

The Beaver Brook Years: 1934 - 1941

A report of the life at Beaver Brook farm
during the years it was owned by
R.B.White,
based on R.B.'s Diaries

Edited by
Edgar B. Young
and
Ellen Roberts Young

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Preface

Roy Barton White owned Beaver Brook farm for only seven and a half years, but it was extremely important to him, and produced many fond memories both for him and for all other family members who visited there. The opportunity came at an important juncture in R.B.'s career. Since 1900, he had been working his way up in the railroads. In 1923, he moved to New York to become head of the Baltimore and Ohio's operations in that region. In 1926 he moved over to the Central Railroad of New Jersey, a subsidiary of the B&O, becoming President in October of that year.

In June, 1933, R.B. became President of Western Union. This was not as big a shift as it seemed to some, because the railroads and telegraphy had always been closely linked. In June, 1941, R.B. became President of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad. This necessitated a move to Baltimore, where he completed his career as Chairman of the Board of that railroad, retiring from the Presidency in 1953 and continuing on the Board until 1957.

At the time the farm was bought, January, 1934, R.B. and Flo's daughter Jane was married to Edgar B. Young and living in Washington, D.C. Their first child, Bob, had been born a year earlier. Their second son, Jack, was born during the Beaver Brook years. Their youngest son, Peter, was not born until two years after the farm was sold.

R.B.'s son Bud (Roy B. White, Jr.) was away at boarding school, Howe Military Academy, when the farm was bought. He completed his secondary schooling there in 1935 and went on to Dartmouth, from which he graduated in 1939. During these years, the farm was his home base, especially during the summers. At the point the farm was sold, Bud had entered the military and was in training at Fort Bragg, N.C. He had not yet been transferred to Oklahoma, where he met his future wife, Millie Wurtz.

These and other family and friends who appear in the Beaver Brook story are listed on the following page for easy reference.

The Beaver Brook Years
List of People and Abbreviations

- R.B.** Roy Barton White, husband of Flo, father of Jane and Bud, grandfather of Bob and Jack, President of Western Union.
- B.B.** Beaver Brook Farm
- Flo** Flora White, R.B.'s wife
- Mother** R.B.'s usual way of referring to his wife, Flo.
- Nelsons** Art & Christine Nelson, R.B. and Flo's friends from Plainfield.
- Jane** Jane White Young, R.B.'s daughter, married to Edgar Berryhill Young, mother to Bob & Jack.
- Ed** Edgar Berryhill Young, Jane's husband.
- Bob (Bobby)** Jane & Ed's oldest son (R.B.'s first grandson)
- Harry** Harry White, one of R.B.'s brothers, married to Ann. Harry & Ann lived in Queens and both worked for Western Union.
- Bud (Buddy)** Roy Barton White, Jr., R.B.'s son.
- Ned** Ned Sullivan, nephew of Flo
- Virginia** Virginia Cobb, later Ned's wife.
- Mary Jane** Mary Jane Sullivan, Ned's sister
- Mr. and Mrs. Young** Earl Edgar Young and Irene Berryhill Young, Ed's parents.
- John White** R.B.'s father.
- R.W. Brown** R.B.'s friend, President of the Reading Railroad.
- Mary & Jane** Mary Sullivan and Jane Auman, Flo's sisters.
- Bob and Ruth Kimberlin** Friends of Jane and Ed Young from their college days.
- Jack** Jane & Ed's second son (R.B.'s second grandson).
- Lloyd** Lloyd White, one of R.B.'s brothers.
- Fern** Lloyd's wife.
- Robert Sullivan** Ned's brother, Flo's nephew.
- Edna** R.B.'s sister.

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The Beaver Brook Years: 1934-1941

Beaver Brook farm was bought by Mr. and Mrs. R. B. White on January 2, 1934. R.B. had recently become President of Western Union, providing a significant increase in income. He was becoming an increasingly important figure in the business world, serving on various boards. For the first time, he felt secure in his position and was ready to buy property, after decades of frequent moves and rented housing. The importance of Beaver Brook farm to R.B. is revealed in the detailed diaries he kept throughout these years, written in two account books.

The farm is located in Hunterdon County, New Jersey, on Highway 22 between Annandale and Clinton. The bulk of the farm's acreage is on the north side of the road, where the house and all farm buildings are located. To the south of the road the pasture land slopes down to tree-lined Beaver Brook with wooded hills along the other side of the valley. Since the 1950s, Interstate Highway #78 runs through that valley, and more recently a bank and other commercial ventures have been built along the south side of Highway 22.

The terrain of the main farm land provided a distant vista to the west across the broad valley of the Raritan River to the high range of Muscanetcong Mountain about ten miles away. To the north an open field sloped down to the valley of a small creek, beyond which on the right was a wooded hill running up to a ridge, and on the left another open field sloping up to the same ridge.

The farm was bought from the Estate of William Savin, a former New York businessman who had a strong interest in natural science, especially related to trees, and in astronomy. Mr. Savin had planted numerous trees of different and unusual varieties on the grounds around the main house.

The purchase price of the farm was \$28,500. This included all the land and all the buildings, which meant the main house (a ten or twelve-room Colonial style farm house), a three car garage, an old spring house converted into a guest house, a tenant farmer's house, a large barn, a farm implement shed, a smaller sheep barn, and several smaller farm buildings. Some animals and their feed were also included.

From the beginning the Whites planned to make Beaver Brook their principal residence, to be their full-time home in summer and on week-ends in winter. They would

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give up their home in Plainfield, New Jersey and find a New York apartment for the winter months and for occasional summer use. For R.B.'s commute to his New York office, the Central Railroad of NJ ran nearby, with a station at Annandale. The station for express trains, High Bridge, was about three miles distant. Additional train service was also available on the Lehigh Valley Railroad directly from Pennsylvania Station in Manhattan to Flemington Junction, about eight miles away.

R.B. moved quickly to make Beaver Brook a working farm. An interviewer in 1939, six years after R.B. purchased the farm, recorded how well he succeeded:

. . . the place - said to have been in two different grants to the Duke of York, and lying on either side of the old Easton Turnpike - is a well rounded producing unit. Mr. White doesn't 'fool around with pedigreed anything.' He asks merely that his stock be good.

The ten producing cows (young stock brings the herd to 15) are Guernseys and Brown Swiss. The hogs - 20 to 25 for butchering and sale - look quite like Poland Chinas. Fifteen or so sheep are kept to help mow the lawns and meadows. "You name the breed," said Mr. White. Well, let's say Southdown. There are work horses that I did not see. The place had saddle horses at first, but Mr. White decided the hazards to guests' life and limb were too great. Some 700 chickens are raised each year, and enough turkeys to supply the table. . . .

He is not particularly anxious to keep the farm books in the black, Mr. White explained, just so they don't go too far into the red. Beaver Brook is their year round home (tho they keep an apartment in New York also), and the place supplies work for several people from the community.

Reaching this level of production took some time and much experimentation. R.B. began at once. His diary records his pride and satisfaction in one after another "first" accomplishment or event on the farm.

On Monday, Jan'y 27th 1934 - 20 hens and one rooster costing \$51.40 were delivered to farm on order, being the first live thing belonging to us to be lodged there, and on Saturday, Jan. 27th we received four eggs, being the first articles - food, etc produced on farm.

On Friday, February 9th - 250 baby chicks - barred Rocks, were delivered at the farm and the raising of chickens was begun in earnest. Feb'y 16, 1934, two horses were purchased from Theo. F. Smith & Son of Asbury, N.J. were brought to Beaver Brook. They were two fine large bay horses - both young - about 5 years old and were said to come from Illinois. We also purchased two new



The House at Beaver Brook Farm

horse collars from Smith as well as two bridles and two stable blankets. We were now equipped to any kind of farm work we desired.

We went out to B.B. on Feby 22nd so Flo could see horses and name them. Back Sunday, 25th to see them again and get the eggs. She named the horses "Duke" and "Prince" and I named the rooster "General Johnson" (NRA). ¹

R.B. noted that there was snow as late as Sunday, March 25th. *"We went out to farm anyway on this date as day warmed up and we had started heater on Saturday. Took our lunch and stayed all day - so our first meal at Beaver Brook was on this date."* Flo and her friend, Mrs. (Christine) Nelson were busy planning the furnishing of the house. On April 4, R.B. reported: *"Today they have most of the work done and in about 2 weeks deliveries of all will begin."* April and May were busy months:

Our new tenant, Jerold Weighman moved on place and went to work April 1st 1934.

Plowing began week of April 9. Rain interfered with work. Garden plowed and harrowed by April 18th and planting will soon begin. Spring slow account of cold weather but grass is turning green - flowers coming up. Shrubs and trees beginning to show signs of life - April 18.

