

2705 S. W. English Court,  
Portland 1, Oregon,  
December 26, 1954.

Honorable William C. Strand,  
Director, Office of Territories,  
U. S. Interior Department,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Strand:

Thank you for your letter and season's greetings of December 21st.

I had anticipated that probably Saturday, December 18th might be another field day, but up until the time when I left on Tuesday afternoon nothing appeared. However, since last writing you I did learn that some if not most of the letters presumably written and signed by Dr. Thompson, "Medical Director", were actually written by young Coe for Thompson's signature. It came about like this. I saw a copy of a letter from Thompson to Dr. Anderson in which some lying, throat cutting references to me and misquotations attributed to me appeared. When I called Thompson on it he excused himself by saying that Coe had written it for his signature and had asked him to sign it and that since he works for Coe he had no other choice and had to do it. When I mentioned it to young Coe, he merely laughed. They are not fooling Anderson though, and as far as he and I are concerned, we have everything straight between us. What I have said about no letters appearing apparently was only the lull before the next storm though. When I went out there for the Christmas party Yesterday I looked through what had accumulated on my desk and also looked into the file basket. Lo and behold, there it was. Copies of seventy-four (74) letters, most of them apparently written by young Coe and signed by Thompson, "Medical Director". All were dated December 21st. That was the last day I was there and when I left a little early. They must have kept the girls there all night typing in order to get the letters in the mail so that at least some of them could or would reach their destinations before Christmas. I will enclose a sample. They were addressed to what apparently had been presumed to be interested relatives of better than average (social, economic, etc.) more or less recent admissions. Most of them went to the Territory. The one I picked at random for my copy merely happened to be a stateside one by coincidence. Now let us have a closer look at the letters. They should talk about good will toward men. The "hospital choir" amounted to a few employees not on regular duty volunteering to do a little caroling, and perhaps not too voluntarily. It was more mythical than real. The Santa is ordinarily the farm crew boss. The sock was that little, red mosquito netting commercial kind. The "personally selected gift for each from the hospital" is usually some cheap little item. They neglected to mention that the Government allows them four hundred dollars for this. I have even been apprehensive about that. Meal of the year is right. Like the old fellow said about the hard boiled egg for Easter breakfast not happening again for another year. It used to be the one time in the year when they got pork shoulder. At my suggestion it has been turkey for several years, perhaps two or three. Of course, it is not the best grade, but turkey nevertheless. It could be that turkey might even have been cheaper than home grown pork shoulder recently. I have not observed the patients exchanging gifts at any party. Except for a little trimming and several paid musicians the party is not much different than the usual dances or musical games put on by the OT department every week in the year. The "photographs" are an innovation. Patients are supposed to be photographed routinely for the files. They were about a year behind on this and recently took some snap shots to get current. That must have given someone an idea and so they had an extra one printed to send to someone. Formerly I took care of an occasional request from some relative for a picture by sending the file copy and having another one printed from the negative which was also in the file. While I am thinking about it, I might say that until not too

long ago I found it difficult to get them to put anything except three cent stamps on any of my letters. Finally, after many complaints from people in the Territory about the letters not getting there for weeks and requests to air mail them, I managed to get them to break down reluctantly to put air mail stamps on some of them and even then old Miss Hagna used to sneak some that I had designated for air mail out with three cent stamps on them. That was all part of saving and making money for the company (pinching pennies). Going back to the Christmas letters, I would say that they were mostly "bull" and perhaps not even ethical. I have never heard of or seen even the most unethical, advertising, publicity seeking, cheap, commercial, mercenary private place go in for this kind of stuff. I think that it is in flagrant disregard of everything that is decent, standard, customary, accepted practice, and the like. One patient dropped dead at the party while dancing before I got there. Wayne also put on his usual "Giddiup Napoleon" act at the party after being introduced as Doctor Coe by the MC, who apparently did not know any better. A fellow has to be a little tight to make a fool of himself like that. He must have read my thoughts, because even though I smiled and applauded a little, he came over to me and told me that if I thought that I could do any better I should get out there and try it and he was not very pleasant about it, nor did he smile when he said it. That confirmed the preceding sentence. Maybe for eight hundred thousand a year one can afford to make a fool of himself at the Christmas party.

