Interview with ~~Janet~~ Gertrude Chandler - O.D.Y's private financial secretary also social secretary for Mrs. O.D.Y. Intimate with family

Miss C. dined with me at Arts Club last night at 6:15. 12/13 '30 - She was represented to me as a Vermont schoolteacher.- very proper This is Case's interpretation. She looked the part in the office but away at dinner I found she could use the office vernacular with skill and enjoyed it. Has few illusions I imagine - adores Y. No little elated by finding herself in so great company. She handles accounts for all his private affairs - charities included and frets no little because he spends so much money. Says at the present time that she is cutting down on the small charities where she can without consulting Y. She is strong on his "constructive" side. If I should explain him, she said it in a word, I should call him a "constructive." If he wants to get there, pointing to the middle of the table, and was to start here, (in front of Katie) he takes the straightest line possible, cuts through the underbrush, does not side track sd by small interferences, problems. If a big problem looms up he stops and handles that until ~~as long as is necessary~~. He solves it - he rarely leaves anything half-solved. When a thing is done it is done and he moves on to the point he has in mind - 'constructive' that is what I call him. ~~Miss~~ Chandler C. repeats this with emphasis on each syllable, frequently in our talk.

But I get a good many lights and some facts on Y. in our three hours chat. In this matter of his charities he is concerned with 'constructive' ends, by which she means that it is undertakings which will prevent disaster. He is sympathetic with

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the old and the down and out but chiefly interested in youth - to training and placing them that they will never be down and out. She says it is he that is building the new dormitory at St. Lawrence, although this is not announced. He is interested in an International House I think in connection with the University of Pennsylvania. His projects are largely educational.

I speak of this fact that all through the material that I have gathered there seems to run an interest in youth and their training. She says that he has always been deeply interested in the test of boys at Schenectady. Three years ago, she thinks it is, a delegation of these boys came down to her and said, "We can't go home for Christmas, but we are going to have a dinner on Christmas night and we do want Mr. Young to come and talk to us." She said that it was the rule of the office then that he was not to speak for anybody - it would have swamped him if he had consented to fill anything like the demands - if he did for one he must for another. It was against the rule, but she considered it an exception and so asked Mr. Y. to see the boy - a fine, eager young enthuasist. Y. said bring him in and the boy came out walking on air. Mr. Young had said he would go, would come down from V.H. in the afternoon and be at their Christmas night dinner.

She says he was greatly interested in getting ready to talk to them. He owns it seems the last message of Custer to his relief (Look this up) Has a bullet hole through it. He decided to have copies of that made for the boys as souvenirs and to make his speech around it. I think it would be a fine idea

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Chandler Interview (Continued)

if we could get a copy of this document as well as the speech if he wrote it, or at least the outline he had in mind. She said it was a pleasure to see Y's. interest in preparing for the boys. He went to V.H. but then came the tragedy-there I think, but I do not know of the death of C.Y's. wife, and the complete collapse of the boy, so the speech was never made.

The admiration of the test boys for Mr. Young and the way they hold on to what they hear him say or what is reported to be having said, I ran across often in Schenectady. One gets an interesting family life from Miss C's. talk. The Youngs are very close to one another, rather jealous of outside intrusion, I should fancy. They do not take part in general New York society. Miss C. says when I asked how they escape it that if you refuse invitations often enough they cease to come, which I take is what has happened in the Y. household. But she says there are many necessary demands. The business dinners cannot be shirked. They are loyal to their friends - go to the weddings of young people - yield to the requests of friends - as Mrs. Y. going to a tea for her friend who said, "I need you." She gives me some notion of their plant. The Park Avenue apartment is made up of four floors - how large this is I do not know. Then there is the Riverside House and V.H.

She gives me a new idea about V.H. The building there did not begin until after young John's death. He was there and the family wanted to be near him. She thinks this the motive behind the improvement of the town - the building of the young

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Chandler Interview (Continued)

Elmira Gazette and Herald pencil - good humor -
first rapid flow - Laboring God knows

people's houses.

She says as anyone can see that the plant and the school, etc., has been enormously expensive. It was done by day's work without proper supervision according to her, but I imagine that that is one of the ways Y. got his pleasure. The patient considered hand work of the natives but she is disapproving, thinks that the V.H. farm must be got on a paying basis and that it can be. Says that Y. is taking an interest in the scientific handling of the whole plant.

