

J. E. Barlow, Pres  
J. O. Huff, Supt

C.L. Rork, Clerk  
M. May James, high school  
principal

Abingdon Public Schools  
Abingdon, Illinois  
May 5, 1919

Mr. Samuel Cline  
Marietta Phelps Hospital  
Macomb, Ill.

My dear Sam:

I would have written you yesterday but I was told you were coming home Sunday so supposed a letter would not reach you. When I found out this morning that you wouldn't get home for a few days I thought perhaps you might like a few lines from even your principal tho' perhaps there may be others whose letters would be more interesting.

I want to assure you that I was so sorry when I saw you fall. I was seated away up in the amphitheatre and could see you all so plainly. I said to my cousin's wife who was with me that you were not starting out fast at first but would soon spring past and make a lead. I hadn't any more than said those very words when you began to gain and then before you'd gone two yards farther you fell. I tho't you'd broken your ankle and when I saw you shake even as far away as I was it made me fairly shiver.

I wanted to help but I knew it was useless for me to think of that so just waited till I heard the news. It began to rain at 4 o'clock so we left, for after you were hurt, I knew we wouldn't get into the relays & all the other events were about over. I found out that Mr. Ross and other Abingdon folks were caring for you & knew you'd be looked after O.K. It seems too bad but we will be thinking long thoughts for you and will hope the recovery may be more rapid than may be anticipated now.

I have one bit of news that ought to be a solace to you and I'm sure you will cheer up when you read it. The teachers in whose classes you recite have all agreed to grant you full credit for the semester without your making it up; so even though you can't be here these last two weeks you will get your credits in French, English, Geometry, Civics & business English. The credit for entrance in the oratorical contest & for Physical Training also will be added making an additional 1/2 unit. I'm sorry I can't have you in a class of mine to do a similar thing for you.

Of course you would find it necessary if you ever take 2nd year French to work up part of this year you are losing so as to understand the rest of French. But you can work at it some while you are laid up, tho' you will not be required to make credit.



We had a little "pep" meeting today but Martha refused to make us any speech. The sun was shining very brightly this morning but it has clouded up again again & is very gloomy this afternoon.

I was talking to Mr. Francis this morning about you and he paid you a very high compliment which I think is fitting to pass on. H said he liked you so much for he considered you to be one of the most dependable boys in the high school. I heartily seconded his remarks and agreed that you were a boy of the right sort. This is not "taffy" but good sensible truth and why not pass it on to a fellow and let him enjoy it. We all like to be well spoken of, I'm sure.

The seniors are busy getting their play finally finished. Some of them who have no classes the rest of the afternoon are excused to sell tickets. I hope we have a good house so that they may get their "Tatler" cared for all right.

Well, the Vth period is nearly up so I think I would better bring this to a close. Hope it finds you in good spirits & that the lame ankle may be healing.

With every good wish and sincere thoughts,

I am

your friend,

M. May James

P.S. Excuse stationery as it is all I have at school.

M.M.J.