

PSF: Cooke, Charles J.

Subject File

Box 141

PSF: Chas. J. Cooke

Don Cooke "C" 3-43

CHARLES J. COOKE  
Architect  
POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.

file

October 28, 1943

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

A few local items of possible interest to a very busy man:

Local Politics:

Registration was very light which means that the "In's" will stay in. The folks are interested in the war and not politics. Next year will be a different story - Republicans voting for the administration and vice-versa. The Republicans have only one issue - "economy" - the Democrats have the ace in the hole - "results". A large percentage of people will vote "American", regardless of party. My personal belief is that Dewey will be the Republican Candidate. I have watched his long range "build up", hence the opinion.

Rationing:

Have heard no comment on this subject for months. It is all part of the general scheme of war-time living and that is all there is to it. From what I gather the number of applications for gasoline coupons during the recent registration period was reduced about fifty percent.

City Hall:

The building will be repaired and restored to its original appearance. Brown sandstone base from grade level up to first story window sills, red brick above and all exterior woodwork painted white. The belfry will be restored, the bell retained and it should present a pleasing appearance when restored. Ray Guernsey, the Historical Society and many of our citizens are pleased. Don Slee, the Democratic candidate for Mayor, deplores the expense, but that is all part of the game. Actually, I believe that Don approves.

October 28, 1943

Paul D. Cooke:

Paul obtained his first furlough and came home from his post in Brazil. He immediately married his childhood sweetheart and left for Brazil on Monday. While on his honeymoon in Washington he had a pleasant short chat with Admiral McIntire and a longer chat with our friend Dr. (Cap't) Kaveney in the office of the Surgeon General of the Navy.

First National Bank:

The directors decided to expand their quarters, in fact, they were forced to do so. Mr. Evans, the President, showed me a list of directors for the year 1911 which he carries around with him and pointed out the name of Franklin D. Roosevelt. He also stated that you still have an account there.

Post War Projects:

I fear that the City will be caught once more without a comprehensive program and will wake up too late. A nebulous, hazy program has been listed but with the exception of the sewage disposal system, it seems to lack thorough analysis. The list contains a nondescript assortment of projects not very well studied and some of them without adequate justification.

Sedgwick Machine Works:

This happy outfit is hitting on all cylinders, thanks to your aid in helping them out of the tight spots.

Investigation of Mr. Alfred Dammenhayn:

Sent a batch of documents to Mr. Hassett regarding what may be a mistake. This man may or may not be guilty of subversive activities. His daughter, who works for the Sedgwick Machine Works, has been and is being subjected to various types of investigation. I am positive that she is innocent and she claims that her father is too. At any rate the family is all broken up about it and as Paul Rieser has prevailed upon the Army authorities to review the case in Washington on November 2nd, I hope for the best. Naturally, trained investigators know more than I do - I am only an observer who thinks that he knows his neighbors pretty well. The possibility exists that either the investigators or I may be mistaken. Incidentally, the son has been on a U. S. Navy submarine for years.

The President

-3-

October 28, 1943

The President:

Hope that your head-cold and sinus condition is clearing up. The weather is bad but we should have our one good spell of Indian Summer ahead of us in Dutchess County and the return of the Native during that time would do him a world of good. Once again, we are all with you in your leadership of a great nation and in praying for your health and happiness.

Every kind wish.

Very respectfully yours,

*Charles J. Cooke.*

Charles J. Cooke

cjc/alb

PSF Charles J. Cooke

CHARLES J. COOKE  
Architect  
POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.

File  
2m/Comes "C"  
9-44

May 9, 1944

Mr. William D. Hassett  
Secretary to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hassett:

Enclosed herewith is some data pertaining to Mr. John White, 34 years old, 206 Fullerton Avenue, Newburgh, New York, married 11 years, one child-8 years old.

Education: Two years of High School  
One year Business College

He has filed an application for a commission with the Naval Officers Procurement Division at 33 Pine Street, New York City and was informed that he did not have the qualifications.

He then enlisted the aid of William H. Kennedy, who is employed by the Executive Branch of the White House and the two of them landed in on me.

