

XXXXXXXXXX
Bldg. 206, White Oak
Silver Spring 19, Maryland

JVA-misc.
Correspondence

10 June 1948

Dr. Harold V. Gaskill, Dean
Iowa State College
Ames, Iowa

Dear Dr. Gaskill:

Thank you for noticing the items on our activity. My Division is leading a very active life; we are having a great deal of fun and are, I hope, getting a few things done.

May I congratulate Iowa State College on the extraordinary progress in the whole field of atomic research? This progress strongly marks the new era of respect with which the world regards the mid-West.

I am very sorry we did not get together the last time you were in Washington. I will indeed look forward to your next visit and I hope I can visit Iowa State College before too long.

Perhaps you have heard indirectly that I have purchased a farm about 11 miles north of the new Naval Ordnance Laboratory. The farm has 125 acres of land and a house which is perhaps 225 years old. I am living in the house but, for the time being, this means a rather crude existence. I have one full-time hired man and another to help on occasions. At present I have excellent pasture but not enough cows. My corn is about five inches high and only slightly weedy. I will not do much detailed farming but will devote the land to raising grass and stock. I do not expect to make much money out of the venture but this kind of contact with nature seems to be the only balance wheel which can divert me from my professional activities.

Dr. Fox and Dr. Carr visited our Laboratory but their visit was very short and I was unable to show them very much. The new laboratory is nearing completion in spite of rumors and premonitions to the contrary and many people are already actively at work within its walls. My own group will not move until sometime in September.

Please convey my regards to the many friends I will always remember in Ames.

Very sincerely yours,

John V. Atanasoff