



THE ZORYAN INSTITUTE

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240



University Hospitals
Department of Surgery
Area 319: 356-2649
If no answer, 356-1616

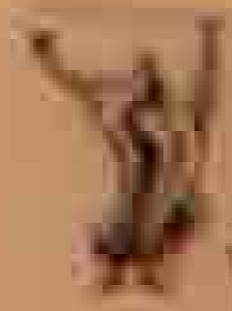
April 2, 1971

Stanley E. Kerr
109 Cedar Lane
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

Dear Doctor Kerr:

Thank you for your letter about Franz. The First National Bank of Iowa City has been appointed executor and a Mr. Dallas Hogan is taking care of this. We knew about the house and trailer and the account with Merrill Lynch. As far as I know they have not found a will, but the folks from the bank did pick up the key to the trailer and were going to go through his things there and if there is a will in the trailer, I am sure they will find it.

Franz has worked in the laboratory with me most of the time that he has been here in Iowa City. There was a Dr. C. Ito in Sapporo, Japan who worked here for three years and was quite close to Franz. Dr. Ito wrote me recently and told me that he had asked Franz to obtain a blood glucose level and was concerned several years ago that Franz might have diabetes because Franz seemed to drink so much fluid and used a great deal of sugar. Dr. Ito said that Franz did not feel it was necessary to look into this. In retrospect I recall that Franz was quite heavy several years ago and I could not understand why he allowed himself to be so heavy when he was aware of the problems that we had with many of the obese patients we were taking care of. Later I noticed that he had lost weight and I thought correctly that he was dieting. I guess even more recently, however, Franz began to realize that he was losing weight in spite of the fact that he was eating more food than he had been and was no longer making an effort to diet. Franz did not realize that his changes required some investigation and none of those of us who worked with him realized what difficulty he was headed for until he apparently developed infection in his foot and his diabetes became out of control and he began vomiting and developed uremia. He was quite ill for several days and remained at his trailer until we went out after him and brought him in to the hospital. By that time, I guess, the damage had been done and we were simply unable to correct all of the problems of renal failure and a very large liver. He had some changes in the vessels in the kidney which are typical of diabetes but not a full-blown Kimmelstiel-Wilson disease, and I doubt that his kidneys would have caused difficulty if he had not been severely dehydrated from vomiting. I do think that the uremia and renal insufficiency which resulted from the vomiting and dehydration led to his retention of fluid and contributed to the development of an acute bronchopneumonia, pulmonary congestion and edema which was the final cause of death. As far as I know he did not have narrowing of the coronaries or a myocardial infarction. He did have an infarct in the right middle lobe of his lung. The immediate cause of death was pneumonia



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but the basic underlying problem was unrecognized diabetes which led to all of the other problems. This is a very disconcerting thing to have a man who knows about such things and who is working right here in the hospital to develop a condition and in retrospect to have symptoms which were observed by many of those around him and to have changes develop which were lethal without something being done about it at an earlier stage in the course of the disease. He had a very high threshold for sugar in the urine. If Franz did check his own urine for sugar he might have been misled into thinking that he was alright in spite of having a high blood sugar. I will enclose the address for Miss Josa Cernigoj, you will note that the spelling is not the same as the way Franz did it. Franz also changed his first name to Frank in recent years, at least as far as those around him were concerned. I will also include Dr. Ito's address in case you want to correspond with him.

Thank you for your letter.

Sincerely yours,

Edward E. Mason

Edward E. Mason, M.D.

EEM/rf

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