

10 June 1977

Mr. J.R. Downes
Rockwell International Co.
Sabraton- Morgantown 26505

Dear Mr. Downes,

Last summer we discussed in your office our efforts to revive the rowing sport in Morgantown. It used to be one the very few collegiate sports in the late 1800's but somehow died here while elsewhere it flourished (e.g. Marietta which just had its 100th anniversary) Now there are a good number of high schools in West Virginia who offer a crew program (e.g. Parkersburg, Wellsburg) though their survival depends largely on private support.

In order to get this off the ground here, we really depend on some substantial commercial support, which can take advantage of our non-profit status under IRS clause 51c(3). I would like to have an opportunity to discuss this with the appropriate person in your company so I can submit in some detail the nature of our request.

If you have followed the newspaper coverage, you know that our college-age group (going by WVU Crew) has done great things in the races they attended, especially the girls team. We are now recruiting high school age boys and girls for summer training. It is embarrassing to state that all we have is a leaky old eight-oar shell and a new four, yet to be paid for, nor do we have a boathouse or shelter. But kids are lining up and the enthusiasm is fabulous. Support for this sort of thing would seem to be a real contribution to the community, since we plan to have it open to all comers without charge to the kids.

I know that you are busy just now, but please drop me a line as to who I may contact. I can be available on short notice and can usually be reached at my office 304/293-5240 or 2219.

Hoping to hear from you in the very near future.

Sincerely yours,

Vim van Eck
Director & Advisor