I would like to quote from a letter which I received from Dr. Anderson after Coe recently wrote to him: "The attitude that I expressed toward Morningside is almost universal in the Territory of Alaska. If I had said anything less critical, Alaskans would have considered me a traitor. Actually I feel far more critical than my statement indicates. Mr. Coe twisted the whole thing around to make it look as though I was criticizing you and the Department of the Interior. I have no criticism of you, but I am critical toward the way Mr. Coe has run Morningside for many years. His letter would suggest that one little word of mine could destroy fifty years of sweet understanding and confidence between Alaskans and his magnificent medical institution".

I wonder if they are going to entertain the Secretary or have him out for a deluxe tour while he is around this week.

The files have not been locked as I suspected that they might be. Probably they lost the keys for them too. Of course, there is still a chance that they might lock them.

I might say again that this place was a sorry mess and a deplorable situation when I came here. Something just had to be done about it and I started the ball rolling. Everything that has been done since started from there. To know the true picture one would have to know in detail how things were then and what has taken place since and how and why. It has not been easy and everything that has been done has come with great reluctance and resistance. At that time your office considered it a public disgrace which might burst into a national scandal if something were not done about it. All reports have been accurate and reliable and the recommendations very apropos, except the last one. A small part of that and a few things in it are all right, but about most of it I have mixed emotions.

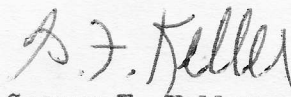
Referring back to Coe's letter of December 10th, I might state that my predecessor, according to information which I received, let correspondence accumulate for a month at a time and then when he felt like it some afternoon would answer it all at one time. I might also tell you that during the four month gap between his leaving and my coming the mail which he used to handle was allowed to accumulate and was saved for me to take care of. There was a whole desk drawer stuffed full with it. Why did not Coe take care of it then? By imploring the late Dr. Serrurier's assistance at that time I managed to get it current in a few days and since

then I have kept it current except for what they have been snatching lately. There was a time and that not long ago when they didn't give a damn about public relations or anything else in the Territory or anywhere else. Money was the only thing that counted or meant anything and actually that is no doubt still so. This other stuff is either sham, or necessity as they now see it, or what they think is their opportunity to make me look bad and try to get rid of me. As I have told you before, I have received nothing but rotten treatment here and they have done everything they could to try to run me off since the day I came, except that now they have the perfect combination and think that they can get the job done. Coe really told you and me all about psychiatry. He should know, he needs some, only, I think that Junior needs it worse, except that psychopaths cannot be benefitted much by it. Referring back to Coe's "interoffice communication" of December 10th, I must admit that I apparently let them trick me into something with their August 3rd letter I allowed them to cajole me into signing. This will, of course, have to be further straightened out. It has not been convenient or expedient to try to do anything more about it so far, but I intend to do so as soon as possible. I shall write to some of those people and agencies in Alaska and try to find out just exactly what they want and expect and what they propose to do after that. It will be interesting to see what they come up with. I feel that it will be closer to what I have been doing than all the other recent brain storms. The most recent criticism Coe refers to must be something Junior and Thompson made up out of something Mr. Pugh said when he was their luncheon guest and it was probably nothing like they would try to make it appear. I have it from Dr. Schumacher that Mr. Pugh was not taken by them one bit. Two weeks more on the board bill after it has been definitely decided to discharge a patient back to Alaska would be just "duckie" for them. At any rate, we should not like the tone of it, particularly as he presumes to give us orders.

