Re; Gerald Tucker

Mr. Lawrence "Jap" Haskell, Director of Athletics, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

Dear "Jap":

I sent the enclosed letter to Mike Ahearn today and I wanted you to have a copy of the same.

Very sincerely yours,

FCA:AH Eno. Director of Physical Education and Recreation, Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach. Mr. M. F. Ahearn, Director of Athletics, Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kansas.

Deer Friend Mike:

There has been much insinuation and immuendo coming out of Norman, Oklahoma, reflecting upon the actions of the basketball coach of the University of Kansas regarding some questionable procedure in his relationship with Gerald Tucker, the basketball player of Winfield, Kansas, high school who matriculated at Kansas State and who later migrated from Kansas State to the University of Oklahoma.

I sincerely trust that before you give the green light of permission to Tucker to compete at Oklahoma that you will grant Mr. Lawrence "Jap" Haskell's request and call an open meeting at which are present Jack Gardner, the basketball Coach at Kansas State, Bruce Brake, basketball coach at Oklahoma, and myself, and Gerald Tucker any newspaper men who desire to attend.

All I ever promised Gerald Tucker was three tough years of competition from Kansas. He stated to me that he was going to attend the University of Oklahoma and this is the reply that I gave him.

The rules and regulations governing athletics and all participation of the M.V.I.A.A., the Big Six, are crystal clear. There certainly is no ambiguity regarding the resident rule and the migrant rule. Gerald Tucker is a migrant athlete because he migrated from Kansas State to Oklahoma, and according to the rule he violated the migrant athletic regulation. The fact that his first semester was spent at Kansas State (by enrolling and residing there for over four weeks) would make him unable to participate as a regularly enrolled one year man until the end of the present semester. Therefore, the five games that he played in against Southern Methodist, Bradley, DePaul and the two other eastern teams, show that he has participated in five games illegally. He played in five games before he was eligible by the Big Six regulations. Non-conference games count in participation records the same as conference games.

Neither Gerald Tucker nor the University of Oklahoma sought the permission that the Big Six regulations point out that a migrant athlete should seek. Fersonally I would not want to see Gerald Tucker barred from his participation. Neither would I want to see him take advantage of one semester of participation as he has done without having to meet the provisions of such a rule. Certainly he has played in five games with the University of Oklahoma when he was ineligible to play. It seems perfectly logical that Tucker has competed for Oklahoma in the semester in which he was ineligible. Therefore, I do not see how the Big Six can fail to count this one semester of participation even though illegally done.

Director of Athletics in your school the fact that Lester Layton, a student formerly from North High School of Wichita, is enrolled at the University of Oklahoma and it is alleged that the Boston Red Sox professional baseball team is paying his way through the University of Oklahoma. There may not be any connection between the fact that Lawrence "Jap" Haskell, the Athletic Director of Oklahoma, is a scout for the Boston Red Sox, and Layton's presence at Oklahoma. So that the University of Oklahoma will not feel that we are waiting until the latest moment for fear that Layton might play on the varsity baseball team for Mr. Haskell, I am calling this to your attention now in order that the matter may be investigated. Mr. Layton is a crack baseball player and it is understood that he is to be a member of the Oklahoma varsity.

Perhaps a hearing which would air some of the conference situations might be a healthy experience. It might be well for an investigating committee to audit the expenditures of certain schools in the Big Six since seas of over \$10,000 are listed as employment for student athletes. When it is realized that all of the competitive intercollegiate athletes in a university comprise less than 15% of the male enrollment, then these figures seem rather high for memory expended on student labor for athletes who compete in sports.

I am sending a carbon copy of this letter to Mr. Gwinn Menry, our Director of Athletics, Dr. W. W. Davis, our faculty representative, Dr. M. H. King.

Very sincerely yours.

Director of Figsical Education and Recreation, Vareity Desketball and Daseball Conch.



THE WORLD'S LARGEST FLEET OF STREAMLINED TRAINS

Thearn -- ?

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THE WORLD'S LARGEST FLEET OF STREAMLINED TRAINS

To g men on Football
squad at end & siacon-33

ho, y men on Basketball.

