

P. S. Mrs. Blake is the latest addition to the office force.

2705 S. W. English Court,
Portland 1, Oregon,
June 6, 1955.

Honorable Anthony T. Lausi,
Director, Office of Territories,
U. S. Interior Department,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lausi:

I would like to bring you up to date on the stenographer situation. Mrs. Sherman has not been back. She has called me on the phone several times. I have not let on yet that I know what happened to her. On May 31st Miss Celorie came into my office for something about the middle of the forenoon. I asked her if Mrs. Sherman was there today. She told me that Mrs. Sherman would not be back. I told her that I wanted to dictate some letters and she told me that she would talk to Mrs. Mickelson. I expected that they would send Mrs. Dunson in, but after about a fifteen minute wait they sent Mrs. Blake in. Mrs. Dunson is a better stenographer than any of them, but they use her for filing and other things they do not want to do. They only have her come part time and she will probably be quitting soon, because she will not be able to stand them any longer. Mrs. Sherman and Mrs. Dunson were never accepted very well by them because they would not stooldidgeon for them. When Mrs. Dunson leaves she will probably not be replaced. That will leave Mrs. Mickelson, Miss Celorie and Mrs. Blake. Neither one of the three could work for me privately. I would not hire them and would not want them around. I cannot imagine either one of them getting by anywhere else and as they do except here. I believe that by now they do not trust Mrs. Dunson. What they did to Mrs. Sherman is proof of how they felt about her. I might as well not have anybody as Mrs. Blake. She is mediocre and particularly so as a stenographer. I will not be able to get my job and work done with her. Even so she is not much worse than Miss Celorie or perhaps even Mrs. Mickelson. At any rate, she is accepted by them and fits right in with them. In fact, I believe that she has been groomed as and is supposed to work for me as their trained stooldidgeon. I would not trust her or any of the rest of them for a moment. Even so, I do not believe that she will be there long, because they are piling too much on to her. Mrs. Mickelson and Miss Celorie only work for the Coes and their own now. This was all figured out by Henry Coe and Mrs. Mickelson and the rest of them are all going along with it. It could even be that Mrs. Mickelson had most to do with it. It certainly makes them all feel important. It also shows what kind of stuff we are dealing with. Mrs. Sherman and Mrs. Dunson both told me that they were instructed to make an extra copy of everything I dictated for them without me knowing it, never to return anything to me before they had seen it and had passed on it, to keep an exact record of the time they spent in my office, to report everything I said or asked or talked about and the like. Without my own secretary or stenographer I am going to be sunk from here on out as far as the Department's work is going to be concerned and it was carefully planned that way. So in plotting against me they are plotting against everyone and everything that I do and am supposed to represent and our work and duties and responsibilities and everything in general as far as we are concerned. By the way, the woman about whom they made the furore when the auditors were here has been gone for a long time. She quit soon after that, because she claimed that she had gotten a better job. I doubt if she even knew what they tried to put on. They were trying to scare the auditors. They also wanted to make me look bad. They would frame someone if they could. I hope my own stenographer will become a reality soon. Sincerely yours,

B. F. Keller

2705 S. W. English Court,
Portland 1, Oregon,
May 29, 1955.

Honorable Anthony T. Lausi,
Director, Office of Territories,
U. S. Interior Department,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lausi:

I trust that you had a pleasant holiday weekend. Mine was marred somewhat by a telephone call which I received Friday evening. I was called by Mrs. Sherman who told me that after I had gone for the day and as she was about to leave shortly afterward, she was fired by Mrs. Mickelson. This apparently was her reward for trying to do the best job they would let her do for me and be as loyal to me as she could be under the circumstances. Of course, Henry Coe and perhaps others had to be in on it too. I felt it coming, but did not expect it to happen so soon. They were about due to pull something. Now I am wondering what I will be confronted with Tuesday morning. The immediate reason Mrs. Mickelson gave her was that she had disobeyed their order never to put anything I had dictated into an envelope and seal it before Henry Coe or she or whoever else had passed on it. This she absentmindedly had done with my reply to Mr. Coulter's teletype message and had given it to me to mail on my ^{way} home. The fact that a copy had been made for them, made no difference. She also told me that she had never been in my office, when after she came out, Henry Coe or Mrs. Mickelson or Betty Celorie or some ^{such} combination did not take her aside and ask her what I had said or what I had talked about. She said that they were never satisfied with her answers. Mrs. Sherman worked full time while she lasted. She was very satisfactory to me as far as she was permitted to go. Mrs. Dunson also called me on Friday evening after Mrs. Sherman to tell me about Mrs. Sherman's experience. She was very disgusted about it and was thinking about quitting. She works part time and has also done some work for me. They have also tried to pump her. She stated that she would like to help me, but that it would not be very comfortable. I have written you about these two women before. I still wish that you would write them for any information that you would like to have. They are trustworthy and know what the score is. I believe that Mr. Williams is in Washington now. This might be a good time for you to work something for me out with him. Henry Coe has been telling the help that what they have been reading in the papers is only "Old Mrs. Green" trying to play politics and that nothing is going to happen. To me, he said that his trip was "so-so" and also that "Old Mrs. Green" was trying to play politics and that being afraid that her bill would not be passed was trying to dig up a little dirt and that even if something is passed, they would still be good for a couple million. Both father and son have been very busy writing letters since they have been back. During last week about nine hundred dollars worth of flowering shrubs were planted where they would be most conspicuous. They must be expecting visitors. The head nurse said, "They can spend nine hundred dollars for flowers, but they will not hire enough attendants". Of course, that is an old story. With best wishes and personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

