Philadelphia, November 9, 1905.

My Dear Son Francis:----

I received a letter from Mr. Blum that you were not keeping up with the second grade and that you thought best to go in the third grade. Now, this I do not want you to do if you can hold your end up in any way. Stay in the class you are in. I wrote to Mr. Blum and told him that I was willing to go to extra expense to have you coached with some experienced teacher they have there so that you could keep up in this grade.

What you want to do is to put your mind more to your studies and keep right down to it, and let mischief or any outside sports alone if you know you have not got the time, as now is the time of your life for you to take the benefit of this education, as you will regret it five years from now; and again, you must remember that I have to pay for this. I am not a rich man but I want to see you have a good education, as I know it will do you more good than anything else you can have, and at your age, and as large as you are, what I hear of your conduct I am very much surprised, and would say, in this respect you should be perfect as you are old enough to know what is right and wrong, and you surely should know that I am not sending you to school, as you may call it, to have a good time and make disturbance and annoy other students and disarrange the methods of the school you are in. By all means, what you do always tell the exact truth, as I never knew it yet where any one does not tell the truth they are always found out later.

I would like to see you get right down to hard work and make a good clean record, as you know what I promised you and my promise will hold good, but you must show me a good report of this expense I am put to when you are through with this term.

This is all for your benefit.

At any time you want anything write to me and let me know just what it is, either in clothes or extra spending money that you know that you should have and I will send it to you.

With my best wishes for good success and love, I remain

Your loving father,

Jerrold Ridenour