

JOEL WING  
WRANGELL, ALASKA

COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

T/L
O/L
TAX
TOTAL

UNITED STATES COURTS

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

U. S. ARMY

TELEGRAM

*Copy*

DESIRE  
TRANSMITTED

NUMBER

TIME FILED

CHECK

SEND THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE, SUBJECT TO THE TERMS ON BACK HEREOF:

JUN 2- 1955

MORNINGSIDE HOSPITAL PORTLAND OREGON

DOCTOR BANGEMAN LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER AND I AGREE ALEXANDRA MERCULIEF TWO THREE FIVE  
EIGHT DISCHARGED YOUR HOSPITAL MAY SEVENTEEN OUGHT TO BE RETURNED AGAIN STOP CAN YOU  
AND GOVERNOR HEINTZELMAN MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS WITHOUT COMMITMENT AGAIN QUERY  
HER MOTHER COMMA MRS RUDOLPH COMMA AND MR RUDOLPH DONT WANT TO KEEP HER STOP HE CAME  
MY OFFICE REQUESTED HER RETURN TO YOU STOP I FEEL SURE THAT EMOTIONAL AND FINANCIAL  
STATUS AND FAMILY ATMOSPHERE BAD FOR HER STOP SHE DEFINITELY ACTING QUEERLY STOP  
THIS NOON WAS WALKING ON EDGE OF STEAMSHIP PIER SHOES OFF WITNESSES FEARED SHE WAS  
ABOUT TO JUMP OVERBOARD STOP SHORTLY LATER IN POST OFFICE LOBBY SINGING HALLELUJAH

ACS-SC FORM 320  
REV. 29 MAY 51

ARMY-ALASKA COMMUNICATION SYSTEM  
SEATTLE, WASH

Commissioner Wing would like to have us inform him what action  
is taken by this office.

Claribel

*4:00 p.m. 6/3/55*

*Wang called him back - suggested  
follow regular procedure.*

*①*

State Department of Public Assistance

WHATCOM SAN JUAN COUNTY OFFICE

114 WEST MAGNOLIA  
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON

RECEIVED  
APR 25 1955  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

April 25, 1955

Mrs. Lois Locklin,  
Senior Visitor  
Whatcom County Office  
State Department of Public Assistance  
114 West Magnolia  
Bellingham, Washington

Re: SWANBERG, Lydia

Dear Mrs. Locklin:

Insane patients from the Territory of Alaska are a Federal responsibility and their care is arranged by the Department of the Interior in Washington.

Copies of all commitments are supposed to be filed by U. S. Commissioners in the Office of the Governor, but every now and then this filing is omitted. Evidently this happened in the case of Lydia Swanberg.

Our records do show that she was discharged from Morningside Hospital at Portland, Oregon, on July 11, 1953, as recovered and was returned to her home in Fairbanks.

I believe that this hospital would be able to provide the information you require. The address is: The Sanitarium Company, Montavilla Station, Portland 16, Oregon.

I am sorry that we are unable to furnish you with more information.

Sincerely yours,

R. N. De Armond  
Special Assistant

October 20, 1954

Re: BAGGETT, James E.  
BPA #698 172

Bureau of Public Assistance  
1917 American Avenue  
Long Beach 6, California

Gentlemen:

The court documents in connection with the commitment of this subject to Morningside Sanitorium in 1946 disclose the following information:

Date of birth Nov. 18, 1878. White, widowed.  
Son James F. Baggett lived at 5228 Oak Lane, Dallas, Texas  
Subject had been committed to a mental institution at Tyrell, Texas, at age 20, for six months; to Callenger Hospital, Washington, D.C., in 1940 for an unspecified period, and to an unknown mental hospital in Nevada in 1940.

On March 8, 1946, the subject was brought before Rose Walsh, U. S. Commissioner at Anchorage, Alaska, on a complaint signed by Murray Furman, charging that he was an insane person. The subject was represented by an attorney, B. A. Nesbitt, appointed by the Commissioner. A jury was empaneled and witnesses, including a physician appeared. The jury found the subject insane and he was committed to Morningside.

Attached to the commitment is a statement by the U. S. Commissioner that "I find that James E. Baggett is a bone fide resident of the Territory of Alaska having lived in the Territory for the past two years and his last place of residence was in Anchorage, Alaska."

There is also a note by the Commissioner that "It is not known at this time of Mr. Baggett has property in this precinct or not, but shall investigate and report to your office later."

No such report is found in this office. Such report would normally, however, go to the Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C., who is charged with the responsibility for insane persons in Alaska and whose office makes collections when funds are available and handles all other details with regard to the care of such persons.

