

COPY

March 1, 1943

Mr. Charles B. Atwater
44 Vernon Street
Springfield, Mass.

Dear Mr. Atwater:

I was up to the library on Saturday morning to assist with the unwrapping of chairs and Mr. Towner and the landscape gardener came in. Before he left, Mr. Towner asked me to see that all the furniture was placed as it was undone, if it were in perfect condition, and see that the papers and packing materials were burned. He also asked me to supervise other janitor services about the building. He said that supplies necessary for such work should be bought, and thought it wise to send me another check for such use.

Mr. Amatrudo, who was asked to serve as janitor when the building was ready for use, will not be able to do all of this extra work for at the present time his wife is not well and he must spend considerable time at home where he has a store and filling station. So many of our men and women are doing war work that I shall have to scout around a bit to find dependable helpers at hours when I can be there.

Before we begin, I feel I should get door mats for front and back doors, lest gravel or sand be tracked in and mar the finish on the floors. Other materials we will need at once will be brooms, incinerator, and everyday cleaning materials. I have had no experience in buying such materials for libraries, but I believe I buy rather economically for my own home and I will make every effort to keep the cost of good materials at as low a figure as possible. I shall go to a wholesale house in New Haven and ask for a special discount for an educational building. I know that when I was teaching we often were able to secure special discounts. I shall be happy to do this for you.

In the afternoon Mrs. Foote and children arrived unannounced. She said she had a few minutes to give to library work if I wanted her. She has a daughter in Junior High and I have a daughter in Senior High. They helped arrange books in alphabetical order; Mrs. Foote stamped the books and pasted in due slips and pockets; I typed the cards and filled in the accession book record. Judge Foote stopped in on his way home and we were truly thankful for the library of which we talked continually.

My husband shares my enthusiasm, but finds it impossible to give too much of his time as he has no help now on the farm, and the stock and poultry must be cared for. Again, military duty and work in ammunition factories have drained the supply of farm workers. He thinks nothing could be finer for our town than this grand gift. Certainly nobody knows better than he the value and joy of reading, for many years ago during a nine month illness in a hospital he lost his hearing, and he has found his joy and learning since in the reading of books and magazines, and so to him they are priceless.

I shall write further when new developments happen.

Most sincerely,