Portland, Oregon
March 6, 1947

My dear Mayor Doran:

I shall be very glad to have you place my name on the honorary committee of the Centennial Anniversary program for the Smith Brothers Cough Drop Company, and I shall be very glad to attend the dinner on April 19th, at 7 o'clock.

Very sincerely yours,
THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE
NEW YORK

February 24, 1947

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Hyde Park, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

March 21, 1947 is the 100th birthday of the Smith Brothers Cough Drop Company. Because of the great good done for the people of this community by the Smith family through their generous gifts and endowments to the Presbyterian Church, the YMCA, Vassar Hospital, and other deserving causes, the residents of Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County are planning what they hope will be a fitting testimonial to this family and its company.

This testimonial will take the form of a civic celebration during the week of April 14th through the 19th, ending with a dinner on the evening of Saturday, April 19th. Some 1200 persons are expected for this dinner at which nationally known residents of Dutchess County will speak.

By proclamation of the Common Council, the City of Poughkeepsie will participate in this celebration and will take the occasion to publicise one hundred years of Poughkeepsie's industrial growth. This company will be used as a striking example of what can be accomplished under the American system of Free Enterprise. Starting in a small way, it has grown during the past 100 years until its product has a demand not only all over the United States, but in many other countries. By its growth, it has been able to render a great service, to furnish constant employment to thousands, and from its profits, to assist materially in the spiritual and physical well-being of many communities.

Due to the national reputation of the Smith Brothers Cough Drop Company, LIFE Magazine is devoting a section of one of its Spring issues to the history of this company.
This letter is being addressed to you as one of the distinguished citizens of Dutchess County to ask if you will assist us in the celebration by permitting us to place your name on the Honorary Committee in charge of this Hundredth Anniversary program.

Extending to you a most cordial invitation to be our guest at this dinner which will be served in the Armory, here in Poughkeepsie, at 7:00 PM, I remain

Sincerely,

Frank M. Doran,
Chairman, Honorary Committee
I am not here any
ools on the mind
I will try to come to
say a few words. I
will try to come to
the reception.
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
Apartment 6A  
23 Washington Square West  
New York, N. Y.  

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:  

Some time ago you were kind enough to permit your name to be used as a member of the Smith Brothers' Centennial Honorar Committee. At the time Mayor Doran wrote to you he indicated he would like to have you attend the dinner as a guest of the Committee.

In order to provide the proper number of tickets for you I am attaching a copy of our general mailing and reservation slip. I would appreciate it if you would fill out this slip and return it to me personally, together with your remittance to cover any tickets required in excess of the one which will be forwarded to you as our guest.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to sit at the head table, where provision will be made for all of the Honorary Committee Members.
2.- Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt 3/28/47

I feel sure that everyone present at this Testimonial Dinner will be interested in a few words from you, at an appropriate time in the program. This need not be a prepared speech of any kind and a few minutes, at most, would be all that would be expected.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to a reception, starting 6 P.M. at the Amrita Club. Dress will be dinner clothes. This reception, prior to the dinner, will be held to make it possible for head table guests and speakers to become acquainted, when necessary, and permit out-of-town guests to meet prominent Poughkeepsie citizens.

I hope you can plan to attend the reception, and be with us at the head table for dinner. I shall appreciate hearing from you so that arrangements can be completed.

Very truly yours,

Walter S. Marder
Chairman

WSM:1ms
Att.
SMITH BROTHERS CENTENNIAL WEEK
TESTIMONIAL DINNER

NEW YORK STATE ARMORY, POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.

SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 19, 1947.

Smith Brothers Centennial Committee
414 Trust Company Building
Poughkeepsie, New York

Gentlemen:

Enclosed find remittance in the amount of $__________________ ($5.00 each) to cover __________ reservations for the Smith Brothers Testimonial Dinner.

It is understood that seating will be allocated in the order of receipt of reservations by the committee.

The names of those who will attend are: (Please print)

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

Signed: __________________________________

Address

SMITH BROTHERS CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE.

 Walter S. Harder,
SMITH BROTHERS
Centennial Committee
414 Trust Co. Bldg.
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

COMMITTEE
WALTER S. MARDEN, Chairman

RAYMOND G. BAUMBUSCH
DASH L. BUBBY
MRS. W. E. BOCK
NELSON J. BOWNE

HONORARY COMMITTEE
Hon. Frank M. Doran,
Honorary Chairman

ERNST R. ACKER
DR. SARAH G. BLANDING
Hon. J. LEWIS BOLTON
Hon. EDWIN K. DUNEBURY
C. FRED CLOSE
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ROBERT HOG
Hon. JAY LEFEVRE
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THOMAS D. MAHAR
E. GRAY MERRILL
Hon. HENRY MORGENTHAU, JR.
Hon. FREDERICK S. QUINTERRO
MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
Hon. JOHN R. SCHWARTZ
GEORGE C. SHALER
FREDERICK A. SMITH
LEONARD J. SUPPLE
THOMAS J. WATSON

March 22, 1947

By official proclamation, Mayor Frank M. Doran
has designated the week ending April 19, 1947, as
Smith Brothers Centennial Week, and at that time the
community will recognize the one hundredth anniver-
sary of the founding of this famous Poughkeepsie
industry.

