

June 1, 1955

Mr. John C. Bratten
Regatta Chairman
Dad Vail Rowing Association
336 East Meehan Street
Philadelphia 19, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Bratten:

I have had it in mind to write you ever since I returned from the Dad Vail Regatta of May 14. Until now, my duties, including college final examinations have kept me so busy I have not gotten to the task.

I wish to take this occasion to thank you and the Regatta Committee in behalf of the Clark University Rowing Crew for a very happy and important Regatta experience. In addition, I wish especially, to have you convey my thanks to the members of your committee who were so personally helpful in making us comfortable. I believe they are Mr. Richard O'Brien and Mr. William Kieser. Their thoughtfulness and willingness to take care of what may have seemed minor details were very important in making everything go off smoothly.

I wrote a thank-you-note to Mr. John Carlan of the Fairmount Rowing Association, a copy of which I am enclosing for your information. Also, a number of the members of the Crew got together and wrote up a special note to Mr. Carlan which I shall enclose with the request that you seal it and mail it after reading it. I shall leave it for you to complete the address as I am not sure that I am in possession of Mr. Carlan's correct Philadelphia address. It was indeed a demonstration of generosity and a great contribution to our crew's moral to have the use of the new shell made available through the good offices of Mr. Carlan.

I believe that our Varsity Rowing Club will apply for membership in the Dad Vail Rowing Association next fall. We have already started plans for a campaign to obtain permission of our Athletic Council and Director of Athletics for making such application. I hope that our campaign will be successful, but have some slight doubts on the basis of past opposition to any rowing activities which may increase the crew budget. Our budget struggle is probably not unique, but it is a serious one which has prevented our participation in the Dad Vail Regatta after earlier invitations. I am deeply grateful for your part in making the Dad Vail Regatta invitation and for your hospitality while in Philadelphia, May 13 and 14.

Cordially yours,

F. Eugene Melder
Coach of Crew

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