

CAMP SEQUOYAH

"A CAMP WITH A PURPOSE"

In "The Land of the Sky"

Near Asheville, North Carolina

Telephone: Weaverville 803

C. WALTON JOHNSON, Director

Address: Weaverville, N. C.

Head Councilors Report

1945

As a new comer to Sequoyah I was very deeply impressed with the religious emphasis program, the fine councilor staff and the placing of emphasis on nature study, Indian lore, & outdoor camping rather than athletics. With some modifications this impression has remained with me throughout the camp season. With a desire for a better season next year I would like to make the following comments on the above.

In regard to religious emphasis I feel there was a general let up along this line as the season passed into its final few weeks. I am sure you will agree with me that this part of our program is vital and should be kept always foremost in the minds of all the staff. Every staff meeting should include some instruction and prompting along this line. I am doubtful if devotion

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were held at all in the following cabins; cabins 9, 10, 17, 19, Log Homes 1 + 2.

In regard to athletics I believe the emphasis is well placed in other things with this exception. I found that most of the bunk warmers were among the older boys in camp. I feel that a greater stress on athletics for these boys would eliminate a good part of this. Athletic instruction was only given in wrestling, boxing, and swimming and in ~~all~~ of these it might be improved, especially in swimming. A swimming staff for a camp as large as Sequoyah should include more than one competent instructor. Instruction in other sports such as baseball and track would help. The tennis was well handled and I find no reason for comment on the program.

In regard to the staff, I would like to classify them into three groups. The first group including your best men, men toward whom every ^{reasonable} effort should be made to have return to Sequoyah. The second group, your average men, good in some departments & poor in others. The third group might be classified as the failures.

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H A PURP

Group #1

Killian
Highfill
Grayson
Parham
Bowden
Lewis
Lawrence
Rome
Woodward
Godd
Taylor

Group #3

Group #2

Crouch R. [redacted]
Harris (lazy)
Crouch H (good with a cabin [redacted])
McCutchen
McBrew
Woodard
Sloan
McLeod
Skinner [redacted]
Dropps (good with a cabin)
Roper
Kussie R ([redacted])
Blumenstine (good with a cabin)
Bretman
Coleman ?
Huntley
Warner
Tweten
Brittain
Kussie B.
Buxton
Crawford

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The program was very well planned and conducted with one exception. Some type of rainy-day program should be planned in advance and held in readiness for use. All counselors should be more alert and on the job on a rainy day than at any other time.

Head Counselor
H. C. Milligan

August 25, 1945

Chief -

To say that I have enjoyed my summer at Sequoyah is to put in very mild form a very real sense of feeling I have. This has been a very unusual summer in my life and has afforded me great benefit, in many respects. I am very grateful for the opportunity to have been here and thank you for it.

Naturally enough, I have enjoyed most, my work with my cabin group. Through the summer I have had some very interesting fellows and they have offered a real challenge to me. In retrospection, I wonder what I have given them? I have tried to instill in them a high system of personal ethics. True, it cannot be accomplished in a few weeks, but at least they have gotten a "sense" of what I stand for, and perhaps in days shortly to come, when they begin to exercise now latent minds, they will reach back and grasp at a fleeting memory. I have endeavored to get a sense of "bigness" into them, a sense of fairness, of good sportsmanship and above all, of manliness. I loathe a trend of personality that I call capitalistic, and I have tried to take it out of my boys. With [redacted] I don't know what progress I have made. He has a stubborn will, is horribly capitalistic in personality (endeavoring to better himself or his enjoyment at another's expense). Personally, the boy needs strong external compulsion to corral his energies. While I had [redacted] I had another problem - a distorted personality. I was unable to analyze the case further than to know that his is a case of over-mother affection, spoiled, and accustomed to frequenting the company of undesirables. Of course, we are freshly familiar with [redacted] case. Though he needs camp a great deal, he doesn't do camp any good. He ruins the good times of others to too great an extent in my estimation. He is very hard to occupy because of his limited range of activity interests. Too, his mentality is not normal and he is given to over-mother affection. I really would not recommend his returning to camp, should his father apply...which I doubt because of [redacted] extreme sensitiveness in his regard. She thinks it's everybody else's fault, not [redacted]'s. She protects him to the extent he is a "sissy" in all respects. I really found him most difficult to handle. As regards the other boys in my cabin, they have all been good. Carter Smith, Thornwell, Partin, Sams, Dobyngs, Billy Hall, and Courtney were all good campers.

