

Dear

December 21, 1948

Mrs. Cora Moershell Bay
Piedmont Court
Santa Cruz, California

Dear Mrs. Bay:

Thank you for your good letter of recent date. Gertrude was first operated January 31, 1906, and was operated a second time January 10, 1908. During the months that passed, there were times when we were very hopeful. In 1907 we spent six or eight weeks in St. Augustine. A year ago last October we spent a couple of weeks going through the Ozarks. Apparently we took about every advantage that we could to enjoy life together.

It seems such a pity that she had to go at the early age of 73 when her mother lived to be 95 and her father 89. She was the last of her family, The Reineke family. Some years before, the doctors at Mayos' advised her to diet to reduce her weight stating that if it were ever necessary to have an operation the excess weight would be against her. She followed their instructions and reduced her weight about 75 pounds. This reduction had no serious effect on her health.

She was hopeful for recovery until perhaps about two weeks of her passing. She was greatly disappointed in not being able to attend the wedding of Eileen Maloney, our first grandchild to be married, and not to be able to see Dolph Simons, Jr. play university football. Her last conscious remark was "I am so proud of him", this being in regard to Dolph, Jr. For practically seven days she was not able to take nourishment and was kept in a stupor to avoid the anguish of pain which always accompanies one in her condition.

Everyone has been loving and helpful. Our three daughters and our daughter-in-law, Mrs. Dolph Simons, were with me a great deal in the weeks in which she was sick and in the weeks which followed.

I don't know whether your sisters would be interested, but if you think they would be you may pass this letter on to them. Your mother was a darling woman, and I held her in very high esteem.