Dear Floris:

The sad thoughts generated by the loss of Charles have led to forgotten memories of a pleasant past.

I remember being on the second string football team in 1925, being too small to make the first team. Charles showed up for practice and was placed at tackle on the second team. And without any instructions that is exactly what he did - tackle. Not by grabbing a jersey or an arm like they do today, he hit low and stopped the ball carrier in his tracks. I don't think that it was as much as a week before he was a tackle on the first team.

The onestevent which I'll never forget was the trip to Iberia. I was one of four or five second stringers who were taken along on trips to be used only if some catastrophe befell the first team. Charles took coach Reese and three others of us in the family model T touring car. We headed out on a cold morning before daylight. The road to Buffalo was a fair country road, but from there to Lebanon a part of the route was not much more than a clearing between two fences. We made it to Waynesville by noon without any mishaps but nearly frozen. The coach took us to the hotel lunch counter where we had a dinner consisting of a full slice of country ham, two eggs, toast, and home-churned buttermilk. After we had put that under our belts Reese looked down the line and said, "Boys, I could eat another order, how about you?" So we all had a duplicate of our first order.

After the game we reached Lebanon by dark and ate supper. We then drove back over the same route - I don't recall how late it was when we reached Bolivar but I don't think that we had a single flat or any other mishap during the whole trip.

I remember the following Monday being in the school basement alone with Ray Reese when he remarked, "Charles Kifer is a real gentleman."

As you know, I got to play with Charles in 1926, and again on the college team in 1928. In all of that time I never heard him complain in any way - he just went ahead and did his job. I think that Ray Reese said it best, "Charles Kifer is a real gentleman."

In coping with my own loss I have derived much comfort by daily giving thanks for having a good mate by my side for 51 years. You have had the good fortune to have had Charles all of these years. There are many who have not been nearly so fortunate as we. Keep your chin up.

Sincerely,

Geo. Francis Hooper