

Click Relander,  
3701 Commonwealth,  
Yakima, Wash. 98901

July 14, 1968

Mrs. C.L. Hagler,  
28775 68 Rd.,  
Visalia, Calif. 93277

Dear Thelma:

Have been waiting until I felt a little more up to it, to write to you and thank you for your letters keeping us posted on Mother Pearl and her operation. And by now I should think her condition after the operation is ironing out and becoming more definite. Ginny and I will try and get a phone call through to you within a short time just to see how things are stacking up now.

Pearce has come and has continued on his way. We have quite a nice visit with him but of course he did not know how Mother Pearl is really coming along at this stage .

My vacation is set for about Aug. 20 and I had in mind coming down and at that time perhaps things would be clarified and she should be settled in her mind as to just what she wants to do and feels up to doing. I think it all hinges on what she really feels up to doing. And I thought I could be of some help perhaps then in any way I can.

Now I am somewhat up in the air. For the past three weeks I have been fighting what appears to be a severe case of gall stones. Had terrific pains in my stomach and had to sleep "sitting on the edge of the bed" most nights. Of course I went to my doc and started through a long series of blood tests etc. which were ok, then everything in the books in the line of an X-Ray and fluoriscope. Tuesday I take another set of X-rays, specifically for gall stones. I received medication to relieve the pain to the tune of \$36 worth of pills etc. It appears that surgery is inevitable and may have to come in a hurry as I apparently have a fine specimen of a rock garden. I understand that keeps or will keep me in the hospital five or six days . I still work

mainly I think because it is the same story about doctors etc. and getting appointments in hospitals until absolutely necessary. But I cannot walk a block without stopping to rest. The doctor seems to think that is one of the results of the gallstones.

I suspect I'll be in the hospital within 10 days, unless it becomes acute and "ruptures," and allowing for time there and for recovery of two weeks after, I should be in shape to come to California and be of some help if Mother Pearl knows what she really wants to do. I've got lots of time coming at the office for long hours etc. and have made it clear that I'm not going to wait until my vacation and get the operation done on my vacation time.

We had a bad taste of hot weather here last week when Pearce showed up and it has cooled off now, but no rain yet, so things are dry all over and we'll probably be in for a lot of forest fires. We've had a fire bug in operation and another packing plant burned today. So far, since the first of the year there have been two schools, a paper box manufacturing plant and the rest fruit or hop plants burned, about \$7 million worth all together!

Well, thanks again for the informative letters about Mother Pearl's operation. Hope she has retained her sight. And like I said, we will try and phone one of these evenings, early, maybe after the other tests are run. Mother Pearl has a fine, strong character to draw on in her crisis and I hope by now things are improving for her. You have had a long siege of caring for your aunts. But you will know that I am going to get this operation taken care of as soon as possible so I'll be in good shape to come down to California and help out in any way I can. Tell Mother Pearl we'll do just as she wants done for her happiness in her later years. Regards to Clinton and the rest of the folks.

Most sincerely

Cliff Melander