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Unfortunately, continuing through high school with her friends in Eagle Pass would not be for Pito. As a result of the Great Depression, which started in 1929, the coal mines in Eagle Pass were closing and Pito's father was out of work. Mora, the oldest sister, had wed in 1925 and moved from Eagle Pass. It was decided that the family would move to San Antonio where employment would be more likely. So they moved in 1930.

Saying good bye to Arthur and her friends was heart breaking but Pito's positive attitude would help her meet the new challenges which the future held. She would finish school at Brackenridge High in San Antonio, and make new friends who all loved her.

The depression also brought a slowdown in the farming industry which affected Arthur and his family at Hopedale. Although his father remained with the farm bureau, work was not steady. Arthur continued to work the farm and generate whatever income he could.

Charles at age 17 was not happy doing farm work so his father allowed him to move to San Antonio where he could pursue a life better suited for him. Charles stayed with his uncle Ed who managed a filling station / garage, and would occasionally help with the work. His father would write to him often to see how he was getting along and keep him informed of things at home.



16 July 1930

*Dear Son, I want you to do what you think best. When I was a boy my parents made me go to school for many years and after I came out would not let me do the work I wanted to do but insisted on my being an office man, which was not best for me, I am sure. So I do not want to give you any orders about your life. You are now old enough to know something about what you want and I am sure you will do better by following your own urge to learn in your own way. Your life here at the farm was not always happy and when one lives in an unhappy or disagreeable condition, good*

work is impossible. So you have my permission to stay on in San Antonio where I believe you will be happier than here on the farm. Best regards to Ed and his wife.

16 Aug 1930

Dear Son, This year is going to be hard for many people on account of the scarcity of work but we will get through somehow and in time conditions will improve again and we will all make a better living. Arthur worked pretty well this week and plowed about 5 acres of the low ground. He got two good mules from [an acquaintance] and promised to pay him with hay which will take all the bales we have. But the mules work better than any animals we have had on the farm. Arthur may get the balance of the land which has no crop on it plowed by the middle of September We have about 9 acres in sudan grass of which we have had one cutting. If it rains in the next two or three weeks we will probably get another cutting of 250 bales more or less, provided we do not keep so many horses here that they eat it all up. Last week we had 9 horses. This week Arthur took three to a pasture and loaned one out to a neighbor for its feed, so we have only 5 on hand now. Don't worry about sending money. Please take

good care of yourself. I want you to earn money and to get for yourself the things you need. With best of love, your father

4 Oct 1930

Dear son, Your letter was duly received and I am glad to hear you are going to improve your mind by studying about autos at night. It will surely be a fine thing for you to be able to study a good book on the subject and be able to get practical experience at the same time under the direction of a man like Ed who knows so much about cars and who will take a personal interest in your progress. It surely seems as it is going to be a hard winter everywhere. Eagle Pass has not felt the full force of the business depression yet as we have had a Gas co's contractor at work in town laying pipes in the streets and alleys since July. They are nearly through now and that will throw about 100 men out of work. We have had a little rain and it looks like more tonight. If it will rain an inch or two it will be a great help on the farm to soften the clods and moisten the soil before we plant. We hope to get started planting spinach next week and finish about the 20<sup>th</sup>. We will have nothing but spinach this year as I have not enough money for onions

or carrots. Maybe Arthur will get a job on the county road with the mules and send me some money so we will have plenty to eat all winter until the spinach is ready to be sold. So far we have all been well and as long as no one of us get really sick we will be able to get along. Tell Ed I hope he will at least have enough business to pay all expenses through the winter, and come over if you can to have Thanksgiving dinner with us. With best of love, your father

11 Oct 1930

Dear son, I am always glad to hear from you and especially when you tell me you are well and happy in your work and study. We have all been well since my last letter. So far we have had no cold weather though it is not nearly so hot as it was before we had a good rain last Saturday and looks like we might have some more rain next week. Since the rain we have planted  $7 \frac{1}{2}$  acres of spinach, but have not got the ditches ready for irrigating it yet. Maybe Arthur will fix the ditch today. They are working now preparing a 12 acre field for planting. If nothing goes wrong we may get that 12 acres planted next week. Then there is another piece of about the same size that has been plowed and borders made. Maybe

*if we are not delayed we may get that in also. Then we will have about 30 A of spinach. If my money does not play out or if Arthur will get a job with the mules we may bring all to maturity and if well sold have some money to go on with next year.*



Henrietta finished college and in July of 1930 married a good man named Baltazar; Chato was his nickname. Mary was working a job on Saturdays at Kress candy department for a dollar a day. It was enough for her to be able to buy some clothes with her earnings.

