

John Long's letter about his boyhood and friendship with Dwight [Eisenhower]  
Dated March 21, 1966

“My Mother had no husband to help us, as he was injured in a cyclone that killed the twins in 1883 and at the time my Father was in the State Hospital at Topeka, Kansas and my Mothers income from the farm (14 miles north of Abilene) was only \$200.00 a year. My Mother had 6 children at home when we came to Abilene for the benefit of a good business college (which brick building caved in when the 1903 flood hit Abilene.) Then when the good business college failed Mother moved to Lawrence for better schools. . . .

I never remember of playing with other boys [other than Dwight Eisenhower] except swimming as I was either looking for work or working at something. I took at my money I earned home to Mother as she had a hard time to make both ends meet.”