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no. 7 men in P. E. clusses læst year (no dypl.)- Gerald Tucker is a migrant athlete because he migrated from Kansas State to Oklahoma, and according to the rule he violated the migrant athletic regulation. But if the Big Six Conference should not exact the full penalty it certainly would be the decent thing to do. I would dislike very much to see him disbarred as a migrant athlete. However the rule was on the book and neither the administration at Oklahoma nor Gerald Tucker as an individual obeyed the rule as written in the Big Six handbook of regulations on athletic participation.

Then Gerald Tucker and Oklahoma also violated the freshman rule by playing him in five games - Southern Methodist before he was eligible. Certainly this looks as if he should not benefit by fracturing such a rule. I cannot see how he can have six semesters because he has played in five non-conference games. Non-conference games count in participation records the same as conference games.

Mr. Louis E. Menze, Basketball Coach, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

Dear Louie:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant.

It was the suggestion of Professor W. W. Davis, our faculty representative, that I notify the coaches, but I thought it much better to notify the secretary of the Big Six coaches so that if it was necessary to get the information out he could do it. I think this is much more dignified, and the more the coaches stay out of it the better things will be.

Thank you for your prompt reply.

Very cordially yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation, Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach.

FCA:AH

IOWA STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS AMES, IOWA

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR MEN

January 2, 1942.

Dr. Forrest C. Allen, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear "Doc":

I received your wire relative to the eligibility of Gerald Tucker. I called Dr. Bergman and he said that this is a matter for the faculty eligibility committee to decide and that this committee of Dr. King, chairman, Professor Davis and Dr. Bergman have all the facts in the case. He further stated that there is nothing for the athletic directors or the basketball coaches to do in a case of this kind and that the ruling will be made by the Faculty Eligibility Committee.

If their ruling is adverse to Oklahoma, Oklahoma has the right to appeal to the Faculty Representatives of the "Big Six" Conference.

With best wishes and a Happy New Year to all of you, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Basketball Coach.

LEM/MJR.

Mr. J. Fuller Groom,
Northwestern National Life Insurance Co.,
313-14 Orpheum Building,
Wichita, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Groom:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 3rd relating to Gerald Tucker's eligibility for competition in the Big Six Conference. This is a matter for the faculty eligibility committee to decide, and this committee of Dr. King, chairman, Professor Davis and Dr. Bergman, have all the facts in the case. There is nothing for the athletic directors or the basketball coaches to do in a case of this kind, and the ruling will be made by the faculty eligibility committee. If their ruling is adverse to Oklahoma, Oklahoma has the right to appeal to the faculty representatives of the Big Six Conference, which they have done.

I believe that you will quite agree with me that since this is a legally constituted authority, and it is perhaps best to leave it to them for their decision. Just as you have constituted authority in your Northwestern National, we have authority vested in our faculty representatives. These men are all friends of the students as each of them has been connected with student life for over thirty years. For that reason I am very sure that whatever enthusiasm we have it should be directed in the line of fair play and enthusiasm for people who follow the rule.

At no time in the history of the world have rules and laws meant so little to people as now. If a rule is broken someone tries to throw on some extraneous situation and smoke screen the issue as the Japs did while they were infamously talking peace and preparing for war. I think it is high time that some of us began to recognize the authority of the printed documents and to learn to obey them, at least in letter if not in spirit. They have not been lived up to, either in letter or spirit, and I believe if you were on the jury if you had laws before you that were supposed to be recognized and you were charged to vote according to the law that you perhaps would want to do that.

These Big Six faculty representatives are on their respective athletic boards and they perhaps have had a great many cases of this kind to consider before.

Would it be fair, Mr. Groom, to say that when a man broke the rule that the conference kicked him out, or he kicked himself out?

I made a statement on November 26 at Cape Girardeau, Missouri, when I spoke to the Teachers College there at their football banquet, that we should have a high commissioner or czar of sports and that this czar should have authority to go in and investigate situations and where a coach has been responsible to the extent of getting a boy to a school which was clearly against the rules that this czar should investigate the matter. If he found against the coach, the coach should be fired and the boy, whether partly innecent or guilty, should meet the fate that the czar prescribed for him.

I still think that this is good administration, and if we had such enforced now I believe the rules would be respected.

Thanking you for your letter, I am

Very sincerely yours,

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Director of Physical Education and Recreation, Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach.

FCA: AH

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THE BACHMAN AGENCY WICHITA, KANSAS

J. FULLER GROOM, REPRESENTATIVE
313-14 ORPHEUM BUILDING
WICHITA, KANSAS
DIAL 2-2155

January 3,1941.