My work with the tribe has been interesting as well. We did a good bit of tribal hiking with the majority taking part. I took them, first of all, that first Friday morning to Cook's Cove. Then, to Lovelace Gap for an overnight affair. Following this, we came down Ball Knob. The next hike was the day hike to Craggy Gardens...very nice hike in my estimation. Then, we took a hike to Fire Tower, going up Ball Knob (which is hard! but most enjoyable). We came down the log slide to give the second five weekers that thrill. The next day hike was an afternoon trek up to Big Poplar...very nice...should be a "must" for every camper. Then, we hiked up to Rattlesnake Gap and down the otherside (very steep, but very fine hiking as far as I am concerned) and around by the country road. In all, we did some good hiking and the boys had good times. None can go away saying he didn't get in on some long hikes. I think tribal hiking is essential to a good program, for otherwise,

a lot of boys would never get to these places. Too many counselors don't like to hike, I am afraid. And, in that regard, I found that the counselors who were not here for the pre-camp staff conference missed a great deal. They do not know how to care for their boys on camping trips. My first overnight hike to Lovelace was a nightmare to me in this regard. I can't blame the counselors for they had no training. I would not have known had I not learned that first week-end, but I did learn. On that Lovelace hike I had to change fifteen boy's beds in the middle of the night! Their counselors had not supervised the making of the same, consequently they were improperly done and when I checked the camp before retiring, I found they could not last the night. Too, the counselors did not know how to cook properly. In fact, they took very little responsibility. Of course, I learned my lesson and the next hike I made sure the counselors understood what was expected. However, as to policy, I might suggest that in the future when it is impossible for all counselors to attend the conference, perhaps a little training when they do arrive would be in order.

I undertook as a tribal project the building of a council ring this year. It is located up near that old council ring which is marked in Latin - "Second Council Ring - 1927." We did a great deal of work each time we were up there, but we were rained out several weeks in succession and so were unable to complete the job. However, we have had some of our best friendship councils there. It is ideal for the same, inasmuch as they boys can be handled so much better. I would suggest that the Cherokees be sure to complete the work next year. Now, the path up that mountain side is rather steep in places, however my original plan calls for log railings all the way up. This can be very easily effected with young saplings tied on to existing trees along the path. The rock wall we built at the ring is very secure and took a lot of work. The boys hauled rocks for days to get it made. I trust someone will get the vision and finish the work next year.

I have enjoyed Friendship Councils very much, Chief. They offered an opportunity and I tried to make the best of them. I found it best to entertain the boys and yet weave in a point here and there. Accordingly, I utilized my training in expression and gave them pantomimed Bible stories. The boys really enjoyed each one and remembered the points brought out. It was very easy to drive home points of faith, obedience, courage, faithfulness, etc; A particular favorite with them was the prodigal son. Too, I felt it was a splendid way to present to them the Gospel.

And speaking of worship services, I might mention my observations of the Inspiration Point services. I sincerely believe that for the Chickasaws and most of the Cherokees, they are a waste of time. Repeatedly my boys come down and ask me what they were supposed to have gotten out of "that." Now, I very definitely realize what you are trying to do in these services, but it is not being done with the younger boys.

please pardon the change of paper, but I'm out of the other!

WHEATON COLLEGE

STUDENT COUNCIL

WHEATON, ILLINOIS

ROBERT F. WOODWARD, president; KATHLEEN WITMER, vice president; HELEN JEAN BUYSE, secretary; REUEL E. JOHNSON, treasurer

The younger boys need something more on the order of Sunday Schools. The opportunity is great as far as they are concerned, but I do not think you are reaching them. The Gospel stories have a real appeal to those boys and you could win them for Christ, but they cannot understand morals, ethics, and philosophy. I would sincerely like to see something done for them. Perhaps your ministerial students could take over those boys and teach them. It would be good training for those men as well as wonderful for the boys. I hope you don't mind my being frank in this regard, for I believe you want us to tell you exactly what we feel about Sequoyah after having been here.

