

66

July 7, 1938.

Mr. Blaine Riley,  
717 Grant Avenue,  
Baxter Springs, Kansas.

My dear Blaine:

Yes, I do remember you quite well, now, Blaine, but from your previous letter, which was undated and which carried the address 717 Grant Avenue, Baxter Springs, Kansas, you can readily see that a fellow who meets several hundred young men would not associate Blaine Riley from Baxter Springs with the fellow he met out at the Country Club with Professor Brown who introduced you as Mr. Riley from Miami, Oklahoma.

I imagine I have met 20 or 25 young men this year named Riley, and we associate them with their town and their state, rather than their name. I do not recall that your given name was even mentioned out at the Country Club, and you can readily see why. Blaine Riley from Baxter Springs would mean no more than John Doe from Eldorado Springs.

What I wanted you to do was write me a letter calling attention to the fact that you had met me in company with Professor Brown, and stating that you were desirous of working. And of course I expected you to set forth in your letter some of your special talents that you might possess which would qualify you for a job.

You can understand that the only reason you were speaking to me about a job was because you play basketball. You are expecting to receive your degree in engineering. It is perfectly logical and thinkable that you would look to the Engineering School primarily for the aid that you might desire.

Professor Brown spoke to me about you and asked if I would help and I was very happy to do all that I could, but I do not want you to feel that just because you play basketball you would confer a great favor upon me or upon the University should you make the varsity. I have always tried to impress on my sons and other young men who play for Kansas that the real joy and benefit is accruing to the boy who is playing and not to the University and to the coach.