

January 28, 1938.

Mr. Bob Dale,
Dawson's Drug Store,
Russell, Kansas.

Dear Bob:

I received your very nicely constructed letter full of interesting information, and I took the letter home and read it to the family. Bob Allen, his mother and sister all agreed that you wrote a very fine letter for a boy 14 years of age. We all agreed that you definitely had an apparent purpose in life, and that purpose was to make something out of yourself and to serve the public in the best way possible. We all hope that you will continue to go forward, and from what Mit says we are very sure that you will.

You and Mit must be real buddies. You tell him that the way you wrote I believe he has an office in Dawson's Drug Store every evening. Or is that just the basketball players' rendezvous? Or should I say the oil men's, because Mit is supposed to be an oil man instead of a basketball player.

I tell all my boys before they graduate from college that the fun in basketball playing should be in high school and in college. After that a fellow should give up basketball playing as a main attraction and center all his energies and enthusiasm on his life's work. I know that the boss who is paying a fellow's salary for the main work that he is expected to do would much rather see him put his energies in his bread and butter job.

Yes, Bob, we had heard of the addition to the Allen household, of course. Mit called his mother right away, and of course we were all happy. Not one of us thought anything about it because the arrival was a girl. In fact, we were pleased. You know, that is the old Biblical idea that every man should have a son, and that has been handed down through generation after generation - that a man would be more proud of his son than he would of his daughter because the first son inherited all of his wealth.

You know until a century or so ago they even did that in this country because the English have done it, and many of them are still doing it. The second son in England doesn't amount to much, but the first son is, should we say, the "king pin". So you see we are getting away from the foolish idea. There is nothing like a daughter to really weld and knit the home. Of course, people do not want the girls to be old maids, but the boy soon leaves the parental roof, either going to college or going out to work, while the girl stays at home for a while longer and is more of a homemaker than the boy.