Ford Motor Company

FACTORY AND GENERAL OFFICES
DEARBORN, MICH.

ALEXANDRIA, VA. January 11, 1938.

#8.

Mr. F. L. Black,
The Edison Institute,
Dearborn, Michigan.

Dear Mr. Black:-

Your letter of January 6th, advising that the reproduction of a picture of two pages of the Booth diary was published in The Century Magazine for April, 1896, instead of in Harpers Magazine.

Writer visited the Congressional Library today and read the article contained in the above magazine, entitled "Four Lincoln Conspiracies" by Victor Louis Mason. The article runs from Page 889 to Page 911, inclusive of the April, 1896, issue. It is a very interesting article and there are various reproductions of the Booth exhibits in the custody of the War Department, such as the Derringer, the bullet, dagger, wooden bar, exterior view of the leather diary with the pictures grouped about it, the two Spencer repeating carbines, the pocket compass, riding booth left at Dr. Mudd's, knife and revolver found upon Booth's body after his death; revolver and knife found in the room of Atzerodt, Payne's pick and Payne's revolver which was broken by a blow upon the head of Mr. Frederick W. Seward. All of the above exhibits are in groups so that the entire list I have mentioned are covered by three photographs. The picture of the diary is quite legible - in fact the words shown in the photograph are more readily discernable than is the case, at this time, in reading the diary itself. Am having a negative photostat made by the Congressional Library in order to permit us to check with Mr. Pitts, to determine whether or not the photograph was actually taken from the original diary.

We noted, in the article above referred to, that reference is made to the fact "that these photographs and those on Pages 906 and 907 (referring to the pictures of the Booth exhibits and the photo of the diary) were made by permission of the Hon. Daniel S. Lamont, Secretary of War." Will see Mr. Pitts about that - but I know he isn't aware of the location of the negatives.

Would you be interested in having a negative photostat made of each page of this article for a total cost of $3? At various points throughout the article, the following footnotes referred to other articles on the Booth matter having appeared in The Century Magazine, as follows:

> "For a detailed account of the tragedy, see The Century for January, 1890 (Editor)";
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> "How Wilkes Booth crossed the Potomac", in The Century for April, 1884 (Editor);
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> "For the narrative of Major Ruggles and that of Cap-

tain Doherty, who led the pursuing cavalry, see The Century for January, 1890 (Editor)".

While at the Congressional Library, writer checked the bound-up file of newspapers published by the Richmond "Enquirer" for January and part of February, 1859, to see if any record or note was made of the marriage of Izola Forrester's grandparents, which is alleged to have taken place in January, 1859 at Cos Cob. Apparently, not much was considered of interest in the way of births, marriages or deaths in those days, for there were very few references to any of those items, and what there were covered purely local affairs concerning persons of high standing in the community. It took me the better part of 2½ hours of checking to cover the month of January, 1859, for the reason that the newspapers in those days were long and wide, the print rather fine, and two-thirds of the paper consisted of advertisements on slaves, liquor, patent medicines, brokers. Sandwiched in between would be found little news items and then would come long columns of "letters" from New York, Washington, and other correspondents, reporting on the political, social and economical situations in their respective areas. To check the year 1858 will, I fear, take some little time - and that is for one newspaper only; and there were several newspapers in existance in Richmond during this period. Will be glad to do it, however, and am simply advising you of what the situation is so that you won't feel that we are unduly delaying our checkup of the subject.

We note your reference to Messrs. Pitts and Garrett at bottom of your letter of January 6th. Mr. Pitts should be addressed as Mr. Edwin B. Pitts, Chief Clerk, Office of Judge Advocate General, U.S.Army, Washington, D.C., (Address: Room 402, Otis Bldg., 810 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.); and Mr. H. L. Garrett, Superintendent, Lincoln Museum, C/o National Parks Service, U. S. Department of The Interior, 511 10th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Your letter for photographs of the Booth Exhibits in possession of the War Department should be addressed to the Secretary of War, Washington, D.C., and his name is Hon. Harry H. Woodring.

Writer should appreciate receiving copies of your letters for his file.

Yours very truly,
FORD MOTOR COMPANY,

J. W. Connolly

Traffic Department.

JWC/c