The President knows Kennedy, (in fact Kennedy works for him, judging from the heading on the stationery) but Kennedy wanted me to write in about it so I felt that I had to oblige him.

✓ In my letter to the President, I mentioned the fact that I was writing this letter to you.

What disposition you make of the proposition does not concern me in the least, nor should it concern you. I presume that the Navy has many similar cases and knows all the answers.

My kindest regards to you and Miss Tully, and congratulations on your latest appointment. You are working for a very fine and a very kind boss.

Respectfully yours,

Charles J. Cooke.  
Charles J. Cooke

CJC:ALB



STEWART FIELD EXCHANGE  
STEWART FIELD  
NEWBURGH, NEW YORK

JRF:rms

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
STEWART FIELD EXCHANGE

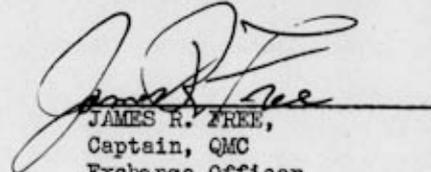
18 March 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Mr. John White has been employed as Civilian Exchange Manager at this post for some time, and has accomplished all his work under my direct supervision.

As a buyer of goods, supervisor of personnel and an indefatigable worker, I can recommend him without qualification. His interest, enthusiasm and willingness to work without regard to overtime, has been a tremendous asset to the undersigned in the operation of the Post Exchange.

STEWART FIELD EXCHANGE

  
JAMES R. FREE,  
Captain, QMC  
Exchange Officer

HEADQUARTERS  
ARMY AIR FORCES BASIC-ADVANCED FLYING SCHOOL  
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY  
~~OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER~~

GFS/DHM/ms

In Reply Refer To:

Stewart Field, Newburgh, N. Y.

17 April 1944

SUBJECT: John White.

TO: Whom It May Concern.

1. Mr. John White has served continuously as Post Exchange Civilian Manager, this station, since 25 April 1943. During a period of one year, I have observed his work carefully and am of the opinion that he is excellently qualified in the following respects:

- a. Natural salesman; meets people well; good public relations man.
- b. Skilled in supervising employees.
- c. Well rounded in all phases of retail merchandising work.

2. I understand that Mr. White is being inducted in the near future and is being considered for procurement duties in the Armed Forces. As a result of frequent inspections of the Post Exchange, as well as the reactions of the officers and enlisted personnel of this station, I have no hesitation in recommending Mr. White for any merchandising assignment.

*George F. Schlatter*  
GEORGE F. SCHLATTER,  
Colonel, Air Corps,  
Commanding Officer.

PSF: Chas. J. Cooke

Gen. Lones "C"  
file  
personal 3-44

May 15, 1944.

Dear Charles Cooke:-

Ever so many thanks for your bunch of news. It is a great help to get it.

You should put salt under the tail of ~~the~~ new reformer on the Board of Supervisors. Remember always that John K. Sague when picked for Mayor was the Republican Assistant Cashier in the Savings Bank.

I am telling Frank Walker I want nothing done about the old Post Office without letting me know.

Lots of things will happen between now and November -- between now and July even.

Always sincerely,

Charles J. Cooke, Esq.,  
Poughkeepsie,  
New York.

CHARLES J. COOKE

*Architect*

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.

May 9, 1944

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

A few items from over the back-fence. They may be of some interest.

YOUR HEALTH

Most important and glad to hear that you were able to go to Warm Springs. Dutchess County is very nice also, at the present moment. In fact, it is O. K. all year around. Very gratifying to read in the morning paper that the vacation was so beneficial.

KENNEDY

This gentlemen, who is still employed by the Executive Branch of the White House, was in town a few weeks ago and as usual, he had something up his sleeve, possibly both sleeves. He wants me to do what I can for a friend, Mr. John White, who lives in Newburgh and has been Civilian Manager of the Post Exchange at Stewart Field in Newburgh for the past year. Mr. White is 34 years old and wants to get in the Navy; any position from an Admiral down to Ensign will please Kennedy and White. I told Kennedy that it was pretty late in the day but that I would send the data to Mr. Hassett. Whether or not I will hear from it is problematical and this phase of the proposition does not interest me. I simply did it as a favor for Kennedy.

