

December 29, 1939.

Dr. Raymond Sermon,
North Carolina State College,
Raleigh, North Carolina.

My dear Ray and Ruth:

Please do not feel that my failure to answer your good letter sooner was the result of neglect. That is not true, because I have been covered up in a mass of detail but I have kept your letter constantly on the preferred attention stack, and have made about six attempts to answer it before this.

Then we got your Christmas card. Bess and I both talked about you and Ruth and the many pleasant contacts that we have had. I was much surprised to hear of the resignation, but I know that you will make a success in whatever you undertake. I know how popular you are with students down there, and I cannot understand why the resignation.

I know the discouragements of athletic coaching, but I believe we have unsavor and irritating conditions in any walk of life in which we indulge. I can understand Hunk and I can understand Johnny.

Ray, I do not know of any openings at the present time, but if I were you I would just sit still and not resign. If those students want you to reconsider, I would reconsider it. I don't believe getting fired hurts a fellow at all. Then if you want to practice you are still in just as good condition even though they cast you adrift. Of course, you know better than I do the inside situation, so I am a poor person to advise you when you are on the ground. I assure you if I do hear of anything I will hastily recommend you.

I am distressed to learn about Ruth having musus colitis. Not only is that most unpleasant, but it dissipates the energy. I am hoping that she is much better.

We are all well, and Christmas finds us with Mary and her husband and three children, Milton and his wife and little red-haired Judy, and Jane, Eleanor and Bobby all here for Christmas. We are having a hot time.