Four young pigs weighing about 100 lbs each delivered today - Cost \$28.00. Field of oats west of house - 3 acres planted, April 28.

We spent most of Saturday, April 29, 1934 at farm. Weather clear - beautiful day - a little cool. Took new light fixtures and maple chairs with us. Work on interior of house will be completed next week.

Jerry and I went down to Annandale to see new load of cows just in from Wisconsin - bought 4 cows which will be delivered Monday. Also bought one ton alfalfa hay. One cow just fresh. Others will come along during next few weeks and months. Have had grounds around house gone over and greatly improved. Gradually getting grounds cleaned up and in order. Cows were delivered at farm April 30th.

In early May, raspberries, onions, tomatoes and other vegetables were planted. Oats began to appear on May 6th. May 15 was moving day. *"Mother on job alone. Had time with movers and had to finish up Wednesday 16th."* On May 19th, R.B. noted: *"Not yet finished but enough done to live comfortably and we are quite contented."* A German couple, Chris and Elizabeth Snell were hired as resident household help. By

¹ General Johnson was the head of the New Deal organization, the National Recovery Administration. R.B. disliked both the man and the organization.

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May 20th, the corn had been planted: "about 5 acres - plot at foot of hill on west side, south of highway."

The first family gathering took place at Beaver Brook on the weekend of May 26-27.

We had long planned: Jane, Ed and Bobby (13 mo. old) came up from Washington, D.C., by auto - 210 mi. - arriving about 8 PM Saturday 26th and remained until 7 PM Sunday 27th. Harry came out from NY on Sunday arriving High Bridge 10:19 AM and Ned came out from NY by bus arriving Beaver Brook at 12:30 PM. We had the long planned big fried chicken dinner with radishes, onions and lettuce from new garden. Weather was beautiful and it was a day long to be remembered.

R.B.'s catalogue of "firsts" continued: "May 29 - first calf born - heifer, female. . . First strawberries picked on June 2. . . Bought farm wagon, tractor, and breaking plow - also hay ladder." Not everything, however, worked out as planned.

Baby chickens (white Minorcas) arrived from Missouri by parcel post Saturday, June 2nd. Mostly dead and in bad shape. Those alive, probably 40 or 50, put in brooder house. . . First calf died same afternoon - cause unknown but probably due to disinfectant used about barn getting on or in something calf ate.

As spring and summer progressed the farm and garden crops were harvested. Bud arrived home from boarding school on June 13. Family and friends were entertained, beginning with a housewarming party June 23rd: "all of Jersey Central here - Jane, Ed and Bobby came up in car from Washington, making 21 in party." On Sunday June 24 Harry and Ned came from New York and Mr. and Mrs. Young (Ed's parents) joined the family gathering. R.B.'s father, John White also came and stayed for the month.

Such special events, often involving both friends and family, were continued throughout the Beaver Brook years with frequency and regularity. There seemed no limit to the capacity of the farm home to absorb crowds of people. A trip to California in July kept R.B. from keeping close record of day to day changes, as garden crops, oats and alfalfa were harvested. Later he remembered to note: "First milk check received 7/18/34, amount \$38.43."

On August 4, R.B. celebrated his birthday (actually August 8) in a joint party with his close friend, R. W. Brown. Mr. and Mrs. Brown came up from Philadelphia. "38 here including our own family. Jane, Ed and Bobby came up again and remained over Sunday which added greatly to the joy of the occasion." The following weekend there was another gathering:

Flo's sisters, Mary and Jane with children, Mary Jane and Robert arrived by auto from Sturgis, Mich. 2 PM, Aug 11th. Ned Sullivan came in about 4 PM. Jane, Ed and Bobby arrived from Washington about 3:30 PM. All spent night. Jane, Ed and Bobby returned Sunday afternoon, 12th. Balance remained for visit except Ned who left before noon Sunday to look after work. Folks from Sturgis, Mich. remained all week and altho weather was rainy and cool had a nice time. Left at 9:25 AM Saturday, Aug. 18 for return trip.

During the Sullivans' visit the first picnic was held in the "Quarry." This was the remains of an old stone quarry that had three steep rock sides about fifty feet high, with the open side along the lane that led from the farm buildings down to the small creek in the valley. The floor of the quarry had, through the years, filled to a reasonably level grass area. It made a quiet, cool, secluded spot that seemed made for picnics. In time it was equipped with several long picnic tables, a stone barbecue fireplace and a pit for clam bakes. Toward the end of the summer "*Buddy worked on trout pool . . . and he and I finished rock work around edge on Sept 2nd and 3rd. On Sept. 3rd, Labor Day, we had first clam bake.*" Though the day was rainy, this event included several guests and they had "*a fine time with fine food.*"

R.B., and especially Flo, had wanted a riding horse on the farm. In September this became a reality.

Recd notice Friday Sept. 14th that a horse from Police Dept. - City of New York - which we had made application for, was ready for us to see. Sent Jerry and Chris in to see him at Police Dept. Remount Depot near Coney Island New York. They report he is good and we should take him. Arrangements made to send truck after him Tues. Sept. 18th. I also purchased new saddle, bridle and pad Monday Sept. 17th and Mother plans a ride on Wed. Sept. 19th.

Two weeks later R.B. reported on the results:

Police horse "Cedar" reached Beaver Brook evening of Sept. 18th and he appears to be all we hoped for and more - a well trained, neat and nimble saddle horse. Flo rode him morning of 20th, which she enjoyed greatly, and has been on him each morning since - loves him and is very proud of him. I rode him first on Saturday morning Sept. 22nd and enjoyed him very much.

R.B. added to this report: "*Jane, Ed, Harry here Saturday and Sunday 22nd & 23rd. Bobby was cutest yet and we enjoyed them all to the limit.*"

R.B. and Flo sailed for Europe on September 26 and did not return until November 15. Before going, they had arranged for an apartment in the Savoy Plaza Hotel in New York for the winter. They continued to come out to the farm on week ends and, on Dec. 15,

butchered two hogs and arranged with Hills to cut up and make sausage. . . Sausage, lard, head cheese and cut up meat all returned in fine shape. Mother put up sausage so as to supply us all winter. Small amount distributed among friends. Bacon and hams prepared for smoking.

R.B.'s diary for 1934 concludes with an account of Christmas, as the Whites ended their first year at Beaver Brook with a feeling of satisfaction over the way the farm had become their home and over the joy it was bringing to the family and to numerous friends:

First Christmas at Beaver Brook was a joyous occasion. We came out from City on Friday Dec. 21st. Bud was home. Jane, Ed and Bobby came about noon Dec. 24th. Harry and Ned came out evening of 24th and Mr. and Mrs. Young came early morning of Dec. 25th in time for breakfast. Jane, Ed and Bud had placed and trimmed nice tree which was placed in living room left of fireplace. No presents until after breakfast Christmas morning when Bob was permitted to see the tree for first time and then his presents. It was a joyous occasion and the family had the full day, . . . The whole day was a delightful occasion for all, and made the first Christmas at Beaver Brook perfect.

The year 1935 began with ambitious plans for improvements to the farm and the house. R.B.'s diary entries begin on January 20:

Arrangements made for erection of milk house with modern cooling equipment adjoining barn were carried out & work completed as was French picket fence from road to barn on January 20th 1935.

Jan 25th Our second horse "Shepherd" from N.Y. Police Dept. arrived. He was a pleasant surprise to us as he is a younger and smaller horse than Cedar and will make a great addition to our place.

Late in 1934 the Whites had begun negotiations for 3 acres of land which would give them a way to ride out on horseback without using the highway. The deal was

completed in the late winter. A farm including two houses and a spring was purchased from Miss Ida B. Edmonson for \$1,800.

An asparagus bed was added to the vegetable garden. A new tractor was purchased. Major house improvements included remodelling upstairs bath rooms and reflooring the guest room, as well as the construction of a stone terrace outside the dining room. Enjoyment of the farm by family members included eight trips made by Jane, Ed and Bob from Washington during that second year. On several occasions they were joined by Ed's parents from Philadelphia. The Sullivan family came from Sturgis, Michigan for a second visit. Their son, Ned, who was working in New York, came out nearly every week end. Ned became the accountant for Beaver Brook and kept the books of the farm's income and expenses.

