

January 7, 1949

Mr. W. C. Simons
Journal World
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Collie:

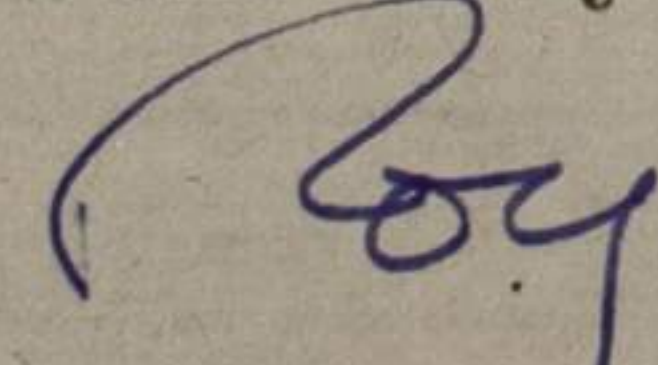
None of the many letters I have received gave me a greater thrill than the one from you. In the early days you were my mentor, and you saved me from many mistakes. Without your help I doubt whether I would have gone as far as I did, so I was delighted to know that when I decided to bow out I still retained your friendship, which has been one of my real assets.

Quite frankly my eye trouble was my primary reason for deciding to quit, but I must admit also that my granddaughter and grandson, both on the east coast, contributed to my downfall. About Thanksgiving time we made a trip to visit both daughters and discovered they did not expect to return to Salina, and did not want the house. When the doctor told me my eye would grow worse unless I gave it a long rest, it was easy to make up my mind.

Incidentally it has pleased me because Dolph and Marie are good friends of Captain and Mrs. Yeager, my son-in-law and daughter. While I am not sure, I think one of your daughters was a guardian angel or something of the sort for Jean when she became a Kappa. At any rate she always has had the same affection for the family I have cherished, so because of this background you will understand why I feel as I do.

If I had known Dolph was going, I might have decided to take that round-the-world air trip with him. When it was proposed I did not consider it seriously for the reason I did not want to leave my wife alone. Knowing her I realized she would worry day and night, and being Irish, she lacks the temperament to take that as long as would have been required. In any event I am glad that Dolph is going, and I agree with you it is a real honor. Sometime later I may take a trip myself, but I think it is more likely to be on a battleship or some place else where I can keep my feet in more or less dirt even if they are not on the ground. As an editor I am not a coward, probably because I was William Allen White's bodyguard in the days when he was being horse whipped and threatened by mobs and women who carried guns, but when it comes to flying, I confess I usually am plain scared. With every good wish for you and yours

Sincerely



Roy F. Bailey-k

It all comes back to me after reading this letter. I'm sure it was your daughter & Blanch who was so helpful to my daughter Jean