

September 22, 1942

Dear Tom:

*(H. D. Bolles, 45 Adams Ave., Watubow, Mass.)*

After searching through my files to check my information I find your letter of April 16th, 1942 in which you reported that you would have a shell available for us this fall, provided some V-7 school didn't get ahead of us.

I am writing to get the latest information and I hope that the shell is still available.

As I wrote you last spring I had an enthusiastic bunch of boys. We managed with the intensive use of some very old equipment to complete the season with about 20 boys using 2 4-oared shells. We topped the season off with a regatta on Memorial Day in which I entered 2 8-oared crews using other borrowed equipment just for the day and 2 4-oared crews. The regatta was officially sponsored by several old rowing enthusiasts of Worcester and was organized by Ken Burns of Shrewsbury and myself. My crews did very well, considering that they were all green oarsmen, although they won no races. Now we find we cannot keep on rowing on the Lake we used last year, due to the fact that it is about 4 miles from school and transportation has become impossible. However, I have obtained permission to use a lake about a half mile from the campus which will give us about a three-quarters of a mile course, but does not have boathouse facilities. With the assistance of some of the boys I plan to erect a shed and our only problem is to obtain a shell and some more oars. This means that if we can get an 8-oared shell from Harvard I will probably have the Leicester Junior College boys with their 2 4-oared shells and about 20 or 25 Clark boys using the Harvard "eight." As we have no financial support from school we have to do the best we can with very little equipment. However I don't mind that as I think I would rather start small and let the sport develop on its own rather than to start with a great blowing of trumpets and nice new equipment, only to find it not popular enough to continue.

During the past summer I made a 12 thousand mile trip doing some economic research which took me out to the Coast. While in Seattle I had the pleasure of visiting George Pocock's shop and saw his newest masterpiece--an 8-oared 2-skin shell. It is really something! It has no ribs, but is apparently as strong or stronger than the older type of construction with ribs and single skin. I have never seen any piece of woodwork that could excell George's when it comes to making shells. He

September 22, 1942

-2-

is certainly a master craftsman. While in Seattle I also visited the McLahon's on the Island. We had a pleasant afternoon's visit and they seemed to be in good spirits, although Mac is becoming rather badly crippled with arthritis. Mrs. Mac has given up her correspondence and spends most of her time with her flowers. I didn't have time to look up many other people in Seattle as I was there for such a short period.

I was down your way last week, and dropped in at the Harvard boathouse in Cambridge, on the chance that you might happen to be there, as I phoned your home and got no answer. While I missed you, I did have a nice visit with your boat man. He showed me all your equipment and talked over the finer points of some of the newer shells. I probably won't be in Cambridge again soon, but when I am going I will drop you a line in advance.

With very best wishes for a good season,

Sincerely yours,

---