On June 1, R.B. reported an "uneventful" Memorial day, with friends in for lunch, and a visit out for tea. Between notes of other social activities he recorded that: *"Horse 'Shepherd' was a disappointment and was found to be untrustworthy. Returned him to N.Y. Police Dept. on May 26th."*

The weekend of June 7th, R.B. and Flo and Jane and Ed were in Indiana for Bud's graduation from Howe Military Academy. At the same time, painting was started on the house and other farm buildings. R.B. summarized the state of the farm on June 14: *"Daisy field south of road in full bloom. Jane, Flo and I down and picked large bunches of daisies. Corn up nicely. Oats growing fine, wheat full headed and just beginning to turn slightly. Alfalfa growing fast - cutting to start soon."*

R.B. noted that the first picnic of the season was held on June 23, 1934. Large gatherings for July 4 and Labor Day were becoming annual events. On July 4 of this year, the party included Jane, Ed and Bob, Ned and Mary Jane Sullivan, Bob and Ruth Kimberlin, the R.W. Browns and several local families. R.B.'s father, John White was also present. *"Fourth of July party was fine except for shower which prevented eating in picnic ground and drove party to house. . . . Had fine time. Fireworks displayed in field west of house."*

R.B.'s father, John M. White, had come in June from Dana, Indiana, for a long visit: *On July 17th 1935 the first real sorrow and sadness came to Beaver Brook - Dad passed away during the night - went to bed as usual and failed to awaken. Quietly and peacefully, but a great shock to us. We took his remains to Dana where funeral was held and burial took place at Greenwood. Flo and Bud*

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went to Chicago from Indianapolis and went on to California via Yellowstone. I returned for a few days and then went to coast to Bohemian Grove, visiting them in Los Angeles, and returned morning of Aug. 8th.

R.B. did not record other activities until the Labor Day picnic, when "Rain and threatened rain forced us into garage with our dinner, but clams were baked and steaks prepared in usual way at picnic ground." R.B. also reported on the orchard: "Apples ripening in abundance in orchard. Picked several baskets and sent all away well supplied. Also brought in a few pumpkins for decoration - first of season."

The following week there were more activities, both social and about the farm:

We were surprised by having Mr. and Mrs. Young of Philadelphia, Mrs. Hadley of Washington, Jane, Ed and Bob come in Sunday afternoon and remain for supper, and we had a most enjoyable day and evening. All left after supper for Philadelphia.

Sept 10 Tuesday had new tractor delivered, which International very generously delivered, taking our old one at all we had paid for it. Test proved new one quite satisfactory and we are now amply powered.

In September work at the farm continued, while family life changed again as Bud went off to Dartmouth for college.

Sept 25 Wheat all planted. Buddy went to Dartmouth on Sept 14th. Nothing can possibly replace him when he is gone - we miss him very much. But very happy he can attend such a wonderful school.

Lamb born 9/26. Oats threshed 9/27: 373 bushels, 6 tons baled straw. Corn all cut week of Oct. 7. Lamb born Thursday, Oct. 3rd. During week of Oct. 7th had driveways leveled down and covered with stone and asphalt. Made fine improvement. Also experimented with a corn chopper.

Excitement was provided by unusual and unexpected events. On October 17:

At about 11 AM while Flo was following one of her favorite pastimes of feeding the sheep corn from her hand an unusual event occurred. The "Gentleman Sheep" or ram failed to thoroughly appreciate her kindness and generosity. In fact he seemed to resent her presence, either through jealousy or failure to get any of the corn. As a result he butted her, first in front and then behind, and knocked her down each time. She is not very enthusiastic over the experience.

By November Flo and R.B. had moved into New York again, coming out to the farm when R.B. was not travelling. R.B. took a new interest in college football: "Very much interested in football game between Dartmouth and Yale at New Haven. Buddy was

there, and Dartmouth won 14 to 6. First time they have ever won from Yale and a great day for Bud."

On November 17, there was great excitement in the midst of a sleet storm:

about 4 PM we were told brooder house was on fire and we had quite an exciting time. Mother called Annandale Fire Dept. and quite a crowd assembled despite the storm. Brooder house a complete loss, and about sixty baby chickens. Wind was high and for awhile it seemed might spread. Quite fortunate - no more damage.

This event was reported in both the Plainfield and the Clinton newspapers. The Plainfield Courier reported, in part:

Annandale Fire Company was called but did not go into action with their equipment as the building was practically destroyed. Firemen assisted Gerald Weighman, farm manager, and Christopher Snell, another employe, in saving a nearby chicken house with the aid of a garden hose connected from the farmhouse nearby, occupied by Mr. Weighman and his family.

As fall moved into winter, social activities continued, particularly with the R.W. Browns, Art and Christine Nelson and Judge and Mrs. Large.² On November 23, R.B., Bud and Ned went to the Princeton-Dartmouth game at Princeton. As for farm work, R.B. notes that same weekend: "*Sold one cow Saturday and bought another. Also bought Letz-Ferd mill.*"

For Christmas, 1935, Ed, Bob and Jane, who was pregnant, remained in Washington, and R.B. and Flo came to them. R.B. records the closing activities of the year:

Our second Christmas eve at Beaver Brook was a very happy one but we missed Jane. Ned and Harry were with us for dinner, and we opened our packages before fire place, as we left later in evening to take sleeper to Washington to spend Christmas with Jane.

We went out last weekend of year, and went to Philadelphia to spend Sunday and have dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Young. Jane, Ed and Bob there. Nice day. Bud and Mother back to N.Y. in PM by train. I left for Indianapolis 5 PM to attend funeral of Aunt Mary Dunn.

² Judge Large had achieved nation-wide attention when he presided over the Lindberg baby kidnapping trial.

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Jane, with Bob, stayed in Philadelphia with Earl and Irene Young, so that she could have her second baby in the Bryn Mawr Hospital, attended by the same Doctor who had served when Bob was born. Trips between Philadelphia and the farm were frequent. On January 10,

Jane and Ed and Bob came over from Philadelphia and we had a great time. Bob was at his cutest - active, remembering all of us better all the time, and everything about the farm. This time he came running into dining room at high speed and yelled at top of his voice, "hot dog".

On January 18 R.B. left for a trip to South America. On his return March 6, he summarized the events in his absence:

Nothing of importance to record except the birth of little Jack Young, Jane's fine baby boy on January 24, 1936, which made us all very happy. Weather very severe during this period - extremely cold and much snow, being coldest weather in more than fifty years. Farm and stock went thru it in good shape. Some baby lambs born during this period, two of which died due to severe weather.

There was not much to report for the rest of March. On April 4, Jane, Ed and the boys came to visit:

First trip Jack made to farm, arriving Saturday afternoon April 4, and returning Sunday afternoon April 5. It was a great occasion to have this new boy with us, but equally great to see Bob enjoy the farm so much. He now talks very well and remembers all about farm from one trip to next.

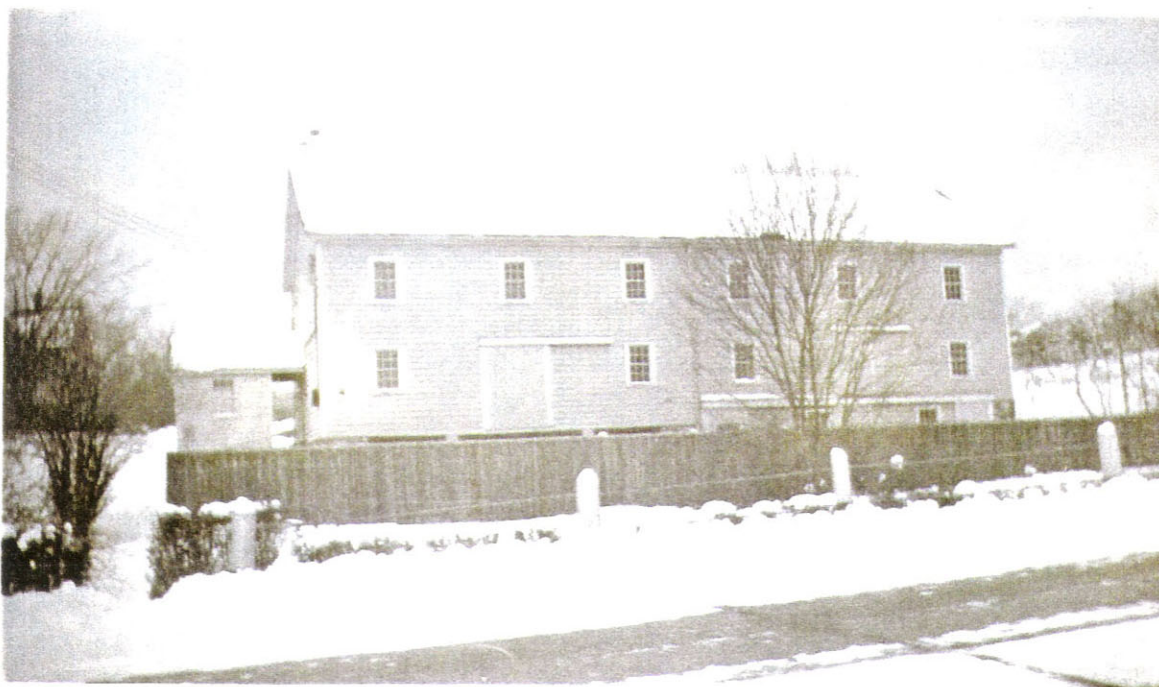
Along with social activities, plans began for remodelling the house in April.

