

Mr. and Mrs. Chester A. Clark

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The bottom dropped out of the stock market in the middle of our campaign, and we didn't collect all the pledges. But everybody who possibly could paid up, and so we got the new School Building, the Gymnasium, and the Science Building.

Then in 1945 the Commonwealth took another look and turned thumbs down on the Dining Hall. So Frank came to New York again, and we started writing these letters.

If you have been to Deerfield you have seen what your gifts have done, and it must have given you a thrill. The Infirmary is undoubtedly the best, most up-to-the-minute health building in any private school anywhere. Educators have come from all over the country to study it. The Dining Hall is the last word in convenience, cleanliness, and the kind of surroundings that induce a healthy appetite.

The Activities Building, which is to be a memorial to the 61 Deerfield boys who gave their lives in World War II, and toward which the young alumni, out of their not very princely salaries, have already raised \$175,000, will have its roof on before the snows come, and will be in full operation in September.

This leaves only one more thing that must be done. Too many of the boys are still rooming on the third floors of wooden buildings. The special Providence that watches over Deerfield has kept us from ever having a serious fire, but Frank and Helen will never go to bed completely free from worry until those boys are taken off the third floors and put into the fireproof safety and comfort of a new Dormitory.

The father and mother mentioned in the first paragraph feel so strongly about this that they are providing \$400,000. If we will give just ten per cent as much this December as we have given over the past five years, we can easily raise the other \$200,000.

I have never tried to put any "salesmanship" into these letters, and I don't want to bore you with excess conversation. But I would like to say in closing that, after these five years of such close association with Deerfield, I feel more strongly than ever the importance of this school, and like schools, to the future of all that is best in American life. We don't have any rumpus over anti-communist oaths at Deerfield. We are not reactionaries. We move forward with the times. But we believe that the things that the founders of Deerfield stood for have made America, and will continue to make it, if the leadership of America can have the intellectual and spiritual ideals which it is the business of Deerfield to give.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce Barton