405 East 54th Street,
New York City.

Nov. 21, 1940.

Dear Fred:

Please note the enclosed copy of a letter to Mr. Sackett.

Also please note the book review in this morning's Times.

Best,

Jim McCarthy

Mr. FredL. Black,
Ford Motor Company,
Dearborn, Michigan.

Copy to Mr. Black

405 East 54th Street,
New York City, N.Y.

November 21, 1940.

Mr. B. E. Sackett,
Special Agent-in-Charge,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. Department of Justice,
U. S. Courthouse building, Foley Square,
New York City.

Dear Ben:

The reason you have not heard from me about the new FBI mystery novel is that I've been tossed about on a number of assignments that have hindered me. I did want you to come up and join me and Mrs. McCarthy some evening and I think that quite shortly I'll he clear enough so we can get together. Anyhow, I realize that you must be so busy yourself that you probably are just as well satisfied that we haven't arranged a shindig of some sort. But I hope you will be clear soon so that we can get together---you and Mrs. Sackett and Mrs. McCarthy and I.

I am writing you at this time in connection with a matter that might possibly interest you. It seems that Mr. Fred L. Black, an executive of the Ford Motor Company (during the World's Fair he was director of the Ford Exposition) brought to my attention a young lady, Miss Pauline Antonia Vietor, aged 30 of 522 Ortani Place, Teaneck, N.J., who worked for him for two seasons as stenographer. He thinks she might fit in with the local FBI office and it occurred to me you would want to see her.

Here's the picture: She speaks, writes and can translate German fluently and she has a smattering of French. It appears that she was born in Cologne, Germany, came here in 1923 with her parents. Her parents, as well as herself, are naturalized. She also has a younger sister, naturalized. Her grandmother, on her mother's side, was here even before she arrived.

Before joining the Ford Exposition office staff, she was a bookeeper-stenographer for McKinsey & Co., worked for Charles Haas Motor Sales Company (Ford Dealer) in Englewood from 1930 to 1938 and also for Morsemere Trust Company, of Palisades, N.J. She studied in high school at Bogota, N.J., and later went to Eagan's Business School, Hackensack.

Mr. Black tells me that she is reliable, faithful, honest---and discreet. And, from all I can gather, intensely loyal as an American citizen.

She is thirty years old and my own impression, after an extremely brief interview, is that she is intelligent and ambitious.

May I suggest that if her qualifications interest you you get first in touch with Mr. Black. He can tell you more about her than I can, since I merely am passing along his suggestions and recommendations.

My reason for drawing her to your attention is the fact that I recall you wanted people in your organization who could handle foreign languages. Whether this includes ladies I have no way of knowing. But if that is the case you may find her extremely helpful.

And now, for the love of Mike, let's get together soon!

Best,

James Remington McCarthy

P.S.: By the way, I have an article in the December issue of Esquire. I mention it, even though I personally devoted more attention to the illustrations on the various pages than I did to my own article!

Jim

BOOKS OF THE TIMES

NY Times 11/21/40

By RALPH THOMPSON

FOR an eminently sensible review of the Booth-Lincoln assassination story, see George S. Bryan's "The Great American Myth."* This is subtitled "the true story of Lincoln's murder," which it could hardly be in the literal sense of the word, but it looks like the fairest and most careful survey thus far. Neither underdocumented nor overwritten, it comes as a relief after such mysterious items as Otto Eisenschiml's "Why Was Lincoln Murdered?" and its sequel, and Izola Forrester's "This One Mad Act."

Mr. Bryan used to be managing editor of The New Standard Encyclopedia and has written books on Sam Houston and Thomas Edison. In writing this one, he went to the primary sources where he could find them and has uncovered a little fresh source material of his own. He is the first to use, it seems, the John T. Ford papers—it was in Ford's Theatre that Lincoln was shot—and scattered through his text are a number of previously unpublished letters or reports by eye-witnesses or members of the Booth family, including John Wilkes Booth himself. The net effect of this material is small, but it all adds to the picture and helps to clear up some of the fairy tales of the past seventy-five years.

* * *

There is a wonderful array of these; the book is called "The Great American Myth," because by now there are almost as many myths and legends associated with the murder as there are ascertainable historical facts. Booth killed himself—or wasn't ever killed. Booth was buried "at sea"—or his body languishes somewhere still unburied. Booth was acting for a "master mind" in the government, who, in turn, saw to it that Lincoln was left "unguarded" on the fatal night. Lincoln "knew" that he would be shot; Lincoln's tomb at Springfield is "empty" today, etc., etc. These are a few familiar examples along the line.

Mr. Bryan has tried to review the list and to distinguish, so far as he can, the sense from the nonsense. Most of the gaudier theories he disposes of in short and simple terms. The attempt to involve Stanton in the crime, for example, he considers not only "inapt" but "malicious." The talk about Booth's having escaped with his life strikes him as ridiculous, likewise the story that the body buried in the family plot in Baltimore is not really John Wilkes Booth's but that of a total stranger. His account of what actually (or presumably) did occur, on the other hand, is specific and generally to the point, and covers the period from Lincoln's trip to Washington in 1861 to Booth's reinterment eight years later.

Allan Nevins, who ought to know, thinks "The Great American Myth" is practically definitive. There are good illustrations and good indices.

*THE GREAT AMERICAN MYTH: The True Story of Lincoln's Murder. By George S. Bryan. 436 pages. Carrick & Evans. $3.75.