

Gainesville, Fla. 7/17-[19]06

My Dear Boys:

I expect you all think I have about forgotten you but I can assure you I have not. I have received the letters you have written and you will never write letters which will be more welcome than they. I was also mighty glad to get Aunt Anna's. Now I don't want to lecture you but you must not let Aunt Anna & Uncle Pat spoil you. I know they can't help but get "stuck on you" and if you don't watch them they are pretty apt to spoil you a little bit. My! but couldn't we have a big time if I was there and had no office work to think about! I expect old Crom can ride horseback nearly as good as I can by this time for Aunt Anna said he went nearly everywhere with Uncle Pat, and of course The, Charlie and Patton ride anything they get hold of from a goat to a mule. But while you boys are having such a good time riding and driving what do you do with Little Adair? Surely you take her with you if she wants to go? I'll tell you what I would like each of you to do for me - I would like each one of you, sometime when you feel in a humor for it, to write me all about your trip from the time you left home until you arrived at Uncle Pat's and no one to let either of the others know anything about what he has written or what he intends writing. In other words, I simply want a write-up of the trip and each one saw it and felt while taking it and the thoughts each one had during the trip. You can take your time about it and write only as you may feel like it and you needn't feel that you must finish it at one sitting.

I have no Palatka news as I have not been there since you left, as there has been so much work in the office, I have not felt as if I could leave it long enough of the trip. Aunt Mag & Grandmother writes to me, though, and tells me they keep well. They say every-body misses and asks about my boys and are glad they are having such a good time. Grandmother and Aunt Mag are thinking of going to Atlanta for Aunt Mag to complete her course in stenography. Aunt Mag expects to be gone about two months but Grandmother will get back a few days before you boys so she can fix for you to start school. They will not go, if they go at all, until Aunt Mag gets her vacation and Mr. Bailey and Mr. Walter have consented to give her a month or five weeks in addition in order for her to complete her stenographic course. When they go away I'll certainly be lonesome then. I've been pretty lonely since you all left and though I have not seen them I've felt they were not far away & hoped each day or two I would get to see them. But it is all right and I want you all to have just as good a time as you can and their trip will do them both lots of good. I don't mind being lonesome if I know you are all well where you keep well and are enjoying yourselves. I am going to quit the office in a few days and go back on the road anyway & I expect I'll have to run from Leesburg to Jacksonville by Gainesville and the J and S.W., so I wouldn't get to see you but very little if you were all at home. I told Mr. Glass a few weeks ago that unless he could give me more help in the office I would quit and take my run back. He tried and the management would not allow him any more office force so I then told him to get some one in my place. He has a man who promised to be here on July 20th, but Mr. Glass says I must stay in the office until the 1st of August or until the new man becomes familiar with the work. Do not let this keep you from writing to me at Box "B," Gainesville. I believe I told you I had changed my boarding place the last time I saw you. Well, I like it, "The Oaks," much better than I did "The Magnolia." [I] think it a much nicer place and really [nice?]

people. Though the people at “The Magnolia” treated me pretty well except they wouldn’t give me a net over my bed. They have two skating here now; one just across the street from “The Oaks.” I haven’t been to either of them since the night we all went together. I saw Park Hay on the street a day or two ago & he asked about you all.

If your pocket books are running low drop me a line and I’ll do “the necessary.” All of you, including Patton, must kiss dear little Adair for Uncle The and don’t forget Aunt Anna. With lots & lots of love

Affectionately Yr Father,
T.B. Anderson

[Theophilus Beatty, J. Patton Anderson’s second son.]

[Below is a note from the left-hand margin of the first page of this letter.]

I enclose a “Canal Zone” stamp which I got in the mail today. Don’t know if either of you want it for your collection or not. If all want it you’ll have to get Aunt Anna to say or decide for you who should have it.

Transcribed by Christopher A. Baker, University of Florida, 2008.