

John Long's letter about his boyhood and friendship with Dwight [Eisenhower]
Dated April 14, 1966

“When I rebuilt my bicycle I was able to go farther from home to get to work

I went to the Tobias home to ask for a job.

The Tobias house was a two story brick house on a large plot of ground located on the main road that ran south from Abilene.

The place was $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of the railroad tracks.

When I applied for this job Mrs. Tobias looked me all over and said ‘you look too young to do the work I want done. Do you have an older brother?’ I said yes I have a brother 4 years older and she said at once ‘you tell your brother to come down to see me.’

My brother Nat went down and got the job that I wanted so bad.

Nat held down this job for a short time but he could not get along with the horse. The horse got worse and Nat got more afraid everyday and the horse started to kick and then is when Nat quit his job and I went down at once to take Nat[s] work over because Mrs. Tobias had a horse, pigs, laying hens and also raised a lot of little chicks and raised a litter of little pigs.

I was used to a farm as my sister Sue and I spent several years with our grandparents on a farm in Pennsylvania.

I told Mrs. Tobias that I came down to take Nat[s] job as he was quitting [sic] and she said at once ‘you can’t handle the horse.’ I said ‘I can handle that horse.’ So I went in and got the horse and lead it out to Mrs. Tobias and I asked her if I could curry and brush up the horse as it needed it bad because Nat had not cleaned up the horse for sometime. I knew horses very well for a boy and I knew a horse liked to be curried and brushed and I did a good job cleaning and brushing the horse up.

Mrs. Tobias gave me Nat’s job and the horse and I got along fine and I held down this job until after the big 1903 flood.”