

January 28, 1941

Mrs. H.L. MacCurdy  
244 Bronxville Road  
Bronxville, New York

Dear Elizabeth:

I am answering your good letter of January 10.

Examinations are just about over and we will soon know how many casualties we have on the basketball squad. However, I am counting on rather few because the boys are really excellent students. We might lose one, but I am hoping not.

I want to assure you that the MacCurdy's were more than welcome, and the sandwich or two that you ate I hope did not give you indigestion. Now to tell you the background of Mrs. Babcock.

Her son, Phil, is a freshman here in the School of Engineering. They live in White Plains, New York. Chi Galloway, head of Fraternities Incorporated, came to me saying that he had a letter from a Mrs. Babcock who was worried about her son. He said that he had thought a great deal about what member of the faculty he could approach with the idea of talking to Phil, and he had struck upon my name and wondered if I would write her.

Phil being a student in the Engineering School and a member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity, was difficult to locate but I finally made arrangements to meet him after many unsuccessful attempts. I had a conference with him after which I wrote the mother. She wrote me, thanking me for doing what I could for the boy, and stated that she would like to see me when we came to New York and talk more about Phil.

The only way that could be arranged was for her to procure a ticket to the game and she would visit with us after the game. She, being a widow, had no way to get in, so she told me that she made arrangements to have a neighbor drive her in, and she brought Phil's best girl, who lived in White Plains, along with them. That is how they happened to be in our party. It was the only way that she had an opportunity to see me while we were in New York. So you see I know no more about the gentleman and his connections than you do. He was a funny looking little fellow, wasn't he? But I understand that he played only the part of a chauffeur.

Sometime when we have a chance to get together for a long visit, I will tell you all about Catherine that I know and about the job here. I am sorry that I was rather brutal the way I put it, but you know we only had a few minutes going from table to table trying to have everyone feel that they were welcome.