Mr C R Mullan, Mgr
Ford Motor Company
Alexandria Va

December 6, 1937

Dear Mr Mullan:

As you know, we have on display in the Lincoln Court House in Greenfield Village the chair in which President Lincoln was sitting when shot. In connection with that we would like to have photographs of John Ford, owner and manager; and Harry Ford, treasurer of Ford Theatre at the time of the assassination. We would also like to have a photograph of Harry Ford's wife, Blanche Chapman Ford, from whom the chair was purchased. These photographs need not be of any particular period. They might be able to tell you at the Lincoln museum at the Ford Theatre where such pictures could be obtained.

We would like to have photographs of the exhibits entered at the conspiracy trial, such as Booth's boot, pistol, compass etc. I understand there was allittle emblem recently found in the box that had escaped notice for a long time, that this is supposed to have been the insignia of the Knights of the Golden Circle. Then there is the Booth note book with a number of pages in his handwriting. We would like to procure up-to-date pictures of all these items including the pages of the note book which are to be found in the basement of the War Department's building. The Judge Advocate General's office in the War Department can probably furnish information as to their whereabouts. If no pictures have been taken in recent years, get permission, if you can, to hire a photographer to do this. Maybe the War Department has their own photographer who could take the pictures and charge us for it.

A new book is out about the assassination. It is titled <u>This One Mad Act</u>, and is written by Izola Forrester, who claims she is the granddaughter of John Wilkes Booth. In this book she quotes Elisha Seburn Shortridge, who in 1932 was 84 years of age and lived in Napa County, California. The author claims that this man was a grandson of Richard Garrett in whose home near Ports Conway and Royal, Booth died. Mr Shortridge tells a rambling story quoting his mother, who he claims was Richard Garrett's daughter, and this story throws doubt on the actual killing of Booth at Garrett's. I am under the impression that Mr Shortridge was too old to be the grandson of Richard Garrett.

Back in 1920, when I was investigating the assassination, I met W H Garrett, who claimed to be the second son of Richard Garrett. He was 75 years of age and, as I remember, his brother Jack, a couple

years older who was then dead, were the oldest of the children. Your road man who goes to Bowling Green, could probably slip out to Ports Conway and Royal and learn the relationship of this man Shortridge to the Garrett family, if there was any relationship, and find out who of the Garrett family are now living. I understand there is at least one grandson residing in that neighborhood.

Several years ago Mr Campsall had correspondence with Mr A E Thompson of your Service Department, in connection with the chair and other Ford Theatre relics. I merely am calling this to your attention since if Mr Thompson is still with you he may be more familiar with events surrounding the assassination than others of your organization.

Very truly yours,

F L BLACK

FLB:EGH