

Please
return

Larned, Kansas.
January, 13, 1938.

Dr. Forrest C. Allen,
University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Doctor:

I want to thank you for your letter of the tenth and I want to write a most friendly answer.

That I wrote to Mr. Foster was largely due to what was apparently a misstatement by someone connected with the gymnasium during your absence last summer. From the information imparted last summer, when I wrote Mr. Foster I assumed that you were taking advantage of George. To have someone try to take advantage of me arouses me considerably and to have someone try to take advantage of some member of my family arouses me in the same way.

George's entering the University last fall, depended on whether he could have a room that would be suitable for juggling practice, a room that would be more or less private, for privacy is most essential for concentrated practice and a place to keep his equipment. Other colleges had promised such accommodations. We corresponded with the University last summer and were assured of such accommodations. George and his mother drove to Lawrence a short time before the opening date of the fall term for the purpose of checking up on the accommodations offered in the gymnasium and to secure a room where George would stay. Someone at the gymnasium told Mrs. Lupfer and George that various entertainment was used at the basketball games between halves and that he thought George's juggling would be splendid entertainment for one of the games. Mrs. Lupfer asked if the entertainers were paid.

He replied, "Yes they are paid something. If it is amateur the pay is only a few dollars, but if the performance is by professionals the pay is greater."

Since your letter establishes the above as a misstatement of fact and since you gave George the publicity and build-up you write about, let me say that I am glad George had the opportunity to perform between halves at the game. We will look back to it as an advertising venture rather than as a gratis exhibition. Most professional entertainers are glad to, occasionally, display their acts or talents to a crowd of potential buyers, when the entertainment is recognized as such, but they shy away from the invitations to perform for this, or that or that or that organization, gratis, with the best grace possible. The professional that starts giving free performances soon finds himself in deep trouble with no demand for his services at pay and a dwindling demand for them gratis.

You may dismiss my suggestion to Mr. Foster that if possible, George be given another chance to act for the University at pay. Since there are no paid performers at a University event, I would not want George to act for pay that some individual had to provide.

Sincerely,