I might say that I feel the matter of boxes from home has worked out quite well this summer under the system set-up. I have not had a bit of trouble since it went into effect and my boys have been much happier. Too, the parents have cooperated beautifully.

One of the greatest drawbacks as regards counselors that I see, is this matter of transportation. I sincerely believe that if you could purchase a station wagon and take the boys back and forth you would do much to make Sequoyah the kind of camp you strive for. That one item causes more dissention among the boys than any other thing. They (and I speak for myself, as well) find it very difficult to get everything done in the length of time left them when they go with [redacted]. Then, too, so very often he doesn't show up, and then we really can't accomplish all that we should. Keeping your counselors happy is vital to the happiness of the boys.

Having talked somewhat with [redacted], the steward, I might say that I think such a man is a necessary part of your staff. [redacted] told [redacted] and me that if he were allowed to have a truck and go and buy the food each day he could save you enough money to pay for the kitchen staff. I think he is right, Chief, and for this reason. The boy hired to go back and forth to town is not a purchasing agent by rights. He doesn't have the ability, training, nor interest. And, if the steward could buy the food, you would save money, your personal time, and give the boys a much better diet and keep them definitely much happier. Food is of prime importance to a boy, and if it is good consistently, he is happy. [redacted] does a good job, but too often he has been handicapped by [redacted] not arriving with the food. This makes for a bad meal or two and the boys opinions are positively flavored by such meals. (and I mean that they are negatively flavored). Sincerely, the dining hall situation can make or break the camp. I recall so well in college the days when we had a bad supervisor...and hundreds of others recall, too. It pays to feed well.



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I have not said much this summer about the business end of camp, but I have had a good bit of experience in business, Chief, and I must agree with you that you need a business manager. The business of camp could be tied up much better than it is and make for a much easier situation as far as you are concerned. Your place is with the boys, Chief, and one sure way to get with them is to get someone to handle the office. However, I still think the dining hall man should handle the buying of the food. Departmentalization has worked in hundreds of institutions, and it can work here. I surely hope you will be able to secure the right man next year.

As regards your sex talk for counselors, Chief, I did not say too much because of my impending marriage. My remarks would have only made for conspicuity. However, I would like to say that I think you are doing a nice piece of work. You didn't say anything that I didn't already know, though, but considering that I have read very widely in the past year, it is understandable. I do think you could improve your talks for the counselors by going into explicit detail about the sex act. That's what they want to hear and lot sof them haven't read books that tell them. Too, many of them have distorted ideas. It is regrettable that it is so, but nevertheless it is. I really believe you would help them more by going into every detail, just like some of the books you undoubtedly have read. I believe strongly in sex education.

Well, I don't know what I might have missed in making this report. Perhaps I can tell you in person anything I failed to write. Chief, I sincerely appreciate the opportunity of having been at Sequoyah and can but wonder if I shall have another like opportunity. Naturally enough, my future is very much a mystery to me at this point. It has been a pleasure to have known you and Mrs. Chief and I shall not soon forget you.

Very sincerely,



THE CATAWBA TRIBE

by John Taylor

I still think that the Catawba tribe is the best in camp. They are always ready for action and know what they are doing for they are mature enough. We have had a lot of fun this year together and I am very proud of them. I can speak of their achievements with great satisfaction. However, the last ⁸ weeks of camp much of my time was taken away from the activities of my tribe and given to program for the whole camp and looking after my cabin group without the help of an aide or junior counselor. I am not boasting when I say that no other counselor in camp had the load that I had (tribal leader, program director, cabin counselor). Although I had the heaviest load I carried it alone. Because of that I worked hard and long this summer. Very few nights did I go to bed with my cabin group. I had practically no recreation. Yet, I enjoyed my work. I enjoyed working with my tribe and I will now mention some of the things that we did. I could have done more with my tribe if I had not had so much else to do or had some help in my cabin.

This year we did much more hiking than last year. During the ten weeks of camp we took eleven hikes not including ~~these~~ ~~who went on~~ the Mitchell Hike. Of these there were two overnight hikes and two all day hikes. The others were short hikes around camp. In fact, when the summer was over there was no place of real interest that we had not been to visit on one of our hikes.