Mr. Phog Allen, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Allen;

I am writing this letter to you, hoping that it may reach the officials who are responsible for ruling against the eligibility of Gerald Tucker of O.U. to play in the Big Six games this season. I of course, know nothing of your personal attitude in the matter, and am expressing what I believe to be what the average Kamsan is thinking who is interested in College Basketball.

To me the whole objection seems very technical. While there may be some grounds for ruling against Tucker, isnt this rule there to protect the schools against professionalism and the raiding of athletesfrom another school?. Any one who knows Gerald Tucker knows that as a student he makes top grades, is trying to equip himself to play his part in this world, and lacks any taint of professio nalism at all. To take advantage of what we in the ranks think is a trivial technicality, to keep a good man from playing in the regular games is going to make the championship of the Big Six a pretty hollow sort of thing. Most of us will be saying ,whenever a team beats 0.U., "Yes, but you had to kick Tucker out to do it".

Another thing, this young man will playing with Uncle Sam, No doubt, a year from now, and may never again have the privilege of playing for any University. While this may be 'sob stuff', yet let us be fair to these young bucks who must go into the front lines for us, and give them a break for the next few months.

I am a Kansan, have always been so, and in any game between 0.U. and either Kansas State or K.U. would always be found rooting for our teams, but I am afraid my enthusiasm would't be very keen, if I must see our teams play 0.U. without Tucker in the lineup.

Will you be so kind as to forward this letter to those responsible for deciding against the eligibility of Tucker, as I believe the sentiments, herein, represents the cross section of Kansans who are interested in Kansas Collegiate sports.

Sincerely yours

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R. B. WHITE

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1201

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J. C. WILLEVER

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OUR PROFESSOR DAVIS CALLED OKLAHOMAS PROFESSOR KRAFT

REGARDING GERALD TUCKERS ELEGIBILITY. PLEASE READ DAN PARTNERS

SUNDAYS STAR ARTICLE ON TUCKER. PROFESSOR KRAFT ASKING CONFERENCE

VOTE ON TUCKERS ELEGIBILITY. PLEASE WRITE BIG SIX BASKET BALL COACHES

GIVING THEM INFORMATION AND ASKING THAT THEY INDIVIDUALLY CONTACT

THEIR ATHLETIC DIRECTORS AND FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES GIVING NECESSARY

INFORMATION FOR THEIR INTELLIGENT GUIDANCE. PLEASE REPLY

REGARDS.

FORREST C ALLEN..

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2. In any event the Company shall not be liable for damages for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for the non-delivery, of any message, whether caused by the negligence of its servants or otherwise, beyond the actual loss, not exceeding in any event the sum of five thousand dollars, at which amount the sender of each message represents that the message is valued, unless a greater value is stated in writing by the sender thereof at the time the message is tendered for transmission, and unless the repeated-message rate is paid or agreed to be paid, and an additional charge equal to one-tenth of one per cent of the amount by which such valuation shall exceed five thousand dollars.

3. The Company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward this message over the lines of any other company when necessary to reach its destination.

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7. It is agreed that in any action by the Company to recover the tolls for any messages the prompt and correct transmission and delivery thereof shall be presumed,

subject to rebuttal by competent evidence.

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9. No employee of the Company is authorized to vary the foregoing. 12-40

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IN AT ANY WESTERN UNION OFFICE OR AGENCY FOR FULL INFORMATION

Mr. Dan Partner, Sports Desk, The Kansas City Star, Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Dan:

I am sending you in confidence copies of the letters I have written to Professor W. W. Davis, faculty representative, and to Gwinn Henry, the Athletic Director.

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of your fine writeup regarding Gerald Tucker. You certainly made a strong case against Tucker's participation and you close your article with a challenging bang. Certainly if they let this fellow play this year there isn't any rule in the Big Six that the faculty representatives and directors haven't fractured terribly.

If they let him play then it looks as if these rules are only for the convenience of those in power to handle in whatever manner they want and to take advantage or disadvantage of any situation that they care to distort or to nurture to their own ends.

I do not know what your next move is but I think you are in a wonderful position to show up the frailties or the strength of the rules of this organization.

