

AMERICAN LEGATION
OFFICE OF MILITARY ATTACHÉ
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

1 March, 1945

Mr. W. C. Simons;
Journal-World,
LAWRENCE, Kansas.

Dear friend Simons:

I appreciate very much your kindly and newsy letter of December 13th. Like all other messages from you, it was a very cheerful one and pleased me so much. I was also delighted with your Christmas greetings showing Gertrude and you beside the family fireside. Gertrude is thinner but she looks very well to me and I could see little change, if any, in your appearance.

My friends were very good to me in sending me Christmas cards and greetings. I felt almost like I was back home. The kindness was unusual because Mrs. Baldwin told me that she had received nearly 200 cards at that time.

I enjoyed the Rotary Christmas list, which contained all your names and I will treasure this and keep it for my den when I settle down after a while. I keep my interest in Rotary here. Yesterday we entertained an Indian Trade Mission which is visiting Australia.

I am glad to hear that K.U. at last defeated Nebraska in football. We were a great many years waiting for that victory, and I am happy to know we have set up well in basketball as well. One expects considerable uncertainty in war time.

Someone sent me quite an account which you had in your paper about Sergeant Kollender and his new work. I was anxious to get him out here, but I think the War Department has so many men available who are up on the present war situation that its almost impossible to get a new man in. I know he will do well in his present position.

I was sorry to hear about Mrs. Aszman and her ill-health. I received a nice letter from Ted just a day or two ago and I am glad to know that Jean is better.

We are very sorry that we are losing the American Minister, Mr. Johnson, soon. He is going home on leave and I doubt if he will return to Australia, but he may be of use in Washington. He is perhaps our best authority on China. We have hopes, perhaps thin hopes, that we may make a trip to Manila during March. I would like very much to get up to Corregidor where there are the remnants of batteries which I mounted in 1912 and one of these