

John Long's letter about his boyhood and friendship with Dwight [Eisenhower]  
Dated March 22, 1966

“On the next Saturday after Dwight and I picked potatoes for the John Engles and Dwight and I took a dare dip in the Cold Mud Creek. Mrs. Engle had me help her clean the cistern which was used for special washings as the well water was very hard. . . . As a person turned the pump handle the cups that were on the chain carried the water up and over into the box that caught the water so it ran into the bucket. Mrs. Engle had the pump all out and waiting for me. Mrs. Engle put me down with a longer ladder and then sent a shorter ladder down to wash the sides. Then the work was most all mine but Bruce was to be at the top to tell his Mother when I needed more clean water or any other need.

Bruce asked me who was that boy that helped us pick potatoes the Saturday before and I told him his name was Dwight. Bruce had a hard time saying Dwight and he had me tell him several times and at last he laid on his stomach with his head over so he could make the cistern echo with the name Dwight, Dwight, Dwight. Bruce had a tendency to light the Dw or it was hard for him to say. Bruce came very close to Dwight and Dwight became Bruce's hero.”