

Vance Hall

And so the eventful day finally arrived. After weeks of eager waiting, we finally pulled away from Lawrence at five minutes past one o'clock, December 23, 1940, on the Santa Fe Streamliner. Among those wishing us good luck and a pleasant journey were the Chancellor's wife and family. We were fortunate in having Dean Lawson accompanying us to Chicago.

Our first short stop was in Kansas City, where we were met by many photographers. Here we each received a Saturday Evening Post which contained a story of Dr. Allen entitled "Give the Ball to Junior." This was a very interesting story written about the National playoffs in Kansas City last year, and talking of Dr. Allen's history as a basketball coach.

After we left Kansas City the boys kept themselves busy by playing cards, reading, studying, and watching out the windows. There were several little children on the train which kept us very amused, asking for our autographs, and cutting up in general.

At 5:15 o'clock some of us experienced another thrill when we had our dinner on the liner, traveling approximately ninety miles per hour. For many of us this was our first meal in a diner.

All the time we had been traveling through very beautiful country, but by now it had become too dark to see.

After dinner we again turned to our cards and books to await the arrival in Chicago.

We arrived in Chicago at approximately 9:30 p. m., and after much struggling with our many bags (and boxes of glyco), we arrived at the Hotel Allerton.

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After being shown to our rooms we went for a brisk walk, Dean Nesmith, our trainer, setting the pace. After the walk many of us had a malted milk before retiring.

At 11:20 p. m., Bill Hogben, my room mate, and I tumbled into our beds, two very tired, but very happy young men.

We left Ann Arbor, Mich., Christmas morning at 7:00 o'clock. Dean found it very hard to rouse the boys that early in the morning.

The train ride to Niagara Falls, where we arrived at 1:30, was very enjoyable. Time was spent by reading and studying--mostly, however, it was spent by sleeping.

The train stopped on the Canadian side of the Falls to let us view the Falls from that side. We were all awed by this beautiful sight. A few minutes later, we arrived in Niagara Falls, New York. After eating a very delicious lunch, we all walked down to the Falls. For most of us this was our first trip to the Falls, and it was everything we thought it would be. Very beautiful and very large.

The rest of the afternoon was soon passed and then time to eat again. After dinner some walked back to the Falls, and some waited at the station for our train. At 8:30 p. m., we left Niagara on our pullman. We were all very exhausted, and it wasn't long until all were sound asleep.

December 26

We arrived at West Point about 9:30 in the morning. We were met by the officer in charge of basketball and R. Logan, head trainer. We were taken for a nice ride around West Point after breakfast. We visited their athletic building, which is one of the

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best in the world. One of the doctors checked us all for colds and signs of flu.

We all received a big thrill at lunch. We ate in the same building as plebes, and they gave us quite a cheer when we walked in. After lunch we practiced in their enormous field house and then left for New York.

We arrived in the big city about 6:30, and ferried across Hudson. H. Engleman sang "I Love to Ride the Ferry" which brought boos and jeers from the other team members. We were then whisked to our hotel, Hotel Picadilly, and to the mail which awaited us.

After dinner we went to the Garden. Here most of us received our greatest thrill--we were to play in Madison Square Garden, the idol spot of all basketball players, the place where all boys dream of someday playing. The team, with the exception of Bob Allen and myself, as we still had our touch of flu, dressed and took a slight workout between the half of one of the games. We then went back to the hotel where everybody enjoyed the night's sleep.

December 27

The morning of the 27th was spent in loafing around the town.

In the afternoon, due to H. Engleman's bargaining, we all got reduced prices on a sight-seeing trip. The trip took us to many spots of interest, including the Empire State Building, China Town, view of Statue of Liberty, and many other places.

That night many went to a show, but I was still not feeling too good, so stayed in and was off to bed very early.

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December 28

This morning we were all to go visit Radio City. After we arrived there, our party was lost from Dr. Allen and the other crop, so we went on a private little tour of our own. On the tour we listened in to a program which was on the aid, and saw many interesting things which enlightened us as to just how a program is sent to our radio in our own homes.

That afternoon was spent in sleeping and resting up for the game.

At night the game was played. 'Nuff said.

After the game we all forgot our woes, tried to away, and went to the Blue Room of Hotel Lincoln and listened to Tony Pasteur and orchestra. All the boys tried to dance more than their share with Eleanor Allen. It was pretty late when we finally were able to get to bed.

December 29

Howard Engleman, Bill Hogben, Norman Sanneman, Brad Thompson, and I all went sight-seeing in the morning, traveling all around on the subways and ferries.

After lunch we packed and said goodbye to old New York.

We arrived in Philadelphia, then went to Swarthmore, and were met by Coach Bill Stetson, of Swarthmore College, and Bob Reid. These gentlemen proved to be true friends and helped us greatly at all times. Before eating, we had a short work-out in the Swarthmore Field House.

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After finishing practice, we went to the Strath Haven Inn to eat a very fine dinner, although several boys, including Dick Miller and Howard Engleman, thought they had forgotten to cook the meat. Then retired-----

December 30

This morning was spent in seeing Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, and other interesting historical markings. Norman Sanneman picked up a stone near Independence Hall, and is keeping it for a souvenir.

After eating we returned to the Inn where we rested for the game.

That night we met a rough Temple clan and ^{we} were finally downed 40-35.

After the game we all ate something, then returned to Swarthmore by our bus.

December 31

We left Swarthmore about 10:00 o'clock and arrived in Washington D. C. at approximately 2:00 o'clock. We then taxied to the F. B. I. building, and here we were conducted on a most interesting tour. One of the things that I liked especially was the seeing of the fingerprints and pictures of some of our notorious bandits who have been killed.

At 5:00 o'clock we all had a big meal, Howard Engleman topping it off with his specialty, a big dish of vanilla cream. We were then free to do what we wanted until train time. I attended a show with John Buescher and Dick Miller.

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Our pullman left at 11:40 and we were all still awake when the New Year rolled in. After many shouts of Happy New Year, we finally dropped off to sleep.

January 1

This day was spent mostly on the train. The main happening was the Santa Clara boys giving yells for Kansas, and we returned to them yells for Santa Clara. It was an enjoyable ride.

We arrived in Chicago in time for dinner that night and the evening was spent in studying and writing letters. Before bed time, Dean visited all the rooms, checking us for the game tomorrow night.

January 2

This morning we spent most of our time in the rooms. After lunch Dr. Allen gave us a very good talk and then we went to our rooms for a short nap.

After our lunch at 5:30 we loafed around till time to go to the Coliseum. Here we found a terrible dressing room--it was so small we could hardly turn around. This time, however, we didn't mind, as we were victorious 41-40.

After the game we watched Santa Clara defeat De Paul, then returned to Hotel Allerton. We all ate a meal and then retired.

January 3

We were awakened at 8:00 o'clock this morning and had to rush through our breakfast. We ate at a cafeteria which pleased all the boys as they could collect all the food they wanted.

We made the train with a few minutes to spare and the last leg

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of our journey had started.

The day was spent studying and sleeping by the most of us.

At lunch time H. Engleman and Bill Hogben gave two sophomores, Dick Miller and myself, lessons on the complete etiquette.

We finally arrived in Lawrence about 6:00 o'clock, our wonderful journey completed.

As so many of the boys have said, we didn't win all our games, but every minute of the trip was enjoyable and educational.