

Letter, Dwight D. Eisenhower to Captain E. E. "Swede" Hazlett, February 12, 1952

"However, there is this about Mr. Harger. Speaking roughly, he is about the only one left who was, in 1910, prominent in Abilene affairs. This statement, of course, excepts Charlie Case, but at that particular moment he was over-shadowed, to say the least, by his dad. As the years have rolled on and those who worked so hard for my appointment have died, Mr. Harger has become almost my sole contact with that particular generation of Abilene citizens. Consequently, he has rather symbolized for me the 1910 kindness of the whole community, and in my conversations and correspondence with him, the recipient of my genuine gratitude toward the whole community. Actually—if you will recall—the man who appointed me was one of the earliest so-called "Progressives," Senator Joseph Bristow. Mr. Harger was in the other branch of the Republican Party, in those days called the "Stand patters." As a consequence of this situation, Mr. P.W. Heath was the spearhead of my supporting phalanx. Others were Mr. Rogers, Mr. Ward (a jeweler), the Hurds, Mr. Litts, and dozens of others who wrote letters to the Senator in my behalf. Among these, of course, Mr. Harger was included. But I repeat that, so far as I am concerned, and as of today, he is the solely responsible individual (except for yourself, from whom I derived both confidence and inspiration.)"