A. F. Keller

Morningside Hospital Audit Seen as Unlikely

Washington Bureau of The Journal
WASHINGTON, May 19.—A
house interior subcommittee
studying the Alaskan mental
health problem is unlikely to
order an audit of the books of
Morningside hospital at Port-
land, key sources indicated here
today.

Meanwhile, subcommittee
Chairman Leo W. O'Brien (D-
NY) said he anticipated that
both his group and the full com-
mittee would act Tuesday to
send to the floor a bill to turn
over to Alaska's territorial gov-
ernment full responsibility for
care of the territory's mentally
sick.

AN AUDIT of Morningside's
books "over a period of the last
several years" was demanded by
Rep. Edith Green of Portland, a
subcommittee member, and re-
luctantly agreed to "if the sub-
committee decides it is neces-
sary" by Wayne W. Coe, owner-
manager of the hospital.

Since 1904, Alaska's mentally
ill residents have been cared for
at Morningside, under contract
with the interior department.

But while members of the
subcommittee made a consider-
able point of prying from Coe
an agreement to submit his ac-
counts to an audit, an influential
member of the group said "I
don't think we're interested in
holding up this very important
matter to wait for an audit—
it's not really important whether
Morningside made some money
we don't know about, but it is of
urgent importance that we do
something to improve the treat-
ment of the mentally ill of
Alaska."

BOTH COE and his son,
Henry W. Coe, general manager
of the Sanitarium Company of
Portland, which operates Morn-
ingside, appeared Wednesday
before the subcommittee to in-
dorse legislation by Rep. Green
to provide a modern system of
commitment for the insane in
Alaska.

But while they indorsed the
Green bill, they were strongly
opposed to another bill by the

Portland Democrat, and a sim-
ilar bill by Alaska Delegate
E. L. (Bob) Bartlett, a Demo-
crat, to provide for construction
of mental hospitals and clinics
in Alaska.

The two also opposed an ad-
ministration bill — introduced
during the day by Chairman
O'Brien—which would combine
the two steps and which, unlike
the Green and Bartlett bills,
would transfer to the territorial
government full responsibility
for solution of its mental health
problem, with \$12,500,000 in
federal government financial aid
over a 10-year period.

THE COES contended that
prior bills to revise the archaic
commitment system now in
vogue in Alaska had bogged
down because they had been
tied to administrative, financial
and construction provisions.

It was indicated today, how-
ever, that the subcommittee will
prefer the O'Brien or adminis-
tration bill. Bartlett, who like
Mrs. Green had introduced sep-
arate bills on the subjects, said
he now prefers the administra-
tion approach, adding "I hope it
is the bill we will approve."
O'Brien said he also favored the
joint bill.

Witnesses On Sanity,

WASHINGTON (Special)—
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ritorial officials urged congress-
ional practice to end the 50-year
Wednesday at Morningside
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The house interior committee
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Witnesses Attack Alaska Law On Sanity, Portland Treatment

WASHINGTON (Special) — Administration and Alaskan territorial officials urged congress Wednesday to end the 50-year practice of caring for Alaskan mental patients at Morningside hospital, Portland, and turn the function over to the territory.

The house interior committee also heard the present commitment procedures for mental pa-

tients in Alaska described as "a disgrace to the United States" as a lineup of leading mental health witnesses appealed for approval of legislation that would modernize these procedures.

