

October 26, 1940

Mr. George Nettels
Pittsburg & Midway Coal Mining Co.
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear George:

I am writing you a progress report, which I am happy to send you, concerning Harry "Hank" Foresman.

Hank is a swell fellow and I am finding more to confirm that opinion everyday. He is in with a group of Sigma Chi's, however, who I am afraid are putting too much on "jellying" than some of the other fundamentals of student life. This is on the side, but I want to tell you that Gordon Gray, the freshman basketball coach, came to me a few days ago and said that three of the freshmen boys, who were Sigma Chi's, on the basketball team stated that the chairman of the social committee of the Sigma Chi house told them that he would paddle them if they did not show up for the hour social dances at the Union Building. That, of course, was orders not to show up for basketball practice, which they endeavored to be excused for. They disregarded his ruling and are going to take the paddling in preference to attending the dance.

I am getting more details and am going to take the matter up with the social chairman, reminding him that Kansas is not too successful in football and if this thing is carried out it perhaps is the best answer to the reason why we do not have more virility in athletics.

Now, back to the main story; Hank is having trouble with his Physiology. He came to me to learn how to study, or at least how to get his Physiology. I spent an hour with him going over a method of procedure that I thought would enable him to get this subject, and I believe he left feeling that we had opened up a new road for him.

I want you to know that I am giving him the very best cooperation and advice that I can. This act of mine is largely on account of my friendship with you and your connection with Hank through the Spencers, but secondly, I would unreservedly do this for Hank because he is a swell fellow and an earnest student. I do feel the social, jitter-bug life will have its influence on the boy, especially when he is not having too much success in his studies. We will always flee from the pain and annoyances that we have to lighter, less effortless things, if there is an emphasis on that sort of miscarriage.

Hank said that he had enough money saved up for a while and he thought he had better give up his work for the present. I quite agreed with him and reminded him of the fact that he took additional hours to be eligible for fraternity initiation. Fifteen hours is his total load, and that is too much for Hank's background, environment and hours of work. I am just bringing you up to the present in the status of Hank and Company.