Franklin D. Roosevelt Library & Museum

Collection: Grace Tully Archive
Series: Grace Tully Papers
Box 4; Folder = Correspondence: Vanderbilt, Cornelius, Jr., 1934-1961 and undated
103 wu or 20 NM

Mr Palm Springs Calif Dec 24-1934.

Miss Paula Tully,
The White House.

Merry Xmas and a whole lot of luck to you and yours and our great Chief during the New Year.

Neil

200 A

Yours Sincerely,

P.S. We have taken a swell house at Lake Arrowhead - 3 hours from Beverly Hills for the summer. Wish you'd come out. We'll save a swell room for you - Neil
Five issues. Believing that you were interested in "FAREWELL TO FIFTH AVENUE", my recent book, which by the way is being filmed by Fox, since it became a best seller, I thought you might be interested in following HIGHLY ELIGIBLE.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

P.S. We have taken a swell bungalow at Lake Arrowhead—3 hours from Beverly Hills for the summer. Wish you'd come out. We'll save a swell room for you—Neil
From Neily Vanderbilt

Wonderful motor trip -

Miss Paula Fully
The White House
Washington D.C.
U.S. America

July 25

P.S. We have taken a swell house at
lake Arrowhead - 3 hours from Beverly
Hills for the summer. Wish you'd
come out. We'll save a swell room
for you - Neil

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by the way is being filmed by Fox, since it became
a best seller, I thought you might be interested
in following HIGHLY ELIGIBLE.

With all good wishes,
Yours sincerely,
From Neilly Vanderbilt

RETURN EN ROUTE
Return reply:
c/o Biltmore Hotel
New York City

White Star Line
M.V. Britannic

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in FAREWELL TO FIFTH AVENUE, my recent book, which
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[Signature]

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From Neelly Vanderbilt

My dear:

HIGHLY Red Boot is five is FA.tTE by the best. 

five is interested in PAGE HIGHly Eligible.

With all good wishes,
Yours sincerely,

P.S. We have taken a small house at Lake Arrowhead—3 hours from Beverly Hills for the summer. Wish you'd come out. We'll save a swell room for you—Neely.
From Neily Vanderbilt

HIGH
Red f
five
in F.
by t
a be
in f

HAPPY days! and lonely
night! NeIl
Miss Paula Tully
The White House DC

With all good wishes,
Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

P.S. We have taken a swell house at
Lake Arrowhead - 3 hours from Beverly
Hills for the summer. Wish you'd
come out. We'll save a swell room
for you - Neil
April 30, 1935

My dear Paula Tully:

HIGHLY ELIGIBLE, my latest novel, will appear in Red Book Magazine, out May 5th, and for the next five issues. Believing that you were interested in FAREWELL TO FIFTH AVENUE, my recent book, which by the way is being filmed by Fox, since it became a best seller, I thought you might be interested in following HIGHLY ELIGIBLE.

With all good wishes,
Yours sincerely,

Ps. We have taken a swell house at Lake Arrowhead—3 hours from Beverly Hills for the summer. Wish you'd come out. We'll save a swell room for you—Neil
January 6, 1943

Dear Neil:

Thank you for your note. As you probably know, the President was extremely busy Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, so it was not possible for him to go out to Walter Reed. However, I understand that Mrs. Roosevelt called on you and found you feeling somewhat improved.

This takes to you every good wish for the New Year and I hope that you will soon be feeling quite well again.

Very sincerely yours,

GRACE C. TULLY

Major Cornelius Vanderbilt,
Walter Reed Hospital,
Washington, D.C.
Dec 18-1942

Dear Grace Tully,

You have probably thought of this by now— but I wish F.D. could come out here Christmas eve or Christmas Day. The men would go wild and it would put new pep into them—

and if he could call on dear old P.

