

A

December 13, 1937.

Chancellor E. H. Lindley,  
University of Kansas.

Dear Chancellor Lindley:

I was sorry that I was out of the office when you and Mr. Bayles dropped in. I also missed you when you phoned for me and conveyed your message to Mrs. Hulteen. I am sending you a carbon copy of the letter that I wrote to Professor Davis regarding the very urgent need of additional quarters in the gymnasium.

Robinson Gymnasium, as you know, was built in 1906 when the enrollment was 1200. We now have 4200 enrollment, and we are endeavoring to take care of the greatly enlarged athletic and physical education department, as well as our new school of physical education. This building is used from early morning until past eleven o'clock at night from Thanksgiving until April or May.

May I sketch a slight history of the situation since I came to the University as Director of Athletics in 1919. The basement was chock-full of lockers and each individual student put his gymnasium equipment in his locker. With the sweaty clothes this made a very unhygienic condition. There was a long exercise room on the north end of the gymnasium which the boys used for shot-putting and other track sports. The floor was of cinders.

The enrollment in the women's department grew so rapidly that it was found necessary to give that over to the women for their additional locker space. Consequently, we put a permanent brick wall in, taking away some of the space from the men and giving it to the women who needed it more.

There was no place to exercise for the individual students, so we improved the hygienic conditions by installing the basket system, keeping the baskets in a room provided for that purpose. We used electric fans in this locker room causing a circulation of air and aiding in the drying process. By using the basket system we moved many of the lockers out to the engineering building and other places where they were needed, and utilized that floor space for a handball court. Before I came here there was not a single handball court either in or out of the gymnasium. We closed the lower portion of the windows, but opened the vent so that we had circulating air in the basement at all times.