She thinks that V.H. and she is no doubt right - is one of the outlets, or rather relaxations, for Y. Says that here he is not only interested in what is going on but that he can walk - walking seems to be his favorite exercise. She says that he goes off by himself for miles across the hills - thinking, she says - enjoying himself, resting, I expect.

She tells me what I have not heard that he likes fishing, or at least sitting in a boat and that at Riverside he has a small motor boat which is run by the chauffeur. Not a fancy one, she says, but one that it does not hurt to run on a rock and he will go off for hours by himself. Of course he rarely catches anything, she says. He enjoys it - gets a rest. He has a capacity for sleeping when a thing is done. Tells of his coming at one crises within recent years to Riverside, after days and nights of intense work - great circles under his eyes. Threw himself on the couch in the living room and slept until he was called to dinner. After

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dinner went to bed and slept until noon the next day and came out a new man. She says that he will do this, because he has the power when he is through with a thing of putting it entirely away. She thinks he can do this largely because ~~when the thing is finished for him~~ he doesn't let go until he believes he has got a sound solution.

She like all the rest of them are impressed by his power of deliberate handling of problems. No nervous jumping of mind - no irritated fussing but quietly meditating on them. She comments, as others have to me, on his evident grasp of all the factors in a problem. Says she will take a statement, an account, thinks she has everything in and he will look up and say, "Well, how about this?" Something I had entirely forgotten. Case's comment was something like that, that when a problem was brought to him he would go entirely outside of what Case seems to ~~think~~ were the essential factors and start from something quite remote but which proved to have an essential relation.

She is interesting on Y. as a collector of books and manuscripts. She was with them in London at the time of the Conference of Bankers after the Dawes Commission. Think this was four years ago. (Verify) She says that none of the negotiations have been more trying than those at London. That Y. and all the rest were worn out after their days' work.

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He walks a good deal by himself and she thinks it was in wandering about that he stumbled on Spencer's (See anecdote in box S.N.C. given by Dr. Samuel Lamberton) It was here that Y. became absorbed in collecting, an old passion, of his, I take it. Miss C. says that he found that he could get his problems and by spending a certain time in the bookshop, Spencer gave him a corner by himself, he came out rested. She tells me that his collections follow the line of English literature, that he has early editions of Chaucer Shakespeare folios, a pretty full collection of Kipling, many manuscripts. These are at the Park Avenue house. Miss C. says that Y. spends much time reading and familiarizing himself with his treasures. She intimates that they are very valuable.

The group of family friends seems to be intimate - a kind of villagers groups. These intimates are Judge and Mrs. Appleton - the Bowers of Utica - he is a manufacturer of furniture - the Adlers and the Youngs. Says that Judge Appleton is one of the most intimate and delightful of Y's. friends.

I ask her about his story telling qualities. Says that he likes to tell jokes on himself. At one time he had a group of distinguished visitors at V.H. and was showing them the fireplace in the schoolhouse, telling them how wonderfully it burned and that it was made purely by the local men - the fire was laid and he put a match to it. The room was then filled with smoke and of course he was the butt of their jokes. He called a

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workmen from outside ~~said the fire had burned for him before~~ and the man said if you will pull the damper, Mr. Young, it will be all right. And it was.

Says that sometimes in very intimate circles he speaks freely of the experiences with the Foreign Commissions, but that this is of course entirely confidential and they are all very careful not to repeat anything that he says, lest there be misapprehension and injury. This of course is proper.

I take it that Mrs. Young has all of the reticences and withdrawals of the New England women of her class. Not free like the most-cultivated types, perhaps, but a fine type of the college woman. Miss C. intimates that the reason that she left St. Lawrence and went to Radcliffe was that Mr. Y. had gone to Boston to law school and she wanted to be near him.

We talk of the various stories about the way she was financed in going to college. Says that Grandmother Young resents the idea that they borrowed money. This must be cleared up because there are many versions as of Homer's birthplace. She speaks of Dr. Harvey ~~and that she~~ Sayre thinks that it was his offer to lend money, if they could not get it in any other way, that finally convinced the Youngs. Think this is a little doubtful. What seems to be the case was, that the father and mother were stirred by the boy's desire - the conviction that they could not make a farmer out of him. They were influenced no doubt too, by the way young Owen impressed Dr. Harvey, who had come to V.H. to preach.

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They made up their minds like the fine creatures they were that a way must be found. It was largely the determination of the mother, I fancy, that a way was found.

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