

4004 S. E. Pine Street,  
Portland 15, Oregon,  
December 8, 1951.

*Personal*  
Hon. James P. Davis, Director,  
Office of Territories,  
U. S. Interior Department,  
Washington 25, D. C.

FILED

Dear Mr. Davis:

As the records will indicate, Gertrude McGillivray died at Morning-side before my time here. I remember her name coming up in previous letters and reports since I called attention to the handling of patient's funds several years ago and, with great reluctance on their part having brought this matter more or less into the open. Mr. Coe assigned Mrs. Mickelson the job of disposing of money and other property left behind by patients who died. I was given to understand that she was taking proper care of it. I some times wondered if she was permitted to do so. I was reluctant to ask many questions or show much concern because that is the worst thing I can do around here. All correspondance in connection with that type of business is considered company business and is signed by Miss Hagna. I seldom see any part of it. Since Miss Hagna signs the letters, those replies return addressed to her. After that, perhaps nobody knows what happens. According to Miss Hagna, this is none of my or perhaps even the Department's business. I might state here that regardless of how it may be addressed, I do not see mail unless it has my name on it, unless it turns out to be something they are unable to handle or do not want to bother with. For instance, I have run across other correspondance which was handled by Dr. Thompson or Miss Hagna, which should have been referred to and handled by me. Even mail with my name on it has been "opened by mistake". Miss Hagna takes care of the patient's trust fund. As you might surmise, these things are taken care of in Mr. Coe's office in a closely guarded and secretive manner, particularly by Miss Hagna. Mrs. Mickelson is inclined a little less that way, but perhaps only because she hates Miss Hagna and because she tries to play all ends against the middle, including pleasing me a bit. First and foremost, she feels that her allegiance is to Mr. Coe and his interests. That is where her bread is buttered, what it takes to keep her job, how to get along, and she knows what is good for her. I am not supposed to know what goes on or ask any questions according to the general attitude. In fact, I am expected and supposed to work for Mr. Coe's interest too. I know that there have been times when Miss Hagna did not show me the patient's trust fund report when she should have done so. Of course, this would be denied by her and Mr. Coe. Getting back to the McGillivray case, Mrs. Mickelson came to me recently and asked me to tell her what to do about it. I asked her what had been done and what its current status was. She stated that she had not done anything about it yet and that the five year period would expire in January. I asked her to bring me the file and after looking through it asked her why she had not written to the former guardian and other parties whose names appeared in it. She made no answer except to state that she had procrastinated because she did not know what to do. I told her to write to all those people to see what we could find out. Several days later she returned and stated that she still had not done anything on the case, and by this time I sensed by her manner that she was trying to get something across to me or arouse my suspicion without saying too much. I finally got from her that she wanted this brought

*all N. & S-1 - Trust Funds*

to the attention of the Director. This is how I came to write to you about it. By the time your letter had arrived, she had managed to look into Miss Hagna's account book and learned that the account had been marked closed last August. She subsequently made inquiry about the account of Miss Hagna in Mr. Coe's presence and was told by her that the account had been closed last August and that the money was going to be sent to the Department next January. Of course, for her own protection, she had to appear sufficiently innocent in their presence, as not to arouse any suspicion by her question. Subsequently she told me rather reluctantly that neither Miss Hagna or Mr. Coe were at all perturbed and that Mr. Coe thought that it was all in perfect order. Apparently Mrs. Mickelson figured that an account of that size was not supposed to get too much attention from her. She apparently watched to see what was going on as well as she could and then began to suspect that something might<sup>not</sup> be just exactly right.. Perhaps she thought that she was setting a trap for Miss Hagna. This is the kind of stuff around here that frequently looks phoney and sometimes causes one to become suspicious. Mrs. Mickelson could not have had any designs on it herself because she does not sign company check. However, Miss Hagna does sign company checks along with Mr. Coe. You know, she has a watch dog interest and share in the company with Mr. Coe enabling her to be the secretary and sign checks. Mrs. Mickelson has not had much more to say and perhaps advisedly "aint' talking". She did state however, that apparently one hand was not supposed to and did not know what the other one was doing around here and added that it disgusted her. How true! That certainly is as everything is supposed to be as far as I am concerned at least on the part of some of them as for instance, Miss Hagna, Harvey Lazelle, and perhaps Mr. Coe and Dr. Thompson. Harvey Lazelle and Dr. Thompson have been known to tell the medical student, the nurse, and help generally to be careful about what I see and hear or what they tell me or not to be seen talking to me too much if they know what is good for them, namely if they want to keep their jobs. So far then it has not yet been determined who will get the money. I have often wondered about what has happened in the past and because I wondered made reference to the handling of patient's funds several years ago. I have also wondered if Government money given to patients being discharged was actually given to them in the amount claimed for or perhaps sometimes claimed for and not given at all. I have also wondered if sometimes they were being shaken down on the way to the local depots or on the way to Seattle. Formerly Harvey Lazelle usually took them to the local depots or to Seattle. It used to be that an attendant was always sent to Seattle with them to put them on a boat or plane. Now when going by plane they can usually start from Portland. One patient did write me that an attendant took twenty dollars from him on the way to Seattle. Unfortunately, the attendant who turned out to be a pervert and alcoholic had been fired for drinking before I got the letter and his whereabouts were then unknown. I vaguely recall another earlier case where under similar circumstances a discharged patient later claimed that money had been taken from him, but the attendant could not be identified or had disappeared. They borrow it you know. I will leave other thoughts between the lines and unsaid. You may use your own imagination and draw your own conclusions. I do not like to write letters like this, but it sometimes becomes necessary in order to explain something. The trouble is that when you start on one thing too many other things come up and just keep spreading out indefinitely. In order to tell a story at all one must become almost circumstantial, as too many personalities and details enter in. This would be a better place without at least, Miss Hagna. Mr. Coe promised Mrs. Mickelson Miss Hagna's job within a year when he hired her. Of course, this was sucker bait designed to give her an incentive to line up right.

Instructions do not mean much to Mr. Coe and less to Miss Hagna referring, for instance, to some of your letters. What I said about my mail might also be applied to telephone calls. When Miss Hagna is around she insists on answering the telephone. In this way she takes care of many calls or directs to Dr. Thompson calls which should have been referred to me. I hope that I may some time still acquire a Government salaried secretary. It would enable me to do a better job. I was disappointed when Mr. Coe put the idea over with your office several years ago that only accounts in excess of a hundred dollars should be reported. I think every penny should be reported. Enough small accounts do add up. Things have always been thus here only worse perhaps. In fact, they are better now than they have ever been before. I hope that you take this for what it is worth and as you might be able to apply it some time. I write you in confidence because any other way would create much unpleasantness. I am not unhappy and by applying objectivity and a sense of humor am able to function quite comfortably and efficiently. It takes much tact and diplomacy and many little things must be taken for granted or overlooked in order to get along in this defensive and compensating atmosphere. I know what they think and how they feel, even what they say and do. It would probably continue more or less this way regardless of who would be here to the end. I will have some comments on Mr. Coe's recent letter to you soon. That of course too will be confidential.

Sincerely yours,

*G. F. Keller*

G. F. Keller, M. D.