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2705 S. W. English Court,
Portland 1, Oregon,
October 22, 1954.

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

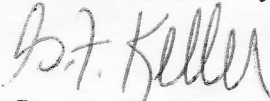
Dear Mr. Strand:

Enclosed are copies of some correspondence which may interest you. We may hear more about this. It seems that Mrs. Walker and her husband walked in here one morning several weeks ago, and instead of being directed to me, as they should have been, were sent to Dr. Thompson. What he may have told her, or how he might have discussed the matter with her, I would not know, but he eventually did bring her to me. Judging by their remarks and facial expressions in my presence, I got the impression that in his conversation with her, he had assured her of his and the hospital's willingness to accept her husband, and had also impressed on her the obstacles imposed by the Interior Department and built me up as their enforcer. I carefully explained to her that I could not admit him on the Department's bill unless he were committed. I mentioned to her that it was unfortunate under the circumstances that he had not been committed here from Alaska in the first place. I told her that while they were in Washington she might have tried to have had him committed there and that subsequently it probably could have been arranged to have gotten him transferred here. I directed her to the local probate court. I told her that it might become necessary for her to return him to Alaska in order to get him committed. She accepted all this rather reluctantly and left rather disgruntledly. I learned subsequently that the local court had turned her down. I heard or knew no more about it until I accidentally learned about this correspondence several days ago and managed to make some copies of it. I otherwise probably would not have seen it. You will notice that one letter is addressed to medical director and the other to superintendent. They were opened by someone else, and instead of being referred to me, were sent to Dr. Thompson, who took it upon himself to reply to them. Notice the rather cynical and sarcastic tone of his letter. In former times all telephone calls, letters, visitors wanting to talk about, or any other business in connection with Alaskans were referred to my predecessors and to me. For some time now, much of this is being sneaked to Dr. Thompson by his employers and some of their other help. He began to encourage it soon after coming here. For a long time it did not amount to enough to make any difference, but has progressively grown worse, and more recently has become offensive. He arranges to get to most visitors first, to get telephone calls referred to him instead of me, and is grabbing off more and more official correspondence. For some time now, the office help has orders from someone to see to it that he gets to read all letters that come to me and my replies thereto. The stated reason is that he wants to know what is going on and learn all he can about the patients. Another reason he has given me is that he is doing all this on orders from the Coes, and that as long as he is going to work for them he will try to carry out their wishes. Perhaps I should turn all this over to them, and set myself up as critic and censor, instead of letting them try to do that to me. The only trouble about that would be, that I would not get to see or hear much, and would not know much about what they were doing. Too much goes on now that I don't get in on. Going back even farther, no mail unless it was addressed to me personally, ever came to me unopened. How much that probably should have been referred to me and wasn't, I will never know. I assumed that they referred to me only something they wanted me to handle or did not want to

bother with. Some mail addressed to me personally has been "opened by mistake". I have also been told that the more recently intensified activity along these lines is "to promote better public relations for the hospital in the Territory". This might be a good idea on their part and for their own good. I would say that it was long neglected by them and that they apparently are awakening to the fact that it might be becoming more necessary. I cannot approve of a lot of letters which have been and are being written out of here by several individuals, some of which I have managed to find out a little about, but many of which I will probably never know about. There must be quite a collection of them. What Dr. Thompson got started has gained impetus since young Coe came. I could have written this out in much more lengthy detail, but this should give you a general idea about what goes on. Do you have any suggestions? I believe that some new rules should be laid down or some old ones revived and insisted upon. I could handle this all very well with assured support and backing. The Coes are supposed to be away on a deer hunting trip for the past week. Dr. Thompson and other favored help also take time off and come and go and do as they please. For about the past two years they have been more courageous than for a long, long time before. You guess how far back. They seem to think that they are sitting prettier now than ever before, and certainly are trying to take advantage of it, up to and including trying to hold it over someone's head, if you know what I mean. If voting for Hoover, Landon, Wilkie, Dewey, Eisenhower, McKay and Cordon makes one a Republican, then I am dyed in the wool or rock ribbed. One other thought comes to me. I fear that when the tuberculosis cases are farmed out in Washington, every time one makes a false move, there will be a clamor for them to be transferred to Morningside.

With best wishes and personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



George F. Keller, M. D.

NORMAN D. HALL, M. D.
P. O. Box 110
Seward, Alaska.

