

August 7, 1940

Mr. C. G. Bayles, Superintendent
Buildings and Grounds Department
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear C.G.:

We have been bothered quite a bit by students slipping on the painted floor as they come from out of the shower bath into the dressing quarters in the basement of the gymnasium. We have had several near serious accidents, and this spring during our baseball season one of the boys slipped and fell after taking a plunge and cut his head open to the length of three inches. These accidents cause much comment and I have been endeavoring to remedy the situation. The rubber mats do the job when they walk on them, but when the boys hurry to get dressed before the next class they sometimes do not step on the mat, and the paint being slick they fall and injure themselves severely.

I have been casting about for remedies and I am told that if the floor is painted, and while the paint is still damp, fine, washed sand sprinkled lightly over the surface and allowed to dry, then another coat of paint put over this sanded surface, a floor insuring against all accidents will result. It is also a fine stimulant to the bare feet. If the swimming pool floor and the approaches to the pool in the basement could have this treatment, it would do away with smelly mats placed over the painted floor, which sometimes disintegrate and cause bad odors and unhygienic conditions. I realize that it takes two coats of paint, but for this small area I believe it would be the best insurance. If you could do this we would greatly appreciate it.

The springboard in the pool ought to have the same treatment. We have had several accidents of boys slipping on the springboard and falling sidewise across it. I am told by competent swimming pool people that this is the treatment employed in the best pools. We should also like to have the last two feet on the end of the springboard painted red, thereby setting off this area and permitting the swimmers an opportunity to localize the dangerous end. Also, we would like to have every twelve inches of the springboard marked with a red line or some distinguishing color to enable the swimmers to measure their run.

Mr. Gemell of the Extension Division called on me this morning saying that his department desired to use the gymnasium, upper and lower floors, on September 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 for their firemen's convention. This is entirely agreeable with us if the painting has been finished by that time.