

PERRY ACKERMAN WAS THE OWNER AND BOSS OF A BIG SAW MILL OUT THERE AND WAS TO BUY A BIG TRACT OF TIMBER. HE ALSO TOLD ME THAT HE HAD BEEN HIRED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO SHOW PERRY THE LAND AND THE TIMBER.

ON MY NEXT TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D. C. I SAW A FAMILIAR NAME ON A LAWYER'S OFFICE. I DECIDED TO GO IN TO SEE IF I KNEW HIM. I WAS SHOWN INTO THE PRIVATE OFFICE OF JOE BEN ACKERMAN. HE TOLD ME OF HIS WORK AS A LAWYER, AND SAID THAT HE WAS ENJOYING IT VERY MUCH. ABOUT THAT TIME SOMEONE WALKED IN AND TO MY SURPRISE IT WAS RUTH ADDISON. I ASKED HER WHAT SHE WAS DOING THERE AND SHE SAID THAT SHE WAS JOE BEN'S WIFE AND SECRETARY. WE TALKED ABOUT THE GOOD TIMES WE HAD HAD IN COTTAGEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL WHEN WE WERE TEN YEARS YOUNGER. SHE TOLD ME THAT SHE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM GLADYS BRIDGE SAYING THAT SHE WAS A WAITRESS IN THE JEFFERSON HOTEL IN COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA. SHE WAS ENGAGED TO AN AIRPLANE PILOT.

NEXT, I WENT TO CHICAGO. I DECIDED TO STAY HERE FOR TWO MONTHS. AFTER ABOUT FIVE WEEKS HERE, I DECIDED TO GO TO THE MUSEUM OF ART. HERE I SAW SOME OF THE MOST INTERESTING DRAWINGS AND CARVINGS THAT EVER EYES BEHELD. AND A GREAT SURPRISE TO ME WAS THAT THEY HAD BEEN PLACED HERE BY ONE OF MY C. H. S. CLASSMATES, JIMMIE RHODE. I THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE NICE TO LOOK FOR HIM. I ASKED THE KEEPER OF THE MUSEUM WHERE HE LIVED AND HE TOLD ME. I WENT TO HIS HOUSE AND TO MY SURPRISE I FOUND THERE BOTH THOMAS HOFF AND JIMMIE. THOMAS HAD A BIG WHEAT FARM IN KANSAS AND WAS HERE WITH A TRAIN-LOAD OF WHEAT. AFTER I HAD SPENT SEVERAL DAYS WITH THESE TWO CLASSMATES, I RETURNED TO COTTAGEVILLE FOR A VISIT WITH MY MOTHER.

I HAD SEEN OR HEARD FROM ALL OF MY CLASSMATES OF '39 AND AFTER A SHORT VISIT AT HOME, I STARTED MY WORK AS A MAGICIAN AGAIN.

—HILLIE ACKERMAN, PROPHET.