Week of 11th we completed our plans for remodeling house - i.e., building servants' quarters back of kitchen, enlarging back bedroom over kitchen and providing hall and shower with closets upstairs, change foot of stairs, put new ceiling and floor in dining room and new floor in living room and smoking room. Entire new heating plant, and may change mantle on fire place in living room. Work started on Monday or Tues. April 14, and we will be torn up for some time.

Farm work continued. On April 19, R.B. reported: "Plowing started. Oats all planted." On May 16, "Corn planting almost completed." As of May 22, "Work on house going along nicely, altho none too fast. Corn all planted. Oats and wheat coming along nicely. Sheep sheared. Sold wool, \$14.00." That same weekend, Jane, Ed and their boys made another visit: "Jack's second trip. How we enjoyed them all. Bob was a busy body and asking questions by the dozen and would then say, "Oh, I



The House At Beaver Brook, side view



The Barn At Beaver Brook Farm

see." Children all enjoyed Beaver Brook." On another Saturday in May, "About 4:30 PM drove to Mr. Williver's for trout fishing and dinner. Mother caught 8 trout, I caught 4, Ned one. Had three for breakfast Sunday morning. Great sport and fine evening."

After a missed weekend in June when business took him to Kansas, R.B. reported: *"Hay harvested - poor crop. Soybeans planted in west field across road (first we have planted) coming up. Wheat turning and looks fine. . . . Bud home. Built new furnace in picnic ground. Getting lane and grounds in shape for picnic on July 4th."*

The annual Fourth of July picnic featured a crowd of 36, including Shipleys, Browns, Larges, and the Youngs from Washington. Work on the house was near enough finished to be comfortable. *"Weather perfect. Fruit punch not quite as good as common, but steak roast and meal at picnic ground was fine and best we have had. Fireworks display in west field, planned and nicely arranged by Bud."*³

Ed took his vacation at this time, and the Youngs remained at Beaver Brook two weeks. Then Ed and Jane went off for a week of camping on an island in Lake George, New York, leaving the two boys with R.B. and Flo. At about the same time, *"Bud left today for Topeka, Kansas to attend notification of Gov. Landon of his nomination for President on Rep. ticket. Final report on grain with additional threshing: wheat 256 bu, oats 491 bu."*

August of 1936 brought extensive birthday celebrations.

Saturday. My birthday. On Friday evening Aug 7th Mother had arranged a surprise dinner for me and when I came out from City, Bud met me at train and I found Judge and Mrs. Large and Joe here for the lovely dinner we all enjoyed. . . . At breakfast on morning of 8th, found a nice box of "McLaughlin" ties from Mother and box Kensington ware. Mint Julep cups from Bud. Jane and Ed gave me a nice sterling silver tie clasp and collar pin on Thursday while I was in Washington. . . .

Later Saturday afternoon Mother and I drove to Philadelphia to spend night and Sunday until 4 PM with Mr. and Mrs. Brown to further celebrate my birthday. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Brown presented me with "Gusie the Goose" and two goslings, and we had mixed emotions of laughter and admiration - they are most life like reproductions in natural color of a goose and two goslings, made of copper and colored, and equipped with standards for

³ The fruit punch recipe, used regularly at Beaver Brook, was subsequently rediscovered by R.B.'s grandson Peter, and used often at parties at 214 E. Athens, Ardmore.

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placing on lawn - an unusual as well as unique present and greatly appreciated. "Such a birthday" - none to equal it before and so much enjoyed and appreciated by me - the little personal things, which included some nice telegrams from thoughtful friends.

R.B. was away in Michigan and Wisconsin from August 12 to 22. On his return, he reported, "First calf sold at Flemington auction, \$9.72. Plowed up meadows near Beaver Brook, first time plowed for many years - will plant wheat this fall." The end of August brought the Flemington Fair, which was also becoming a regular activity:

We took a box in the grand stand for the first time. Box was ideally located between the boxes of Judge and Mrs. Large and Major and Mrs. Allen. Maj. Allen is the General Manager of the Fair. Mother and Bud attended every day up to and including Friday. I was out Thursday.

In September, Bud returned to Dartmouth.

Weekend of 13th we took Bud to Hanover to school. Mother, Bud, Ned and I left in the DeSoto Sunday morning and drove to Hanover. Had fine trip, lovely weather, lots of fun - stopped at highway stand for lunch and arrived destination about 6 PM. Found Jack Whip, Bud's roommate, in room and we had dinner together and a nice time. I came back on sleeper and Mother and Ned drove back Tuesday.

R.B. and Flo went up to Hanover again October 10 for the Dartmouth - Holy Cross game. "Wonderful game, but rained. I had bought a rain coat and had a W.U. Messenger Cape for Mother and we made out fine. Score Holy Cross 7, Dartmouth 0 - but for an intercepted pass score would have easily been 0-0. Dartmouth outplayed Holy Cross in every way." On October 31, they joined Bud in New Haven for the Yale Dartmouth game: "Weather ideal and about 60,000 in attendance at the famous Yale bowl presented a never to be forgotten picture."

The following Tuesday, the Whites were at Beaver Brook to vote in the Presidential election, the campaign between Franklin D. Roosevelt and Alfred Landon. R.B. commented in his diary:

This campaign has been bitterly fought and the outcome may be of everlasting importance to this country and results are anxiously awaited. Bud home until Wed, which makes us happy.

Election was a Democratic landslide, and a great so-called Republican Party stood stunned as no one had predicted any such result, even the most radical Democrat. At any rate, it clearly registered the will of the people in favor of the so-called "New Deal" and obviously now all must bow to the will of

the people. I hope it has a temporizing effect on both sides. If so, it will be a very good thing.

Bud was home from college for the Princeton-Dartmouth football game on November 20. *"Mother, Ned, Jack, Bud and I attended and enjoyed tie score 7 to 7."* For Thanksgiving, the following week, Jane, Ed and the boys came up from Washington, and met the rest of the family at the New York apartment for Thanksgiving dinner.

There are few reports of farm activities during the fall. Butchering had become an annual event. *"Butchered two hogs Sat. Dec. 19th, one large, one small. Arranged with butcher at Califon to cut up, make sausage and lard."* Bud had come home for his winter break, and preparations began for another Christmas. Jane and Ed and the boys again remained in Washington.

Harry came out with me on evening train. Mother and Bud met us at train so we could see decorations at house. It was beautiful. Large spot light playing on house and an electric candle burning in each window and entire house lighted. Was fine and will long be remembered.

Christmas morning all up for a fine breakfast of sausage (home made), buckwheat cakes, eggs etc. at 8:30 AM. We then opened and thoroughly enjoyed opening our Christmas packages. Presents were fine, brought back many pleasant memories and some sad ones. We had one of our very nicest Christmases and then all sat down to a delicious turkey dinner. Harry left on 3:10 PM train. Mother called Jane on phone and we all enjoyed our talk with her and to hear how the children were enjoying Christmas.

Sunday morning we drove to Trenton and took the train to Washington where we were met by Ed and Bobby. Had fine dinner with Jane, Ed and children. Nice visit in afternoon and during evening some of their friends came in for nice buffet supper. We returned on sleeper at midnight.

As he wrapped up his diary entry for New Year's eve spent quietly with the Larges, R.B. summarized the year: *"1936 was a fine year at B.B. from standpoint of enjoyment. Building delayed us getting out in spring until late and we did not do as much entertaining as heretofore, but we had the family around quite a little which we always thoroughly enjoy."*

1937 began with the inauguration of a new tradition, a New Year's day open house, which was attended by 52 guests. Later that month the Whites took a trip to Florida. R.B. reported on conditions when he next went to the farm on February 13:

I came out on Friday evening, found everything in good shape, two calves born, one bull sold, other, a pretty little Guernsey heifer, will keep and raise. One calf came from Topsy, the heifer raised since we came here. Also have two new Brown Swiss cows, first of this kind we have tried. Rebuilt interior cow barn while gone. It is now thoroughly modern.

Jane, Ed and the boys made frequent visits. Bud was home for spring vacation in March. Other developments that spring included a new hen house and chicken battery. As of April 3, R.B. reported: "*Chickens in battery coming along nicely. Went to Flemington Saturday AM, to look at new team, being third tried, others unsatisfactory, bringing it over Monday. Have cow sick, first trouble of this kind encountered.*" A week later the cow had died, and "*Some animal or bird has killed 3 of our ducks.*" Other news was better: "*New team delivered Monday Apr. 5th appear to be fine - work good and vet says in good condition. New chickens doing nicely in battery.*"

A visit from Jane, Ed and the boys in late April included Bob's birthday.

