

Sunday April 23.

Dear Rudi:

I just realized that I didn't give you a straightforward answer to your letter. You asked my advice on purchase of ~~the~~ one or two four oared shells from Haggerty at Cohasset. If they are Haggerty's own make of shells, and have been reconditioned they should be pretty satisfactory. If they were built by Williams or some other builder I would be dubious about them unless you had someone look them over who knows boats. Ken Burns at Shrewsbury can give you good advice.

If by chance they are Poock built boats they should give you excellent service, as Poock builds about the best boats that I've ever seen.

I have some doubts about investing much in "fours" as a college proposition. Almost all intercollegiate rowing is done in "eights". However, for intra-mural rowing the fours would have a great deal of utility, especially when turnouts are small, as they are during the war.

In case you decide the "fours" are what

can 8 work, I'm afraid only in special activities of rowing in the club and can't know the need to row. #2141
if you have any more questions, let me know and I'll be glad to answer them.
if you want I'd make sure they are built for carrying the size of boys (or girls) that you may have. Most boats come in sizes to fit the weights of crews, e.g. 150 lb, 165 lb + standard (for 175 - 185 lb crews.). The boats are sometimes rated by width, a 22 inch boat is about the size for 150 lb. oarsmen, 24 in for 165 lb. oarsmen etc. I think it is pretty safe to get the larger size boat if you have doubts of what kind of ^{material} rowing material you expect to have. One can always use lightweight in larger boats but not vice-versa.

Your account of how you managed to commission the F.E.M. caused me to chuckle. I'm sure that rowing at Clark doesn't suffer by my absence, when one of your ingenuity is in charge. Have you ever extended the dock? It was one project I intended to complete but never got around to it. I think another section on a 3rd log would make it much more useable. Also a little engineering to level up the outer edge would save wear and tear on the shells.

When I see what progress you've made, I think it would be better for rowing if you remain the "head coach". As ever yours sincerely, Gene

P.S. Would the 8 m.m. have a need of our 1943 rowing races be of any importance for the 16 new rowing club or not? Thanks!