

BAKER UNIVERSITY
BALDWIN, KANSAS

310 Christopher
Warrensburg, Mo.

June 17, 1939

Dear Miss Tarbell;

You must have received a little telepathic message with my letter, for I did waⁿt at least a little personal note from you . So you see, I was mighty happy when your kind letter came. And I am proud of my autographed copy of your book.

Your reference to my book on Mr. Nelson especially interested me. And because I truly appreciate your kindness, I am sending you an autographed copy of the book with my compliments. I grew up on the Kansas City Star, and when time came to decide on a thesis subject for my Master's at Northwestern, I insisted on working on Mr. Nelson. I had to fight every inch of my way to get material. His friends wouldn't discuss him freely; his enemies still had not forgiven him. The Star's staff did not take kindly to the idea of a woman writing a biography of Nelson. To them it was a man's job. And I suppose I made the mistake of doing the biography too soon, for the publisher told me that the book distributors told him that Kansas City people did not waⁿt to read about Nelson. They had had too much of his domination. So my first book has not been generously received. But I wouldn't have missed the experiences.

I have found your book fascinating. It is the best text book on interviewing that I have ever found, and I expect to use it in my reporting class next year. And that reminds me. If I could have the good fortune to interview you, one question which I should ask would be this: What advice would you give to young women entering the journalism field? I should like to take that advice back to my young women students next fall.

I was especially interested in your mention of the Lincoln papers which will not be open till 1947. I was refused the use of them in the Congressional library once, and since then I have assured myself that I shall see those papers when they are available.

At the end of your book you mention the three most puzzling questions which you hoped to solve, but didn't. Mine are Peace and man's power to control his own life. I hope to find some dependable answers to them, but in the end, I suppose they will prove to be as elusive as yours.

I do sincerely appreciate your kindness.

Icie F. Johnson
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