Bob's birthday celebrated at breakfast Sunday morning. They left about 10:30 AM for Phila. We had fine time. Jack is beginning to say a few words. We had quite a scare: as Flo and Jane were returning from Willivers Bob fell out of car near Washington while it was in motion. Fortunately, aside from being scratched up, he was unhurt and Sunday morning seemed OK.

On May 8, Bud was home for a visit. The family went to Willivers to fish. "*Mother carried off honors, catching 4 fine trout, Bud 2, me none.*" Farm activity was in full swing: "*Corn planted last week, oats coming up, wheat looks fine.*" The following week, however, there was trouble with the chickens: "*Having trouble of some extent with first grown chix in new battery on account of blisters on breast. Appears to be caused by Plymouth Rock too large and caused by feeding through cages.*"

On May 28 the Whites moved out to the farm for the summer. "*New train service on CRR gives morning train to N.Y. which is fine, leaving Annandale 7:32 AM and arriving Liberty St. at 9:01 AM.*" Bud returned home for the summer the following week.

The Fourth of July was a happy time including Jane, Ed and the boys. The following weekend other relatives, Lloyd and Fern, Harry and Ann were visiting. On July 17 the Whites bought 35 turkeys, for whom a building had been renovated. Then they left for a month in the West.

Did not return until Aug 17th on account of trouble, Seattle. . . . Everything went along nicely at farm. Oats cut, but not threshed. Alfalfa and timothy cut and put away. Good crop of both. Pool completed and silo partly dismantled and put in plumb. Turkeys had grown fine.

In August the Whites stocked their own trout pool. "100 trout put in pool on Aug. 25. Price \$40.00, delivered. Thought we would try 100 before getting any more. Also began grading off and finishing up around pool." Other farm activity that month included sale of two hogs: "one weighed 384 lbs, another 351 lbs, and recd gross \$68.15."

Weather was fine for the annual Labor Day picnic, and the punch was "taken in way indicated good." In mid-September Bud went back to Dartmouth, Flo visited family in Michigan, and R.B. had a business trip in the south and southwest. On his return, he found a new addition:

I arrived Plainfield 8:40 AM. Mother met me. Came direct to farm. She had purchased on Friday and brought home a fine new Collie dog which was named "Laddie". He is beautiful and we are very proud of him. Went over to J. C. Williver's trout fishing and for dinner Saturday PM. Very nice dinner. Mother still champion fisherman - She had 3, me 1, Ned none. Sunday Ned and I dug up 3 small trees in woods and planted them on hill near old house location on north side farm near R.R.

In early October, Robert Sullivan died in an airplane accident, and the Whites went out to Sturgis, Michigan, for the funeral. The following week Ned Sullivan brought Miss Virginia Cobb to meet the Whites:

We were not only told they were engaged, but we also found her to be a fine sweet young lady, attractive yet unassuming and charmingly modest. We are all delighted and happy that Ned has been so fortunate in finding a girl so well equipped to make him the help mate he has eagerly looked forward to finding. I am sure they will be very happy.

Once again, R.B. and Flo joined Bud in New Haven for the Yale-Dartmouth game, and Bud came to Beaver Brook the weekend of the Princeton-Dartmouth game. Thanksgiving Dinner was again celebrated in New York. Plans began early for Christmas with Jane, Ed, Bob and Jack at Beaver Brook.

December 11 was Flo's birthday, an occasion not noted in earlier years. "She is fifty and so sorry to see the "fortys" depart. Bud made her very happy this morning by

sending her a fine "Dartmouth Bracelet". Nelsons giving her a theater and supper party tonight - "I'd Rather Be Right" - Geo. M. Cohan."

Christmas Eve was a busy and exciting day.

Mother came out day before. Bud and I came on morning L.V. train arriving Flemington Jct. 9:20 AM where Mother met us and we drove to Flemington to get Bud's new Ford convertible sedan. It was a high point for Bud - a lovely little car. He and I drove it back to farm where he went on to Plainfield to finish Christmas shopping. On his return he and Mother decorated tree. It is very pretty. Weather cold, sleet, very disagreeable. Bud then set up Bob's train and getting everything ready for Jane, Ed and children tomorrow - Christmas. We are happy to be at home and all together.

The year ended with, as usual, a New Year's Eve party hosted by others, and the New Year, 1938, began with the second annual open house, well attended in spite of bad weather.

In February, R.B. reports a "grand surprise" when Bud came home for the weekend, "so when Jane, Ed and boys arrived Sat. PM late we were all together once again. We were celebrating Bud's fine appointment at Dartmouth of Advertising Manager of "Jack O'Lantern." In late March, Jane, Ed and the boys made another brief visit, and R.B. commented: "Boys are growing so fast and so full of life. They had us on the run, but we wouldn't change it if we could. They are fine."

At the end of April, R.B. took time to summarize conditions at the farm.

Trees and shrubbery all out, dogwood and lilacs in bloom. Yard and grounds all clean. Picnic grounds fine. Everything very pretty. Wheat growing fine. Alfalfa looks very good. Oats planted and up. Plowing all done. Corn should be planted next week. First Mint Juleps Sat. afternoon, right up to Mother's standard. Milking machine completely installed and put in use PM, April 24, 1938. New calf born Sat. night, Apr 30, about 10 PM. Was of unusual interest as it was the first calf of the second heifer to be raised on the farm and this calf is a fine little heifer which we hope to raise as it will be the first of a second generation. Ned and Virginia over for dinner and supper on Sunday. First trip since married.

On May 21, Jane, Ed and the boys came again. Jane and Ed left the children with their grandparents for a trip to Canada. They returned to spend Memorial Day at the farm and then returned to Washington. While Beaver Brook remained the center of the White's home life, they were not so anchored to it that they did not leave for some long trips. In June, 1938, Bud and his mother sailed for Europe on the Conte de Savoia. Jane

surprised them by coming up from Washington to see them off on the ship. During the next four weeks, R.B.'s diary hints at his loneliness with frequent references to being alone. On July 19, he sailed for Europe on the Bremen with a schedule to meet Flo and Bud in Paris about two weeks later. The three came home together on the Bremen, arriving on August 15. A week later, Jane, Ed and the boys arrived again at the farm, and Bob and Jack were left with their grandparents for nearly a week. *"We have had a fine time with the grandchildren."*

By late September, 1938, growing tensions in Europe were being felt in America. R.B.'s diary records: *"Weekend uneventful. Everyone more or less depressed at general prospect of war in Europe and as a result of the terrible hurricane on Tuesday with its heavy toll of life and property."* But the war clouds did not disturb the continuing round of dinners with friends, family gatherings and observance of special events. On October 7, Bud turned 21. He was at Beaver Brook along with his roommate, Jack Whip. It was a gala weekend, especially since it coincided with the annual Princeton-Dartmouth game, which Dartmouth won, 22-0. Sunday they all went to New York to see the Yankees win the World Series.

In early November, the couple providing household help, Chris and Elizabeth Snell, left and were succeeded by Henry and Kathryn Blase, who remained at Beaver Brook for the next three years. On November 10, R.B. reported more time with the grandchildren: *"Flo went down to Washington Wed. night and brought children back on the train Thursday. Jane and Ed drove in Friday morning. Ed and Bob returned Sunday afternoon. Jack will remain about one week with us while Jane drives up to Boston."*

For Christmas, 1938, the whole family assembled at Beaver Brook.

Mother drove out early alone, and when Bud and I arrived from the train in the evening it was plain what she had been doing. All her fine Christmas decorations were aglow and the place was beautiful. It was then I had my first touch of "Christmas Spirit" for the year and it then seemed like Christmas at home. Jane, Ed and boys arrived about midnight and we are anticipating a fine Christmas with all of us again.

Jane arrived as planned and Mr. and Mrs. Earl E. Young of Philadelphia came Saturday PM. Sunday morning, Christmas Day, was a gala occasion. We had a "large" Christmas. Great difficulty was found in trying to prevent Bob and Jack from going downstairs as we had planned to have breakfast at 7:30 AM and then open Christmas presents. Everyone remembered in a most

substantial way. . . .Boys were full of life and it was a great joy to see them enjoy Christmas.

1938 ended as usual, with a New Year's Eve party hosted by Frances Large, and the New Year, 1939, began with Open House at Beaver Brook on Monday, January 2nd, attended by "52 guests, in 19 cars - all old friends and some new." The first gathering of the family in 1939 was in late February when Bud was home again from Dartmouth. "Saturday morning breakfast was a great occasion - Jane, Ed, boys, Bud and ourselves. Crullers, sausage and eggs. Lots of fun."

