

CLARK UNIVERSITY
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

April-19th, 1944

Dear Gene,

Please excuse me for not having written you sooner. Some how work just seems to pile up and I never seem to get all the load off my shoulders, but this bit of news just demands recognition above all else.

Today the faculty Committee on Athletics approved Rowing at Clark as an official athletic activity!!!! I can't tell you how happy that make me, and I know that you too will not be sorry to hear it. They have furthermore allotted \$100. annually from the athletic fund to maintain the sport. It seems that gradually we are getting somewhere. Oh, how I wish you were back here to help me! I really think we could put the organization on a really solid foundation, but without your help and guidance I'm not so sure of results. Let me recount our activity.

Last fall, as I believe I told you, we rowed until the icy water nearly froze our ankles stiff. (We have to resort to getting into the water to lift the eight out because the little boys we have now are too weak to lift it up on the dock). With the icy blasts whistling through the lattice work of the bathhouse I finally completed the 2-oared boat and managed to take it out for a couple of trial turns. This spring it is our favorite and someone uses it almost every day. We have named it "F.E.M." after the founder of the Rowing Club! I managed to purchase an extra pair of oar-locks from Leicester Academy and reconditioned an assortment of junk into two extra seats (including two hack-saw blades for the wheels to run on, one old brass water pipe sawed and bent into clips to keep the seats from falling out, and one old brass toilet flush-pipe to hold the wheels in place and two broken seats) so that we can now row with the two-man and the eight-man boat simultaneously. (We use sweep oars on the double, because we have no ~~xx~~ sculling oars and because the double boat lends itself beautifully for the instruction of the neophytes.) I had to do a little repair work on the ten oars you purchased, but they're all in one piece, although some have warped considerably. Can the warp be straightened out again? I haven't worked on the eight we got from the W.P.A. boathouse, but I have started on the repair of the single we rescued from the same place. The latter I hope to put into commission this summer.

We have a small but eager group out rowing this spring, but I don't think that we can make a crew out of them because one or another is always being called away into service, etc. --- Consequently I have taken a drastic step, You will shudder --- I have undertaken to build up a crew from the women's college, and I've got a Hell of a lot more spirit and enthusiasm. So far Norry Hoyt and I have trained four huskies in the fine art, with quite a bunch of others dying to learn. The advantages to this arrangement are not to be laughed off, i.e. The Women's College Athletic fund can surely contribute to the welfare of the Club, perhaps to a greater extent than the Men's College; the possibility of a women's crew is better than for the men because of the numbers of individuals in the respective colleges right now,

and thirdly, because I think we can have better rowing competition for the women (against Wellesly and Smith and perhaps Holyoke) than for the men (against institutions which far outclass us).

The Rowing Club is at present sponsoring a drive for scrap paper to raise more money. Our immediate objective is to purchase as soon as possible two four-oared boats for intramural and outside competition. Hagerty in Cohasset, Mass said he had two reconditioned boats this fall, which I'm going to ask about again, because I think now we can actually purchase them. Do you approve?

We still have the use of the Crompton and Knowles place and I guess can continue to have it if we ask.

Norry has been helping me most every day taking one boat or another out. For Spree day we are scheduled to race the eight in the doubles and as we've covered the 1/2 half-mile stretch in about 3:45 we think we might even keep up the faculty winning streak! Unfortunately he is leaving for a place of honor in the U.S.Navy on May 29th, so I'll have to carry the whole load after that. I myself have been deferred until Aug. and expect it to continue under the present ruling.

Well that's the big news.

Are you coming back soon?

With very best wishes to you and the whole family,

Sincerely,

Rudi