The principal feature of the Centennial will be
a Testimonial Dinner to be held at the State Armory,
Poughkeepsie, on Saturday evening, April 19, 1947,
at 7:00 p.m. This dinner will pay suitable tribute
to Smith Brothers through prominent New York and
Dutchess County citizens.

Admission to the dinner will be by subscription
ticket only. These tickets are Five Dollars ($5.00)
each and can be obtained by returning the attached
subscription form. Seating will be assigned in order
of receipt of subscription, accompanied by check or
money order drawn to the order of "Smith Brothers
Centennial Committee." Dress will be optional.
Since the capacity of the Armory is limited, it is
suggested that subscription reservations be filled
in completely and mailed promptly to the committee,
Room 414 Trust Company Building, Poughkeepsie. Funds
received after capacity has been reached will be
returned promptly with proper acknowledgment.

This testimonial to Smith Brothers will be a
milestone in the progress of industry in Poughkeepsie.
If you want to be sure to be present, your subscrip-
tion should be forwarded by return mail.

SMITH BROTHERS CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
WALTER S. MARDEN,
Chairman.
Portland, Ore.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

For a long time I have had a letter in my heart which I have felt I must write but I have delayed lest the emotions of the times rob it of its true meaning. I longed to write it in the hectic days preceding the tragic death of our dear President and I longed to write it to him, but knowing the tremendous duties that required his every waking minute, and feeling that he would never see it I refrained. Now that time has eased the dull ache in our hearts I feel that I must write that letter to my President and I feel that He now has the leisure to read it through your eyes.

Dear Mr. President:

I am just a little man but I feel that I am a reasonable facsimile of all the little men to whom you have devoted your life. I am writing this letter because even so strong a heart as yours must falter sometimes under the bitter relentless attacks of a mad-dog press and a selfish, soulless, small principled congress. We voted for you, Mr. President, again and again and again; not because, as the majority of the press claims, we were regimented or dictated to by labor bosses, but because we know that your great heart was drained, never for personal glory, but for the great good of all humanity. We must admit, we little people, that we have been selfish in using your great courage and strength for our cause but you have given so freely that the pang of conscience have bothered us little. We can not help but marvel at the tremendous self composure which leaves you calm and unruffled in the face of scurrilous attacks by small men in big places. But we want you to know in your heart of hearts, dear President, that we who can do so little for you who have done so much, are, in our humble hearts, on our knees to you.

We feel, dear President, that your great courage and complete selflessness have been matched but once before in all time. He died on the cross, dear President.

And now, dear President, you too have left us. I can reveal to you that my personal faith in God was badly shaken when I received the fearful news. How could He take you from us when we needed you so badly. But after the tears had run dry and the sharp pain had settled down to a dull ache, a small voice whispered to me: "He took Christ too." And somehow, your having lived made it easier for me to believe in Christ.

God rest your soul, dear President. Somehow, with you in our hearts and your great courage as a yardstick, we will carry on.

Your humble servant

 Dana F. Smythe

Dana F. Smythe
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt again:

When the first numbing shock of the tragic news that our President was gone, subsided, and we were forced to believe what seemed unbelievable, I was devastated that I had not written the letter in time, on the off chance that our great leader might have seen it and taken some comfort in the assurance that his people were not ungrateful. Since that time I have wanted to write to you so that you might not feel that his great work was in vain. I realized that you would be snowed under with condolences, many of them from people who had done their utmost to render our Presidents mighty efforts void, so I have waited until now that my true feelings may not be mixed with the hypocritical messages which might make you doubt the millions of us who loved him.

I am sure there are thousands of us who would have given our lives could his have been spared. But I felt his loss was so tragic to his people that I would have even given the life of my father or one of my tiny beloved ones could he have been spared for the people. How can one say more?

I hope you receive this letter and take some comfort in the knowledge that his little people, for whom he gave his life, are not ungrateful but that to many millions of us there will never be but one President.

Most sincerely yours

[Signature]

Dana F. Smythe
7125 No. Boston Ave.