The Catawbas led the camp in sports. It did us good to beat the Tuscaroras in baseball once and three times in the swim meets. Although the Tuscaroras beat us other times we considered it a moral victory to be able to set them back a few

times. Because my tribe was very athletic it was very easy to plan a sports program for them. Some of the best swimmers, tennis players, canoers, ball players and boxers were from the Catawba Tribe. They showed good sportsmanship whenever they appeared.

From the very first week of camp the tribe showed an interest in Catawba Hill and the council ring. The first two weeks of camp we took two days to rebuild our council ring which had begun to show signs of wear. After a couple rainy days when we found it impossible to walk down the hill from the tents are to go from the athletic field up to the council ring we decided to build some stone steps up Catawba Hill. One day out of every week was set aside for six weeks in which we hauled large stones and with much labor built nineteen steps from the bottom to the top of the hill. We can now go up or come down the hill on rainy days without getting our pants muddy.

The spirit of the tribe has been very high all year. We have learned several new yells and a few new songs. Every boy was proud to be in the Catawba Tribe and we were proud to have Every boy in the Catawba Tribe.

Under the new program set-up many of the activities of a tribe are going to be included in the daily program. There are now four small camps in the form of 4 tribes operating daily within the camp program.

It has been a lot of extra work to plan hikes, tribal councils, Friendship Councils and special events for my tribe along with my duties of cabin counselor and program director but I don't think I would come back to camp if I could not have my tribe.

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August 29, 1945

CHICKASAW TRIBE

Season of
1945

As I look back upon this '45 season in the Chickasaw Tribe, a deep sense of gratification comes to my mind and heart as the leader of this tribe. From all that I have heard about the other years in this tribe and particularly from my own experience of last year, I can say without reservation that this has been one of the very best years in the history of Chickasaw.

Our tribe has been exceptionally creative and active this season. Some of the activities have been traditionally Sequoyah, but many others have been entirely new and different - this I think has been due to the originality and creativeness of both campers and counselors. The campers have shown exceptional interest in the regular camp activities - especially crafts, swimming, and archery. Their deeper interest has been in the activities outside of camp. Many have expressed great interest in our informal strolls through the mountains; on several occasions I would lead and we would play follow the leader through the mountains. They have loved our long hikes to Lovelace Gap, Sawyers Cove, Blackberry Inn, Big Poplar, Cook's Cove, Beech Presbyterian Church, and other places near camp. The one outstanding hike for all was the hike and buggy ride to Mr. Guthries. Both of our trips to Mr. Guthries this season were most successful.

In my estimation, the wholesome atmosphere of Sequoyah and the emphasis upon the higher things in life, Christ as the ultimate, have made the greatest contribution toward making better men out of boys. I have noticed and have mentioned it to others that the Chickasaw tribe has been the most regular in attendance at all the religious services held here at camp. For instance, the Chickasaws went to morning watch when it was supposedly too wet for the older boys. I want to say too that it was not due to any corporal coercion on the part of the counselors, but because of the interest of the campers. I know that in my own cabin and in most of the other Chickasaw cabins that the boys have looked forward from night to night to the Bible stories and sentence prayers. The thing that stands out most vividly in my memory of last summer is the sentence prayers prayed by the Chickasaws in cabin devotions and in Friendship Council. As everyone agrees without any doubt, our Friendship Councils have been tops this season. In the last Friendship Council I arranged a program with the campers telling what Council has meant to them this season. I was profoundly thankful to God for what we as counselors have been privileged to give to the boys this summer in a spiritual way. Chief, in comparison and contrast with last summer, I know that our wonderfully successful Friendship Councils have been greatly due to the full cooperation and participation of all the Chickasaw counselors. Last year only a very few counselors ever attended our councils, but fortunately our staff

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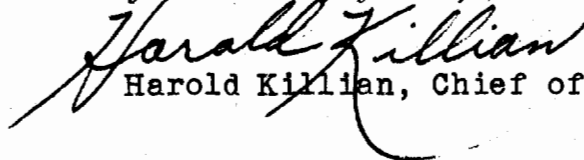
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this season has shown a genuine interest in our councils.

