

SECURITY NATIONAL BANK
SAVINGS AND TRUST COMPANY

EIGHTH STREET BETWEEN OLIVE AND LOCUST.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

April 23, 1940.

J. LIONBERGER DAVIS
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

PERSONAL!

Mr. F. W. Lovejoy,
Eastman Kodak Company,
Rochester, New York.

Dear Mr. Lovejoy:

In reply to your letter of April 18, 1940, I am giving you
herein a few recollections and impressions of the late George Eastman, whom my
wife and I met for the first time just twenty years ago this month.

In April, 1920, Mr. Eastman and Dr. Mulligan were members
of a party of about forty Americans, of whom my wife and I were two others, who
went to Japan as the guests of a group of liberal Japanese statesmen and business
men, who were intensely interested in bringing about a better understanding bet-
ween Japan and the United States. During the years which followed our trip to
the Far East we saw Mr. Eastman from time to time, usually in his home in Rochester,
the last time only three months before his death.

Two qualities of Mr. Eastman's character impressed me most -
his great modesty and simplicity and his strong convictions and tenacity of purpose.
He had also a sense of humor which added spice to the sweetness of his friendship.

Two incidents during the 1920 trip stand out especially. When
it was proposed that the group should make a public statement of their opinion on
American-Japanese relations, his conviction that a joint statement would be unwise
could not be shaken by plausible persuasion.

On the return voyage it was necessary to take a small ship
with limited accommodations and the stateroom assigned to Mr. Eastman and Dr.
Mulligan was a very small one in a companionway in which the other room was occupied
by my wife and me. When it was discovered that so small a room had been given
Mr. Eastman he was offered a larger one by the Captain, but Mr. Eastman refused to
inconvenience any one and retained the small room during the entire crossing of the
Pacific. The companionway was named "Mulligan Alley;" and there after dinner each
evening the four of us, who lived in the "alley," repaired for a glass of cordial
which Mr. Eastman dispensed in glasses hung in the netting of a clothes rack above
one of the bunks. I can see him yet in his little black cap looking like a
chemist as he took down the glasses and filled them with liquid cheer.

During several visits with him in Rochester in later years
I came to understand his deep interest in people, his joy in the finer things of
life and his strong desire to share with others the delight of good music and the
opportunities for education and research. I sensed his feeling of loneliness
which apparently made him cultivate the simple, friendly contacts which he had
with those who were disinterestedly his personal friends. His loyalty to those
whom he trusted and his spirit of helpfulness endeared him to those who had the

Colonel Robert
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Davis J. Lionberger

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privilege of knowing him.

I recall two revealing experiences: one told me by a city planning engineer who had prepared a plan for Rochester and the other told by Mr. Eastman when the School of Music was being built. The plan for the city recommended that a certain block be included which was being held at a very high price by its owner. After satisfying himself that the block should be made a part of the plan, Mr. Eastman authorized the engineer to buy it and agreed to pay for it himself. During the erection of the building for the School of Music Mr. Eastman one day climbed up to look at the work and was stopped by one of the workmen who demanded in no uncertain terms to know who Mr. Eastman was to be prowling around. When he said "I am George Eastman" the man stuck out his hand and said "shake," which Mr. Eastman did and then went on to look at the progress of the work.

I have given you the above recollections which may be of some help to you in connection with the book mentioned in your letter. I shall look forward to seeing the book because I have had the feeling for many years that Mr. Eastman was a most unusual man and that his rare personal traits have made a lasting impression upon all who knew him.

With every good wish, I am,

Very sincerely,

J. Lionberger Davis

Davis J. Lionberger,

DAVIS

May 6, 1940

Mr. J. Lionberger Davis
Security National Bank
Eighth Street
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Mr. Davis:

Mr. Lovejoy, who will be away on vacation for a time, has asked me to thank you for your kindness in taking time to write your recollections of Mr. Eastman.

It is very kind of you to go into details and we are glad to know of special happenings and incidents with Mr. Eastman and to get your reactions.

We appreciate your letter and thank you for your contribution.

Sincerely,

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Davis J. Lionberger