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POWERS
FEB 12 1940

577 East Avenue - Rochester
February Twelfth 1940
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Mr. Oscar N. Solbert,
Eastman Kodak Company,
Rochester, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Solbert:

In reply to your letter of January 31st,
in regard to a biography of Mr. Eastman:

I hardly feel that anything I can say will
be of value although his friendship in our family was of
many years. I can only give you my impressions of him in a
very simple way as I saw his human qualities.

As to friendships, he was most loyal. With
the friends he knew well he was full of fun, had a delightful
sense of humor, and even loved to tease.

When one was in trouble he was very sympathetic,
and would really try to help even though it was an inconvenience
to himself or his plans.

His advice when asked was wise.

I had one occasion to consult him on business
about some investments I wanted to make, and the thing I remember
as outstanding was he said he did not believe in investing in
railroads. This was over twenty years ago.

He told me when he was building his big house
that he was intensely interested in the work, and especially
in working out the details and would be sorry to have it finish-
ed. He then said he would like to build a small house and see
if he could make it as perfect.

To show how he did like to work out details
even in trivial things, the evening before a large ball he asked
a few of us to come to the house as he wanted to see the light-
ing effects, and how they would be on the night of the ball.
We were asked to walk down the front staircase so he could
judge the light there, and also the best place for him to re-
ceive his guests in the lower hall.

This all sounds simple, but it was not, and it
would be some time before he was satisfied. I could not help
but notice on the night of the ball how all confusion was avoided
as he received his hundreds of guests just by this planning.

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Powers, Victoria R.

Mr. Oscar N. Solbert -2

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He boasted of being a good cook. When his house was building he had four friends for supper in the big east room. We sat on nail kegs, ate off boards laid on barrels, and the cooking was accomplished in the fireplace. As I was one of the guests I can vouch for his being a good cook. I never ate better beef steaks.

It was always astonishing to see his camping outfit. Before he went on his hunting trips it was a wonderful sight to see the equipment. His special joy seemed to be in the cooking utensils and prepared foods.

I can only judge his fondness for reading by the books he surrounded himself with in his living room. They were on every kind of interesting subject. He created a very beautiful living room, the luxury of living in everything, but best of all, the room had a very friendly atmosphere which all of his friends felt and loved.

I am sure he liked music, and had a real desire to understand it, and seemed to enjoy entertaining with his musicales.

He had a great love for his mother; he seemed so proud of her. Her death was a real loss.

This is about all I can say, as all my contacts with Mr. Eastmen were of this social nature. I know this is a very inadequate manner of answering your questions. If at any time you feel you would like to ask me any further questions I would be glad to talk with you.

Very sincerely yours,

VRP
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Victoria R. Powers

Powers, Victoria R.