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Letter from Marge Pearsall sending original Jo Bellinghausen letter to Mark with note

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To Mark Bellinghausen

Dear Mark,

My response to your notice of your father’s passing was delayed because I had recently come across this beautiful letter your mother wrote to Duane in 1971 when he was experiencing a period of business stress. I wanted to send it to you along with the photo of your dad but could not locate it. Finally, today I found it in one of the files we are sending to Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts. They are the recipients of Duane’s memoirs for their library archives collection.

I want you to have this letter because it reveals not only an insight into Duane’s character, but also your mother Jo’s compassion and concern for others that I remember so vividly. She was one of the most admirable women I have ever known. Knowing both of your parents was a great privilege.

Sincerely,

Mag Peasall

P.S. I am sending WPI a copy. The original is for you.
Dear Duane,

You have been on my mind so often in these past days. As each change develops at Statecon, I understand you take on a heavier burden of concern. Duane— you must remember what kind of stuff your people are made of—at least the ones who remain and grow to love. You had a hand—directly or indirectly—in the hiring of each one—and they all reflect your high standards in their own business lives. By your concentrated efforts you and they put together a most highly respected, ethical, and successful team in the business world. Your personal contributions have been rightfully acknowledged with national honor.

And now you worry about your people and what is to be. There may lie comfort in this bit of oriental wisdom—The symbol used to depict the word crisis (in Chinese) is made up of two parts—one meaning danger, the other meaning opportunity. So each crisis in our lives does hold opportunity— and because your people are as they are, they will find doors open for them and move on to use the experience they’ve experienced with Statecon and to reflect the high ideals they
have shown while working with you.

Your steady hand is appreciated.

Your strength of spirit is unbelievable,
considering some of the incredible events.

A lesser man might have taken action
he would later regret.

My personal admiration for you has
no bounds.