

June 12, 1951

Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence P. Engel  
2335 Guilford Lane  
Kansas City, Missouri

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Engel:

I am very sorry indeed that illness on my part will probably keep me from being present at the 60th anniversary of the wedding of your parents. It is doubly interesting to me because as a reporter for what is now the Salina Journal, I wrote up the account of the wedding for the Salina paper. Your father, at that time, was connected with the public schools at Salina.

Just the other day we drove out over the hills west of the University where your parents home is now well surrounded by many beautiful homes. I presume you have been here and have seen the campanile, which stands as a sentinel guarding the University from the north. At an earlier time, earth works on University Hill were placed to guard the city against marauding elements from Missouri. My father, who was then a member of The 37th Illinois Voluntary Infantry, was in the battle of Pea Ridge, which in my opinion, was one of the decisive battles of the Civil War. Whether Missouri would be a slave or a free state hung in the balance, and the victory of the Union forces at Pea Ridge indoubtedly kept Missouri from joining the Confederacy.

With very best wishes to your parents and their fine family, I remain,

Cordially yours,

W. C. Simons

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