

Andrews Medical & Surgical Clinic

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SURGERY

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INTERNAL MEDICINE

July 11, 1969

Mr. Weldon Kennedy
1418 Harrison Drive
Kermit, Texas 79745

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

I appreciated your recent letter very much and wonder if you would kindly forward this particular letter on to your mother. I would like to express to the entire family my sorrow at the loss of such an extremely fine first measure father. I had previously known your father from visits to our hospital and had been an admirer of his from the prior acquaintance. Dr. Grimes called from Houston and I believe conveyed to your sister what Dr. Luper and I feel to be the events which caused your father's unfortunate demise. As you will recall the day prior to his admission he sustained chest and arm pain associated with severe shortness of breath. Despite the fact there was not a heart attack pattern on the electrocardiogram initially, Dr. Luper and I feel that he most likely sustained a myocardial infarction on the day prior to admission. Most likely Weldon, this occurred in the area that the doctors know as the septum of the heart which is the wall that separates the two ventricles or mean pumping chambers of the heart. The evening of his admission to our hospital then, he sustained a blood clot which went from the area of the infarction down to the left leg. I suspected this at the time of his admission but was unable to confirm the presence of a heart attack by his electrocardiogram or indeed by his blood pressure and heart sounds at that time. You will recall then at operation I found that the arterial blood was very dusky and terminated my first procedure early because of this. Then, later with his spinal anesthesia, the blood appeared to be better oxygenated but I was still unable to find a reason why within the leg that this clotting should be present. Often times we find that a diabetic will have arteriosclerotic plaques (plaques of calcium) within the vessels but in your father's instance the vessels were quite clean and the Saturday morning after I left he undoubtedly sustained an extension of his heart attack and most likely at the time of his demise he either sustained further extension or had abnormal electrical waves and rhythms come forth from this area of injured heart.

I am quite convinced that the good souls in Heaven welcome entry of another soul into Heaven much as you and I welcome a newborn baby. I feel certain

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there was much joy as the gates opened for admission of your father. It is in this joy that I would hope that your mother and indeed your family might find peace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brian E. Gordon".

Brian E. Gordon, M. D.

BEG:cb