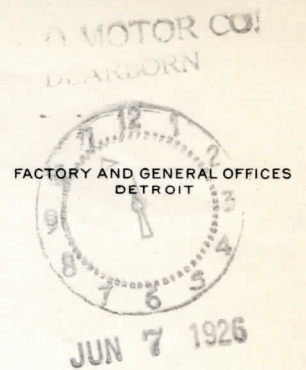


# Ford Motor Company

Manufacturers of Automobiles, Trucks and Tractors

New Orleans, La. 6-3-26



Dearborn Publishing Co  
Dearborn  
Mich

Gentlemen:

IN REPLYING REFER TO 1

ALL STATEMENTS OR AGREEMENTS CONTAINED IN THIS LETTER ARE CONTINGENT ON STRIKES, ACCIDENTS, FIRES OR ANY OTHER CAUSES BEYOND OUR CONTROL AND ALL CONTRACTS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SIGNATURE OF A DULY AUTHORIZED EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THIS COMPANY. CLERICAL ERRORS SUBJECT TO CORRECTION.

Referring further to your letter of May 19th in which you asked that we determine if John Wilkes Booth was in New Orleans during the months of September, October, November and December of 1862.

We have made an exhaustive research of old newspaper files at the Louisiana State Museum and we have discovered nothing that would indicate that Booth was in New Orleans during the period mentioned. We have also called upon the local newspapers to aid us in this work and they also report no success. In addition we have talked with a local physician, now 83 years of age, who has lived in New Orleans practically all of his life and was here at the time in question. This old gentleman is somewhat of a historian, but he was unable to give us any information that would be of value to us.

The old newspapers that we inspected carry a wealth of chronological data in connection with the assassination of Lincoln; the preparations made by Booth to insure his getaway after the crime; the manner in which the assassination was accomplished; the escape; the suspicion directed toward Surratt as having attempted to take the life of Secretary Seward as well as having acted as an accomplice in the Lincoln assassination. There is also an account of the arrest of Surratt's mother and sisters; and in the local museum there is a print depicting the hanging of Mrs Surratt. If a reproduction of this print would be of any value to you, we have permission to photograph it, though we are afraid that the result would be negligible owing to its size and present condition.

There is also contained in the old newspapers editorial comment dealing with the Lincoln crime which might be interesting as reflecting the South's attitude toward the assassination. We are at liberty to make copy of this or any of the other material mentioned, if you consider it relevant.

It might be of interest in passing to quote an article which appeared in the New Orleans Picayune of April 30, 1865:

*Ford Motor Company*

CONTINUING OUR LETTER OF 6-3-26

SHEET NO. 2

New Orleans, La.

"Early in last December (1864) Edwin Booth's most successful engagement at the Winter Garden, New York, terminated with a dramatic festival for some charitable purpose, on which occasion was presented Shakespeare's play Julius Caesar. Edwin played Brutus; Junius Brutus played Marc Antony and J. Wilkes played Cassius. Their mother was present in a private box and received marked attention in congratulations upon possessing three such sons. The audience was composed of the elite of New York City."

We regret that we cannot be of assistance to you in tracing Booth's movements during the closing months of 1862. If he were in New Orleans during this period it seems reasonable to assume that some mention would have been made of his visit either in the theatrical notices of that day or later when he came into the public eye as an assassin.

FORD MOTOR COMPANY



Manager.

HKM K