

911A

August 1st, 1933

Mr. E. M. Whitaker, Chief,
Fire Department,
Tacoma, Washington.

Dear Chief:

Referring to your letter of July 28th, 1933 relative to a baseball game between members of your Department and this one, I really can not say that very much thought had been given to it, for the reason that only when fairly strong competition presents itself do we give a second thought.

Insofar as the coming game is concerned, if I recall correctly, I believe this matter was referred to the pensioners of this Department. I believe some of the old boys are getting ready to come over and take your fellows into camp. We have little fear and feel confident that our retired men will have little difficulty in disposing of the affair to the satisfaction of all concerned. It is very seldom that they get the opportunity to enjoy themselves by lambasting somebody the way they unquestionably will.

I say the satisfaction of all concerned advisedly. Should we send over even some of our mediocre players - let alone our king-pinner, which, be assured, are rich in number - the whole affair would be such a walk-away that your guests at the Picnic, I am sure, would be very much disappointed. It would put the home team in a bad light. Frankly, between us two, I feel you are taking more chances than you should by permitting your men to indulge in these more strenuous sports such as football and baseball. If you will permit me, I would suggest ping-pong, bridge, checkers, or similar light indoor sports.

Realizing how readily ones enthusiasm is often-times allowed to carry him beyond his depth, and believing this true on your part this time, we are inclined to be rather indulgent. Therefore, should you have misgivings of the challenge so recklessly hurled at your superiors and so wish, I will be pleased to use my influence with our representatives and do everything possible to assist you back on an even keel.

I will even go so far as to insist that only some of the more antiquated members of our local Ladies' Auxiliary be the only ones permitted to go to Tacoma on your big day.

Page Number Two.

If handled diplomatically, it is barely possible you can talk the worthy matrons into allowing you to put across at least the winning run. Above all, do everything possible to maintain what little good-will and prestige you now enjoy from your public. Try to find some other means of giving them a good laugh rather than be accused of deliberately placing yourself in a ludicrous and ridiculous position - where they may be forced to laugh at you rather than with you.

Hoping, for the sakes of your families and others near and dear, to receive your apology by return mail and with the best of all other kind wishes, I am

Sympathetically yours,

CWC-s

Chief of Fire Department