Since this season has been so very successful, I have very few recommendations to make regarding matters of improvement. Our greatest handicap this summer has been a conflict of duties on the part of our program men. I would suggest, that is if you continue the individual tribal plan, that you release to each tribe an adequate number of men who can always be depended upon for program and other duties pertaining to his individual tribe. I realize that other duties are important and necessary, but I feel that program is important enough to merit an adequate number of counselors. It seemed that where there was a conflict of duties in the mind of the counselor that he felt that the other duty was more important than his program assignment. Personally, I consider program and activities for the campers of primary importance in a boys camp.

Chief, when I look back and compare this summer with last, I can realize how very much the experience of last summer has helped me in my work as leader of the tribe this summer. I have had a very enjoyable summer, and I look at it now with a deep sense of satisfaction and gratification because I feel that it is a job well done. I appreciate the opportunity which I have had this summer to make some worthwhile contribution to the lives of these wonderfully promising boys. My personal interest and prayers are with you in the admirable work which you are doing here at Sequoyah. With deepest personal regards, I am -

Very sincerely yours,



Harold Killian, Chief of Chickasaws '45

THE CAMP PROGRAM

by John Taylor

The camp program at Sequoyah is now in a reformation period. This reformation started last year when Joe Getlin introduced the intra-tribe program and has reached its peak this year. Last year we stumbled through the year trying to run four small camps in one camp program but this year we hit our stride. Things ran very smoothly this year but there are still a lot of weak spots and revisions that must be made.

Not only has the program shifted from the idea of one camp to that of four camps in one but also the whole philosophy of an eight week camp must be changed to the philosophy of a ten week program. Soon the eight week period and the pre-camp period will give way to the ten week period and the five week period. I think that the sooner the two week period can be dropped the better the camp will be and the smoother the program will be.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES - the program director should plan ~~out~~ in an outline form his whole summer. Certain weeks should be set aside for sports, certain weeks should be set aside for hikes, certain weeks should be set aside for final tournaments, etc.. The last week of each five week period should be the two biggest weeks of the summer. There should be two track meets, two horse shows, two archery tournaments, two swim shows, two boxing tournaments, two wrestling tournaments, two tennis tournaments, two tribal pageants, two or four Grand Councils, two closing banquets, two Old Sequoyan Club inductions, two Mitchell Hikes, etc. In other words the first five weekers should have everything the second five weekers have with the exception of Chief's Birthday Banquet and the Sourdough and Sourduff. It can be given ^{to} the boys and it

1/10

not yet

should be given ^{to} them.

Not possible

PROGRAM ORGANIZATION - this year we struggled through the program with poor organization. This organization should carefully be set up the first week of camp. It means that much thought is to be given to the arrangement of the cabin units and the counselors in the tribe. The tribal chief should be impressed with the idea that he is a small camp director. Not that he is like one but that he is one. Within each tribe there should be a good singer or song leader. Within each tribe there should be three counselors who have nothing to tie them down outside of their tribal program and cabin responsibilities. These three men within each tribe should be versatile enough to be able to take over any activity in camp. This can be done and it must be done. We had enough and the right kind of men this year if the program had been set up right at the very first week when cabin assignments were made. These three men in each tribe should be impressed with the idea that they are on call for program any hour of the day and nothing else. It is not fair to the counselor nor to the program to be used elsewhere when there are so many other counselors on the staff. With a program director on the job, four good tribal chiefs who are alert and twelve versatile counselors Camp Sequoyah could have a program that would so far supersede this year that everyone would be amazed.

PROGRAM COLOR - rustic life for ten weeks cuts into the morale of both counselors and campers. After a couple weeks the novelty and interest drops. Everyone misses the drug store, soft chairs, comfortable beds, radios, ice box "raids", theaters, parties and Mom's home-cooking. This doesn't sound nice to a camp director but it is the truth and it is up to the program director to face the facts and meet the need. How can it be

done? I believe that it can be done by introducing into the program what I call "program color." Program Color is that which gets rid of the monotonous, the grips, the friction between the director and staff, makes the campers read the hobachees and become interested in the program, and leads to a happy camp. Some of the things that give "program color" are square dances, special food, special events, special parties, big events, etc..