Pershing too it would help lots. I see quite a bit of the General. He sometimes in to see me every now and then, and we discuss the

Hope of the war.
I understand I shall be here for a while - some sort of nervous breakdown due to over-exitation of the heart. So sometime later on — in January — when they allow me visitors I will pop in some Sunday afternoon, or any evening between 7 and 9.

God bless you. Have a merry Christmas. Take good care of the only man who really counts in all the world any more — as I know you will.

As always —

Neil Vandeventer
(Maj. Gen.)

P.S. Brother will be at the Carlton Sunday P.M. Monday + Tuesday. Do you think you old rascal a tea at the White House with me? F.D.R. Brother is still in mourning for Ester.
February 23, 1943.

Dear Neil:

Thank you for your note and also for your card. I am indeed sorry to hear that you have coronary thrombosis. However, with the proper amount of rest and not going at things too hard, I am sure you will come around all right. I am glad you are enjoying your stay at Lake Placid.

Do take care of yourself and I look forward to seeing you when you get back to Washington.

Always sincerely,

Grace

Major Cornelius Vanderbilt,
Lake Placid Club,
Lake Placid, New York.
Dear Dear Tully,

Your letter cheered me. I have been very, very bad news. I’ve got “coronary thrombosis” the same illness which killed my Dad – and the hospital [illegible] is [illegible] about 6 to 8 weeks from now. It’s tough to return in the middle of our biggest war.

Yours as always,

Neil V.
July 9, 1943.

Dear Neil:

Ever so many thanks for the subscription to "Script". I know I shall enjoy it and I much appreciate your thought of me.

I do hope you are feeling fit again. I am sorry I did not have a chance to see you while you were at Walter Reed. Please let me know if you are going to be in Washington any time soon.

With kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Grace G. Tully
Private Secretary

Major Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr.
640 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.
Miss Grace Tully,  
The White House,  
Washington, D.C.

I've been doing quite a bit of 'undercover work' for J Edgar Hoover again, and I get along splendidly with all of his brilliant, up-to-the-minute outfit. If I did do anything - along any of these lines, I'd like later on to ask the President to have me transferred to his Dept again.

Mother also thinks I ought to ask the President to appoint me as an Ambassador somewhere. She thinks I should have the same opportunity to prove myself as Tony Biddle or Bill Bullitt. And now that - due to Father's death I have the income to support it, she thinks I ought to have either the Army colonelcy or the diplomatic post, for my record.

I am mentioning these things to you as I thought perhaps sometime you could take them up with FD.

For my own part I am trying to buy a natl magazine and to turn it into a liberal publication. I am also trying to get a natl column going on a wide scale, in order to be of service in 1944 to the President. I have already been signed up for LECTURES in the fall as I had been doing in the years prior to the war; only this time on a far larger scale (if Walter Reed will permit, after their fall exam of my heart); and I am working toward an advertising connection with an established and rather well known firm.

(over)
Miss Grace Tully,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Tully:

Beginning with the issue of June 26, you will receive Script as the gift of Major Cornelius Vanderbilt.

Kindly notify us if there is any error in your name or address as used above.

Sincerely,

Ann Mason
Circulation

I am working toward an advertising connection with an established and rather well known firm.

(over)
Reed had had me retired because of Angina, etc.

This is all awfully difficult for me to handle with Mother. She keeps thinking of Father's splendid war record, etc. I had Volunteered in World War I, and served overseas as a Private. Was discharged as a Sergeant 3 months after war was over; and was immediately commissioned 2nd Lt. In 1924 I was elevated to Major, from Capt, 1st Lt etc; and I had remained in the Reserve Corps for 23 yrs in this grade.

Mother still thinks now that I am well again that I should 'do my duty' and ask the President to re commission me. - It is difficult to live for our families isn't it?

I've been doing quite a bit of 'undercover work' for J Edgar Hoover again, and I get along splendidly with all of his brilliant, up to the minute outfit. If I did do anything - along any of these lines, I'd like later on to ask the President to have me transferred to his Dept again.

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(over)
But I realize that health comes first.