Thank you for your good wishes, Dan. I am very sure that we will not have an undisputed Big Six championship because Iowa State is much stronger than we are at the present. We had but four practices in the auditorium before we played Denver, and due to the fact that the Christmas Vespers use it the week before Christmas for practice and display, we could not play any games. We were too young an outfit to travel because we needed to develop the fundamentals so necessary in a young team. All the other conference teams have played more but I preferred to stay here during Christmas vacation and work on fundamentals, and allow the other teams to take their trips. I feel that we get more out of it by dint of hard work, and while we may not be very hot at the beginning of the year I think we will improve in strength and playing form.

Confidentially, Ralph Miller is in no condition to go over five minutes, and I have a few boys who have not seen fit to train properly, but they are traveling a rocky road. There is no dissension because I will not permit it, but there are some of the boys who did not train in the fall season and have not the philosophy and the will power so far to see the needs of doing a full training job. However, these fellows wen't play long, I assure you, if they play at all.

Before the year is over we will have a scrapping outfit, but when you consider that perhaps Sollenberger of last year's team will be the only fellow who will play in the regular starting line-up, you can see what a Herculean task I have. Buescher played very little last year and Vance Hall played but a short while. It looks to me as if Charlie Black, Ray Evans, Marvin Sollenberger, Vance Hall, Jack Ballard, T. P. Hunter and Bob Johnson will form the nucleus of the outfit. Bob Johnson is called for January 2nd in the draft but he is trying to get into P. 7 Naval Reserve. We will know later today about that. Charlie Walker is a boy who played in only a few games, together with Max Kissell, another sophomore - these are about all that I have together with Don Ettinger (?).

We will play some very good games and then at other times we will be like we were in the Denver game - just one jump ahead of a good coordinated team - not enough poise and a lack of a leader as quarterback to handle the boys. But as it appears to me none of the Big Six teams are powerfully strong outside of Iowa State, and perhaps Kansas State - they should come along. Missouri will surprise. They will win more ball games than a lot of the wise ones think.

With all good wishes to you and Mrs. Partner for a very happy and prosperous New Year, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation, Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach.

FCA:AH

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

DAILY
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6 00,000

SUNDAY CIRCULATION 320,000 WEEKLY
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Dear Phog:

In case you missed it, I'm enclosing a piece I wrote on Oklahoma's Gerald Tucker. Let me know your reaction, will you?

And may I wish you and yours a joyous New Year? Plus a undisputed Big 6 baske thall championship.

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Best regards,

Dan Partner

Mr. Dan Partner, Sports Desk, The Kansas City Star, Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Dan:

I thought you had a bully good article in The Star yesterday.

I feel that our athletes will not hold in high respect the rules of the conference unless they are consistently and obediently lived up to by all members.

You are doing a good job, and I am strong for you.

Very sincerely yours,

FCA: AH

Director of Physical Education and Recreation, Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach. Mr. Dan Partner, Sports Desk, The Kansas City Star, Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Dan:

I am answering your letter immediately and sending you a marked copy of the Rules and Regulations Governing Athletics and all participation of the M.V.I.A.A. On pages 8 and 9 are the regulations regarding eligibility.

On page 9 it says, "A semester of residence shall be defined as any semester in which the student has registered in the school and has participated in athletics or has not withdrawn from school within four weeks from the date of his registration."

I am sure that it was more than four weeks before Gerald Tucker withdrew from Kansas State. Therefore, his first semester of residence would have to be at Manhattan. He could not possibly be eligible his first semester at Oklahoma according to this ruling. And if he was counted a resident at Manhattan for the first semester he could not possibly be eligible at Oklahoma until the beginning of the second semester this year.

On page 8 it says, "The eligibility rules of this association shall apply to every student competing in any recognized athletic contest as a representative of any member of this association." "Shall" is mandatory. And then later it says, "No person shall participate unless he is a bona fide student". And he could not have been a bona fide student at Oklahoma for one year because he had attended classes for more than four weeks at Manhattan before he withdrew.

His competition in the east is illegal because he actually has not been at Oklahoma for one year. If Commissioner Atherton or any other commissioner with intestinal fortitude here commissioner of the Big Six he would rule or would have ruled Gerald Tucker ineligible to compete until the second semester, 1942. The rule is as plain as anything could be, but you can see my point of view. If I protested, since Kansas is the first school to play Oklahoma, they would cry, "Sour grapes". It will be an easy matter for you to find out the date that Tucker matriculated at Kansas State and the date that he withdown. By getting this information you can blast somebody if

they permit Tucker to play in the Big Six before the end of the first semester this year.

