

Dear Mr + Mrs M^{rs} David

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You wanted to know some of the circumstances of
your painting ^{etc} and though it is a bit involved I will
try to be brief.

In early August of 2001 I was invited by the
President to be at his ranch in Crawford. At
that time he wanted to meet the artist who was going
to paint his Governors portrait for the rotunda of the
State Capitol. What he didn't know is that I had already
painted it and thought it would be a great surprise
just to spring it on him.

We had heard that we would be part of a large group
of people gathered for a barbeque and that our time
with him and Sandra would be brief and probably hectic.

We had car trouble on Waco that took two hours to
fix. Everything seemed to be against us.

Steve, Ralph Carr + Nancy Ferguson made up our
party and we were anxious not only about being
late, but about the reliability of the car.

Ironically our problems worked for us because
when we arrived at the ranch house, all the guests
of the Barbeque were leaving. The President was out front
saying his goodbyes and saw us drive up. We shook
hands and I told him that I felt like I already knew
him because the portrait had been painted. He opened
the door for me and we made small talk getting
to know each other better. Sandra was in her bare feet, the
President very relaxed and our group was the only one
there. What we thought would be a brief interview
turned into a nearly four hour time with him.

I showed him his portrait and he liked it though he said
little at the time. He later told me he didn't know what
to say because it was a portrait of him and how dare one
comment on such a thing without seeming too vain. It is
an awkward moment.

But after about an hour we began to feel that

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