It was on one such weekend that R.B. was interviewed by Josephine Nelson for a lengthy article which appeared in the newspaper on May 11, 1939. Her description of the farm work was given at the beginning of this text. The interviewer also caught vividly the family atmosphere that was characteristic of Beaver Brook:

We were back in the long living room with its turkey red carpet and soft green walls, enjoying the open fire. Handsome young Roy Barton Jr., who is finishing at Dartmouth this year and has journalistic leanings, came through with friends who were taking their leave. Three-year-old Jack, younger of the two sons of the White's daughter, Mrs. Edgar B. Young, of Washington, D.C., in Hunterdon for a week's visit, frolicked about. And tho picking the child out of places he didn't belong and going, herself, to the kitchen to get drinks for us (the servants were out for the Sunday afternoon), Mrs. White remained poised and dignified and forthright and charming. I fancy she has quietly had much to do with building her husband's career.

Between his references to family and friends, R.B. notes continuing events on the farm.

Five lambs born during weekNew fence completed along rail by neighbor. . . . New brown Swiss calf born (bull) Have two men cleaning up woods and cutting up dead timber. . . . Nine pigs born during week, but mother killed five by lying on them. . . . Have a fine bull - 'Dennis of Upland' - secured on trial from my good friend, George Large Threshed wheat - using machine purchased last winter.

On March 24, "Flo came up from Washington . . . bringing Jack for a joyous weekend. He came with Henry to meet me at High Bridge and we had a good romp on



R.B. At His Front Step



Flo With The Dog, Sonny

the way home. He drew with crayons at dining table while we were at dinner and then went to bed and we heard no more from him." The following month there were trees to be planted:

Saturday April 22, 1939 will always be remembered as tree planting day. At noon Mr. Dilatush's truck from Robbinsville, NJ arrived with three holly trees and one magnolia which Christine and Flo had selected on April 7th. They also brought cotton seed meal, special tobacco stem oak leaf mold, and set the trees out with assistance of our own force. Two of the holly trees were planted between the highway and the barn near the French fence on one side and near the hedge on the other. The third tree was planted between the guest house and the barn. The magnolia was planted with other shrubbery about opposite larger window in dining room.

On Mother's Day that year, the following incident occurred, as reported first in the Plainfield Courier News:

Offers the President of Western Union Dime Tip

While the Western Union Telegraph Company was delivering more than a million Mother's Day greeting telegrams, the telephone of Resident R. B. White's country place near Annandale rang. A railroad operator at an adjacent tower explained that he had a Mother's Day message for a person living somewhere in that section of the county and the address indicated that if he called that particular telephone number the subscriber might be able to offer some helpful suggestion as to delivery. It was clear he had no idea that he was talking with the president of the company.

Mr. White volunteered to deliver the telegram, and having located the addressee, drove to the farm a few miles away where he found a small social gathering in progress in celebration of the day. He presented the telegram to the mother with the statement: "I have a telegram for you which I know will make you happy." and turned to go, when the husband called: Wait a minute. Here, buy yourself a cigar." And he offered President White a dime.

R.B. mounted this clipping in his diary and noted: "*Clipping below fairly describes actual occurrence - Newspapers of nation and local broadcasters gave story rather generous prominence.*"

The Memorial Day weekend and the Fourth of July provided two major occasions for the entire family to enjoy the farm. On May 30, Bill and Ruth Simkin and their two boys, friends of Jane and Ed, came from Philadelphia for the picnic. The group on the 4th included Ann and Harry (White) and Virginia and Ned Sullivan. *"Kids all went bathing over at Mr. Williver's lake."*

On the weekend of June 17, R.B. and Flo journeyed to Hanover to attend Bud's graduation from Dartmouth.

He met us at White River Jct with his car and drove us direct to Hanover where we were quartered in a lovely room at Hanover Inn. He and I left immediately to attend meeting of the Alumni Assn and a Father and Son buffet luncheon, while Mother attended a nice informal luncheon at the Fraternity House with Mrs. Garnet and group of ladies. In the afternoon we attended a ball game, Dartmouth vs. Cornell. Dartmouth won. Good game. In the evening dinner at the Inn. Bud's friend, Miss Martha Fisher, Mother and I. Later we joined group at Fraternity House.

Sunday morning, June 18th (Father's Day) and what a day. Bud and I had breakfast at the Inn. A beautiful sunshiny morning, excellent food, a breakfast under circumstances I will always remember - the day - our boy, a man, and through school. At 10 AM we attended baccalaureate services in the chapel. It was perfect. Then a drive to Woodstock, NH for lunch with Garnets and friends, back to Hanover and to the graduation at 6 PM in the out-of-doors among rocks and trees - setting, music, weather, arrangement, execution all that it was intended to be and more. To me it was something, or better, one thing I had so long hoped for - one of our own a graduate of college - and too it was to a degree the fulfillment of an obligation we have always assumed of giving our own the best we could to advance and provide an education. To me it will always remain one of the happiest days of my life.

After a short vacation at home, Bud started work in New York at Macy's. On July 8, R.B. noted that Bud's first tailor-made suits arrived.

At the end of August, 1939, the situation in Europe began to overshadow everything else. On August 27, R.B. notes: *"War clouds which looked so serious Friday cleared Saturday morning."* On September 2 he wrote:

In town all day account of war situation abroad. Germany had entered Poland and we were expecting England and France to enter war any time, but they have not done so as yet. Action may come Sunday morning. Atmosphere very tense. . . . Rain and war scare deprived us of our usual day at the Flemington Fair.

Jane, Ed and family, Mary Jane Sullivan, and Virginia and Ned Sullivan were all visiting for the Labor Day weekend, but R.B. reported: *"Labor Day quiet. Jane, Ed, Mary*

Jane, Virginia, Ned went to Worlds Fair, and I was obliged to go to New York account of war conditions."

In spite of the developing war situation, normal life continued in Hunterdon County. On September 22, R.B. reported:

Saturday afternoon Christine came out to dig her own sweet potatoes and just as the ceremony was about to begin, Mrs. Wallace and her son drove in, so we all went out and gave her much advice and comfort. Only one sweet potato of consequence was forthcoming and in the main the crop was a failure, although three or four oddly shaped small ones were produced. The high point was Christine actually digging which was permanently recorded in the movies. Near noon Flo and I shellacked the ornamental gourds we had raised and they are very pretty. Later I drove by and picked up Mr. Miller and attended the outdoor barbecue of the Hunterdon Co. Bar Assn at "Uplands", the estate of Judge Large. 75 or more men were there and they prepared their own steaks and frankfurters and corn on the open fire on the grounds and ate at long tables. It was a grand party.

In early December local interest and concern was centered on proposals for the proposed relocation of the State road through the Annandale area. "*Fever still running high about relocation of route 28. Trying to induce them to locate it south of brook, but highway com. want to bring in through our meadow. Can't tell now what will be done.*"

With the approach of Christmas, R.B. noted:

War in Europe still major influence and no one can venture or predict what future has in store. Christmas season seems to be about same as usual from all outward indications, although some comment to effect usual spirit is absent. It is no wonder, with every one in a quandary as to which way to turn.

For Christmas this year, the Whites were at the farm alone, but the customary lights and decorations including the Christmas tree were arranged. On Christmas eve, they

turned lights on house as usual as darkness fell, and I made us a cocktail. And then one of my favorite delicious dinners - Smithfield ham, prepared here, on toast smothered in creamed whites of hard boiled eggs, filled in center with grated yolks and kidney beans. I ate so much could hardly eat any desert.

On Christmas morning at breakfast before the open fire, "*Sonny (the dog) came in with bright red ribbon about his neck . . . we three sat before our tree and opened our Christmas packages. Nice presents for all and we were all so well remembered. My finest and most appreciated present was a fine sweater Jane had knitted for me.*"

Later in the day Ned and Virginia Sullivan and Harry and Ann White joined them for Christmas dinner. *"We miss our Jane and her children very much, yet we well understand why they want to enjoy Christmas in their own home."*

The year 1940 opened at Beaver Brook with the now traditional New Year's Day Open House. Katherine and Bernard, the household help from the New York apartment, came out to assist. R.B. was enthusiastic in his account of this event:

Open house was blessed with good weather and about 55 guests. Eggnog perfect and best we have ever had. Flo made it Friday. Smoked turkey from Macy's this year excellent and B.B. mustard dressing was at least up to standard if not far above. Guests remained long and were happy.