Have had 8 teeth removed out here, also more than 2 inches of jawbone (still a result of being gassed in the last war); and am living up to the very letter of the law as set by Walter Reed after my Angina there last winter (19 weeks in bed).

This is a long letter. Forgive me. But I do want YOU and the President to know there is practically nothing I would not do for you; and I hope that if and when I can be of service to the President in any further fashion, you'll let me know.

I think it is disastrous to permit the Gullion Army crowd still to spread dissen
tation in the ranks; and to be a part toward causing these racial dis-
turbances. Personally I feel that that is as much a part of treachery, as the work done by the Bundists and the Fascists themselves.

But I am only one small voice - crying out in the wilderness, and they and their financial cohorts are the world.

I do hope this finds you in good health. Write me when you have a moment,

Yours as always,

[Signature]
Dear Grace Tully,

1307 S Virginia St
Reno, Nevada
July 15, 1943

Thanks so much for your good letter of July 9th. I took a bachelor apt at the Shoreham, as of July 1st, and expect to hold onto it all summer, fall and winter. Had rather hoped being there the end of this month, off and on in August and September. Will let you know definite dates later.

Dined with Mrs. Roosevelt out at the Tumbling DW Ranch in Franktown, the other day. She looks well, has secured a good rest, and seemed to me to be more charming than ever. She made a splendid impression in Nevada, which due to the unfortunate influence of Pat McCarran has become increasingly anti-New-Deal of late. In fact I think it was a well thing that Mrs. F.D. came here, as you will note in my next script column.

I have been out here nearly 2 months now - and feel 100% better. The air, the quiet life, the deep sage have all done me a world of good. My troubles, which are as nothing compared to those facing the President, but which concern various people, in and out of the family, seem remote. Morris Ernst's firm in NY, and Sam Platt's firm here, are able, thoroughly, very carefully, legally, and I don't see any reason why they won't be left. I suppose they will belong to lawyers anyway.

My former CO in the 2nd Corps Area is about to receive his BG. He has asked me, to ask the President to recommission me on limited service in the fall, and I discussed this at length with Mrs. Roosevelt. It was her opinion then, that I could do more with my pen, than with my sword, and she advised me not to seek to be recalled.

I suppose you know definite dates later.

Yours sincerely,

MAJOR CORNELIUS VANDERBILT, JR.
August 31, 1943.

Dear Neil:

I did try to reach you while you were at the Shoreham but without success.

I am delighted to know that you are back in the newspaper game again and I have been following your articles with interest.

Do let us know when you are next in Washington.

With all good wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

Grace G. Tully
Private Secretary

As you know for the past twenty-five years I have worked as a newspaperman in all parts of the world and I felt that the next step after my army service was to get into some kind of work which I could be of some further service as well as in the reconstruction period.

Major Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr.
Russell Birdwell and Associates,
30 Rockefeller Plaza,
New York, N. Y.

Russell Birdwell is also an old newspaperman and has had many years of experience in public relations work. He teaches a great number of accounts at the present time, among them Colgate, General Ted, Henry J. Kaiser, United States Rubber, and many other important picture concerns and some important clients.

Do let me know if you need any assistance for your United China Relief.

Very soon. With all good wishes,

CV: EM

MAJOR CORNELLIUS VANDERBILT, JR.
August 6, 1943

Miss Grace Tully
Private Secretary to the President
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Grace Tully:

I shall be at my Shoreham apartment Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of next week and do hope to have a chance to see you. This is just a line to let you know I have recently joined this firm as a public relations counsel. I was retired to the inactive list of the Officer's Reserve Corps by the United States Army on May 28 last, after having spent five months at Walter Reed Army General Hospital in Washington, D.C., suffering with angina pectoris. The Army Retirement Board stated that it would be impossible for me to do any further active military service in this war due to the condition of my heart.

