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**Letter from Ralph B. LeCocq to Nelson Nieuwenhuis, October 4, 1972**

Ralph B. LeCocq

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October 4, 1972.

Mr. Nelson Nieuwenhuis,
Northwestern College,
Orange City, Iowa 51041.

Dear Mr. Nieuwenhuis:

Your letter of Oct. 2nd. was received. Thank you for including in the files of the family the article about my daughter.

I have not written you for a long time. I have been very busy with what I hope is my last case. There is a controversy between the Estate of Hans C. Berthusen and the city of Lynden. In 1943 I made a will for Hans C. Berthusen, which contained a testamentary trust for his estate, consisting of some $75,000.00 cash and bonds, and 236 acres of land, a large portion of which is in firs, cedars and other native trees and shrubs. Since that date our county has created a county Park Board authorized to tax and issue bonds for park purposes, as well as to receive grants from the Federal Government. The city has not handled this trust efficiently and a group of city and county residents want to dismiss the City as trustee and give this trust to the Whatcom County Park Association. The City mayor and the city attorney, and the seven member council oppose this, and they have requested me to represent the group since I drew the will and know all the facts. I have received written resolutions from all the towns and cities in the county, passed by their Chambers of Commerce, approving the transfer of the testamentary trust to the County Park Association. Regardless, the city Council, Mayor and City attorney of Lynden all insist on keeping the trust. So we have been forced to go to court. I am confident that I will win this, I hope, my last case.

There has also been quite a change in our firm. Two young lawyers, David Syre and Jerry Johnson, are coming into the firm and Simonarson is going out as soon as he has finished pending cases. I enclose a clipping showing the standing of Mr. Syre. Mr. Johnson is a certified Accountant as well as a lawyer. I feel happy that I will leave the business in seemingly competent hands. The firm name will soon be changed to LE COCQ, SYRE & JOHNSON. And so the world goes on.

In rearranging our library I found some old books of my father, Geschiedenis der Hervorming in de Zestiende EEuw, by Dr. J.H. Merle d'Aurigné; 1864; De Gemeene Gratie, by Dr. A. Kuyper, 1903; and Veertig Leerredenen van Dr. Martinus Luther, 1884. If you want these kindly advise.

Best wishes to you. Sincerely,