

FRANK



CORNWALL  
Hand Tailoring Service, INC.  
COX BUILDING, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

February 29, 1940.

Mr. Oscar Solbert,  
Eastman Kodak Office,  
Rochester, N. Y.



Dear Mr. Solbert,

It is flattering to me to say the least to request that I should contribute to the personal biography of so great a man as Mr. Eastman, and hope what I have to offer might at least in a small way emphasize what has always been in my estimation, the factors which have characterized him as a truly great American.

I was a lad of 13 when employed by him thirty six years ago and after you read my little story you can appreciate why I held him in such high esteem and why I tried to pattern my character after him.

Mr. Eastman sent me to the Lyceum theatre to purchase tickets he had reserved and upon my return to his office with its polished floors and scattered oriental rugs, proceeded to go to his desk and in trying to avoid stepping on the slippery floor I stepped from one rug to the other and in so doing the rugs separated and I did the "splits" right at his feet. He laughed very heartily and asked if "the price of boys was going down, and hoped that the show would be half as entertaining." Many other employers would have inquired why I was so clumsy - but not Mr. Eastman.

Another occasion was when I was told to go to Mr. Fann and procure some evidently important papers and deliver them to Mr. Eastman's house. I was warned not to allow anyone to handle them other than Mr. Eastman, and this made me feel very important. I rang the front door bell and the butler wanted to know what my mission was and by the loud remarks that followed he was still not convinced that I was telling the truth. However, by that time Mr. Eastman had overheard us and came to the door; he was expecting me and there was no further ado. After signing the paper, he said in his fatherly way "Al, (that's what he always called me) you are to be commended on fulfilling your duty; you did it like a soldier; you followed your instructions to the letter. Do this all your life and you will succeed." I have never forgotten it.

Another instance also impressed me; it was the occasion when he presented me with an envelope at Christmas time with a currency gift with the season's greetings written across one of his calling cards "Merry Christmas to Al" - this again proved how liberal and democratic he was - because after all, I was but a very small cog in his Kodak wheel and yet he remembered me.

I repeat, I hope these little items will be of some assistance to you in elaborating upon the character of such a humanly great man.

Sincerely yours, *Al Frank*

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Franck, Al