As you know for the past twenty-five years I have worked as a newspaperman in all parts of the world and I felt that the next step after my Army Retirement was to get into some kind of business I understood and in which I could be of some further service in the war effort as well as in the reconstruction period thereafter.

Russell Birdwell is also an old newspaperman and he has had some years of experience in public relations work. He handles a great number of accounts at the present time, among them Celotex, Certain-teed, Henry J. Kaiser, Howard Hughes cargo planes, some motion picture concerns and some foreign governments. He did a magnificent job for "Gone With The Wind" and a most successful job for United China Relief.

I do hope to see you soon. With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

CV: EM

Major Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr.
Dear Grace—

Sorry we missed you at your party last Saturday. I kept my promise — I went to the Broadway show "The Sound of Music," and it was delightful.

I hope you had a fine time. That is the way things are these days. If you're not in New York, you can't get to the Broadway shows. It's about as much fun as eating hay.

I'm not a concert-goer, nor do I particularly like the radio, but I was forced to choose between being a blind man with a dog, and having a cat which reads the morning papers. I decided to have the cat.

I'm going to write you a letter about something else, but I can't do it now. I'm feeling so lousy, I'm not going to write anything at all.

Yours as always,

Neil Vanderbilt

P.S. I hope you had a good time.
My dear 

[Picture of a ship in San Francisco Bay]

Rachel and I are both busy. I'm teaching in N.Y. and Rachel is at home. Our new car is working fine. It's been raining a lot. No snow yet. Isn't it curious how you could live here for many years and then suddenly decide to move? 

So many things at hand. 

Please send 34th Street Avenue. 

Beauvoir Avenue

May 2, 1949

[Handwritten notes below]
My dear Dr. Vanderbilt,

It is nice to hear from you. I was pleased to read your letter last week. I hope your vacation is going well. It is good to hear from you, and I am looking forward to our next meeting. I hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,
Grace Tully

P.S. If you need anything, please let me know.

Bellevue Avenue
Beaumont

Postcard

The card was sent from San Francisco and has a green stamp with a date of Aug 12, 1961.
My dear Cornelia,

This is rather different from what I thought. Believe it or not, I received a phone call from the hotel. The bellboy said he had a letter for you from Beaulieu Avenue. So, I went up to the front desk and saw you.

It was a letter from the hotel.

Yours,
[Handwritten Signature]

347 2nd Ave.

Prentice and 441-48

8-9 a.m. I'll be there as well.

The boat leaves at 7:30.

Beaulieu Avenue

Bellevue Avenue

July 2, 1949
DEAR GRACE -

So many thanks for the present, Kelly out that Rat &
Ruth K. Robinson in N.Y. -

I'm sorry something couldn't be done
quickly or C.E. Laramore. Your

The one who allayed himself

with the full-time crowd in that

Collection: Grace Tully Archive; Series: Grace Tully Papers
Box & Folder = Correspondence: Vanderbilt, Cornelius, Jr., 1934-1961 and undated
I'll behellin' around in the

Sion in Omnes. Shell

TNOHILL

with OJF's Club.

Hyde Parks!

Dan Smith—

Brill K. Robertson in M. I. —

A fine man. And he was still

very much could he done

rely on Ce Laurnas. You

See you later. Shall

at home this and

in the order

Sept 2, 1944
Hi
Papa July

Miss you.

P.S. I have been busy planting rice.
May 26, 1945

Dear Neil:

You were sweet to send me that nice note of sympathy and the very beautiful flowers just after the President's death. I appreciated your thought of me more than I can tell you.

I know how fond you were of the late President and while the country lost a great leader, we lost a very wonderful friend.

I have been following your column at the Security Conference and if, on the way back, you should stop in Washington, get in touch with me.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

GRACE G. TULLY

Cornelius Vanderbilt, Esq.,
NEW YORK POST,
Palace Hotel,
San Francisco,
California.

hs
May 26, 1945

Dear Neil:

You were sweet to send me that nice note of sympathy and the very beautiful flowers just after the President's death. I appreciated your thought of me more than I can tell you.

