

THE BOARD

GREATER MONTANA FOUNDATION

Dating this is senseless. The sentiments express my feelings for some time. It is written while I am alive & kicking on this wonderful place called EARTH. Should I find it possible to communicate after leaving here you will of course hear from me. It is not to be read until I depart the present "state" so we will date it AC - after Craney.

To say that I have valued your friendship, the thought and the work you have devoted to bring the Greater Montana Foundation to it's present standing is to make a very large understatement. It is my hope you have realized a sense of accomplishment for the expenditure you have made.

Now that Craney is out of the way, you have an opportunity to do more with the Broadcasters. There are others who should and will probably want to come into the GMF organization. I see no way to give them a place on the GMF Board until they have divested themselves of their Montana holdings. I do believe they should be fully appraised and even solicited to establish Trusts with GMF when they are planning sales of properties in or outside the State of Montana.

Mine has been a one-track-mind, devoted to broadcasting. I have said at Board Meetings and in Trusts that I want my funds given GMF to be devoted to communications for the benefit of the people of the area now known as Montana. This has been done by bringing broadcaster and students from our Communication Schools together. We have done this at meetings, dinners, in stations. It has been done by making broadcast station management more cognizant of the many things they DO for the people of Montana. It is done by prizes also to station people, particularly those who announce and those who write copy. There are other station people who might be given added incentive in the same manner. It is done also by helping to make it a bit easier for University Staff to attend and mix with broadcasters at conventions. We have made money available to expand UM-FM. There are a few other things GMF has done of value to the people of Montana and there will be many more, it is thru YOU, members of this BOARD and your successors this will be possible. I reiterate once more, I do not want funds I have placed in GMF to be used for scholarships. This is too easy. You have better minds than this and those you help to bring onto future BOARDS should be "thinkers" with ideas to use for the benefit of the people of Montana and they should know of my feelings in this matter.

Now that I have made my exit there will be slightly more money available immediately to GMF. Thus far you have all served, as have those before you, with no fee and with no expense money. Please go over GMF accounts now with a view to correct this great generosity to me and to GMF and see that you receive a meeting fee and expense money.

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You will want to review carefully the direction for GMF in the future. You will want to investigate the possibility of bringing people of other interests than communications into forming trust accounts with GMF. You will want to carefully weigh the advisability of enlarging the GMF Board when such people enter the GMF fold.

Should the Federal Law be changed at any time that will allow GMF to work with the Montana Historical Society & Museum or other substantial museum organization it is my belief GMF should do so. It was GMF that got the museums of Montana together into a State organization. They, the little ones, can be greatly improved with some outside help. A good communication and transportation museum is needed in Montana to cover development from the days of the Indian smoke signal as they watched Lewis & Clark come up the Missouri to the present day. If we are not successful with such a museum before I check out it is my hope you will follow thru if and when that is possible.

My intention is to form another trust that will eventually be in memory of Tom and Francis Symons who had faith in me when I was but a kid out of high school. Tom bankrolled the station in Spokane, KFDC - later KFPY - later KXLY altho it didnt take much to get it started as it was a rebuilt ham transmitter I had. Later he did the same for KGIR - later KXLF in Butte. When Tom died in 1941 he left me in charge of his Spokane station and our Portland KXL as well as his holdings with me in Montana. Frances Symons never faltered but went along with me 100%. They were sort of a combination "father-mother", "brother-sister" to me. Funds from the trust will not be immediately available for use by GMF but when they are it is my hope they will be put to some use by the then GMF Board in the name of these two fine people.

GMF has taken on the responsibility of funding up to \$3,000 yearly for 5 years for a series of yearly lectures at MSU and with the MSU Alumni in some Montana town other than Bozeman, in the name of Senator Burton K. Wheeler. The five year limitation was placed on this grant with the hope funds might be forth coming from others, plus inflation might play havoc with GMF in 5 years and such funds just might not be available. Senator and Mrs Wheeler, as Tom & Francis Symons were again sort of a combination second "father-mother", "brother-sister" to me. Should the GMF Board find it impossible to continue these lectures beyond 5 years at this time then future Boards should be appraised of this memo and when funds are available this series or some other series of lectures should be instituted by GMF in the memory of these fine people.

Again my good Friends my thanks for all you have done for me. You have helped greatly to make my sojourn on Earth pleasant and interesting. You can't tell, we may meet again "out there" - if we do, it will be mighty good to see you.

Good health and great happiness to you,

Ed Keraney