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## Levi Pennington Writing to Lee DeVries, March 11, 1947

Levi T. Pennington

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March 11, 1947.

Lee DeVries, Route 6, Box 240, Salem, Oregon.

Dear Lee: ---

You do not know me, but I know a good deal about you, and I want to write a bit just "man to man" as they say.

First of all, I want to thank you, personally and on behalf of the Heifers-for-Relief organization, and still more on behalf of the children overseas, for letting us have for them that splendid heifer that you have raised. I am sure that this animal means more than any that will go in that first carload which we hope to ship before the end of this month.

The reason why I think it means more than any other is that it costs more. I'm not referring to the price that you are getting for it; I mean the price you are paying. I know that when you have cared for such a fine animal as long as you have, you come to care for it in a way that the men from whose big herds we are buying other heifers do not care for them at all. I never raised a heifer, but I owned a dog once, and when I had to kill him to protect my family from rabies, I felt as if I had killed one of the family. My wife and both my daughters cried, and I don't have to tell anybody but you what happened to my eyes. I know it is costing you a great deal to let this pet of yours go.

But you'll be glad of it if you can in imagination see what the result will be. Somewhere in Europe ten or twelve children -- yes, more than that, probably, since your heifer is a Holstein, the real milk producer -- will have milk, perhaps to keep them from suffering from some of the many diseases due to mal-nutrition, perhaps actually to save their lives. And when she freshens the calf will go to some other needy folks, we hope to furnish more milk, and if not that, to furnish some much needed beef or more probably to become a sire of many other cattle in those countries, in some of which nine out of ten of the cattle have been killed.

And you can look forward to another heifer that you will raise, and which I hope you will come to care for as much as you care for this one.

Again thanking you for allowing this fine animal to go to the relief of the suffering folks overseas, 1 am

Sincerely your friend,