I will deresay that if Tucker were a football player and desired to compete under these rules there would be enough protest to keep him from participating. But many of the athletic directors in the Big Six are not concerned about stirring up any administrative disturbance unless it affects their own personal situation. It is too bad that the administration is so lax. Outside of Mike Ahearn and possibly George Veenker, there is very little to hope for in the way of durable administrative outlook.

Let me know if I can be of any service in giving you further information.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

FCA: AH
Encl.

Director of Physical Education and Recreation, Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

DAILY
COMBINED CIRCULATION
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6 00,000

SUNDAY CIRCULATION 320,000 WEEKLY
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Dear Phog:

Is that fellow Tucker eligible at Oklahoma? Or isn't he? Seems to me he didn't comply with the 1-year residence rule and the migration rule also was overlooked.

And, if he isn't eligible, isn't some school going to make a protest?

I'd appreciate hearing from you regarding the matter as I plan to write a column on the situation in the Big ix that allows the rules to be kicked out of the window every time some school takes the notion.

Sincerely

Dan Partner

THE INDIAN-DETOUR AND GRAND CANYON LINE

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Dr F.C. Allen, (Kansas University Basket Ball Team).

From Lawrence

ToPerry and Oklahmema City and return.

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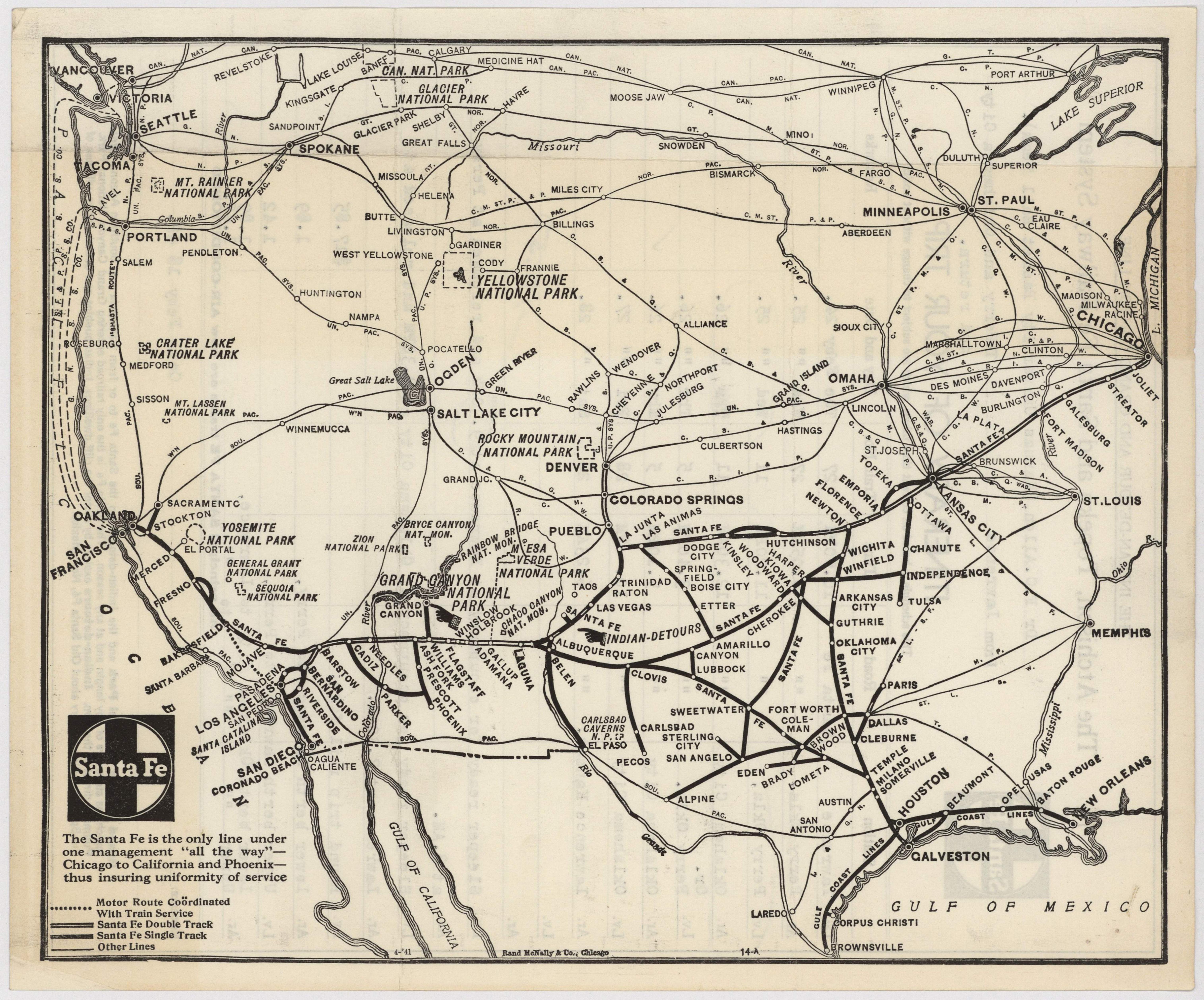
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The St. Louis Hotel

