

Mrs. W. Hugh Seal  
c/o Mrs. Albert Johnson  
Altamont  
Round Hill  
Virginia

W. HUGH PEAL  
25 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, N. Y.



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August 4, 1944

Darling;

I know that you will wonder why I have not written before. Wednesday night I worked, with a bad headache, until 11 P. M., with Anne Doty and Malcolm talking in the room. Last night I worked at the office until 11 P. M. Every minute of my day has been full.

Mr. Howell's funeral services were conducted at Campbell's funeral parlor. A large and imposing crowd turned out, but the services (about ten minutes of prayers) were short and perfunctory. I think that the music must have been mechanically reproduced. The whole effect was cheap and depressing. I am told that the family thought that since Mr. Howell didn't go to church, it would be hypocritical to have the services at St. Bartholomew's, as Kimball suggested. I sympathize with that point of view, but the practical ef-



fect of the funeral parlor was very depressing.

The transactions re Captain Gallaher, are causing much gossip in the Trust Department, of course, Mr. Howell's death terminated my control and all the notes etc. have to be turned over to the Executors with an accounting of funds received. The captain was in my office today looking very blue, I hope that we have no family fight over the estate.

Foster went back to Springfield after the funeral. Anne <sup>stayed</sup> over one night and went to Greenwich Thursday morning to get advice about schools. Woodie has been put up for Deerfield but not yet accepted. He has had no tutoring.

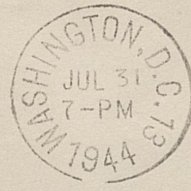
I enclose a letter from Mrs. Baell.

I do hope that you and Betty are having a good time and some rest. I miss you very much.

Love,  
Hugh



Mrs. J. E. Boell  
1301 North Troy Street  
Arlington, Virginia



Mrs. Hugh Peal  
60 Gramercy Park  
New York City



NEW YORK, N.Y.  
AUG 1  
2-PM  
1944

STATION P



1301 North Troy Street

Arlington, Virginia

July 31, 1944

Dear Mrs. Peal:

I've got the whole thing figured out. Dewey is going to win the election and then Herbert Brownell will appoint Mr. Peal to the Supreme Court and you can come back here and help run the YWCA and Heaves knows ~~at that time~~ it needs some help. I hope, however, that Mr. Peal might change his mind and come back to Washington on something less than a Supreme Court appointment as most of those men up there look entirely too healthy to bring you here immediately.

Have you continued with your volunteer work this summer? The pamphlet you did for the counseling department is being reprinted this fall with a change in about four words and a change in the picture on the front. That is how good it is. Mrs. Shepard suggested the change in the four words on the second page.

You've probably heard about Mrs. Shepard's leaving. I'm not sure that I've entirely a clear picture of it yet, but in a rather cloudy and unlogical way I blame Marion Emerine. Mrs. Shepard's relationships with the board didn't seem to be perfect, but it was not until the last flare up over Marion Emerine and whether or not she was to be fired (the whole thing was going on while you were here) that the conflict came out in the open. The board felt, I guess, that Mrs. Shepard could have held Marion down, that she should have had more control over Marion. And knowing Marion, I'd say that the board expected the impossible. It seemed also that Mrs. Shepard was in sympathy with Marion's attitudes on several questions, and finally Mrs. Shepard sent a letter to the board saying she was resigning for a number of reasons. She listed the fact that the power in the board seemed to be centered in the hands of a few and she had understood that a YWCA was to operate democratically, that she had opposed the actions of the board in the way in which they were firing the industrial secretary, and she felt that the board was making it impossible for any progress to take place inter racially. The board was not happy over Mrs. Shepard's letter which she first read to the heads of departments before it was presented to the board. Then, Margaret Shreffler wrote a letter to the board, commending Mrs. Shepard and stating how the staff regretted losing her, which in turn was signed by all the staff members. This did not increase the joy of the board any. Mrs. Thomas, is of course, extremely sympathetic with Mrs. Shepard. It seems to me that Marion Emerine embodied the community pressure for inter-racial practices, that the board embodies the conservative block in the community which is going to fight every inch of the way and Mrs. Shepard, a liberal, was caught in between the cross fire. Miss Emerine resigned just before Mrs. Shepard did and quietly retired to a mountain retreat she had bought in Maine. It seems that she has money of her own, in fact that she need be very little concerned about a job as a means of support. However, I don't believe that situation exists as far as Mrs. Shepard is concerned and I feel that Marion Emerine cared very little that she got Mrs. Shepard out of a job, a job she might have held until she was ready to retire and until the general secretary the board has wanted for a number of years gets ready to take the job.

Now about the next general secretary. You remember me telling you about Mabel Cook, who must be very like your friend Dorothy. Well, Miss Cook is the



choice of the board for general secretary and has been for some time. But she doesn't have the paper qualifications for a general. But she has had a responsible job in the USO and is nearly ready to take over a general secretary. But she would probably wish to finish her job in the USO, and that's why I say that Mrs. Shepard, without Marion Emerine, could have stayed here until the war was over and until she was ready to retire and until Miss Cook was ready to take over. (Marion on several occasions had asked Miss Haynes and me if we didn't want to form a committee with her, call on Mrs. Shepard and demand that she clear the way for more direct action, which Miss Haynes and I refused to do. So I know that Miss Emerine was consciously pushing Mrs. Shepard and didn't care what happened.)