To answer your specific questions, as contained in your letter of September 23:

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

OFFICE OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CLERK'S OFFICE

- 1) We have no way of determining the permanent residence of American citizens who come to Alaska. Aliens are registered with immigration authorities. The commitment papers do not show Baggett's previous residence, except as may be indicated by the various previous commitments.
- 2) Committed to Morningside on March 8, 1946. Delivered by United States Marshal to Morningside Sanitarium at Portland, Oregon, on March 22, 1946.
- 3) Baggett was not a ward of the Territory of Alaska. The Territory has no responsibility with regard to persons adjudged insane. Such persons are wards of the Federal Government, the responsibility of the Department of the Interior, with a special appropriation by Congress for their care. All matters with regard to the commitment are handled by the United States courts.
- 4) It does not appear from the commitment papers that a guardian was appointed for this subject. Ordinarily a guardian is not appointed in such cases except when there is property that must be looked after. Our records do not show that Baggett had property in Alaska.

Apparently this subject did not remain at Morningside for very long, but our records do not show the date of his discharge.

I am not sure that this information will be very helpful to you but it is all we have here. Perhaps further information might be obtained from the Office of Territories, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

R. N. De Armond  
Special Assistant

Deputy Director

UNITED STATES MARSHAL  
TERRITORY OF ALASKA  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

May 19, 1954

United States Marshal  
Anchorage, Alaska

Attention: Frances F. Perkins  
Office Deputy

Dear Sir:

As per request in your letter of May 17, we have examined our files of commitment papers for Gerald Hunt, William Lloyd Garrison and Guy W. Terrill and find both originals and copies of receipts issued by Morningside Hospital.

In looking over other commitment papers filed here in the past, we find that copies of receipts are not included and there appears to be no reason why copies should be on file here. Accordingly, I am returning both originals and copies for your own files or disposition.

Sincerely,

R. N. De Armond  
Special Assistant



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF TERRITORIES

Air Mail

OCT 14 1953

Hon. B. Frank Heintzleman  
Governor of Alaska  
Juneau, Alaska

My dear Governor Heintzleman:

Among the many phases of the problem of the care of Alaska's insane, we feel the following instances should be brought to your attention as they may be helpful in enabling you to consider what steps can be taken by the Territory to change the situation.

In the following four cases, does it not seem as if a correct diagnosis in the first place would have obviated the necessity of bringing the patients before a board for examination as to their insanity.

At Fairbanks, Alaska, on September 2, 1953, Earl Groos (Pearl Gross?) was committed to Morningside Hospital. Dr. Keller wrote us that this man was apparently committed to Morningside as a result of an alcoholic psychosis which was practically in remission at the time of his arrival. He had a history of excessive drinking and of multiple arrests and convictions. The diagnosis in this case was "psychopathic personality, alcoholic, etc." He added that, "while Mr. Groos still remains a psychopathic personality, any further hospitalization is not indicated or necessary." The patient was discharged on September 25.

Jessie Ketch (mixed Indian and white) was adjudged insane at Ketchikan and committed to Morningside on September 8, 1953. The enclosed copy of a letter, dated September 30, addressed to Dr. Louis Salazar at Ketchikan by the Medical Officer at Morningside Hospital, Dr. George F. Keller, is self-explanatory.

On September 15, at Anchorage, Fred Van Horst was committed to Morningside. He had a history of excessive drinking. The diagnosis was "Alcoholic hallucinosis." Dr. Charles L. Anderson, of Anchorage, on the medical certificate made the following statement with regard to this patient:

"It is a shame that we must send Morningside Hospital such cases as this, since they usually recover in a few weeks. However without any facilities for their care, we have no choice. Such a man as Mr. Van Horst cannot be allowed to languish in jail without medical attention. If the Federal Government would authorize it, we could hospitalize such patients here."

Xc  
copy retained in Juneau

With regard to Dr. Anderson's comment, the Federal Government is obligated to care for residents of or persons in Alaska who have been legally adjudged insane and committed to a mental institution. However, if provision were made by the Territory of Alaska, there would be no need for alcoholics and others--such as mentally deficient children--to be taken into the United States Commissioners Courts for insanity proceedings, and there would be no necessity to incur the expense of sending such people to Portland under the care of a United States Marshal, only to have certain of them discharged within a short period of time.

Earl Shortridge, (an Indian), was, on September 24, 1953, committed to Morningside Hospital from Ketchikan. This man, a World War II veteran, has a history as an excessive drinker and of multiple arrests for drinking. The diagnosis is "Delerium tremens, recovered." His early discharge is contemplated.

We shall be glad to have the opportunity, when you are in Washington, of discussing this important work, the care of Alaska's insane.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) William C. Strand

William C. Strand  
Director

Enclosure