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Perry, Oklahoma

TELEPHONES Feb 20 1941

Forest C Allen, Director of Physical Education and Recreation. Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach,;

Dear Sir,

Your letter at hand re room rates-if I remember correctly you errive in the morning and occupy the rooms during day time. I do not have twin beds, all my beds are the large double beds with good innerspring matresses.

Rate would be about 75¢ per man for double occupancy, or \$1.00 single.

I notice your schedule says Stillwater feb. 25th so I presume you would be here the morning of the 25th.

Iooking forward to seeing you again I remain yours cordially.

StIquis Hotal,

Mandenberg, Mgr.

Mr. J. E. Vandenberg, Manager, The St. Louis Hotel, Perry, Oklahoma.

Dear Mr. Vandenberg:

This will confirm our reservations at your hotel for February 25th. We will arrive at 6:05 a.m. on the Santa Fe and will want to stay there all day, and all night after the game.

Sincerely yours,

FCA: AH

Director of Physical Education and Recreation, Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach. Office of Secretary

PERRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PERRY SALES DAY ASSOCIATION

NOBLE COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION

MASONIC BUILDING

TELEPHONE 684

PERRY, OKLAHOMA

February 20th, 1942.

Mr.F.C.Allen
Athletic Director
Kansas University
Lawrence, Kansas.

Confirmation of telegram

Dear doctor:

Bill Reckert of the Palace Cafe says that there is plenty of rubber for the trip to Stillwater with your basketball team and that he will do everything in his power to make your visit here a pleasant one. I didn't quite understand the time of your arrival here so did not say anything to Vandenberg concerning hotel reservations. Will be glad to make arrangements for use of local gym by your group should you have need of same on the 26th. There will be no cost to you for the trip to Stillwater, nor for the gym either if you care for it.

Saw Paul Cress, the only monument to K.U. in our little city, and he is pleased to learn of having an opportunity to visit with you and seeing your fine aggregation in action. Expressing my delight in your visit to Perry and assuring you of my eagerness to help in any way possible to make your visit a pleasant one, I am

Marsh B. Woodruff

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE

NEWCOMB CARLTON CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD J. C. WILLEVER FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT 7

1201

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NT=Overnight Telegram

LC=Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

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KAV73 7 XC=PERRY OKLA 20 145P

DR F C ALLEN, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR=

KANSAS UNIVERSITY

1942 FEB 20 PM 2 02

EVERYTHING FIXED FOR YOUR PERRY VISIT. FINE-

pho adre 2000

Mr. M. B. Woodruff Secretary, Chamber of Commerce Perry, Oklahoma

Doar Marsh:

This will confirm your wire of yesterday. Thanks very much for making all arrangements for us. It will be a pleasure to see you next week.

Very sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education and Recreation, Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach.

P.S. Your letter of the 20th just received. We are writing to Vandenberg regarding our reservations there. We will get in to Perry at 6:05 Wednesday morning and will be there all day.

F.C.A.

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN

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KA44 10=LAWRENCE KANS 27 82 1A

DR FORREST C ALLEN=

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HOTEL KINGKADE OKCTY=

LEAVE THREE GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS HOTEL KINGKADE NAME

NORMAN SANNEMAN=

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John Pet

January January

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THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE