

Genesee Lad Sends 54 Pennies As Birthday Tribute To His President

1934

The story of how a seven-year-old farmer boy near Genesee patiently saved 54 hard-earned pennies and sent them to President Roosevelt as a birthday present to aid infantile paralysis sufferers was received by the Lewiston president's birthday ball committee yesterday.

The boy is John Lorang, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Lorang, who operate a farm near Genesee.

The incident occurred before the first president's birthday party last year. John had read of the national tribute to the president, and determined that he should do his part. He took 54 pennies he had patiently accumulated through trapping rabbits and other means of juvenile income on a ranch and sent them to the president with the following letter:

Writes to F. D. R.

"Dear President Roosevelt:

"I wish you a happy, happy birthday. I am sending you what money I have for the hospital in Georgia. I am in the second grade. I read about your birthday in 'My Weekly Reader,' our school paper. I am seven years old. I live on a farm two miles and a half from school.

"John Lorang."

Soon after John received a letter from the White House, a personal acknowledgement from the president of the United States. It read:

President Replies.

“My Dear John:

“I want to tell you that I am really deeply touched, not only by your thought of me on my birthday, but also for your wanting to help in the work which we are doing for the crippled children.

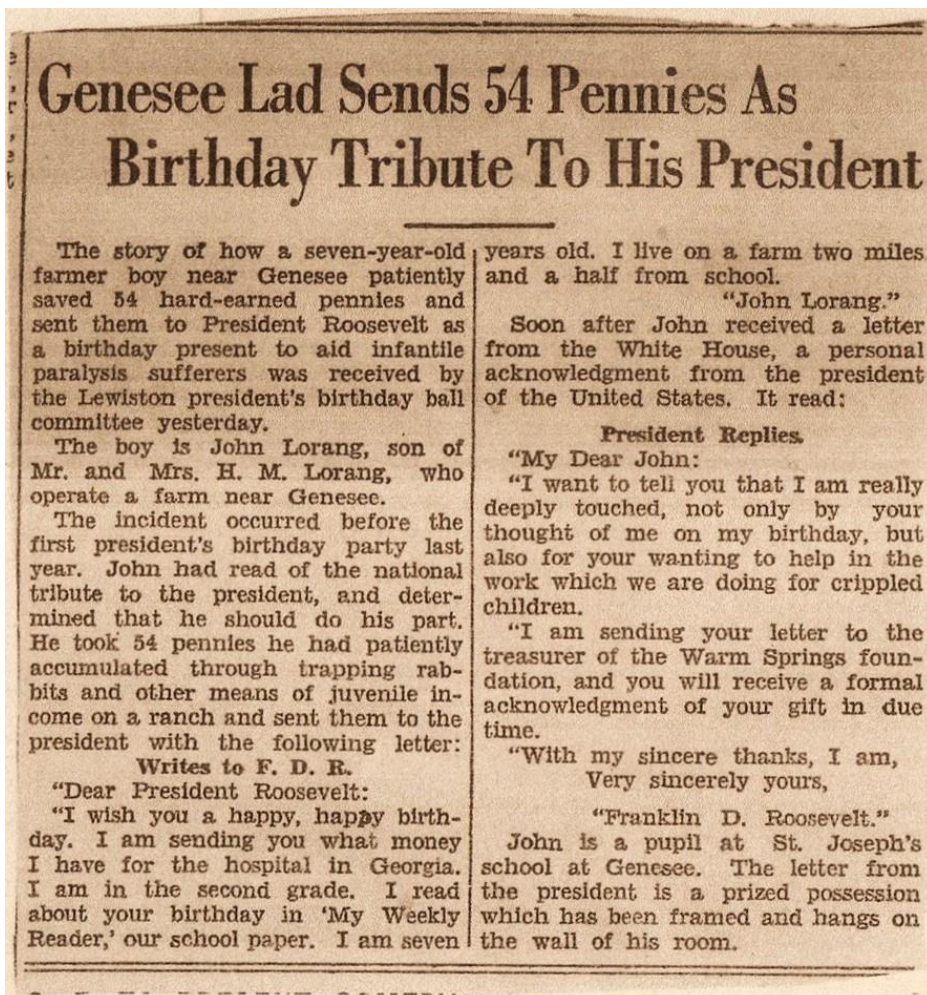
“I am sending your letter to the treasurer of the Warm Springs foundation, and you will receive a formal acknowledgment of your gift in due time.

“With my sincere thanks, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

“Franklin D. Roosevelt.”

John is a pupil at St. Joseph’s school at Genesee. The letter from the president is a prized possession which has been framed and hangs on the wall of his room.





1934, L-R, Bob, Jim, Joan, John, Pat, Jeanne, Dan, Lois, Mae and Albert. Rita wasn't born yet, and Mary Catherine died as an infant. At the Tobin house in Clarkston, WA.