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John to Jim, 7 September 1962

J. Oliver Emmerich

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ENTERPRISE-JOURNAL

MCCOMB, MISSISSIPPI

September 7, 1962

JOHN EMMERICH
MANAGING EDITOR

Dr. James Silver
History Department
University of Mississippi
University, Mississippi

Dear Jim:

The time I spent at Harvard has put me in an academic frame of mind, and I have been thinking of taking a graduate course or two at the University of Southern Mississippi, which is fairly close.

That possibility leads me to wonder if it is possible to get my graduate credit reinstated in any manner at the University of Mississippi. As you recall, I completed 21 graduate hours in history. I would rather like to finish it up--either at Ole Miss or at Southern--if it is practical.

Naturally, I can't spend a great deal of time away from my job here--perhaps six weeks in the summer or something like that, in addition to work here.

I know you're not the graduate school, but perhaps you could advise me.

If you ask me why I want to do the work (as you once did), the answer is that it would be a constructive way to spend some time that otherwise I probably would waste. Then, too, I like the academic life, and this would be one way of keeping in contact with the campus. Who knows, I may want to be a teacher some day.

Getting on to other things, I don't have to tell you that those months I spent at Harvard were about the greatest of my life. What a place! It spoiled me for anywhere else.

For the past few months I've been trying to concentrate on getting back to work here--but I seem to be having a hard time doing it. I've decided that being a Nieman Fellow at Harvard has it all over working for a living.

JS
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Your son Bill probably told you that we saw each other from time to time. He was nice enough to invite me to a rather expansive dinner at the Hasty Pudding Club, which I enjoyed a great deal. He certainly is a bright and impressive person. I like him.

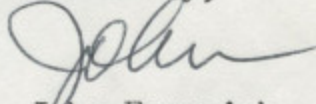
While at Harvard I did most of my work--if you can call the informal sort of program we followed that-- in the history department. Mostly American history, but also some Russian, Far Eastern and Latin American courses.

Ah, but that's all behind me now--a wonderful memory. And I'm here in McComb writing about the Pike County Board of Supervisors and the P.T.A. If I sound cynical, I suppose it's an occupational hazard of which you are well aware.

This letter presupposes that you are at Oxford, which you're probably not, considering the way you skip off during the summers.

Best regards to your family, including your daughter at Wellesley who unfortunately I didn't get to meet.

Cordially,



John Emmerich

JOE:bmb