

W. F. Arnett

Jeweler and Watchmaker

Cut Glass, Silver, China, Jewelry

Longview, Washington

April 14 1941

Dr. Forest C. Allen,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Phog;

I have just found the Sat. Evening Post article of Dec. 28th written by HOWARD TURTLE and notice some mistakes in dates. To recall some of the early history for you. The fall of 1905, I was president of the student council and Dr. Parmenter was the Faculty advisor and we were needing a coach for what we thought was a better team than should be coached by the Gym instructor so Dr. Parmenter and myself were instructed to find a coach, we first went to Haskell to see one of the boys there but he was not to be found and some one suggested that we go to Kansas City and get a fellow by name of Franz who was playing base ball with the Blues, so we went to Kansas City and located a lawyer brother of Franz and he said his brother was visiting with another brother in Oklahoma who was Gov. at that time he also said that he didn't think his brother was the man we wanted any way and he suggested that we go to Independence and look up a young fellow by the name of Phog Allen who was playing with the Kansas City Athletic Club and if we could talk him into our plans he would be our best bet. We found you as I remember just before lunch in the grocery store and we went to lunch together and had a good steak and put the proposition up to you and you agreed to come up to Baker two nights a week, that was the fall of '05 and then in the fall of '06 you came up and stayed all season. I played under you during two seasons years of '05, '06 and '06, '07 then I left school but think you stayed another year or so am not sure of how long. Any way this is how it started in the fall of '05. Naturally I have always followed your career with a good bit of interest possibly more so than any one else since I was one of the two who got you started. You have had a wonderful career and see no reason why it won't continue for some time to come at least I hope so. I suppose you saw the play offs this year we were especially interested on account of the Wash. State Team and then one of our own town boys was high man, Kirk Gebert, I have known him for 18 years. His father is our Preacher here in the Community Church and we are close friends. Kirk came over and spent the evening with us and told about their games, then last Thursday we had his coach come over and the town gave them a dinner in his Honor as well as a present. I have often lived over our good times together and will always remember the old team and our good coach, I don't remember the subs we had so well but will never forget the regular five as you remember we used the first five all the way most of the time those days and the team was, MASON. SAMPLE. PRESTON. HOOVER and myself then Cub Branard and Winthro was our best subs no doubt we had others but don't remember them as you will recall that was a long time ago and lots of water has gone under the bridge since. This is a rambling letter and may take up to much of your time but I did want to get the record straight as to your dates of starting to coach and my best wishes are always with you and want to congratulate you on your wonderful record and I know it will always be a good influence on the game of Basket Ball, so good luck to you and here is hoping you will turn out many more championship teams in the years to come. Mrs. Arnett was JESSIE ARMSTRONG, and she joins me in wishing for you and yours continued happiness and success in all things.

As you see I don't write very well, but I thought you could read it better than my writing. I am not sure I spelled many names right if myght have been wrong.

Your sincere friend
Wilbur Arnett