He has been over a great part of the world and related some of his experiences in Dutch New Guinea. He has not changed much since his Hyde Park days. I imagine that his record will reflect his ability as he is a persistent gadfly with a great sense of humor.

May 9, 1944

CITY HALL

Operations on this project were halted for the winter but have now been resumed and we are trying to get it finished for Memorial Day. It will look very well.

MOLINE PROPERTY

Hinkley

The City of Poughkeepsie is trying to sell the Moline property to a private manufacturing concern. The deal was nearly consummated when the whole business was halted with an injunction by the small manufacturing concern which occupies part of the site. How it will terminate, no one knows. Rhoda Kindley got on her high horse and yelled to high heaven for a park at this spot, despite the fact that we have 19 parks and play-grounds right now in the City of Poughkeepsie. Anyway she stirred up a lot of agitation, none of it very well organized and my personal opinion is that the City has the right idea and that Rhoda will do a lot better in New York than she will in Poughkeepsie.

MEMORIAL FIELD

The Board of Education conceived the idea of putting Memorial Field in shape so that it will compare favorably with other fields in the Hudson Valley. An official of the A.A.U. declared that it was the worst athletic field in the country. It will cost about \$35,000.00. Inasmuch as the Board of Education has figuratively thumbed its nose at the Board of Aldermen during the past few years and as the latter happens to be the appropriating body, it looks to me as if the project has three strikes on it before it gets started.

POST WAR PROJECTS

The First National Bank is proceeding slowly but surely toward a new building. I am enclosing a photograph of one of the perspectives which we made and which will give you an idea of the future bank building. As one of the former directors, you may be interested.

Lucky Platt & Company intends to balance its Main Street front by extending it 45 feet to the West, tearing down the present west building.

The Wallace Company also intends to expand its plant but has not reached a decision as to whether they will erect a building on Mill Street or buy the property East of them on Main Street and build.

The County has a \$1,700,000.00 Road and Building Program. It will go through in its entirety. In some instances, finished drawings are under way.

#### DEMOCRATS

The smartest Democrat in these parts has joined the Armed Forces - Tom Mahar. He is good natured, gets along very well with his Republican friends in the Board of Supervisors and would make a good leader. Mrs. Mahar who took his place on the Board is a very gracious woman and everyone likes her. If this outfit ever expects to get any place, the sooner they put in someone like Tom, the better off they will be. I was going to call it the Democratic Organization but that would be a misnomer.

#### REPUBLICANS

Gradually the picture is developing, although parts of it are still hazy. Bontecou in one corner, Judge Flannery and Len Supple in another, the Gardner-Grubb combination in still another; Van de Water, who is in very solid with the Board of Supervisors is watching the antics in the other three corners. How it will terminate, I do not know. Of course, the Gardner-Grubb concern is getting along in years; Bontecou does not seem to have the magic touch which welds an organization together but at present, as the Irishman said, "He is making a pretty good fist of it". Flannery could have had it long ago and may decide to take over. The tail wagged the dog from Millerton for a great many years so the leader does not have to be a resident of the City of Poughkeepsie.

#### REFORMERS

The County G.O.P. much to its horror has discovered a reformer in the midst of the Board of Supervisors. A regular "sterling citizen" type! Not only does he want public hearings on the budget but he gives a copy of his resolutions to the press and without benefit of any discussion in caucus. Such heresy is without precedent! I told some of the boys to keep an eye on him because he will probably want to open the Supervisor's meetings with prayer. He will probably figure that a little prayer, applied externally will have to suffice for the present, in view of the fact that he has discovered no evidence of any inward surge of religious uplift. The gentleman is Leland H. Shaw, ex-secretary of the Y.M.C.A. and Republican supervisor from the 6th Ward, habitat of the top drawer Brahmins and Poo-Bahs of the Republican Organization in the City.

