

August 3, 1940

Mr. G. F. Alcott
1206 E. Jefferson
Bloomington, Illinois

Dear Mr. Alcott:

I acknowledge with pleasure receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo.

Some fifteen years ago I visited with Dr. Haismith and asked him this question. I said, "Doctor, if a memorial were planned in your honor where would be your choice of location as concerning states?" Dr. Haismith replied, "Well, I had thought some of going to California to spend my latter days but since I have lived in Kansas most of my life, my family was raised and educated here, I am determined to spend the rest of my days in Kansas and, of course, I would like to see anything that is done for me placed at the University."

Mr. Glenn Frasier, an artist who has sculptured under Lorado Taft in Chicago, made a life mask cast of his face and head. He did this while Dr. Haismith was well and strong because we had learned that so many men wait until later years to have photographs taken or masks made. I have this plaster paris likeness of Dr. Haismith in his prime in the safe so that when someone plans something to his memory it will be lifelike. I certainly agree with you that a utilitarian memorial is something that would give pleasure to millions of people and would add dignity to the splendid life that Dr. Haismith has lived.

I agree with you that time is too short to do it this season. It would take a lot of planning and since this coming year is the fiftieth anniversary of basketball, it would be the logical time to organize a committee of nationally prominent educators and coaches. It seems to me as if it would be necessary for one man to devote most of his time to such a project. All of us have a desire to do things honoring great people, but when it comes to taking the time away from our bread and butter schedule it is generally delayed.

I appreciate more than you know your writing the letter and initiating this thought. Knowing that you attended Washburn College and the College of Emporia and since your home is in Chanute I can conceive your great interest and love for Dr. Haismith and this memorial.