

March 25, 1978

Mr. Douglas R. McKay
Dept. of Foreign Languages and
Literature
University of Colorado
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907

Dear Mr. McKay;

I am sorry that your letter has so long been unanswered, but my life seems to be very busy and I am still trying to keep my business going. I was astonished to hear that Mrs. Forster had died. I saw her only 3 years ago when my retrospective exhibition was in Colorado Springs and I came up for the opening. She came to see the show and we had a very nice visit. I don't think I can give you too much in answer to your questions. I doubt that I have a copy of 28.6, but in a few weeks I am going to have to get into my storeroom and if I come across a copy, I will save it for you.

Under your first heading, Physical Layout, I cannot remember at this time whether there was more than one building or not. I remember that the Forster family lived in a house west of Cragmoor, itself, though not far away. I feel utterly vague about a great many of the questions. Under heading #2, The Solly Era, I knew both Dr. and Mrs. Solly when he was the first director (I think), but I have very little that would be an adequate answer for this heading. Under #3, Major Physicians, I knew them all, but Dr. Einstein. As I had very little to do with Cragmoor in those early days, I have next to no knowledge about it. I can add nothing to either sections # 4 or 5, 6 or 7. For #8, Transportation, there was no bus that I know of, only private cars. As for the lifestyle of patients, doctors and staff, I do not know. While Dr. Forster's sister was my very close friend for many years, she had little to do with the Institution. Though at the time of the war, her brother called her to come and help with nursing. This she did and did literally 3 years work in under 2 years and ended up by having polio and encephalitis at once. And, of course, she had to be taken from Cragmoor because they could not have a case of polio there. She went to

Bethel Hospital for observation. I did not know Miss Forster until 1918 when she was a nurse on the visiting nurse staff and very shortly thereafter was the head nurse over all, and built up the organization to a considerable number. At that period, my mother was on the Board of the VNA staff. Under your heading #21, I do not know about the Navaho Indians going to Cragmoor

to Cragmoor, and the remarkable woman, Annie Wauneka, who is still over all the Health, Education and Welfare of the Navaho Tribe and made personal visits to the Navaho who were patients from the four-corners area. She taught them to stay where they were and learn from the doctors the way to cure themselves of their illness. As to the flora and fauna of Cragmoor, the flora must have been the pasque flower or Colorado anemone, which was abundant, I am sure, in that area. As to the close observation, there was no reason for me to be that involved in the hospital's work.

I am sorry that I cannot give any more detailed information about this, and it is too bad these questions did not come up 10 years ago. But I hope that this list did give you some answer to a few of your questions.

Very truly yours,

Laura Gilpin

sbLG

March 23, 1978

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Colo Springs, Colorado 80907

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