

WAYNE W. COE
PRESIDENT AND
GENERAL MANAGER

MORNINGSIDE HOSPITAL
PHONE SUNSET 9977

THE SANITARIUM COMPANY

MONTAVILLA STATION
PORTLAND 16, OREGON

STAFF

JOHN LEROY HASKINS, M.D.
MEDICAL SUPERVISOR
LAURENCE R. SERRURIER, M.D.
SENIOR PHYSICIAN
ROBERT MONSON, M.D.
ASSISTANT PHYSICIAN
ELVINA HAGNA
SECRETARY

September 21, 1948.

Hon. James P. Davis, Director,
Division of Territories and Island Possessions,
United States Department of the Interior,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I believe that you will be interested in the enclosed articles which appeared in several local papers recently.

I was not interviewed or consulted in the case of either article and am not responsible for any information or statement contained therein. At the conclusion of Mr. Coe's private interview in connection with the Oregonian article I was asked to sit in on the picture, and did so feeling rather reluctant about it. Subsequently Dr. Serrurier and Mr. Lazelle entertained some members of the Citizens Action Committee, and this resulted in the article in the Sun.

I might state that the Sun is a local scandal sheet whose editor is a member of the Citizens Action Committee. They are trying to make trouble for the State Hospital at Salem and the local Probate Court. They believe that everyone who is committed to a State Hospital through the local Probate Court is "railroaded". They believe that they could better determine need for psychiatric treatment than a board of medical experts. The Dr. Waldo referred to in the Sun claims to have been a school teacher and chiropodist. She has had her chiropodist permit revoked, however. The apparent build-up for this place in the Sun was only intended to be propaganda against the State Hospital at Salem. What they could and would do with facts and details if they only knew, as for instance, mostly skimmed milk.

I could and would like to comment more on these articles, but would hesitate to go into very much detail without your permission to do so. In fact, I would like to tell you what I think about and how I feel about many things and certain people here, but again, I would prefer to have your permission.

I have been here nearly a year and a half now and have seen and heard many things, perhaps not everything or all. I have also had experiences which I did not anticipate or ever encountered before.

I have thought about the desirability of facilities for psychological or psychometric testing and examining and teaching in the case of some of our higher grade mental defectives, epileptics, spastics and others. A part time clinical psychologist and teacher for subnormals would be a big advance. This reminds me that the "Director of Occupational Therapy", Miss Martha Mae Lache, left here on the tenth of this month. She has not been replaced to date. Mr. Lazelle has informed me that it might take six to eight months before "we" will be able to get a replacement for her. I would like to have her replaced as soon as possible, and that by someone whose qualifications meet with Civil Service requirements.

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I would rather omit this paragraph. Dr. Serrurier is gone for several weeks again and I am carrying on with the help of a reluctant medical student, whose real job is to be "night doctor". This is at least the fifth time that he has absented himself for periods of from one to three weeks or longer since I have been here. One to three day periods have been too numerous to remember. He had also adopted the title of Superintendent before my arrival. I do not believe that there is any documentary evidence that he ever performed a psychiatric examination or a routine general physical examination for about three years. When you were told by him in my presence that a routine physical examination was usually the first thing which a patient received upon admission, it was the boldest, most defiant untruth which I ever had to listen to. You asked me if I ever had to or did general work. I was left alone for three weeks beginning on about my third day here. I was called upon to do and did more general work during that time than I had done during the preceding fifteen years. Many times there either is noone else around to do things, or if I did not do them they would not have been done, or would not be done. I do not wish to harm anyone. All I ask for is fairness and co-operation. In connection with the latter, I could add other names to the list.

Of course, you know that we do not have one trained or graduate or registered nurse on duty here.

I was happy about your recent visit here. Previous to that I did not feel that I had any standing at headquarters. In fact, I was supposed to have been impressed with the idea that my appointment had been approved by someone here. I appreciate your attitude with reference to my doing a little extra work on my own time. Without that I would not be able to make ends meet. I have a boy away at college. I assure you that I will not permit anything to interfere with my work here, contrary to what you may have heard or might be told. As I told you, I spend extra time here outside of business hours and on days off. Anything that has or might interfere with my work here is incident to the place and some of its people. I also hope that I might anticipate a higher grade and salary as you intimated. I also wish that I would not have to be dependent on certain people for my clerical assistance. Incidentally, I am writing this myself.

I would like to talk about many more things, as for instance, separate wards for the children; the female tuberculosis ward; overcrowding on the two large male wards; the kitchen and food storage facilities; the patient's "dining hall"; the food, its amount, quality and preparation; more doctors; a supervising female and male nurse on the respective services; a social worker; a dietitian; the mail and telephone service; reports and records; patient's property and funds; patients working on and off the premises; the attitude of the secretary and supervisor; and numerous other things. As I said before, I would feel free to talk about everything I have in mind and that in detail, only with your permission and in confidence. I am sorry that I did not have more time and opportunity to go over wverything with you when you were here. I hope that I have not said or done anything that might not meet with your approval.

Thanking you for past courtesies and considerations, I am

Respectfully yours,

S. F. Keller

G. F. Keller, M.D.
Medical Supervisor.

ON EAST STARK STREET AT G. F. KELLER AVENUE