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San Luis Obispo, California

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Dear Ken:

Your Xmas card came at a time when the muddy bottom of Morro Bay looked more inviting than the nearest bar to A. Foote--and bars have always had a particular attraction to him. In other words, the kind things you wrote helped to lift me out of a depression that threatened my insanity. Believe me, I am grateful.

I am not sure that California is going about the education process in the manner I would recommend. In fact, I'd say the approach here is ridiculous--but that's what I get for thinking I was tired of being poverty stricken. We turn out technicians here--the men who are educated enough to be able to turn the little wheel when the gauge shows red: "Giver a lil more naptha, Charlie, the mixtures gittin bad." Unfortunately, these gentlemen receive the M.S. degree--equivalent to the B.A., I suppose--and go out into the world armed with the conviction that they are "engineers."

I would enjoy a letter from you. I'd like to know how Tulane goes, and how your plans are shaping up for the teaching profession. I'd still recommend that profession, but I'd add a little counsel and guidance: don't be fooled into thinking that higher salaries mean more interesting students, and don't for a moment assume that California schools are worth a damn. There are certain exceptions of course--Cal Tech, California University, Stanford.

My best to your mother, and please write. I get no news from Tulane.

Sincerely,