

Jan. 31st. 1942.

Dear Col. Kerl:-

We have one stenographer out of the office this week with flu, so I shall write this myself, knowing that it will look like it.

Mrs Simons and I think of you so often and hope that it will not be too long before you are again among our beloved and honored citizens and friends, *here at home,*

As you know I hit seventy last July and that fact was made known to all who read the article published about me on my fiftieth anniversary, so there is no longer any secret about it. As a matter of fact, I have never cared a cent who knew my age and have always given the right answer when asked, but I have not yet reached the age when I say "Well if I live to see next July I shall be--" Always wanting to add one extra year.

The thing which came to me very forcibly this morning, before I went down town, was that I was going to pay even less consideration for the years that are behind me, but shall endeavor to make the years ahead, however long or short they may be, count as much as possible. There is a lot to do and a precious lot to undo if we are to have and ~~enjoy~~ enjoy the freedom in the future that we have had in the past. Why cant I work at that job just as well as another?

Bless your hearts, meaning both you and Philena, dont worry about anything that you cant help. That boy of yours in the Philippines is one of a group of the finest heroes our nation has ever known, and some day he will be coming back to you and to his wife and baby. Take it easy. It is too bad that age 55 ~~or~~ or thereabouts, may cheat the nation out of the services <sup>of one</sup> whose brains and experience far outweigh the brawn and muscle ~~in~~ inexperienced youth. By and by you may be called upon for service that you can do to great advantage, and if not come home to us in Lawrence, where you will help raise the level of courage, kindness, and of gentlemanly christian citizenship, *of the entire community*

We miss you a lot. Our old crowd has not been together this season. Some of us must be getting old, for as soon as one is fit another isn't so the meetings are postponed from time to time.

With warm personal friendship, I remain  
Cordially Yours,