

I never told you how the Fund Raising Committee got started, but now that we have done so much more than we hoped for at the beginning perhaps you would like to hear about the first meeting.

It took place downtown in New York, where Frank had brought together a distinguished group of Deerfield fathers. He told us how he had gone to bed every night for years worried about what would happen if an epidemic broke out in Deerfield, and why there had to be an Infirmary. He showed us photographs of the boys standing out in the rain, waiting to get a seat in the old Dining Hall. He said that every Saturday night for twenty-five years he had worried about what would happen if somebody were to drop a match in that old barn while a motion picture was being shown. He told us also that the school had a mortgage of \$300,000.

There was quite a lot of talk, but I am getting so old that I can't stand much "conference". Finally I busted in and said to Frank: "How many parents do you have?"

He said: "About 1900."

I said: "Do you think there are 300 of them who would give \$1000 apiece?"

He said he thought there were.

"Well," I said, "that would at least take care of the mortgage. Why don't we write them a letter and find out."

This seemed to meet with unanimous approval. I hastened to add very emphatically that I would write one letter, but would not be chairman of any committee or promise to do anything more than the one letter.

So I wrote the letter and asked you if you thought it was worth trying, and you came back with a bang.

That was five years ago; and now here we are, not with \$300,000, but with \$2,625,811.34. This wonderful total includes a few large gifts, but is made up principally of hundreds of smaller gifts which came in without personal solicitation, just through the mail. People in the education business say that nothing like it has ever happened before.

I am now permitted to answer a question that many of you have asked: "Who are the parents who, at the outset, promised \$100,000 and, entirely on their own initiative, raised it to \$400,000 as an incentive to the rest of us to finish the job?" They are Mr. and Mrs. Alan Scaife of Pittsburgh, who, as long as their boy was at Deerfield, did not want him to be embarrassed by having the announcement of their gift made public. All of this gift has gone into the new dormitories which are to take the boys off the third floors, and on which work has begun.