

2705 S. W. English Court,
Portland 1, Oregon,
October 9, 1954.

Hon. Wm. C. Strand, Director,
Office of Territories,
U. S. Interior Department,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Strand:

Thank you for your letter of September 23, 1954, in which you advise me about my annual leave.

The form #67362, dated September 21, 1954, recently sent me does not list any deduction for insurance. I hope that this does not mean that I have been excluded from it as I certainly want to be included.

I have not been too well during the past five weeks on account of an intestinal condition (diverticulitis), but I am practically over it now. I did not take any sick leave, but rather toughed it out.

I think that you might be interested to learn that the patients' dining room was finally put into operation on the evening of September 25th with a dinner on the house for the local Alaska Yukon Society. You probably have already been written about it by someone else. About seventy-five such guests attended. The entree was company produced ham with all the trimmings. A speech by the president and general manager was the main part of the program. I have been unable to note any change or improvement in the quantity or quality of the patients' food though either in there or on the wards.

The childrens' ward has already been outgrown as a result of the recent influx of assorted mentally defective infants and children.

Work on the female tuberculosis ward is lagging, as might be expected. The old one is crowded to overflowing.

One doctor and one occupational therapist are leaving the end of this month. They were hired just before the recent inspections and have served their purpose.

The ward help is usually kept in short supply.

The "industrial" occupational therapy is a flourishing business as usual. This includes the piggery, dairy, farm, cannery, laundry, shops, construction, most other work and labor, and the like.

I would like to suggest that you insist on prompt and accurate company reports, especially the quarterly report on the patients' trust fund account. I understand that there is some dissatisfaction and unhappiness about that report and that a change would be desirable. I would like to see it kept in its present form. The only report about which there ever seems to be any hurry is the monthly bill.

There recently have been some changes made in the clerical setup as a result of the head clerk's influence on junior, with apparently senior's approval, which are not helping my work any. In fact, it is being handicapped. Several years ago an attempt was made to provide me with a civil service stenographer

or secretary, but it was not allowed by the Controller General, because satisfactory clerical assistance for me was supposed to come out of the contract. I would still like to have one and need one more now than ever before. I would be able to do a better job. As it is now I am compelled to spend most of my time waiting around until somebody is ready to do something for me. I sometimes feel that a deliberate effort is being made to hinder my work and endeavors.

Several years ago an attempt was also made to get me a higher grade and raise in salary, which was also not allowed by the Controller General on account of the size of the hospital. I am sure that at least one of the company's doctors gets more than I do, and does not have to pay income tax on part of it either. The latter consists of his family quarters and maintenance, for the convenience of his employer, and even includes house guests, dinner parties, luncheons, and the like. Of course, his boss has and gets a lot of money and can afford to pay him well for what he needs and uses him for.

There recently has been developed an unusual consciousness about titles here. There is a president and general manager (same person), and an assistant to the latter. The head clerk suddenly calls herself the executive secretary. We have a supervisor and a matron. Dr. Thompson originally insisted on signing himself as psychiatrist, but recently has assumed the title of medical director, even though he is not trained or qualified to call himself either. My predecessors used the title of medical supervisor, which I thought it was supposed to be, until some years ago someone in your office directed that I use only the title of medical officer. Since then and as a result of that my prestige has been played down around here. I would like to suggest that you direct me by letter to use some title, as for instance, supervising psychiatrist. unless you can think of a better one.

Some federal and other types of governmental agencies allow their doctors to attend professional meetings of their specialty and other medical groups, as for instance, American Psychiatric Association or American Medical Association meetings, on official business leave with travel and per diem allowances. Could such arrangements be made for me? For instance, to attend the next American Psychiatric Association meeting at Atlantic City next May. The company here has done that for their occupational therapists and Dr. Thompson.

During about the past two years many things have been and are being done by certain people around here, which they did not have the courage to try to do before that time. For instance, taking over certain telephone business, certain interviews with various kinds of visitors, writing letters, assuming authority, try to undermine and discredit, and the like. I believe it might be time that we got together on some of these things. A visit from you or Mr. Lausi or Mr. Arnold might be timely, to see how the place operates, how they think and what they do, and the like. We should work out a system so that we all know what we want to do, how we want things to be, what to expect from them, what our mutual problems are and how to best handle them, what to expect from each other, see eye to eye and talk the same language, and the like. As a preliminary, I would not object to a trip to Washington.

It will be interesting to learn what the inspectors reported this time, in contrast to previous times. As you know, I was away at camp during Dr. Tallman's visit and did not have a chance to talk with him.

Thanking you for past favors and courtesies, and with my best wishes and personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Geo. F. Keller

CONFIDENTIAL

2705 S. W. English Court,
Portland 1, Oregon,
July 17, 1953.

Dear Mr. Nucker:

I thought you might be interested in a little news from here for a change. As you know, the president and general manager is back. Dr. Thompson is away on a six weeks vacation trip in the east. I understand that he even intends to come to Washington. Another young fellow is substituting for him. Before he left I reminded him that he had not done any of his routine annual work for 1953 yet. His retort was that if he got it done before the end of the year it would be soon enough as far as he is concerned. We are again without a registered nurse. Miss Magna was retired the first of July and has not been replaced. Mrs. Mickelson is taking her place. Miss Viesco is leaving the first of August. I hear that the son is coming home next fall to take the place over. I also hear that there are big long range plans for what the son and Thompson will do with this place in the future. Nothing is happening fast and they are piddlin along as usual. The pea crop has been harvested. The cannery was worked all night on two successive nights. Raspberries are being picked too. The incident referred to in a recent letter happened while I was in Los Angeles. I could find out nothing about it except what I wrote in my letter. They did try to cajole me a little in connection with it. As far as the new contract is concerned, the main thing seems to be more money for the company.

This about hits the high spots for the time being. I thought you might be interested to learn about the contemplated visit by a distinguished guest. I will probably have more news for you as things go along and timepasses. I enjoyed my time spent at camp.

With best wishes and personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

B. F. Keller

G. F. Keller, M. D.

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