

14 Nov. 1955

Hi Doc,

Was glad to receive your line last week and must admit I was somewhat surprised.

I thought you would get a kick out of that model I prepared for a departing gift on my part, but I never realized it would take over the spotlight at the Melder residence. It certainly makes me feel good to know that I could give you something that will help you remember the years I rowed under you at Clark — because I shall never forget the experience, fun, and personal interest you showed in me while I was struggling to learn how to row. My only regret is that those days are gone forever, but I know the "personal interest" part would continue as long as you live if I only keep in touch with you.

I visited Clark one morning a couple of weeks ago and talked with George Collins about the fall workout. It certainly was pleasing to know so many boys turned out. But we still can't get too excited since we've had good fall turnouts before. Or is this year different? How did this fellow Pete Christopher look? I met him during the summer and he sure seems to have the build for rowing.

I think now that the crew has taken a step toward the Dad Vail and is getting a fairly good

operating sum from the Athletic Council, there will be less trouble getting numbers out for the sport. Whether or not oarsmen will appear is another story, but as long as there are willing youths the sport will survive and improve.

I dropped Russ Granger a lengthy letter concerning the University's joining the Dad Vail Association, and I feel confident that the Athletic Council will approve the crew's request.

I do feel badly that I will not participate again in Clark competitive rowing events, especially the Dad Vail, but I still got that great thrill of being the captain + stroke of the first group to make the trip to Phil. I'm sorry I will not be able to be a member of the fine crew Clark will have some day, but I feel that, perhaps, I have gotten more out of crew than anybody yet at Clark, since I started with it when we had nothing and helped to build it up in 4 years from a staggering spot, on the verge of losing the varsity recognition it had just received, to what I believe is a well-established activity. I would do it again if I had the opportunity, and like I said at our last get together "Thanks for hounding me at Freshman Camp in 1951."

Hope to see you soon.

your old shellback,
Wes