

December 14, 1949

Mrs. Irving Hill
West 8th
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mrs. Hill:

During the later years of the life of your father, J. D. Bowersock, I think probably I had about as close a relationship to him as any one in town. The reason for this probably was that I had not leaned upon him nor asked him for any favors. As a matter of fact he had given me a left-handed compliment in never trading out any accounts that I owed him because he knew that I would pay in cash and there were others whose credit was not so good.

To show you how close our friendship was on one occasion I said to him; "You have a reputation of being close in money affairs and I am convinced that it is in small things the aggregate of which would not amount to more than \$100 a year." After a minute of thought, he said; "I believe \$200 would."

And another time I talked to Mr. Bowersock about giving to the town some sort of memorial, something that would remind the people, of the present and future, of the interest he had taken in the city and of the large part that he had in developing it in a business way. In reply, Mr. Bowersock said; "The Bowersock Theatre will be my monument and I spent more money on it than would have been necessary having that in mind."

However it was not long after his death that the name of the theatre was changed. The mills have changed hands and there is nothing in Lawrence today to perpetuate the name of a man who undoubtedly for a lifetime had been the outstanding citizen of Lawrence.

What I have in mind is for you to study the matter of honoring your father through some gift through the city. It might be something for the park or parks. It might be a wing to the Lawrence Memorial Hospital which is already needed or it might be something in the way of a piece of statuary to be placed in the park. It might be a statue of Mr. Bowersock.