

January 3, 1942.

Mr. Joe Holloway,
Broadway Hardware Co.,
311-313 Westport Road,
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Joe:

I want you to know how very much I appreciate your letter of last Tuesday, and I am sorry indeed that Mrs. Allen and I could not get over for the New Year's party. Milton and his wife had a dance at the Country Club and they asked us to keep their little three-year-old tot. We spent the evening at home.

I am glad that you have received the letters concerning Wilson Houts. As I told you in my previous letter, I had Wilson work here at the University so that I could recommend him for a better job if he straightens up. Wilson has one other regrettable fault in addition to his drinking, and that is his desire for gambling. He told one of the fellows here that he could make more money gambling in Kansas City than he could by working. This might have been said in the way of a jest, but I am trying to present all of his weaknesses to you so that you can be in a better position to help him.

I note what you said concerning him upon his return from Warrensburg. It was down at Warrensburg where he got his worst start in the drinking habit when he was a youngster. His father was a highly respected and wealthy lawyer, but he was an imbibor. His half-brother, Hale Houts, is a practicing attorney in Kansas City, and I am sorry to say that he has the same weakness. So you see there is an hereditary strain.

Then when he went to Kansas City and lived at the Troost Arms Apartment he was surrounded with a group the environment of which was terrible. After his return from St. Joseph I asked him not to go back to the Troost Arms as he would fall into evil ways, but he could not switch his hitching post, so he started on the same path.

I talked to Harley Davis, a boyhood friend of mine, who is Assistant Secretary and Treasurer of the Kansas City Power and Light Company. Harley said he would help him, and then he told me about Joe Westwood, another boyhood friend of mine, who is the proprietor of the Blue Valley Foundry. Joe told me that if Wilson would come out and let Joe's son, who is manager of the foundry, look him over he would endeavor to give him a job, but in that type of work a man had to have a pretty good physique, and of course he