

Walker, Rae
1946-52

Walker, R

July 1, 1947

Dear Mrs. Walker:

I was very much interested in your letter and glad for you and your husband that you are having a chance to use the farm, though I recognize the difficulties of being squatters. I think, however, if your mother-in-law has lived on the land twenty years, the other claimants have very little legal right. I think, however, you should as soon as possible get a legal decision as you do not want to put in a great deal of work and then lose the land.

One hundred miles a day is a lot of driving, but it can be done and it is good to be on your own land, if your mother-in-law has really returned and is going to make life more or less pleasant for all of you.

Very cordially yours,

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:
I have been thinking of you very much since I left you in 1931. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy since then, but I have not forgotten you. I have been thinking of you very much since I left you in 1931. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy since then, but I have not forgotten you. I have been thinking of you very much since I left you in 1931. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy since then, but I have not forgotten you.

JUN 24 1947

Walter

Walker, R
Star Route #1
Beeville, Texas
June 24, 1947

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt -

Weeks have slipped into months since I promised to explain to you our return to Skidmore. This is still Skidmore, tho' by a stroke of luck we are to have our mail boat to our front gate, as per above address. This is the same farm, still belonging to Maurice's mother. Because our exodus 11 years ago was somewhat by invitation on the part of the owner, & because it was executed at the cost of great sense of failure, heartaches & material loss on our part, we were rather agreed on the determination not to return here, ever. But "the best laid plans -"

When we promised ourselves & each

never never to be enticed back here, we were pre-
suming the temptation would never confront us.
It's so darned easy to resist imaginary temp-
tations!

Apparently my mother-in-law underwent
complete revolution in her thinking. When the
War department declared her youngest son dead, &
settled accounts she announced her intention of
dividing everything she possessed among her 3 re-
maining sons, & living out her life on the pension.
Her 3 sons were skeptical, but she proceeded as
announced. Richard & Robert seemed well pleased
with her arrangement & she stated that Maurice
& I are the only ones of her family with whom she
felt she could spend any amount of time, especially
any period of disability!! Furthermore, it happened
that Maurice was the only son who had ever had
any love for this place, amazing fact!

To wind up the entire situation was to give
Maurice a deed for her part of the 58 pathetic

acres. My still small voice whispered to me not to take up residence in any part of Bee County until the deed was so given & recorded, but in the face of my transformed mother-in-law; in view of my own firm resolution to be an extraneous person in my wonderful good luck of Maurice's safe & sound return to us; and considering the bribe I was offered — a trip to Calif. for Christmas!! (after 10 years in epile) — so we moved & here we are. For 6 months we've been working out our days & nites to make a livable house, keep back the South Texas "jungle" from our yards, & get a toe hold on some stay-at-home income. That much of the picture is the same as before. There is the brighter side, tho', in our children; in Maurice's good job at Corpus Christi; in the mother's different attitude; and, there is the great challenge, for it is a rare & fine thing to be given an opportunity to try again on a situation where one has felt shamed & defeated. The

miles per day Maurice drives takes a lot of energy & we, of course, are 11 years older, & not the better for wear & tear, but the R. E. A., the natural gas, the usable car — the scales are pretty evenly balanced on all that.

The snag, tho', is: we are squatters. Thro' all the 20 years of my mother-in-law's widowhood she was ignorant of, or stubbornly blind to the fact that the property has some disagreeable claimants who manage to make it impossible for her to sell, divide or give away! So now they tell us.

If this all sounds a bit fuzzy to you — so it seems to us, also. Maurice, tho', is a happy man & that is worth much to us, his family. We are grateful for life, health, work & love.

As always,

Rae Walker