

January 10, 1945.

Mr. Clifford Dean,
Superintendent of Schools,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Clifford:

I am sending you the time for Norman Carlson, Everett Hill and Wayne Hird for their work at the Community Building during the holidays, and am also giving you the attendance as nearly as we can evaluate it. Sometimes we were in the same position as that old colored fellow, when he was trying to count his pigs.

"Mose, how many pigs do you have?" the fellow queried. "Well," Mose said, "I counted 24, but one little devil ran around so fast I couldn't count him." That applies to our Community Building.

I might explain why we opened at one o'clock in the afternoon. They stormed the building so vociferously that the janitor and Harold Fisher agreed that it was better to let them in than to try to keep them out. We had all sizes and colors. We generally gave the colored boys half of the court when they arrived in such numbers that it might appear as if there would be race discrimination, but the discrimination was in favor of the colored race because the white boys would have to wait and take their turn. Generally the colored boys were permitted to have the north half of the building.

I think it was a good thing to open the doors when we did. By having the doors locked and keeping the boys out they created more noise and mischief than if we let them in, but as soon as we opened the door they would flock in, and strange as it may seem, we did not have one case of discipline. Neither was there any breakage, save a table that was out in the lobby - one of those folding dining room tables which was rather fragile. Apparently some one either sat on it or knocked it over and broke one of the hinges. Otherwise, the boys were well behaved.

Frankly, Clifford, I think we should do something more constructive by hiring Woody or some of the boys to stay here during the Thanksgiving and Christmas vacations and organizing things in such a way that the gymnasiums of the school buildings would be open. And I would even go so far as to suggest that we ought to arrange our painting of the high school so that it could be done some time other than at Christmas.

I used the four University balls, and while there was a good deal of wear and tear on those things, there was no charge for them. One of the balls disappeared for two or three days, but it turned up, which is a fine criterion as to the honesty of some of the boys because who ever had