Alaskans who become mentally ill are now committed if found "guilty" of insanity by juries, then detained in solitary confinement in Alaskan jails pending transfer to Morningside hospital, the committee was told.

Green Backs Measure

Representative Edith Green, Democrat, Oregon; Delegate E. L. Bartlett, Democrat, Alaska, and the interior department have come up with bills to end criminal action against mental patients and provide for their medical treatment and care in appropriate Alaskan facilities.

The administration proposes a ten-year program during which the federal government would spend \$6,500,000 on facilities in the territory, extend \$6,000,000 in grants and turn over 500,000 acres of public lands to Alaska. After ten years Alaska would be on its own.

Now the government spends between \$800,000 and \$900,000 annually for Morningside care.

Only opposition came from the owner and general manager of the Portland hospital, Wayne W. Coe, and his son, Henry W. Coe, of Portland. They came out strongly in favor of modernizing Alaska's commitment pro-

cedures for getting the patients to Portland but opposed construction of hospital facilities in the territory on grounds that "Alaska isn't ready."

Governor Favors Law

Alaska's Governor B. Frank Heintzleman indorsed the legislation and testified prompt diagnosis and care in local Alaskan facilities would "reduce the number of mental patients requiring expensive treatment. Heintzleman said that by "catching it in the very early stages" and by eliminating the transportation cost of sending patients to Portland, "it would save a great deal of money."

From Dr. Charles L. Anderson, chief of mental health division of Alaska department of health, the committee heard of cases in which slightly ill patients who desired and needed hospitalization were required to return to their homes until they became sufficiently ill to be convincingly insane to a lay jury. He said in his capacity he has been compelled under the law to take 2-year-old children before juries for sanity "trials."

Dr. Winfred Overholser, head of St. Elizabeth's federal hospital here, said the findings of a committee he headed in 1949 to review the problem showed Alaska's "commitment procedures are a disgrace to the United States."

Distance Poses Problem

Overholser said there are "unusual difficulties in rehabilitation (of patients) at a distance of 1500 miles" from their homes and friends and families.

But Wayne Coe described as "purely an emotional appeal" the testimony by psychiatrists earlier that removal of ailing Alaskans to Portland created the problems adverse to their recovery.

Henry Coe argued that with construction of facilities in Alaska, patients and relatives still would not be close enough for visitation because of the vast distances involved and lack of anything but air transportation, which people in lower income brackets could not afford.

Some Won't Go Back

Coe Sr. presented figures to show that not more than ten of the hospital's 360 patients would or could be visited by relatives even if treated in Alaska—for psychiatric reasons.

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May 24, 1955

R. H. Dyble
Medical Officer
U. S. Public Health Service
c/o American Consulate
Room 1218, Marine Building
355 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Doctor Dyble:

This is in reply to your letter of May 20, regarding Mrs. Flavia Feliziani Shelton. She was admitted to this hospital on November 14, 1953, on involuntary commitment from Anchorage, Alaska, in the Probate Court, by U. S. Commissioner Rose Walsh. She was discharged from this hospital on February 24, 1954.

Her diagnosis was schizophrenic reaction, paranoid type, from which she had recovered at time of discharge from the hospital.

We are sorry that we do not have a clinical summary of her case available at this time to send you for any further information which you might wish. We made multiple copies of such a summary, but unfortunately these copies have all been forwarded to various interested agencies. The United States Immigration Office in Portland, Oregon was interested in Mrs. Shelton during her hospitalization here, and they have a complete clinical record of her history. If you would like to see that summary, you might contact Mr. R. J. Norene of the Portland office of the Immigration Service.

If you wish any more definite information about Mrs. Shelton, please feel free to write to us again.

Sincerely

(Mrs.) DOROTHY K. MICKELSON
Executive Secretary

5/29/55

DKM/bc

The inter-agency letter which this is a reply to came addressed to The Superintendent. As you will notice, Mrs. Mickelson dictated to Betty Celorie.


DKM

May 18, 1955

Mrs. Jenny Yupanik #2778
Sheldon Point, Alaska

Dear Mrs. Yupanik:

When you left this hospital, an error was made in the amount of money given you to close your account. We are therefore enclosing a check for \$10.00, which is the amount due you. We are sorry that this error occurred.

I know that you must be very happy to be at home with your family again. I hope that you will continue to be well and happy.

Sincerely

(Mrs.) Dorothy K. Mickelson
Executive Secretary

/bc
enc. #2284