

Excerpts from Paul Moritz's Letters

"... The students have a magnificent spirit. Despite the constant threat of air raids and the difficulties and inadequacies of their life, they go along in a calm, determined, and often enthusiastic manner which puts to shame some of our American students' attitudes."

"Winter clothing is badly needed. Buildings are usually in the open, Chinese style and without heat. In some cases they are built on stilts in the middle of a lake (Kwangsi University)."

"The old temples of China have been taken over in some of the centers and are being given new life. Sometimes one finds devout Chinese worshipping grinning Buddhas, while in the same room, at the same time, classes are being held, and modern scientific terms mingle with the heavy odor of incense."

"Dormitories are very crowded and clean, although bats flit through the open woodwork carving (for temples also serve as dormitories in some schools)."

"Athletic equipment is woefully inadequate. One university of nearly 1000 students has one basket ball and no other equipment. Tennis balls are \$20.00 a piece, other things of comparable price. Less important than other needs, these things are still very important, for with so little leisure time Chinese students must use their time well."

"The health of students is very poor. At Fukien University 8 out of ten students had malaria, and at other schools the percentage was almost as great. Dysentery is very common, as are various types of fever. Surgical cases may mean death, although now doctors can be found in most communities."

"China! exotic land of enchantment! Of pagodas, philosophers, mountains,--and basketball. Any traveller in war-torn China cannot fail to be impressed with the widespread popularity of the game. The basketball goal, in fact, has become an almost essential feature of the Chinese landscape--even more common than pagodas. Schools, colleges, hospitals, army camps, play grounds, everywhere, the square backboard rears against the sky--for all courts are out of doors....."

"Each time when in some small village, stumbling through narrow crooked streets, we happen upon a spirited game, as I hear the familiar shouts and calls delivered in a strange tongue, I realize keenly again how widely the game has spread in the short span of a generation since Dr. Naismith invented it. Each time, I thrill with the thought that this quite, unassuming gentleman has given the world a game which from all indications will continue to increase in popularity and influence.."

"So, with each new village and its basketball game or games, in thought I bow to Dr. Naismith. It's 'only a game'. But it bids fair to be recognized as one of the great contributions of the modern age!"

*World 2/19/40*  
**TRIBUTE TO NAISMITH**

Douglas County Medical Society  
Officers Issue Statement

A tribute to Dr. James Naismith, inventor of basketball and professor of physical education at the University of Kansas who died last November, has been voted by members of the Douglas County Medical Society. Dr. Naismith was a member of the local organization.

The tribute, signed by Dr. C. B. Johnson, president; Dr. J. M. Mott, secretary, and Dr. Ralph I. Canuteson, follows:

"In the death of James Naismith, November 28, 1939, the Douglas County Medical Society lost a long-time faithful member, and youth, not only in America but the world over, a friend and leader. His training was in the fields of medical science and physical and religious education; his interests lay in preaching and ministering to youth thru the medium of sports. His name is perpetuated by basketball; his influence on the character and well-being of men and women will be as lasting.

"He was a member of the Douglas County Medical Society for 40 years, serving as treasurer in 1908-09 and president in 1911. In 1937 the society bestowed on him honorary life membership.

"Your committee offers this tribute as a resolution and recommends its adoption by the society, and further that a copy of the resolution be sent to Mrs. Naismith as an expression of our sympathy and friendship."

*Douglas Co. Republican 4/18/40*

The proposal to build a Field House at the university as a memorial to the late Dr. Naismith is one that merits consideration and support. It is an extremely practical suggestion for it would encourage and foster one of the most popular games now being played. That is exactly what Dr. Naismith would have his friends do for he dedicated his life to the promotion of wholesome recreation for youth. A Field House at K. U. where he spent many years of his life in service to the boys and girls of the state would be a fitting monument.

*World 5/11/40*

A picture of the late Dr. James Naismith provides the cover for a recent issue of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Journal, a publication of the national fraternity that goes to members and alumni of chapters in various parts of the country.

Dr. Naismith was an honorary member, and his sons were members while in school of the Kansas Gamma chapter of the fraternity. The article, which includes pictures of the basketball inventor in earlier years with his first team, is signed T.M.O., initials believed to be those of Ted M. O'Leary, a K.U. graduate now with the news staff of the Kansas City Star. O'Leary was all-Big Six basketball star here in 1932.

*Kansas 2/3/40*

# Board Honors Dr. Naismith, John Carlson

Two resolutions, one honoring the late Dr. James Naismith, professor emeritus of physical education, and the other John E. Carlson, prominent University of Kansas alumnus, were passed Friday night at a meeting of the University Athletic board.

The committee report on resolutions in honor of Dr. James Naismith follows in part:

"The name of James Naismith is one which will have a permanent

place in the hall of fame of athletics. His invention of basketball is an achievement which has made him known throughout the world and which has brought untold satisfaction and benefit to youth in every land. He had the unusual experience of seeing a game, created by the necessities of his immediate task, grow so rapidly in public interest that within the comparatively short space of a few decades it had become the acknowledged leader among all sports with regard to the number of participants and the number of followers.

"From 1901 to 1937, he was a valued member of this board. A period of service of such length probably is unequalled in the annals of athletic board history throughout the nation.

"We are proud of the fact that the University of Kansas has been privileged to share so generously in the life of James Naismith. With the passage of time just what he has meant to us will become increasingly evident.

"It is the hope of this board that in the near future a suitable memorial, bearing his name and dedi-