AIRMAIL March 24, 1955

Mrs. Richard Compton
2042 Torry Pines Road
La Jolla, California

Dear Marge:

Once upon a time I made some money by buying the worst possible stock in the market, in general opinion, because it proved to be undervalued. As you will recollect, I am always an adventurer and have seen so many things happen that I was sure could not happen that I am a believer in miracles on this earth at present time as well as in Biblical times.

My father died when I was six and mother, a widow at 28 with four children, became close friends with the daughter of an old family friend, a woman of 22 or 23, I would say. She had been engaged to a cousin at 18 who, after making a wonderful invention, lost his head and shot his sister and himself. Later she married another cousin named Newlin of Philadelphia who died after leaving her with one child, a girl, and with the care of a widowed mother, aunt and sister.

They lived in London many years and in Italy several years where the family, then reduced to mother and daughter only, had a place at that delightful Portofino. The daughter married an unstable young man who left her, leaving her also with a daughter.

Returning to America, before Italy got into the war, they moved to California where they are now. To simplify, I will say that the grandmother's name is Sara Newlin, her daughter is Anna Meredith and the grand-daughter is Morgana Meredith. Anna was left considerable money but developed ideas which led her to fall for some religious, socialistic promoters, first in Ohio Valley and more recently at San Marcus, not too far from you. Apparently she is tied up with an investment in land in dubious title and they are reduced to income from a trust of which the principal cannot be touched. Sara, now in her 90's, and partly blind, is and always has been a saint on earth. Anna is a sweet woman, not too stabilized and the child, Morgana, now I think 14 or 16 is what might come from a very irregular and uncertain bringing up. She is crazy about horses but had one fall which has given her headaches and some uncertainty so that there is a suggestion of epilepsy.

At present Sara has a room in a small house in this colony near San Marcus, Anna and Morgana live in the little house somewhat above it and they are hoping that Morgana can get a scholarship of some sort and go to college.

I went down to see them last October when I was in California with Nell for a few minutes and have puzzled my head how to help Sara and them all, to get away from where they now are into a better environment. They are naturally proud but if it turned out that Morgana could get to a school or enter college away from her family, I think I could help with a scholarship of at least $1,000.

If Miracle One took place and my tale aroused in you the curiosity to hunt these people up, it would interest you, I think, for it is one of the biggest, most difficult jobs I have ever met.

I now plan to be in San Francisco to attend a directors' meeting of Dorr-Oliver shortly after the middle of April and will be in Los Angeles, so could make contacts at that time if I could be of any use.

I am enclosing a brochure about Nells' latest book which our Dorr Foundation has sponsored. The United States Information Agency are being given, at their request, 150 copies for distribution to their libraries abroad. It has had a marvelous psychic effect on many.

You and I, Marge, have seen many deep waters, but I have never forgotten your ability, your cheeriness, and have a warm affection for you.

Yours,

John V. N. Dorr

JVND/est

Enclosure--brochure on "Mother and Child"