This has not been an easy year for me but it has been very valuable. I love boys and there is nothing I like better than to work with them. Someday I hope to have six boys of my own. It was difficult to step into the job of program director this year. I thought there wasn't much to it at first but soon changed my mind. As I look back over the summer I can see many mistakes. I can see many things which could have been done better with experience. However, I can leave Camp Sequoyah this summer knowing that I have worked hard and done my best. In every case that I know of I have done my best. It was not always the best but it was the best that I knew at the time. I have tried to be faithful to the camp, camper and counselor. I have tried to look at their side of every decision and act. Camp Sequoyah is a great camp and has meant much to me and I hope that I have meant a little to Camp Sequoyah.

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August 25, 1945

Chief -

I don't know exactly how you feel about the music program this year, but I do know it has not been what you have had in years gone by. I have talked a good bit with Uncle Mike about it and we feel the circumstances have been rather unusual this year.

First of all, the Sequoyah Singers did not turn out to be what I expected. I have had training for boys about the age of Catawbas and Tuscaroras. However, that age boy is not interested in singing at camp. Consequently, I had only to work with Chickasaws and a few Cherokees. This was difficult for me, inasmuch as it foiled my plans for arrangements, effects and really good singing. There is nothing to be done with small children but group singing. I have enjoyed working with them, but had hoped for an older boy with which to work.

As regards the orchestra, I have already reported that the first five weeks we only had four real orchestra instruments, and the second five weeks we only had five. The second five weeks we were without a pianist and so could do very little. We did practice some, but with Uncle Mike away so much of the time, we finally decided to disband. There is no music here for such a small group and we really couldn't have done much. If I were a composer or could arrange music, I could have written things for the pieces that we had, but I do not possess such talents and Uncle Mike was too busy to do it.

I enjoyed leading singing in the dining hall and think we had some very good singing the first 7 weeks. Then, came that day when you were away and Uncle Mike and I tried to have a period of songs. It was impossible to control the boys that day and I came through with the historic statement "It is apparent the counselor's aren't on the job." Then, the stand night reproduction of the affair clinched the deal. Since then it has been impossible to get them to sing. Consequently, Uncle Mike and I decided to let them be. I regret this deeply, but feel I was without recourse. Really, I love to sing in groups and to lead them, but with such an unfortunante attitude prevailing there was little I could do.

I think perhaps my most enjoyable times with the camp as a whole have been little councils. I really enjoyed leading them there. That was good fun!

In all, I have enjoyed experimenting with the boys and regret not having done more. Personally, I have learned a lot from them.

Sincerely,



August 29, 1945

Dear Chief:

This rather informal note will be my final report to you on my part of the Sequoyah program this summer. Before continuing, however, I should like to express my extreme appreciation to you for the privilege of being here at Sequoyah. It has been a wonderful summer for me, and I believe that I have gained much from my associations with you and the rest of the staff, as well as the boys. Knowing that Sequoyah offers nothing but the best, I have tried to conduct myself and my program accordingly, and I sincerely hope that my work has been satisfactory.

In the way of a few suggestions about the tennis program, I should like to propose the following things:

1. If at all possible, I suggest that two (2) new nets be bought next year. The conditions of the nets enhances the appearance of the courts as well as making the game more pleasurable when a player does not have any doubts as to whether the ball went through or over the net.
2. I suggest that this Fall, a loose layer of dirt be thrown on all the courts. This will prevent the courts, I believe, from being torn up so much during the winter. The conditioning of the courts next season will be much easier and it will not take as long as it did at the first of this season.
3. A new brush should be put on the liner. The present one is a little worse for wear. This will aid greatly in lining the courts, and it certainly shouldn't cost much. The lines will be straighter if a better brush is added too.

The enthusiasm shown by the campers in tennis has been very gratifying to me, and I feel certain that it is an important part of the camp program. Well over half of the campers participated in the tennis program at one time or another this year. Many times the boys would have played in mud up to their ankles if I had let them, which shows you how eager they were to learn and play the game.

In closing, I should again like to thank you for everything, and also wish you another successful season next year and in the years to come. Along with this go my very best wishes to you and Mrs. Johnson for happiness during the coming year.

Very sincerely,

Roy Rowe