowledge of her physical condition, it is quite possible that because of long experience and wide travel she is actually a better-than-average motorist. At any rate, her attitude of cooperative candour rather than evasive forgetfulness deserves consideration in the official decision to be made.

sent to these daily newspapers

*Dailies:*

HERALD STATESMAN, YONKERS  
DAILY ARROW, MT. VERNON  
DAILY NEWS, TARRYTOWN  
DAILY TIMES, MAMARONECK  
CITIZEN REGISTER, OSWINGO  
DAILY ITEM, FORT CRESSKILL  
STANDARD STAR, NEW ROCHELLE  
REPORTER DISPATCH, WHITE PLAINS  
AFFILIATED WITH: STAR, PERKINSVILLE

*Weeklies:*

TIMES, MT. KISCO  
TIMES, LARCHMONT  
CITIZEN-OBSERVER, HARRISON  
NEW CASTLE TRIBUNE, CHAPPAQUA

*Hooker*

80 BROADWAY, NEW YORK 4

*fb*

February 10, 1947

Eleanor Dear:

I have received the copy of the letter addressed to you by the President dated February 5, 1947 saying that he would be most happy to designate me to represent him at the unveiling of the monument in Grosvenor Square. I don't think anything could have made me happier than this and I shall look forward to it from now on. I won't try to tell you how very deeply I feel.

As ever,

*Harry*

To  
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
29 Washington Square, West  
New York, NY

Henry

I am glad you  
like the glasses &  
I also glad you  
liked Harley Katter.  
I think he is one  
of the best young  
men in the St

Dept.

I am looking  
forward to seeing  
you there

Mr Myron Taylor

Dear Mr Taylor-

You were very  
kind to ask Harry  
to send me copies  
of the letters exchanged  
between the Vatican  
& Pres. Truman

With every good  
wish & very kind  
Regards to Mrs T  
I am

*Hooker*

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IRVING L. SCHANZER  
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PHONE DIGBY 4-7020

October 6, 1947

Dear Eleanor:

The beautiful glasses just arrived and I am delighted with them. It was sweet of you to send them to me. Many thanks.

I lunched yesterday with Myron Taylor, Dr. Sie, the Chinese Ambassador to the Vatican, Herschal Johnson and Harley Notter. This latter young man impressed me very much. He seemed extraordinarily intelligent.

Myron wanted me to give you the last letters exchanged between the Vatican and the President, and I am sending them up herewith. This correspondence is a continuation of the correspondence that Franklin had with the Vatican.

As ever,

*Henry*

HSH/H  
Encl.

To

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
29 Washington Square West  
New York, NY

*file*

*Hooker*

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October 23, 1947

Dear Eleanor:

I have your recent letter enclosing a letter to you from Allin, Riggs & Shaughnessy dated October 17, 1947 and Summons and Complaint in a suit by Columbia University against a great number of people.

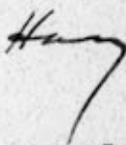
The reason that you were served is that you are a descendant of the Hall family who owned one of the parcels of land around Washington Square sometime, probably, before the Civil War and the suit is to quiet title which grows out of some inaccuracies which were made.

I have spoken to the lawyers this morning and I am convinced that this is a formal matter which does not vest any asset in you since adverse possession would bar any claim at this time. I do not think the matter needs further attention and am filing the papers.

If you glanced at the intricacies of this document I do not think it would cause you to love the law any more than you do.

As ever,

HSH/H



To

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
29 Washington Square West  
New York, NY

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November 5, 1947

Dear Eleanor:

I spoke to Mr. Morris this morning and he kindly sent his tax expert Mr. John Walker to my office. We have just been going over the question that you wished answered.

Assuming that your income is running the same as last year and assuming that the general deductions would be the same the question which you asked grows out of the additional income of roughly \$15,000. which you have deposited with the Trust Company, and the deduction therefrom of \$6,000. which up to this date constitutes a loss on the farm. Subtracting the \$6,000. from the \$15,000. leaves \$9,000. of additional net taxable income this year. The tax on this amount would be at the rate of 72%, assuming that in other respects your income runs as last year. This means that the tax will amount to \$6,420. which will be in addition to the tax you paid last year.

The sum total of these facts therefore means that of the \$15,000. that you turned over to the Trust Company roughly \$6,000. will go in taxes, leaving about \$9,000. of the \$15,000. that you can draw upon for any purpose that you wish.

The above is on the assumption that the \$24,000. of farm loss may properly be apportioned to income loss rather than investment of principal.

If you would like me to have a talk with Harry V. Welch sometime, or if he is coming to New York, I would be glad to see him on any other questions.

Best as ever,

HSH/H

To

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
29 Washington Square West  
New York, NY

P.S. I am sorry to say that Mr. Koons is quite ill and has been sent to Florida.

HSH

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November 13, 1947

*JH*

Eleanor Dear:

A little while ago I received a letter from W. G. Wendell sending me at your suggestion "Lines in Honor of F.D.R. on the occasion of a Dinner of the Fly Club in Washington in 1944". I think the words and the thought are beautifully done and I have written Wendell to tell him so.

In the letter to me he used a phrase which impressed me very much because of its language. "It's a long time since we have met but I hope in the distances of your mind (and perhaps your heart) you may still remember me." I have never heard that language used before and I think it is extremely lovely.

The next time we meet you must tell me about him.

I bought the book of Franklin's letters and I think they are superbly edited. I am looking forward with interest to mulling over them as they recall old times.

As ever,

HSH/H

*Henry*

To

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
29 Washington Square West  
New York, NY