R.B. and Flo had a winter vacation in Tucson, Arizona from January 23 to February 25. While there they bought two burros to be shipped back to Beaver Brook, which arrived by express soon after their return. *"They were in good shape and naturally quite happy as their surroundings were about as near Burro Heaven as they might expect."* The burros remained a special attraction at Beaver Brook for Bob and Jack. Several later attempts at riding them were taken by both little boys. On March 8, R.B. commented: *"The boys found new and added interest in the burros."*

There was much planting during the Spring. On April 13:

Bud, Henry and I planted six rose bushes near fence by barn as a reminder of Bud's first regular job, that of Asst. Buyer in Hdw Dept of R.H. Macy & Co. to which he was appointed on April 7th. Bud purchased the rose bushes at Macy's and had them charged against Mother's D/a. [Depositor's Account] Planted Chinese elms in picnic ground and two magnolia trees in field north of house.

Three weeks later, *"Flo planted cherry trees and one plum along meadow fence during week, and we planted bittersweet (present from Nelsons) along fence by barn."* Then in early June, R.B. *"planted two maples at each of the 'stiles' in meadow today - that those who follow may sit in the shade and ponder."*

There was also much to report about animals. On June 1, 1940, *"Nice Guernsey heifer, 2nd generation of one of Denny's calves, born in pasture at noon. Another beautiful little animal I hope we can raise."* On June 21,

Our dog 'Sonny' believed to have killed one of our lambs, which probably means he must go.⁴ One turkey hatched in Mother's experiment, after which her hens quit. On Tuesday morning as Mother looked out bathroom window early we saw our first deer to be running wild on the farm, jumping about in the alfalfa field just west of the house.

During that spring, the developing war situation in Europe came to a head. "Friday, 5/10 a memorable day in the history of the world: Germans entered Holland and Belgium during night. Prime Minister Chamberlain of England resigned - replaced by Churchill. Stock market down. British pound went to \$3.00." A week later, "War news very discouraging. Stock market broke heavily again Friday." Again, on June 8, "War news black. Our cable station at Le Havre evacuated 10:15 this morning." By mid-June, "Everyone deeply depressed as a result of the progress of the war in Europe."

Notwithstanding these serious war developments, family life and activities at the farm continued as usual. In May Flo made a trip to Sturgis, Michigan, with Jack. In June she took him on a trip to Dana, Indiana. In mid-June they moved out to the farm for the summer. On June 21, R.B. recorded:

First week in country of Summer 1940 ends. It has been most pleasant in many ways. First Jane and her children have been with us, which is always a great joy. Second, on Tuesday our own family - Mother, Jane, Bud and I spent the evening together at Terrace Club and Worlds Fair which we all most thoroughly enjoyed.

The following week, "Jane, Ed and children arrived from N.Y. and the World's Fair about 1 AM. Bud came in on the LV. 8:15 PM. All here for dinner Sunday." On the 4th of July week end, Jane and the boys were still at Beaver Brook. Ed joined them, and

Bud out on L.V. . . . Virginia and Ned here for lunch and we had picnic for boys. . . On Saturday afternoon Emily and Parks Shipley came out with their 3 boys for a picnic supper with Jane and Ed. Mrs. Herzog, Emily's mother, also came. Ed had built a dam in the small brook near foot bridge making a nice bathing pool for boys so the five of them tried it out with marked success. Mother and I were guests at the picnic. It was very nice and boys had a grand time on the farm.

⁴ Sonny did not go, but remained with the family for a number of years.

Jane, Ed and Jack returned to Washington while Bob stayed on with his grandparents. A week later, R.B. wrote: *"Bob still with us - a fine boy thoroughly enjoying himself and we are thoroughly enjoying him."*

In August, R.B. celebrated his 57th birthday. *"It was the nicest birthday I have ever had. I was remembered with some very nice presents, including a "motto" embroidered by Jane and an archery set from Mother."* The next week, R.B. and Flo left for Elwood, Indiana, where Wendell Wilkie was officially notified of his nomination as Republican candidate for President of the U.S. on August 17th. *"It was a great occasion, about 150,000 people there. My sister Edna, brothers Lloyd and Harry were there, and we had a fine reunion."*

In late August, plans were completed to move into a new apartment in New York City. *"Flo had spent day in NY with Mrs. Christine Nelson arranging for furniture and decorations in our new apartment at One Fifth Avenue, where we will live this winter and are likely to stay as long as we are in New York."*

Over the Labor Day week end, Jane, Ed and their boys were again at the farm, and *"Virginia and Ned expected Sunday if their baby does not arrive in mean time."* At that time, R.B. received two dozen quail he had ordered from Kansas.

We will find them expensive eating as I paid \$1.00 each for them - am obliged to build a special pen and get special feed which can only be found in suburb of Philadelphia - and have two bags coming by passenger train. We live - but never learn!

In October, *"Greatly disappointed to find about 15 of our quail had died during the week."* In the end, however, R.B. was well pleased with the results, as he reported on November 15:

Past two weeks will be long remembered by us for the birds we have had to eat - fine dressed guinea hens from Mr. Williver - pair Mallard ducks from Mr. Geddes - one dozen Missouri quail from Mr. Barnett and two fine pheasants from Mr. Tramwell. The high spot was Wednesday and Friday morning of this week when Mother prepared breakfast herself in NY and gave us quail and toast - these breakfasts will be remembered always because they were so deliciously perfect it is impossible to adequately describe them or the thoroughness of our enjoyment - so often Mother and myself as well had frequently mentioned the delicious quail we had once had in Illinois and wondered if we would ever again be so fortunate. Well - we were. This week we had a full measure of all we had longed for and it was just as good or better.

There was an unusual incident on October 4:

Bloomer set out trees in end of pasture along brook. While there discovered man in shrubbery with gun and because of general alarm out for man who had committed murder at Three Bridges and the peculiar actions of this man we called state police, who apprehended intruder, after certain amount of excitement about house, who turned out to be our farmer's father-in-law, who had arrived without his or our knowledge and taken gun and gone out in search of ground hogs. All quieted down after identification completed.

In a press account of the incident, the intruder was asked why he was bending low and trying not to be seen. "Because he knew Mr. White was very strict in the matter of trespassing on his property."

The developing war clouds cast their shadow into the family in October, 1940. "Week to be remembered as Buddy registered on Wednesday, Oct. 16th in the selective draft in the Preparedness program. Naturally we all hope he will not be called but that remains to be seen." A week later, "The High Bridge Gazette contained list of draftees from the county with their numbers. Buddy drew No. 724."

R.B. reported on November 2,

Nothing unusual at farm worthy of mention, but I would like to record Sunday was a beautiful day, its bright sunshine causing the countryside to display its finery at its best and in spite of the impending gloom occasioned by the war. The prospect of our own answering the draft, and the discouraging outlook for our country causes one to feel deeply that it can't go on, all will be well and that the future is bright.

Just before Christmas, R.B. recorded that Bud "was called up for medical examination under draft on Thursday 19th and we can expect call about any time now."

Christmas preparations were extensive, particularly since Jane, Ed and the boys would be at the farm. As the day approached:

Mother completely worn out as result of Christmas shopping and preparation due to weakness caused by shingles and followed by lumbago. Nothing unusual at farm. Christmas packages galore. Mother will remain here during holidays. Jane and family expected Tuesday night and we are all looking forward to another Christmas when we are all together.

R.B. recorded that Christmas together at some length.

Words are inadequate to describe the joy of this day. Mother had remained at home from weekend. Jane and the boys and Ed came up late Monday night. I came out Christmas Eve (Tues) on the Harrisburger and Bud drove out later in the evening. Mother had the tree all decorated and in its regular place, and

the house lighted in accordance with our custom - light in each window and flood light on the house. It was beautiful and as we will all always remember it at Christmas. Mother met me at the train and we drove over on hill by Gobels to look at the house. The boys had a light temperature and had to be kept indoors but it in no way diminished their enthusiasm or activities. They were very happy, mischievous and active. We loved it all. Boys to bed early on Christmas eve and Mother, Bud, Ed and Jane were at work arranging, wrapping and marking presents before placing about tree until a late hour.

