

November 18, 1999

EDITED
for
DISPLAY

Dr. Joe B. Hall
5 Mt. Nord
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

Dear Joe,

Judy and I offer our warm greetings and best wishes at this beautiful Fall time of the year. It's hard to believe that the holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas are so close upon us.

We had made tentative plans to be in Lincoln for the Apple Festival and a side visit down to Johnson County. But, since we were in both places just this past Spring, we have elected to stay home all this October, November and most of December. During this period our weather is just too beautiful to leave.

The purpose of writing this rather lengthy letter is to communicate, in writing, with everyone rather than through phone conversations and word of mouth. It is also intended to review briefly some of the more pertinent events and changes of course of action from time to time that have brought us to this stage in history of the development of the ACDM.

Please be assured that my long range plans will provide continued support of the museum other than that recently pledged almost a year ago as well as the gifting of the property, acquisition of the additional property next door, purchase of the two pieces of the doctors vintage "rolling stock" and the display garage which you have built. Not to be discounted are your funds on deposit. Further, we still have a long list of Friends of the Museum as well as occasional unsolicited gift donations. As Jerry may have told you, I have also provided further for the ACDM in my will and estate planning. However, I'm not counting on the museum acquiring the last listed asset in the near foreseeable.

As I look back, it is hard to realize how far we have come in such a relatively short period of time as compared with the Country Doctor Museum founded by Dr. Gloria Graham and her friend Dr. Josephine Newell in 1967. In fact, Gloria had noted in conversations on at least three occasions that we have made such rapid progress in the development of the ACDM. Looking back, we can see good reason to agree with her.

But, when we all put together a picture in our own minds of how it all happened, we can see why it has happened. It was not a miracle. It was dedicated individuals like yourselves, all members of the Board of Directors, Community leaders from all walks of life with different talents, different fields of expertise, and possibly with varying reasons for motivation. In the final analysis it was the product of total community effort and that community has extended far beyond the physical boundaries of Lincoln and Arkansas.

All of the individuals who have worked and contributed, even in the smallest way, have every right to be proud of what has been accomplished in such a short period of time. The museum and its proclaimed mission has impacted on minds and recognition of thousands of individuals from all over the country. That impacting impression, as far as I know, has been nothing but favorable and well received. Also, I might add, in talking to you and other members of the Board, that the people of Lincoln are proud of the museum.

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There is no question in my mind that Lincoln is an ideal community for the location of the museum and I say that not just because my father practiced in Lincoln but because he also loved the community and its people. I have heard him say that on several occasions. He would be happy to know that his home and office continues to serve the community which gave so much to him and to Ruby.

Now I have come to another part of my letter which is about the future plans for the museum. Realistically, the continued financial support must be a part of future planning.

Initially, my concept of the museum was one that would be a static display of all the artifacts which are now so wonderfully arranged and presented for exhibit to the viewing public. Since the time of my first visual concept, almost ten years ago, the goals and missions of museums, large and small, all over the country have changed.

Now, the more progressive museums have embarked on programs of education, changing displays and exhibits and interacting with other museums. There are even exchanges of museum artifacts, sculptures and precious paintings between nations. The smaller museums, such as the ACDM are doing the same things, albeit on a smaller scale and without the support of a national treasury, or a J. Paul Getty Foundation. In our own situation we would even welcome a gift from the Walton Foundation or the Don Reynolds Foundation

It had been my plan to continue my active practice for about two years, a period of time which would permit me to continue to channel a very significant part of the income from my practice into my Charitable Trust that included support of the ACDM as well as other charitable interests such as the UNLV Library, UNLV Foundation, the University of Oklahoma Foundation and Medical School, and my Church. None of these were necessarily permanent except for the UNLV foundation and the ACDM. It was the continuing impairment of vision which has kept me from the practice of my specialty which requires acute vision. I don't think it will ever improve and, in fact, it has diminished since I was forced to give up my practice. Otherwise my health remains good, considering that I will be eighty four in May of 2000.

It is hoped that you will carefully evaluate this letter-report, discuss it, and then formulate plans for the future. It goes without saying that the Board is blessed with individuals who are possessed with the wisdom, judgment, patience and persistence to confront and deal with any problems that might arise.

Very sincerely yours,

HAROLD L. BOYER, M.D.

HLB/mvw