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With best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

GRACE G. TULLY

Cornelius Vanderbilt, Esq.,
NEW YORK POST,
Palace Hotel,
San Francisco,
California.

hs
With sympathy
and fondest
memories.
Neil

Add:
5-26-45
Hd
DEAR PAULA,

WOULD YOU AND MISS LEHAND TAKE TEA WITH NEIL AND ME AT MAYFLOWER LOUNGE AT FIVE SATURDAY PLEASE ADVISE METROPOLITAN 0135 BEFORE TEN AM=

JACK O'BRIEN

Miss Paula Tully =
HOTEL WILLARD WASHINGTON DC =

Every good wish, Yrs. as always sincerely,

Cornelius Vanderbilt Jr.
Miss Grace Tully
Adm Asst to Sen Johnson
US Senate Office Bldg
Washington DC

Dear Grace Tully:-

CROWN Publ is bringing out my new book MAN OF THE WORLD on Nov 30th. In fact it will actually be off the press two weeks earlier for the book-reviewers and the critics.

TIME Magazine and others may phone you for your opinion on it, since you were so close to FDR for so many many years. I have said that I was an "undercover agent" for him, in his dealings with innumerable foreign potentates over a period of a great many years; and I know you will back me up in this. Of course the book is very favorable to FDR as I wanted it to me; for no one will ever convince me that he did any wrong in his conduct of public office and of foreign affairs.

The publishers are trying to stir up a little controversy on the book, and some of those mentioned therein for whom I was not very flattering are liable to say some unflattering things in rebuttal. But I am hoping you will bear me up on the pleasanter side of the picture.

I honestly believe the book will interest you a great deal, as you figured so much in many of the situations. Incidentally the Taped Radio Interview program you helped me with last spring hasn't been sold yet; but as soon as it is I'll let you know.

Every good wish, Yrs, as always sincerely,

Cornelius Vanderbilt Jr.
Miss Grace Tully

US Senate Office Bldg
Washington DC

My dear Mrs. Vanderbilt,

Thank you very much for your interest in my friend, Mr. Vanderbilt. I have enclosed a copy of his letter to you for your information.

I appreciate your offer to assist him with his travel arrangements. I would like to keep him in touch with you and your family, and I hope you will agree to do so.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if there is anything else I can do for you.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Grace Tully
December 11, 1959

Dear Grace:

CROWN brought out my autobiography MAN OF THE WORLD on November 30th in New York. This is the book you were so helpful in helping me to prepare with refreshing my mind on some of the more interesting and exciting anecdotes in the past. I do hope you like the result. It is a good book to give a friend for the holidays.

Again thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr.

Hon. Grace Tully
% Sen. Lyndon Johnson
The Capitol
Washington, D. C.

P.S. Was a little surprised at your statement to the press the other day that you knew nothing about "the plot to capture FDR." Sure you must have had a reason for this statement. C. V.
Dear Mr. Vanderbilt,

I have just received a wire telling me to withdraw the plans for the contract. We had prepared them and sent them, but as I have repeatedly stated, since I have been involved in this matter, I have not been able to communicate directly with you. The plans are being sent to you immediately.

I understand that you have been working on this project for several weeks and I am sorry to hear that we will have to start over. However, I believe that it is in the best interest of all parties involved to proceed with the project as planned.

I hope that this situation can be resolved without further delay. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Hon. Grace Tully

[Address]

[City, State]
Dear Grace Tully:

I have just sent a wire to Cong Walter Baring (D-Nev) asking him to withdraw my name for the Ambassadorship to Israel. He had proposed me to the Secy of State about 6 weeks ago. He thought I would fill this position well, since I have been there so often in the past several years and because I am a close personal friend of BenGurion, Mme Golda Meir and others; and because the movie I made in Israel in 1958 during the 10th anniversary ceremonies I played in over 230 cities with in 1958-59-60, from the lecture platform.