19 Sept. 1954

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that I have advised Sherman Walker of Seward, Alaska, to go to the States (preferably Portland, Oregon) for necessary medical observation and medical treatment, which cannot be obtained in Alaska.

Yours truly,

Norman D. Hall, M. D.

THE MASON CLINIC
115 Terry Avenue
Seattle 1, Washington

September 29, 1954

Medical Director
Morningside Hospital
Portland, Oregon

Re: Mr. Sherman Walker

Dear Doctor:

We are referring to you a Mr. Sherman Walker of Seward, Alaska. In the last several months this man has become quite mentally confused with marked disorientation as to time and place. He has also been bothered by severe frontal headaches which are present when he wakes up in the morning and are relieved by walking around.

Past history reveals that he has had a very heavy ethanol intake, which was curtailed voluntarily by the patient in January of this year. He has been examined by Dr. Charles Mangham, a Psychiatrist of Seattle, with the diagnosis of alcoholic cerebral deterioration.

We have examined him thoroughly from a medical and neurologic point of view with negative results. Physical examination, including a complete neurological did not reveal any localizing signs. Laboratory studies have included hemoglobin, white count, sedimentation rate, urinalysis, chest x-ray, intravenous pyelogram, barium enema, skull x-rays, spinal fluid, studies, and neurologic consult by Dr. Hale Haven of this Clinic, all with negative results with the exception that the intravenous pyelogram showed a questionable compression of the superior calyx on the right, and the chest x-ray revealed fibrocalcific changes in both upper lobes, interpreted as consistent with old tuberculosis, although the activity could not be determined. Sputum studies were attempted, but the patient is not raising sputum. He was afebrile while under our care, and his sedimentation rate was normal. Retrograde pyelograms were attempted but were unsuccessful for technical reasons.

In view of Doctor Mangham's diagnostic impression here, we have referred this patient on to your hospital for further care.

I am enclosing a statement from Mr. Walker's personal physician in Seward, Alaska. If we can be of any further assistance, kindly contact us.

I will remain

Yours very truly,

Thomas B. Gibbons, M. D.

THE NORTHWEST CLINIC OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY
4033 East Madison Street
Seattle 2, Washington

October 5, 1954

Superintendent
Morningside Hospital
10008 E. Stark
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

I recently referred to you a Mr. Sherman Walker, from Alaska. I had seen him in psychiatric consultation at the Virginia Mason Hospital here in Seattle, Washington. I understand that there was some administrative difficulty in that he had to return to Alaska in order to get commitment papers. I would greatly appreciate your writing to me and clarifying the administrative procedure one must go through in order to admit a patient to your hospital. This would greatly facilitate my seeing patients from Alaska in consultation. What I particularly want to know is how to get a patient into your hospital once I have seen the patient here in Seattle and feel that the patient needs psychiatric hospitalization.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Mangham, M.D.

October 12, 1954

Charles A. Mangham, M. D.
Northwest Clinic of Psychiatry and Neurology
4033 East Madison Street
Seattle 2, Washington

Dear Doctor Mangham;

I have your letter of October 5, referring to Mr. Sherman Walker, who appeared at this hospital asking admission after having been seen at the Virginia Mason Clinic, and examined by yourself. This hospital is the contract hospital providing committable care for the Territory of Alaska. Patients, in order to be admitted here, must have the qualifications of being a resident of the Territory and committed as being an "insane person".

There is at present no provision for voluntary commitment in the Territory, so that Mrs. Walker was informed she had several choices open to her. One, of course, was to return to the Territory and have her husband committed there and then returned here. The others would be to have him committed either in Oregon or in Washington, whereupon the hospital which received him would undertake to have him repatriated as a non-resident of the particular area where he was committed.

In your situation of seeing Alaskan patients in Seattle, I believe that much the simplest procedure would be to have them committed to your local hospitals. I do not know how Mrs. Walker fared, but I do know the local Probate Court in Multnomah County is unwilling ordinarily to hold a hearing upon anyone who is not a resident of the State of Oregon. It seems to me from the patients who have been repatriated to us from the State of Washington that the same prejudice is not as intense there as it is here.

I hope that this answers your questions about the present situation and gives you the information you need in handling future patients. I assure you that when the commitment law in the Territory is revised to become more in keeping with general psychiatric practice, I will notify you of that change. I regret that this patient was inconvenienced, but in order to obtain compensation from the Department of Interior for the care of patients, we must meet their terms.

Sincerely,

William W. Thompson, M. D.