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October 11, 1941.

Dear Tuck:

When this letter arrives you will be twenty years of age and I want to congratulate you on twenty fine, lovely years. This morning at the breakfast table Mother remarked that it was just twenty years ago today - it was on a Saturday - that she felt the first pains, and she wondered if she could stand the ordeal because she was so tired. She had five children and the sixth one was perhaps more than she thought she could bear.

I remember the Saturday, and it was on the Saturday that we played Drake University at Haskell. The stadium was being built here and the football field had not been sodded so we played the first game with Drake, and Drake beat us. Patsy Clark was the coach.

I remember how happy I felt at your arrival, and how depressed I was that we had lost the football game, but the joy far outweighed the disappointment of the game because Mother and you were well.

And it is a wonderful experience for a parent to realize that a new spirit has come into the world. Of course all the hopes and ambitions of the parent are for the happiness and success of the child. For that reason I want to congratulate you for the way you have lived, because after all, it is your life that you are living. You are not living it for someone else. You are living it for yourself, but if you live it properly you make everybody proud of you. And you live life in the happiest, most buoyant and radiant way.

Don't do things just to please other people. Do them for the real pleasure that comes to you and the reflection from that life will make other people very happy.

I am glad that you have gotten away from home and that you are able to view life from a distant vantage point. It does something to people. It makes them realize that they are responsible for everything that they have to do about themselves. It gives them confidence and maturity, and it gives them a zest, a thrill of life that when you feel so dependent upon others you fail to have.

So I will not write more this morning, although I would like very much to do so, but I want you to get this letter Monday. I just want to tell you how happy we are with you and to congratulate you again. With sincere love, I am

Your affectionate dad,