MEMORIAL SQUARE

Mr. L. M. Bull, local agent for the North Western Life Insurance Company pushed me into a corner the other day and stated that he would raise \$100,000.00 and would personally donate \$5,000.00 if the City and the Government could get together and build a combination Municipal Building and Auditorium opposite the Post Office. He did not know just how to go about it. Neither did I. So I am still groping around.

THE OLD POST OFFICE

Both Democratic and Republican members of the Board of Supervisors have worked in unison to purchase this building and site for Dutchess County for \$40,000.00. I hesitate to enter this picture but if the Government does not accept the offer and wants to do business I am convinced that one of our local banks will double the offer and probably go even better than that. They asked me about the status quo last week but I told them that I was not familiar with any phase of the present situation, which is the truth. Nor do I want to spoil any arrangements that have been made or may be made in regard to the present offer.

POLITICAL TRENDS

There is an uneasy ground swell among the people which is hard to explain. The people and the press seem to dwell more upon the confusion in Washington and do not seem to pay much attention to the achievements of the Administration and the Armed Forces. Of course, my personal opinion is that the type of favorable publicity which was given to many progressive measures in the past has deteriorated to such an extent that it is practically non-existent. In short, a very potent weapon has been cast aside and the opposition is going to cash in by playing up domestic trials and tribulations no matter how trivial. The next presidential race is going to be a close one. It is a case of "fifty-fifty" and take your choice, the way I look at it. Dewey is going to be a hard man to beat because he has played his cards extremely well. I have watched him for over a year. At the same time he has his vulnerable points, none of which has been brought to anyone's attention. If they don't know where to look, they certainly do not know what they will find.

The National Democratic Administration should enlighten the people of the great danger they were in after the Japs struck Pearl Harbor; the job which has been done to pro-

May 9, 1944

tect the United States and to win the war; to harp on these two subjects. If the people are not informed about these gigantic achievements, Mr. Hannegan has a job on his hands.

GRANGERS

I see that Pomona deplores the ejection of Mr. Avery as the "worst blow at our liberties since 1776". Naturally, they did not stop to think that after the W.L.B. was created it had to be backed up. They are also "agin" socialized medicine. Committees have been appointed to draw up the necessary resolutions as they are going to do something about these particular items. Pomona is the same position as Leacock's character who mounted his horse and rode off in all directions, but they seem to enjoy it.

HARDY STEEHOLM

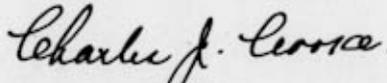
Mrs. Steeholm called this office but unfortunately I was out at the time. Her husband met my oldest boy in England and she has a message for me. The boy wrote and said that he had a long talk about Dutchess County with Commander Steeholm, after he had conducted the Commander's party on a tour of inspection. He did not state what the inspection was or where it happened.

THE BOYS

The older boy is in England; the other is taking a course in New York after arriving home from Natal a few weeks ago. He has a hunch that the Navy will send him to India.

