

November 16, 1950

Mrs. Don A. Freeman
R.R. # 6
Brainerd, Minnesota

Dear Grayce:

I know you will be somewhat shocked by the story of the memorial gift in the paper of Thursday, November 16. I find that this story was written by someone on the Hill and unfortunately was not shown to me before it went into the paper.

The diorama will depict a rather attractive view of western Kansas as it could have been viewed 100 yards or more in front of our house. I had explained to the people up there that we had a shingle roof and a board floor and that it was not a hut. In fact, it was a really high class house for that period. I am sorry that it appeared as it did, but the diorama itself I think will be attractive and interesting, and I believe that our little mother would be glad to be memorialized in the state university.

I had told the people at the University that mama had held the first first grade certificate in Hodgeman County and that she was a college graduate. The plate which will be attached to the diorama says: In memory of Mrs. Jennie B. Simons, Pioneer mother and educator in Western Kansas. In the upper corner of the diorama appears: Western Kansas in 1878. The whole setting will be attractive and I am sorry that whoever wrote the item used the language that he did, and the people in our office certainly should have submitted the story to me.

In these dioramas they create an artificial grass which neither withers nor fades and will last for years. The background shows sky and distant hills, and the whole effect is pleasing.

I am writing you at once because I felt that you would be offended by the story as it appeared.

Lots of love,

WCS:bjh