

Levi Pennington

People

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9-15-1965

## Levi Pennington To Dr. Burt Brown Barker, September 15, 1965

Levi T. Pennington  
*George Fox University*

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September 15, 1965.

Dr. Burt Brown Barker,  
3438 S. W. Brentwood Drive,  
Portland, Oregon.  
97201.

Dear Dr. Barker:--

That letter which you wrote me six days before my birthday should have had a speedy reply, for it was very much appreciated. But two days after you wrote it a cousin and his wife arrived to be my guest till the evening of the 29th; the next day a niece arrived, from Detroit, Michigan, rather than from California, the home of the cousins; then came my younger daughter and her husband and two daughters; and my older daughter and her husband had been here from New York most of the time since July 1. We really had a houseful. And after the birthday celebration was over and everybody had gone home, I had to be out of the state for a good while, and not till today have I had a chance to get at the letters that had been piling up.

I did get a good many greetings from many parts of the United States and from across two oceans. But your letter is in a class by itself. With all the company I had, you may be sure that I was not the only one to enjoy it.

It was a pleasure to see how much Herbert Hoover, Jr., enjoyed his personally conducted tour of the Minthorn House. I am glad that he has consented to be a member of the Herbert Hoover Foundation, though I do not expect that his attendance at the meetings will be regular. My guess is that he will give you a permanent proxy, to cast his vote any time that he is not present.

That first love letter of Herbert Hoover is hanging in the Minthorn House, and maybe it is safe enough, for it would be difficult for a thief to handle it. When I think of the prices that are sometimes paid for things of not one tenth the interest that this letter would have for a collector, I'm sure that there are men who would pay thousands of dollars for this, and it would take more than four figures east of the dollar sign and west of the decimal point to write the price that some collector would pay for this item. For it is absolutely unique and irreplaceable. If it could be disposed of as readily as a diamond that was just big and fine without being famous, I'd think that this letter ought to be kept in the safest safe in Oregon, and only a photograph of it put on display.

The loss of the bed on which the boy Hoover slept would be a loss that could not be well expressed in money terms; but this love letter is a part of the boy Hoover himself. If the Hoover-Minthorn House should catch fire, that letter would be the first thing I'd try to save.

With gratitude for that unique and delightful letter,  
and with best wishes always,

Sincerely your friend,