The struggle to earn a dollar continued with no end in sight. There was not enough work for Charles at Ed's garage in San Antonio so he would be moving back to Eagle Pass within a year or so. Being the eldest son, there was more expected of Arthur. There was little if any work outside of the farm to be found and he had that bashful character. He was always there to care for his mother and younger siblings and never neglected the duties that were needed to keep the farm running.

The farm bureau did provide a little work for Arthur's father in late 1933. An inspector was needed for the fruit crops in the Texas Valley and he would be away from Hopedale and Eagle Pass for a while. When at the Valley a hurricane hit the Texas coastline causing much destruction.



*Alamo, Texas-9-11-33*

*Dear son Charles, I have written to your mother and so I am sure you all know that I came through the storm safely. It really was not so bad here at Alamo. But east of here at Harlingen and Brownsville much damage was done, some 25 to 30 people were killed and several hundred had broken legs, arm or rib, and cuts or severe bruises from being hit by houses falling on them or by flying pieces when they were running from the wrecked houses to safer places. There was from 24 to 30 inches of rain and many fields and roads are still covered with water. The worst thing for the people here and for me too is the destruction of the grapefruit and orange crop. So all the work I expected to do and salary I expected to earn was blown away by the storm.*

I got here on the first about 9am and since then I have not earned enough money for the service to pay my salary for three days. There will be a lot of work this week and some next week inspecting fruit picked off the ground, but when that is gone there will be very little to do until December. I enclose check for your mother for \$7. I hope the three younger boys got started to school alright and that mother had enough money to buy the school supplies for them. If Joseph needs money for books or other things a high school student should have and mother has not enough I hope you will be able to lend it to him. Give my love to all the folks, your father

Edinburg, Texas 29 Nov 1933

Dear son Charles, I got to Harlingen Monday morning, 20<sup>th</sup>. From Harlingen I came down to Edinburg. There is more to do here as I inspect from five to twelve truckloads of citrus fruit every day. I am sending in this letter a check for mother for \$7. I have not been paid any salary yet and can't spare any more this week. I hope you all have a good dinner on Thanksgiving. With love, DAD

*Edinburg, Texas 12-12-33*

*Dear son Charles, Your letter of 2 Dec was very welcome. I am very glad to hear that you had a good Thanksgiving dinner with turkey and fries and cake. I do not expect to be home for Christmas. In this work there are no holidays, not even Sunday and Christmas. I am sending in this letter a P.O. money order for your mother for \$14. There will be no more until near Christmas so the \$14 must last at least two weeks. It might be well for you to go to see the Public Works Administration man, and let him tell you about the work the government is doing, and then even if you do not apply for work you could tell Arthur how to get work sooner. I take as good care of myself as possible but in this work it is necessary to stay up late at night. I never get to bed until midnight and some nights have to stay at work until 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. I hope you and all the others are well. Regards to everyone, Daddy*



When their father returned to Hopedale from the Valley in 1934 he was noticeably very tired. Worries of the day had taken a toll on him. He developed a heart ailment and passed away in September of that year at the age of 63. He was noted as.....

*A man of high character and outstanding intellect, set off by his charm of manner he had many friends and ranked high among the inspectors of the state.*

After the passing of their father Charles found work at a dairy while Arthur struggled to keep the farm operating, but it was to no avail. Arthur eventually found work as a truck driver to help support the household. Their father was very much missed and Nana decided to sell the farm and move to Eagle Pass where they lived in a small house not too far from the railroad tracks. It was cozy and Nana kept a vegetable garden out back. The house had a hip roof, like the Hopedale farm house, and outer walls made to look like stone. Across the front of the property was a short stone wall on either side of the sidewalk that led to the front porch.

Arthur missed living on the farm. His boyhood dream had been shattered and he was very saddened when Nana disposed of much of his fathers' belongings. Perhaps it was her way of finding healing over the loss of her husband.

Mary had gotten married in 1932. She was not quite 17 but it seemed like the right thing to do. The marriage wouldn't last and her three young boys would move in with Nana and their uncles where they would be raised. Mary worked several jobs which sometimes took her away from home but she visited as often as she could. Arthur was very fond of his young nephews and they were fond of him.

By 1937 Charles married and started his own family. Henrietta and her husband were raising two boys at their home in Eagle Pass. Edward was 15 and still in school. Joe and Oscar were young adults and figuring out what direction to pursue in their lives. The path of Arthur and his brothers would soon be determined by events that would bring the Great Depression to an end.