I was inclined to think that Marion wasn't particularly effective and didn't in any way need concern us, if we didn't care to be concerned. I believe that you had a very definite reaction to her, which if I'd given more weight to, might have been able to do something, at least to more actively oppose Marion. As it has turned out, she has influenced younger members of the health education department, the Girl Reserves, the Music Department, etc., Mrs. Shepard's secretary, and countless others and it has been a very far reaching influence. I don't believe that Miss Shreffler wanted to take the job here in the first place, and she has been most unhappy the whole year and has fallen in with Marion on a number of occasions. Miss Shreffler may have been a very good Girl Reserve secretary in the past, but in this job I think she was a complete failure. And I feel particularly sorry about her two young assistants on their first YWCA jobs. They have no other job to compare this one with, therefore they have no discrimination. They are very sure that there is everything wrong with a YWCA and nothing right. One is going on to younger girls' work in the Brooklyn YWCA, Mrs. Louise Spray, and the other is going to stay here.

Some of us are wondering whether Marion will be taken on the national staff as an industrial secretary, because she is just about what they want. If they do take her on, I've lost some of my respect for national's judgment.

As to our new general secretary, when she gets here. She's a very dynamic person and is going to be in a very tough spot inter-racially, especially if the national convention this next year votes to make ~~the~~ YWCA's interracial. Of course, that doesn't mean that YWCA's are forced to adopt that policy, but it will give the interracial groups here a good basis for sniping. And if any general secretary can satisfy both the interracial groups who will be pushing on the exterior and the conservative board, that general secretary is a magician. Maybe Miss Cook is a magician, that remains to be seen. Before the next general is ready to come in, it seems that we are to have an interim with Miss Charest as the general.

I don't know whether this means much to you, but after my experience with Marion Emerine, I'm going to attach a little more weight to such secretarial shenanigans in the future and not shrug them off as I've done. Her influence has been as far reaching as anything I've ever seen, and it's been rather interesting to watch it come out in the open.

When do you next think you'll get to Washington? I'm having my vacation the 15th of August to the 15th of September. If you don't get to Washington this fall, I'll come up to New York to see you for a day or two when I can get away.

So it goes in the YWCA, this year having made me a much wiser person.

*Elaine Boell*





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Peckland Road  
Greenwich, Connecticut

August 6, 1944

My Dear:

This has really been a week, yesterday set a new heat record. Against all sense and reason, however, I am feeling very well. After the heavy bulge of work last week, I had an easy Friday and Saturday and two good nights of sleep so that I am very cheery today although not very comfortable. I am so glad that you are on the mountain as this heat would drain your energy to zero.

I arranged with the Dotys to spend the Labor Day week-end with them. They both seemed distressed about the last incident and I think that this one will work out.

The Bank is planning to give two or three months salary to Mrs. Howell and Mrs. Hatshow. I put in a timid word for the neglected grandson, but



without success; of course I haven't any position in the matter, as Mr. Howell seemed to care nothing for the child, leaving gifts on the others and leaving Thom only remainders of trusts which may not terminate until he is an old man. In fact, I think that he might have had almost nothing had I not carefully inserted him in wherever I could in the wills and trusts. This is truly a case of sins of the fathers visited on the children.

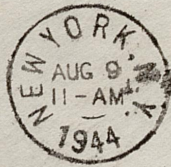
Estelle is keeping the house in good order and furnishing good breakfasts. In spite of the heat my appetite is holding up well.

Bill Taylor seemed very preoccupied at the funeral. He must have been thinking that the executive vice-presidency would have worked out well after all.

Give my best to Betty. And get plenty of rest.

Love,  
Hugh





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August 8, 1944

Darling:

I am ~~being~~ dining with the Wells tomorrow night. Blanche seemed taken aback when she heard that you were away but rose to the occasion gallantly and insisted that I come on alone.

Ernie Pyle's story last night indicated that the Fourth Division led the attack that broke through into Brittany. I tried unsuccessfully to get Irene last night and again this morning. At last I gave it up and wrote her a letter on the remote chance that she hadn't seen the article.

The weather has turned off very pleasant and we had a good night of sleep.

One of my Spacy friends has been working with General Realty on some real estate matters and has apparently given me a good write-up. He hasn't much position in the Spacy Department, but the client doesn't know that, of such are reputations made.

I finally got so lonesome Sunday that I went to the movies all alone. Jack o'okie, as a fake



Egyptian mindreader, proved so disconcerting that Malcolm has gone to see the program as my recommendation.

After a month or so of solid and informative reading I have had a bad relapse. Three detective stories in the last few days. None of them very good. If only Walling and Dorothy Boyers would each turn out one each week.

Darling, I miss you a lot, but I want you to stay as long as you think that you are being benefitted physically. Even if you get fat, Estelle is doing very well by us. She even washes off the terrace and waters the flowers every day.

Love to Betty,  
yours,  
A