

“Clara” and Barb Dayton Letters

Notes on letters:

This file contains copies of two letters (there are two different copies of each)

- 1. Letter written by Barb Dayton to her kids in 1971. I screen shotted the picture from my Kindle purchase of the book. I also have the paperback book. These are used for research purposes and not for financial gain.**
- 2. The same letter from Barb, but transcribed into MS Word, using typewriter font, and with spelling errors noted.**
- 3. Letter written by “Clara” to Max Gunther in 1982. Screen shot from his book. The Clara letter is written on smaller paper than the standard 8x11. Note Clara’s use of hyphens at the end of sentences as well as no spelling errors. This indicates a qualified typist.**
- 4. The same letter from Clara transcribed.**

The reasons for the transcriptions are to be able to load these into software programs (I will explain those later).

Even someone with no analytical training will be able to take these letters and compare the writing style and grammar as well as view the presentation of these letters on paper.

Letter from Barb Dayton to her children 1971.

Source: *The Legend of D.B. Cooper* by Pat and Ron Forman

Nov. 1971

Dennis and Renee:

Perhaps this letter will explain many things. I know you have both wondered why I've remained so distant and never tried to contact you the last few years.

My past life was very mixed up, an inborn problem that made a normal life impossible for me. Your Mother and I separated because of it, and I'm sure you must remember something, Dennis. Renee was too young then.

To be brief, no matter how hard I've tried in the past, I have never been able to accept myself as a male, and nearing the brink of possible suicide, I submitted myself to extensive medical and psychiatric research. It was determined that I was a transsexual. Physically a male, but more basically a female. The magnitude of the predominant sex could not be reversed. In December 1969, I underwent conversion surgery for sex-reassignment. I am no longer a would be man and I have my true identity, now, and much happier for it.

I'm sorry for the hurt this must bring, but you both have full lives ahead of you and I was only able to salvage a portion of mine.

Don't ever worry about either of you being abnormal, this thing is not hereditary, and I know you will both have good lives.

Think how hard it is for my own parents to accept this, they don't fully understand, nor do I understand.

I'm very sorry for the coldness on my part towards you both in the past, but now you understand why it was better I stayed away, I could sense my destiny.

I'm proud of you both and wish I were free to express everything I feel.

Please don't hate me for what I've done. Life is full of the unexpected.

Barbara Dayton
Robert Dayton

Same Letter from Barb Dayton to her children 1971 (transcribed with original spelling errors).

Source: *The Legend of D.B. Cooper* by Pat and Ron Forman

Nov. 1971

Dennis and Rena:

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My past life was very mixed up, and inborn problem that made a normal life impossible for me. Your Mother, and I separated because of it, and I'm sure you must ~~remember~~ something, Dennis. Rena was too young then.

To be brief, no matter how hard I've tried in the past, I have never been able to accept myself as a male, and nearing the brink of possible suicide, I submitted myself to extensive medical and psychiatric research. It was determined that I was a transsexual. Physically a male, but more basically a female. The magnitude of the predominant sex could not be reversed. In December 1969, I underwent conversion surgery for sex-reassignment. I am no longer would be man and ~~I~~ have my true identity, now, and much happier for it.

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Barbara Dayton
Robert Dayton

Letter from Clara to Ralph Himmelsbach 1982

Source: DB Cooper: What Really Happened by Max Gunther

Mr. Ralph Himmelsbach December 19, 1982
1325 Valley View Drive
West Linn, Oregon 97068

Dear Mr. Himmelsbach:

I recently talked with Max Gunther. He said you are anxious to talk with me and gave me your assurances about my privacy and safety.

I am sure you are sincere, Mr. Himmelsbach. However, I could not stand a barrage of questions from the FBI, family and friends.

Max tells me you are not convinced that my story is true. This saddens me, although I understand. I wish I could convince you. I assure you it is true. My memory for events ten years ago may not be perfect, of course. And maybe "Dan Cooper" had his own reasons for giving me some false details of his early life or the hijacking. But the story I told Max was true as far as I know it.

Your witnesses are wrong on at least one point. "Dan" did not wear loafers, he wore heavy walking shoes. He may have been audacious but was not dumb. Loafers would have been dumb, wouldn't they? Since he knew he was going to parachute and walk in the wilderness. At any rate, I clearly remember helping him to take off his shoe so that we could see his hurt foot.

It is important to me to see this story told in the right way. Yes, "Dan" committed a crime, but he was a good man, really. We all have some larceny in our hearts, don't we?

A very merry Christmas to you and yours,
Mr. Himmelsbach. And a new year full of joy.

Very sincerely,

cc: Max Gunther

Clara



Same Letter from Clara to Ralph Himmelsbach 1982 (transcribed)

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