

John Long's letter about his boyhood and friendship with Dwight [Eisenhower]
Dated March 19, 1966

“This carnival [C. W. Parker Co.] was drawing a lot of carnival families that lived on the south side of Abilene and the children went to Lincoln School. This gave the school an unusual number of bad boys. The boys would shove and push me and take my hat and try to make me fight. I tried my best to keep from fighting but I had to sometimes.

Dwight would stand up and fight much more than I did. When I got to the Garfield School I was going home after school and was about two blocks from school and a boy grabed [sic] my hat and I jumped on him so fast I knocked him down and I beat him unusually hard and I would not quit until he promised to get the cap. When he got to the door the lady had the door open and shoed him the stair to the balcony. The boys never bothered me after that.

There was a very very large boy going to the Lincoln School and when the boys bothered him he would put the boy down and sit on them and soon none of the boys bothered him. This boy's family was unusually large also. They could have been with the carnival.”