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Common skin

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. Naismith 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. Naismith 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."

~~I had~~ Mr. Glenn Frazier, an artist who has sculptured under Lerado Taft in ~~Chicago~~, make a live mask cast of his face and head. ~~I~~ did this while Dr. Naismith was well and strong because ~~I~~ had learned that so many men wait until later years to have photographs <sup>or mask made</sup> taken or until they pass on and then it is too late to have a mask made, unless it is a death mask and no one wants one of those. I have this plaster paris likeness of Dr. Naismith 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. Naismith 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 ~~form~~ <sup>organize</sup> a committee of nationally prominent educators and coaches, ~~for it~~. 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, ~~from your angle~~. When I learned that you were interested and living in Bloomington, Illinois I was more anxious than ever to hear from you, but I see that you attended Washburn College and the College of Emporia and since your home is in Chanute I can understand <sup>conceive</sup> your great love for Dr. Naismith and this memorial.

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