

Ans No 177



Mrs N.D. Millar
2095 Lakeshore Drive
Sourval
Que.

Nov 2nd 1971

Dear Grandmère -

I appreciate very much your being concerned over my ~~bad~~ mental outlook, but I think that we may have somewhat conflicting ideas over what is best for me.

I know that if you could have me in another mental hospital, you would. I don't feel that is what I need. I don't feel that my stay at Chestnut Lodge has done me any good, nor would any amount of time in some other hospital drug. If it is of my involvement with Friday, you needn't be. I am NEVER going to take any kind of drug again. This for me who had ~~been~~ previously learning experiences. It is not. I will not do anything and see that I feel can do outweighs the ~~in~~ any way the benefit I can get out of it.

I feel that though drugs may have helped me understand a few things, I can derive no further benefit from it. I also feel that they are responsible largely for whatever nerve damage I may have. I don't think that any permanent harm has been done but however irresponsible I may seem to you, my health is not something I care to gamble nor is my sanity.

Knowing also that drugs can induce psychosis is further reason for me not to go near them. I hope you see how serious I am about the finality of this.

I know that two psychiatrists can certify a person, regardless of custody, civil rights, etc. That is why I will not go and see the two you have arranged for me to see. During my stay at Chestnut Lodge, I have seen enough reasonably sane people certified to be naturally wary of anything like that.

I do not intend to take mental therapy as my career like so many other people I've seen here.

You see grandmother, I know
I can get much more out of a good
homely environment where people are
working together as well as caring about
each other. I have realized during my
stay on Saturday just how much I care
about the free school and the people there,
and how much they care about me. I
would like to stay there and help them
get it back into working shape, there, when
it reopens, become a staff member there.
I would also like to do some pottery
and various other arts and crafts - the tools
for which are available on Saturday.

Really though I am tired of wandering
around aimlessly all over the countryside.
It is a real strain and I would just
like to settle down with people whom I
feel comfortable with.

The possibility for my finishing
high school is of course open. I have too
many things to sort out in my head to
really feel inspired about doing it, right
at this time, but I think that in time,

and with a little perseverance, I will
probably do it someday. Let's say I do not
have my feelings strongly set against it,
though I don't think you should try and
push me -

Generally things seem to be settling
down quite a bit and I am sorting out
quite a few things in my mind.

I hope things are going well
with you

Much love

Graham