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November 17, 1943.

Mrs. Ruth G. Gagliardo,
1108 Ohio Street,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Mrs. Gagliardo:

I am sorry that I have delayed answering your good letter, but I have been so encompassed with details that I have failed up to this time to do the job you asked me to. You may use any part of this letter that you think applicable.

Personally, I have been a great follower and hero worshiper of Abraham Lincoln. I have Ida M. Tarbell's "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns", William H. Barton's "The Life of Abraham Lincoln", and Carl Sandburg's "Abraham Lincoln, The Prairie Years."

Being of southern lineage myself and having both grandfathers captured by Grant, the war's animosities could not change my deep appreciation and devotion for one of the greatest of men. His life is portrayed by Sandburg with the skill and understanding of a poet and artist. From childhood on, Lincoln was intensely companionable, keenly sensitive to the words and ways of people around him. The backgrounds on which the Lincoln life moved, had its rise and flow, are these people around him, their homes, occupations, schools, churches, politics. This is the story of a man fettered by poverty, ill health, discouragement, and the death of his mother when he was eleven years of age. But he possessed humanistic qualities unsurpassed by the great majority of the world's leaders.

In closing, there is no character in human life, in my opinion, that can inspire young men more than reading the life of this Great Emancipator.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

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