

6th August 1957
G.P.O., Hobart
Tasmania, Australia

Mr. B. E. Rathje
Rathje & Woodward
203 East Liberty Drive
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Bert:

I seem to have a peculiar ability to predict the future. When I signed over those papers on the real estate last January I had considerable misgivings that I would get a final kick back in regard to the inherited personal property. However I expected that I would be able to see my brother Schuyler in Louisville and finish that matter up in due time. Since last September I have written to him a couple of times in a general and pleasant way but have received no answers.

The future of last January arrived yesterday in the form of a long and rather confused missive by his wife Jean. It is quite difficult to form any opinion on the matter or circumstances involved. However it appears (for reasons unknown) that they are leaving Louisville for Memphis (address unknown) on about 15th August via Greyvan Lines.

As you know Schuyler took upon himself the responsibility of moving all our mutually inherited personal property to Louisville without my knowledge or approval. After finding out about it, I agreed to let him use such as he wished with the understanding that all of it would be kept intact, in good condition and available against the day when we might wish to divide it up. It now appears that he does not wish to honor this arrangement and take it along to Memphis. Instead it is proposed to take the items they like best and then sell some of the rest to cover the expenses of moving all of it from Wheaton to Louisville. Obviously, I cannot agree to any such plan. Neither do I intend to enter into any long winded dickers by mail about a lot of small items. Since he doesn't want to take care of our mutual inheritance any longer, it seems best to let some impartial third party take care of it until I return sometime after the first of the year. Then I can ~~get~~ get together with him and amiably divide up the inheritance, *2 hope.*

*This probably isn't precisely right, but
I can't make much out of it.*

It is unfortunate that I have such a low impression of his wife, who seems to be turning into quite an objectionable person. Most of our difficulties appear to stem from her influence upon him. Since time is short, more letter writing is pointless. Please get intouch with the proper court in Louisville and have the court issue an injunction restraining Schuyler and his wife from disposing or removing from Louisville any of our mutually inherited personal property. Also please have this property impounded by the court and placed in storage by a reputable company under bond until I return. At least I will know where things are then. A list is enclosed on an attached sheet. None of this property has appreciable monetary value. However, Schuyler has done away with most everything else coming his way. I intend to spend some money to see that he doesn't totally disappate this last bit. I have a hunch that the officer of the court will be confronted with her argument that the property is theirs. However a simple inspection will show that most of it to be 30 to 50 years old. Obviously, she cannot produce a paid bill. I am writing one last letter to Schuyler requesting that he put all these things in storage of his own volition. Unfortunately, I don't expect much notice to be taken of anything I may say.

In order that you may gain some perspective on this silly business, I should mention that I moved away from Wheaton to take a job in Washington in early 1947. From then until he moved to Louisville in 1956, Schuyler and his family had full and free use of the property at 212 W. Seminary plus all the furnishings within. He did not pay me one cent rent, nor did I ask him to as I had no need of the use of the place or the money represented therein. Two years I paid the taxes outright and participated for half the taxes several more years. Originally the house was well (over) stocked with linens, carpets, refrigerator, etc. and all the necessities of a home. These have been gradually dissapated. I do not grudge him these matters as he needed them much more than I. However, he and his wife seem to have fallen into a common human error of thinking that those things and circumstances which they have enjoyed the use of for a long time belong exclusively to them. It is regrettable they appear to have fallen to a rather low estate. I have done my best and wish to save at least a few things from the old place yet.

Sincerely yours,

Grote Reber

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P.S. If Bert is away, please have one of the other partners handle this promptly to forstall somekind of a debacle in Louisville.

G.R.

List of property inherited by Grote Reber and Schuyler C. Reber. Presently in custody of the latter in Louisville.

One large sliding top dining room table with three extension leaves.

Six chairs including arm chair for the above table.

One china closet with glass front doors atop.

One small serving table.

One high back overstuffed chair with wing sides.

One small chrome chair with yellow plastic seat.

One larger chrome chair with arms and brown seat.

One inlaid library table with end drop leaves, two flat drawers and arch underneath.

One large glass front book case.

One set Century dictionaries plus several other separate books.

One portable electric sewing machine.

Two pairs (four total) solid silver candle sticks engraved
1902-1927 or thereabouts.

One steel box of flat table silver containing two complete solid silver services. One is a simple Lincoln pattern. The other is a rose pattern with more curved handles.

One each, silver plated carving set, covered vegetable dish, well and tree plater.

One steel box containing a large variety of old family fotos dating back 50 to 100 years.

One large cut glass punch bowl and set of matching cups.

Considerable amount of china in barrels. It is mainly of two designs. One groups of dark blue with gold rim. Another set of fish design dishes and fish platter. Also some dessert plates with flower design and green band; plus assorted pieces with pink flowers around border and a couple of dozen demi-tasse cups and saucers.

Grote Reber

5th August 1957