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Letter from Foss Ellard to Pauline Smith; November 08, 1941

Jack Foster Ellard

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

J. F. Ellard
Laurel, Miss

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

from Foss

Mrs. S. E. Smith
Pittsboro, Miss



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UNITED STATES
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Friday Night.

Mrs. S. . . Smith
Pittsboro, Miss

Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Ellard
Pittsboro, Miss

Well things have broken pretty well for me for the past week. I got a nice suit from Allen yesterday; brought it home and before I could get my hat off the kids had to see me in it. I put it on and it fit like it was ordered for me. I dont know who was happiest over it, the kids, Deloris or, as old man Jim Johnson used to say, "Myself". I have planned to go out to church Sunday and rededicate my self in the work of the Lord. You know with lots of people, it takes misfortune, hard luck or some sort of adversity to bring them to a realization of their unfaithfulness to the Almighty, but not me, I have been fartherest away during those time. But I had not started out to talk about that; today Pauline sent me my overcoat and a pair of "Trousers" as Wrenie Griffin would say, all cleaned up and the very last thing in the way of a complete wardrobe for me, since K. C. had brought me a pair of shoes and a hat on her visit down last week end. I guess if one of you had died last week I would have had to attend your funeral by proxy, for I would have been afraid you would have turned over in your casket if you had seen how I was dressed. When I got in tonight I found a letter from the Civil Service Commission, telling me that I had been given a rating of 78.34 on my examination for the job as Safety Inspector, and that I was fifth on the list. So I guess Bless did not give me such a bad report as I was afraid he would. I think the Camp Supt here gave me a good testimonial, but he could only say he had known me and my work for 4 months, and you know I was with Byars for three years. I really look for an offer for appointment, and of course if it is good enough I would take it. With as many places of this kind as they use ins actors on and with only five, or I should say four names ahead of me, it is possible that an early offer might be forthcoming. I am glad to be eligible, as it is quite possible that there might be further reduction in the supervisory employees for obvious reasons, and as long as the Defense Program is operating there will be a need for Safety Inspectors around the Ship Yards, Munitions plants, and everywhere that the Government is doing any public construction. In addition to this, the CCC, Nys, and the WPA each have Inspectors, and all of them are well paid men. So it is just a little more feeling of security to know that I am eligible for another place in the event something went wrong with the G's.

I am so glad the Chris got the job as interviewer. She is adapted to that kind of work and I know will make good with it. You know Pauline that I wanted you all to send her on to New Orleans to take the course when she was offered a place to take the course last year. I am glad too that Vick likes the G-Man work, and hope that he is going to be able to hold it right along. In fact, I think that we are all getting along very admirably, all working, and that sort of thing. I thing the lord has been mighty good

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and I am by no means unmindful of His blessings. I know you are not. It is likely that there are those right in your midst Pauline who are not as happy over it all as some neighbors might be, but that does not make me at all unhappy.

I really like my work here a lot, and as I told Deloris tonight, I felt just like Brad Murhprey did when he drew his money out of John Williams' bank, "It is Heapy More Pleasnter" than I thought it would be. My boss is a very nervous sort of fellow; and shows lots of partiality among the Foremen, but he is alright with me, and I like it more and more all the time and am almost my own boss, tho I am getting the job done as best I know how.

The kids like it here fine and I guess all are getting along fine in school as they were all on the honor Roll the past month, and they think we are doing good evidently, for yesterday Alfred ask me for some money to take to school said they were getting up some money for the Poor Children and he had to take some. I had only one nickle in the world, but I gave it to him for I want him to think that we are doing something to help the unfortunate.

Pauline, I lost my family Tree in moving unless I left it in the house when we moved and some of you found it. If you did I wish you would send it to me. I wrote Chess some time ago to see if it was around the old house over there or, to ask you about it, but he never wrote me so dont know what he found out about it.

Allen did you think to ask some of the fellows with the Highway Dept for a map of Jones County? If you cant get one without paying for it get me one, but it is not of sufficient importance to buy.

We got our heaters connected monday of this week and have sure enjoyed using them for it has been right cool here for the past two or three days. I picked up a fellow around the corner to do the work and at a considerable savings.

K. C. I hope you have had word from John Allen that he has landed safely. Teeny told me the other afternoon that another ship had been sunk, and wanted to know the name of the one that Allen Jr was on. She listens to the war news and keeps up with what is going on. It looks like the Russians have slowed Hitler down for the time being.

You all write us again and come and see us when y u can. Thanks again for the nice service. Deloris and the kids send love to all.

Foss