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November 22, 1941.

Mr. Don Spencer,
271 Madison Avenue,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Don:

I find that I have failed to answer your good letter of November 1. I have had it on my desk for attention for a couple of weeks, but being out of town on speaking engagements has prevented me from doing the thing that I desired to do, and that was to write you a friendly and frank letter.

I have just re-read your letter and the letter that I wrote to John T. Doyle as of October 22nd. I am not going into a long dissertation tonight (I am dictating here in the evening - having returned to the office), but I do want you to know that ten or twelve years before Dr. Naismith passed on I went to him and said, "Dr. Naismith, if and when somebody plans a great memorial to your honor, as they should, just where would you like that memorial to be placed?"

"Well," he said, "I had thought some of Springfield, and then I thought of going to California, but since I have spent all of the active years of my life since 1898 here in Kansas I would feel honored if it would be on the campus of the University of Kansas."

We have not tried to push this thing, but ten years ago I had a plaster of paris life mask made of Dr. Naismith, and it was with that idea of getting his features clearly formed for a statue that I did this.

I have looked with a good deal of chagrin on the picture that they have put out from your publicity department depicting Dr. Naismith as a dapper, young, professional man of a very youthful appearance, more of a highly professional type than the pedagogue and scientist that he was. The picture looks nothing like Dr. Naismith. So from everything that has come to me it has looked so artificial that I have not been able to get at all enthusiastic about it.

In 1920 I had Dr. Naismith's name and picture restored to the Rules Guide. They had deleted that, and had no connection with the founder's picture and name in the Guide. I initiated the "Naismith Night" to restore him home that he had lost. Over seven thousand dollars was turned over to him in cash to make him comfortable in his later years. So I have had a good deal to do with Dr.