The reason I asked him to withdraw my name was because I am so involved in business here in Nevada and in Hollywood, Calif, that I did not feel it would be possible for me to do a good job for Uncle Sam if the appointment should come through.

ABC-TV-Films is planning to produce my MAN OF THE WORLD next summer for release in the fall of 1962. They have also bought Upton Sinclair's 14 Lanny Budd books plus his PRESIDENTIAL AGENT. They will twin them into a one-hour show, and have signed with my agent in Hollywood for from 13 to 78 shows. In addition I am involved in a very complicated business deal under the name of Vanderbilt Industries here in Nevada and in 11 other western states. We represent Kaiser Aluminum, International Tel & Tel, US Steel, Burndy, Airelso, Pepco and a great number of other concerns in the missile business. Added to this I am Chrm of the Board of Vanderbilt Enterprises which is engaged in TV, radio, newspaper and other work in the far west. And added to these concerns I am involved in the building of a very large spa-type hotel.

I thought perhaps the Vice-president would like to know also why I withdrew, and I know at his convenience you will tell him. If the above had already been accomplished I should have been greatly honored to accept the job in ISRAEL, but my very nature would prevent it right now, for I feel I couldn't do a good job if it was offered.

Yrs sincerely,
Aug 30, 1961

Dear Grace Tully,

Mr Kennedy is entirely right in present controversy re the BERLIN CRISIS, and Mr Nixon is wrong.

I say this advisedly after spending 10 days in Berlin and after talking with Germans all over the Western Zones; also after talking with US troop commanders everywhere.

The US is actually ready for anything in Berlin or in Western Germany; but Grace the US troops in Berlin should be equipped with the latest weapons and not some of the antiquated stuff they have there now. This is a sort of outrage. -- I guess a reason for it is that the US Troops in Berlin are more in the nature of a Police Force. They have been taught RIOT DUTY in case rioting breaks out; and I suppose the reason they have such poor weapons is that they were never expected to have anything more powerful than police weapons. But this is untrue. They ought to have the best.

I am glad the President is sending Gen Clay back to Berlin. We need him there, as the people respect him highly.

Too bad the Pres can take sides in the Near East. The ISRAELIS are the only people out here who are really doing anything in the Near East. ISRAEL is as modern as tomorrow. The rest of the Near East, except in a few capital cities is still living in Biblical days.

My lecture season starts in Chicago on Oct 11th, but I'm hoping to come to Wash before; and if so I'd like to talk to Mr Johnson, if he isn't too busy to see me. He has made a great name to himself in recent months and has shown he has the 'intestinal fortitude' for
anything the President wants done.

The biggest thing that could be done right now for the peace of the world, would be for JFK to himself come to Berlin, before the end of September and for him to invite "Mr K" to meet him there. If "Mr K" turned him down JFK would become overnight the most important man in the world. If he met him there the international picture would immediately revert to the USA, and not to the USSR.

You'll ask me what I think about Nixon's attack on the President, and his policies. I think it is entirely Nixonian, and too petty to even discuss. I think Nixon thinks this is a good time to hit below the belt, for this is the only way that Nixon knows how to fight; but Mr Nixon will soon find out how wrong he is; and I personally feel his below-the-belt strategy will elect Pat Brown Governor, so perhaps its just as well to let that little flea get in his innings, now.

Mail will catch me at the Amer Exp in Geneva until Sept 12th; then Amer Exp in Berlin. Incidentally we have some damn good men in Europe now; among them Lawrence Levy, Minister to the NATO group in Paris. He is a dedicated public servant, and is doing a helluva job - undercover.

All the best, As always,

Cornelius Vanderbilt Jr
Mrs. Breedlove,

Merry Christmas and the best wishes for

With kindest thoughts,

GREETINGS
Scary to have to run off so hurriedly but Mt. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Tenn.

Thanks again.

Neil
"THE SAME TO YOU"

NEIL VANDERBILT