

Monday 7-12-76 p.m.

Dear Bob...

It has been a long week and this a.m. nothing concrete is known and Miss Margaret grows weaker from pain and inactivity and all that she has had to undergo. We have had to suffer through a holiday period when doctors were scarce and today the doctor I originally wanted appeared after a week's vacation. His associates, Dr. Hair and Dr. Watson, have been around each day as they assumed hospital calls, and a Dr. Tribble, surgeon, was associated last week and has come with regularity, although since Friday p.m. when they concluded (not definitely) that the trouble was from a blocked tube between the kidney and bladder on the left side, possibly from stone or stones, he has told me that it looked like it could be handled by the internal medicine men and a kidney man who was to be called in. Dr. Slocum, the kidney specialist, came Sat. and removed the drain from the stomach about 3 p.m. leaving her attached to the dextrose which was removed Sunday. He told me he would have to continue trying to clear everything out gently with mild means due to the condition of her intestines and he has prescribed Haleys MO periodically. She surely had brilliant results of that Sunday while I was present and it amazes me that with all the enemas and her own elimination processes that there could be anything left in her...particularly since she was on dextrose for 4 days and in all the time since she went to Hampton she has been on liquids. Dr. Roberts told me this a.m. that her condition was serious with stones in both kidneys. His thinking was continued close watching and possibly cystoscopic examination which hopefully could produce results and would be less trauma. At her age, to go to surgery would be almost more than she could survive according to Dr. Roberts. She went to x-ray this a.m. and I left about 11:30 with Doug taking over to try to catch Dr. Slocum when he made his appearance. I go each morning about 7:30 to try to be there to get an audience with the respective doctors who appear at the unknown hours...and I stay until all scheduled trips for IVP, B. enema, x-ray or whatever are over because on those trips she is wheeled down by an attendant on stretcher and then carted off to a room where she is left on a cold table without much cover to await the appearance of the doctor or technician who comes when he or she can. I stay by to grab her when she comes out or grab someone going in and beg for warm cover until it is necessary to remove it. I am sure we are getting the best attention there is but it's unreal to see the carelessness, lack of communication and all that goes on the hospital wing with well meaning but hairbrained young and old personnel.... and Miss M. is not able to be responsible at this stage.

Understand the girl who is technician for David Barnes moved into ~~Mary's old apartment last Saturday. Through Thelma's help and Lib's~~ I was able to get the carpet laid, however, the man said he needed to put down some strips at doorways and I have not attempted to push further with imposing on anyone unless necessary so have not gotten that done since would involve many telephone calls arranging to have him come and getting someone to be there to let him in. Have had no contact with the girl, Phyllis Shannon, I think, since I told her on Saturday, July 3, that I could not complete the apartment for her as to putting up shades, curtains, etc., but if she wanted to move in and do what was necessary until we were able to she could and I would get the carpet put down in time for her to move in Sat., July 10. Lib and Thelma have handled it from there and I have not had time to find out the details.

Miss M. says she has a policy with Penn Mutual or something similar that she thinks will pay something; however, she thinks that maybe it was due this month. Will try today to get Dot and get her look in the bedside file cabinet, top drawer, first file folder and send same to me. Should you be coming up to see Miss M. would appreciate

your letting me know and maybe if I have not been able to accomplish this, you can get the key from Thelma and take care of it. I have just stopped and called Dot and then Susan Bowers, since I couldn't locate Dot. Susan says she will get Dot and get in the house and get the policy if she can and if it needs quick action she will get Karl to get the Highway Patrol to relay it up today since mail has already left Estill at five p.m. and will not leave again until tomorrow at five.

Have asked Ed to see about the grass cutting if he will and can get in touch with Louis Maner, Max's son.

Had thought last week during a better time that maybe all would go well and I could slip down to buy figs from Missey and wash and sugar them and put them in someone's freezer until I could finish the job for Miss M., but have doubts about that possibility now...There could be a better turn and hopefully there will be, but she is so weak and so tired of pain and tests and all that she is about to quit trying. If they try putting that tube back or hooking her up again, it could be bad...not to mention the possibility of inability to handle by the cystoscopic examination.

My head is splitting from writing and calling and the early hours of getting up to be at the hospital from 7:30 a.m. on to whenever some doctor might appear who might give some indication of a change or to whom I might be able to give a bit of information. Been staying until around 11 each p.m. trying to see that she is comfy and bedded down as easily as possible. Also try getting in a few hours at the office by working through what would be lunch hour to make up the two or three I miss prior to 11:30 or 12:30 when I've been able to leave the hospital to Doug...to watch and wait for anything. I believe I told you she is in room ^a227 now.

In haste...

Ruth