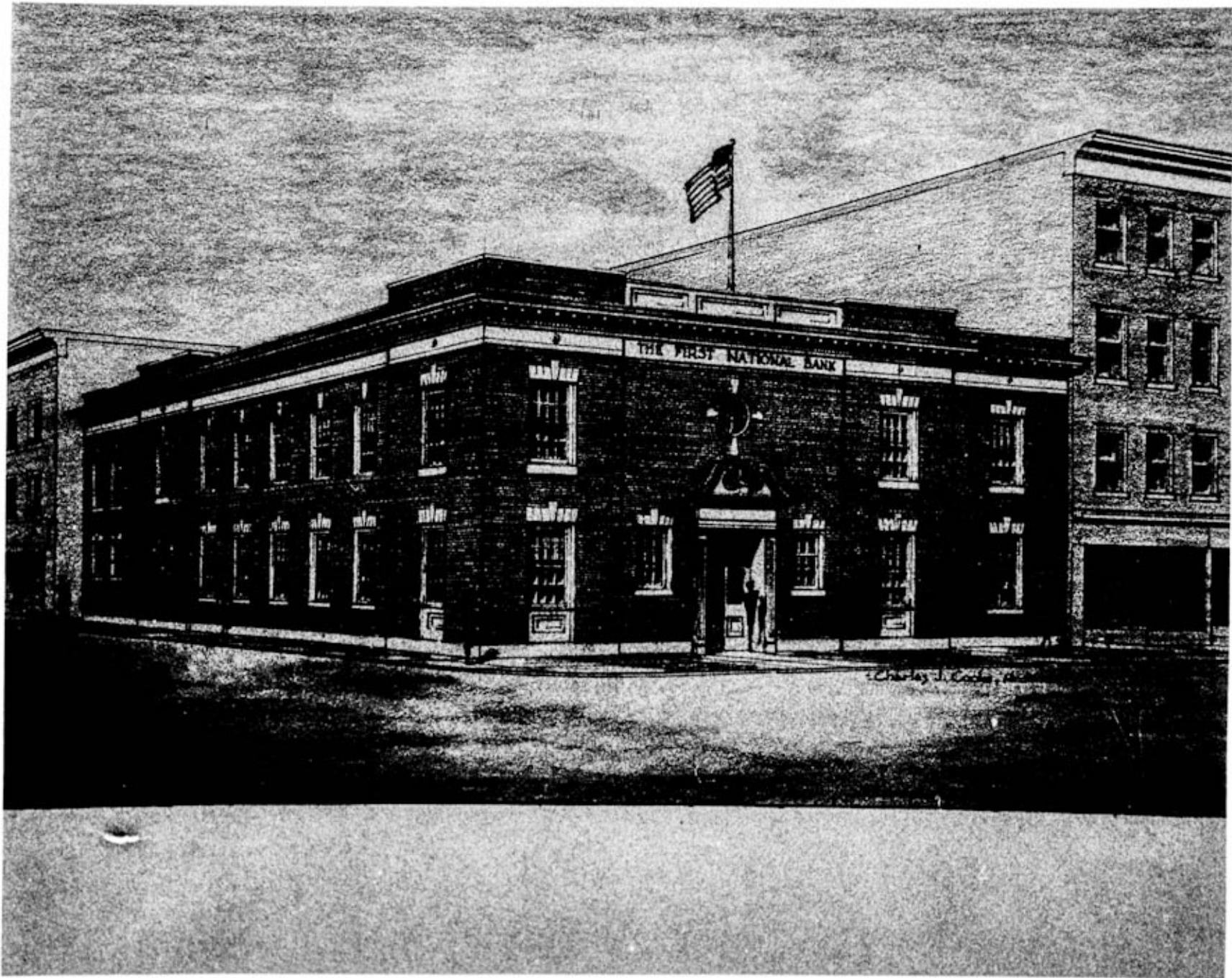
Best wishes for your health and happiness from all the Cookes - also their support.

Very respectfully yours,



Charles J. Cooke

CJC:ALB  
Enclosure



PSP  
Charles Cooke

Ken Corres "C" 3-44

CHARLES J. COOKE  
Architect  
POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.

file

June 2, 1944

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Your letter of May 15th was an event and from the tone of it, you are feeling like your former self. That in itself makes good reading.

Also read in "Time" about the daily schedule of your grandson and got a big "kick" out of it. He must be a live wire from all accounts and a "fine broth of a boy".

In regard to the Old Post Office Building, I am letting matters drift for the next two weeks which will give Frank Walker a little time to present you with the facts, to date. As stated in my previous letter, I am not trying to upset anybody's applecart and, of course, any decision you make is 100% right as far as I am concerned.

The last paragraph of your letter was rather cryptic, but I am mentally looking in three directions and one of them should be the right one.

The local picture has not changed appreciably since my last letter although there seems more favorable impression created by the latest releases from Washington.

Regarding comparison of the reformer with John K. Sague, I cannot help but think that John K. had a pretty good head left after his tail was salted. He was my neighbor for many years and there were no dull moments in those days.

With best wishes for your health and happiness from all of us here, I am

Very respectfully yours,

Charles J. Cooke.  
Charles J. Cooke

CJC:ALB