Now it will be interesting to see what they will have pulled off or cooked up by next Monday. Certainly, there have been few dull moments around here lately due to the paranoid character, personality and emotional disorders on their part incident to being dirty in an effort to clean their skirts and trying to save their hides, losing game and sinking ship. These people are their own worst enemies, because they do not know how to be, nor could they be decent if they knew how. I find it hard to comprehend how this arrangement could ever have come into being, moreso how it could have been aided, abetted, propagated, perpetuated, etc., in dealing with what and who had to be dealt with, and I certainly cannot see why it should or how it can be continued much longer considering who and what will have to be dealt with from now on and hereafter. Ultimately, it has been mainly a swindle, fraud, racket, or what have you, and that is as they would like to keep it, only longer, bigger, more profitable, and in and with more flagrant disregard of all courtesy, etiquette and ethics as far as anything or anybody might be concerned.

Wishing you a Happy New Year, I am

Sincerely yours,



George F. Keller, M. D.

December 21, 1954

Mrs. Mary Pudney  
310 McBean St., Apt 278,  
Peoria, Ill.

2705 S. W. English Court,  
Portland 1, Oregon  
December 26, 1954

Dear Mrs. Pudney:

Here at Morningside we are joining the rest of the world in hearty anticipation of Christmas, with its delightful feelings of good will toward men. We have always joined in the festivities in a homelike way, and we are now decorating our house. As in any small community, each of our sections is doing its best to have the most Christmas feeling in its atmosphere. Each group has its own Christmas tree and other decorations to give a traditional yet personal Christmas setting.

The festivities of the day begin with the hospital choir visiting one and all, singing Christmas Carols. They are followed by old St. Nick himself and, perhaps boastfully, we believe our particular St. Nick is one of the most jovial on record. He bears with him a sock stuffed with fruit, nuts and candy for each patient and a personally selected gift for each from the hospital. He also carries with him the gifts which have arrived from friends and relatives.

The morning passes quickly and, before we know it, it is time for Christmas dinner. This is the meal of the year. Turkeys and all the trimmings, pumpkin and mince pies make this a truly gala feast.

Shortly after dinner everyone gathers at the party which is always the high point of the day. This year, as for almost twenty-five years past, our party features Monte Ballou and his famous Dixieland Jazz Band. Monte is a first rate entertainer and nobody wants to miss the party. The friendliness everywhere evident is difficult to comprehend without actually experiencing one of these marvelous occasions. It is usually in the course of this three hour entertainment that patients exchange gifts among themselves.

We are doing everything possible so that Frank enjoys the Christmas season in a traditional homelike fashion. To express our Christmas wish to you, we are sending a photograph of your brother taken last week to say to you

A very Merry Christmas

William W. Thompson, M. D.  
For the entire Staff of Morningside  
Hospital

random for my copy merely happened to be a coincidence. Now let us have a closer look at the letters. The "hospital choir" mentioned in the letter is a regular choir volunteering to do a little caroling, and perhaps not too voluntarily. It was more mythical than real. The Santa is ordinarily the famous little, red mosquito netting commercial kind. The "gifts from the hospital" is usually some cheap little trinket that the Government allows them four hundred dollars for this. I have even been apprehensive about that. Each of the year is right. Like the old fellow said about the hard boiled egg for Easter breakfast not happening again for another year. It used to be the one time in the year when they got pork shoulder. At my suggestion it has been turkey for several years, perhaps two or three. Of course, it is not the best grade, but turkey nevertheless. It would be best turkey might even have been cheaper than home grown pork shoulder recently. I have not observed the patients exchanging gifts at any party. Except for a little trimming and several paid musicians the party is not much different than the usual dances or musical games put on by the OT department every week in the year. The "photographs" are an innovation. Patients are supposed to be photographed routinely for the files. They were about a year behind on this and recently took some snap shots to get current. That must have given someone an idea and so they had an extra one printed to send to someone. Formerly I took care of an occasional request from some relative for a photograph, sending the file copy and having another one printed from the negative which was also in the file. While I am thinking about it, I have seen a few photographs of