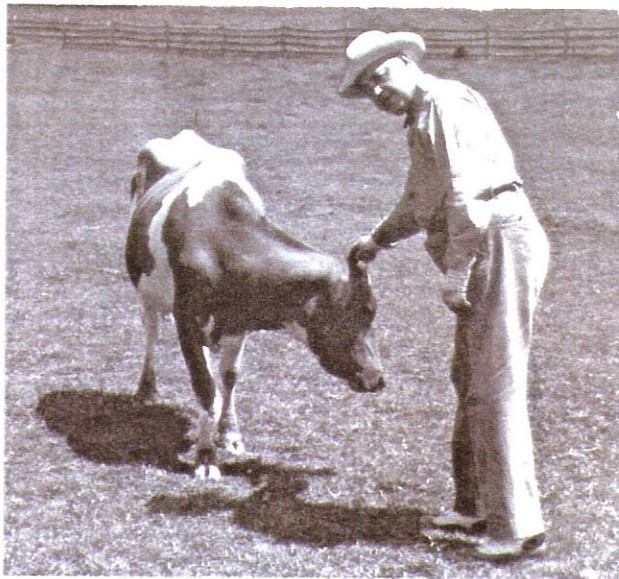
Breakfast hour was set at 8 AM for Christmas morning - boys to come down back stairs. They were up early, but the plan worked out most satisfactorily and after breakfast we all gathered about the tree for another delightful Christmas all together, and all so generously remembered. I will not attempt to record the remembrances, but due to war and the fact they are even now becoming rare, I do wish to mention the two Royal Dalton figures which Santa Claus brought to Mother - "The lady with the roses" and the "Two ladies at tea". They should become increasingly more valuable. Santa Claus also brought Jane and Bud miniatures of their Mother and Daddy. Mr. and Mrs. Earl E. Young, father and mother of Ed, came from Philadelphia about 10 AM and joined our party, and Virginia, Ned and Teddy came in the afternoon as did Christine and Art late in afternoon. We had a most delicious Christmas dinner which could not have been more thoroughly relished or enjoyed and although Mr. and Mrs. Young left during afternoon the rest of us had a buffet supper in breakfast room prepared by Mother and Jane, including Mother's delicious hot biscuits, and we had great fun. A day seldom equalled and long to be remembered.

The year 1941 was ushered in with the traditional Beaver Brook Open House:

now the opening annual event of our community. Guests began to arrive at 4:30 PM, continuing until last left about 7 PM - total of sixty guests - whom we greatly enjoyed, being all of our good friends, neighbors and acquaintances including Lady Lindsay-Hogg, niece of Mrs. Frances Large. Christine's eggnog (now famous) made by Mother, hot small 'franks' and hot rolls, Smithfield ham, smoked turkey, sandwiches, cakes, candy and all appropriate trimmings. A most enjoyable day, a successful party and a wonderful start for the New Year.

Early in January, R.B. reported on Bud's military draft situation:

In view of fact local draft board had said Buddy would be called either Jan. 22nd or Feb. 7th, we were anxious to know whether he would pass examination and had set out to secure this information so he could plan his time and arrange his work. As a result and through the kindness of Judge Large we drove over with Bud to call on Gen'l Edward Rose, who was spending the weekend at his country place near Flemington, in the hope he might assist us in pointing out the course we should pursue to get preliminary examination. We were most graciously received by General Rose, who not only gave us such information as he could concerning the examination, but also gave us a great



R.B. With One Of The Cows



Bud (Roy B. White, Jr.) And
R.B., 1941



Ed And Jane, Bob
And Jack Young, 1941

deal of helpful information concerning the general situation and procedure. We also had the pleasure of meeting Congressman and Mrs. Powers at Gen'l Rose's home. As a result of his visit to Camp Dix and further conferences with Gen'l Rose and other officers, Bud decided to enlist in 112 Regt. Artillery of NJ National Guard during the week and he left the store and took his military leave Saturday Jany 11th. His associates gave him a nice little party and some nice remembrances. He reached the farm about 11:30 PM. Next week he will devote his time to studies incident to becoming a soldier, as under present orders his Co. will entrain for Camp Bragg, N.C. on Jan. 27th.

Although we are not at war, and have reasonable reason to feel we will not enter the war - there is something about it which fills our hearts with sadness and Mother and I are trying to keep our spirits up and Buddy happy. He is taking his usual sensible view of it all, realizing that while we would all be much happier if conditions were not as they are, nothing can be done about it and he would not want to shirk his duty even though it were possible. We are happy he is going to a good camp in a local regiment largely made up of a fine group of local New Jersey boys.

Flo spent two months in Palm Beach with Art and Christine Nelson from mid January to the middle of March. *"Kathrine and Henry leaving Monday with Mother's Buick and expect to arrive Palm Beach Wednesday. Mother will arrive Friday."* R.B. joined them from January 29th until March 2nd. In late January,

Bud has spent the week at farm, at Trenton and in between in connection with studies and information having to do with his enlistment in the 112th Artillery. . . . Bud does not expect to leave for Camp Bragg now before February 6th. On Sunday afternoon Bud put on his uniform and I took his picture several times.

Bud left for Fort Bragg while R.B. was in Florida. Upon his return to the farm on March 7, R.B. reported *"Trees have been cut down in south pasture in preparation for beginning work on new road."* This was the rerouting of Highway 28, in the area later used for Interstate 78. Later than month R.B. asked Judge Large to help get a settlement from the State for *"damage due to road being built through meadow on south side."* This resulted in a payment of \$10,000 for the right-of-way.

At the end of March another family reunion occurred.

One glorious weekend. Jane and children came up to NY on Tuesday and Ed came up to farm Thursday, where he was joined by Jane, and Mother brought the boys out Friday morning. Bud came home from Fort Bragg on short furlough arriving NY Friday morning and I came in off line Friday morning. Our whole family sat down at dinner here at farm Friday evening and we will all be together until Sunday. Bud will leave for camp driving his car at 10:30

Sunday morning and Jane and family leave Sunday afternoon. We were very happy to have them with us.

Easter came two weeks later: "Bud home from camp, and we all went to Washington on train to spend Easter with Jane and family where we had a grand day and had a wonderful view of Japanese cherry blossoms in Potomac Park."

On April 26, R.B. records a decision of major importance to him and to the entire family.

What a day. During the week I definitely decided to accept the Presidency of the Baltimore and Ohio R.R. which meant among other sacrifices we must sell Beaver Brook Farm and today it was placed in the hands of two realtors to sell . . . a sad day for we all love this old place dearly and fond memories will lurk about it forever.

I might record for the sake of the record that during the past two weeks I have been obliged to reach the most difficult decision of my life and to perform duties in acquainting others with my decision that has been extremely painful to put it mildly. It is a change for me and for us that means much in many ways and no one, but time, can only tell whether it was wise or unwise.

A buyer was found quickly. Only one week later, R.B. reported:

The week has been exciting and will be long remembered - on Wednesday morning April 30th Mr. Lloyd C. Conover called me in New York to inform me that he had a buyer for Beaver Brook farm and after a brief conversation he was directed to consummate the sale. We were delighted to know the sale had been made so satisfactorily and so quickly - and we included everything except our household goods. All animals, equipment, planted crops, garden - and a place in first class condition and unusual in many ways. The purchaser, Mr. Richard S. Austin, of Westfield, New Jersey, was unknown to us. Mr. Conover came over this evening with an initial payment of \$3,000.00. Balance of \$27,000.00 to be paid in cash by July 1st 1941 or before, when we must give up possession. This sale including the \$10,000.00 from the State will almost make us whole for the time occupied - except our year to year loss.

It all has happened in such a short time we can hardly realize the farm has been sold. We must now find us a new home in Baltimore, MD and prepare to move to that city - but we are very glad we have until July 1st to arrange matters.

The last big family gathering was held at Beaver Brook on Memorial Day, 1941. R.B. recorded this and his two remaining week ends at the farm as follows:

Grand weekend. Stopped in Plainfield on Thursday evening for dinner with our good friends the Nelsons. Home later. Friday Memorial day. Jane and family arrived about Midnight and Bud came in from Fort Bragg about 3 AM, and we have had a grand and final family reunion at old Beaver Brook, as it is

the last time we will all be together here. Virginia and Ned stopping by on way to Sturgis and we had a fine picnic dinner in picnic ground. Bud went into NY Saturday morning to return at night. Mother, Jane and I left for Trenton 2 PM as I leave for Baltimore.

6/7, arrived at farm 5:30 PM from Philadelphia traveling via Plainfield. Mother, Jane and children remained at farm all week and were there to greet me after my first week in my new position. I have spent a grand and most interesting week as will be recorded in my new diary covering my Balto. and Ohio experience. Nothing unusual at farm. Had fine rain and began cutting and curing alfalfa. Another calf born.

My last day at Beaver Brook Farm Sunday, 6/15/41. Came up from Baltimore with Flo where we had gone to look over our new home a second time. Henry met us - no he did not - Flo had Buick in a Plainfield garage and she drove us home to the farm. The new owner had visited the farm again during our absence, getting plans made to take possession. Nothing of consequence had occurred during the week.

On Sunday morning I made final arrangements with Jerry to look after matters following our departure and I gave him a check paying him for the balance of the year - partly as a severance of service gratuity and partly in recognition of faithful service and the fact his rate had not been advanced for some time. Flo had done quite a little packing during the week and was to move out of NY Apt. on 6/18/41 and finish loading our effects at farm on 6/19/41.

I left on Harrisburger from High Bridge and plan for moving was carried out and this is being written in our new home in Baltimore. I will conclude this diary when settlement for sale of farm is consummated and the book closed.

On Tuesday, July 8th, 1941 we received checks in full payment for the farm and our ownership of Beaver Brook was terminated - forever.