

78 Mou-tso Road, Nanking,
Feb. 22, 1947

Dear Family:

Please note my change of address. I moved over about the first of February and have been busy getting settled. I am at present alone in the house except for the servant but in a few days some American army folk will come to stay with me for a few weeks until their apartment which is under construction is ready. They say the first of April but most likely it will be the first of May. It is the wife and mother (or mother-in-law) of a man in the airforce in the American Advisory group here. He is a Lt. Col. named Moran. The two ladies are to arrive soon as he went last week to Shanghai to meet them. The boat did not get in as soon as he expected.

I am very comfortably situated. The Colonel lent me an army oil burning stove which works very nicely. This house has such big rooms that it is difficult to heat it and finally I decided not to try to but put the stove in the upstairs bedroom which is very large. I decided that since I am not treasurer, that I will not be interviewing so many people, so now when anyone comes to call me, I put on my coat and go downstairs to see them. They are used to not having heat so it doesn't matter. I have my meals served upstairs.

I have as servant, the wife of the man who worked for me before the war. She is not as good a cook as he is but she knows a lot about cooking and really enjoys the job. He works for the US army and so I don't have to pay her enough to support the whole family. What they want most is a place to live. They have three little children, the youngest about 18 months. The two little girls are in school. They are like old friends to me. She has a servant to help her wash for the children and otherwise help out. So I not only have a servant but my servant has a servant, but so far as I know my servant's servant has no servant. It is working out quite nicely even tho' it does sound complicated.

We have gotten a chance to get through UNNRA army surplus of things which are not practical to use as relief goods, what they call luxury items. We got them for the cost of transportation but we had to take whole cases of things and more or less what they had on hand to send us. So I have more stuff on hand than the average grocery store did during the war. Since I moved over, I have been living almost entirely on it. There are some things of which I have a lifetime supply. Some tablets for example for making vanilla flavoring. I have a whole case of tomato catsup and enough of chocolate pudding to last a lifetime, at least 12 five pound cans. If I had more experienced cook, she could experiment and use it for making cookies, etc. But she knows little more about cooking than I do, but thank goodness she does know a little more. I have canned chicken, vienna sausages corn beef and by the time I get one can eaten up, I'm ready to give the rest of them away. I have a case of peas, a case of asparagus (very fancy white) a case of pumpkin. I've used one can and can't think what I'll ever use the others for. So you see I won't starve. I have pickles by the million so to speak. Not all is that bad. Some things I like such as cheese, big five pound tins. What we do is to share things with one another. I'm eating Lucille cheese and when hers is gone, I'll open one of mine.

We had a Field Committee meeting last week. Although I have turned the accounts over to Mr. Hale, he still doesn't have his bearings yet so I have to help out frequently. He wants to take the total for the year and divide by twelve to get an idea of what his budget should be but with costs doubling every few months, such totals don't mean a thing. He looks so bewildered at times that I feel sorry for him. It is hard to have to take over a job like that in a situation like this before one has had a chance to really understand it.

We were all very much saddened by the news of the death of Bishop Ward's wife. She had a coronary thrombosis and died after a few days illness very suddenly. Coming so soon after the loss of Bishop & Mrs. Garth makes us feel as if we were getting more than our share of catastrophe. Then one of our missionaries has suddenly developed very high blood pressure what is called "Essential Hypertension" with the result that she is going to

to have to go home, the sooner the better the doctor says. The Garths were such nice friendly people that we all liked them very much. When she met me, she said, "Oh, yes, I've heard about you." I'd supposed I'd be just another missionary to her but it happened that she knew Dorothy Keeney very well who had told her about Ruth and me. It is certainly a dreadful loss.

I have the red curtains up in my parlor and so I feel very swanky. I had four windows and only three pair of curtains so I had to split them. Lucille did them for me, that is she has done enough for the four windows in the parlor. There are two more in the dining room for which I will also have enough if I ever get around to split the other pair. I am going to buy some material to make some chair covers before long and hope to get the place looking a little more home-like but as things go out here now, it doesn't look too bad.

Exchange was suddenly jumped up to 12,000 last week. It was not sudden for we had been expecting a change for months but had about given up hope. It eases the financial burden for our workers for we had been getting our money at the official rate of three thousand while things on the market were geared to an exchange rate of about twelve. They were able to adjust our missionary salaries but for lack of funds nothing could be done about the work money. So we had a meeting and jacked everyone pay up about three times. It should have been done months ago of course.

We have had very cold weather this year. It was below freezing for several days in succession last week. The paper says that another cold spell is on the way. The radio announces the temperature as well as the time and tonight at eight o'clock it is 40 degrees. I'm afraid the cold wave is getting near. Ordinary weather this time of year should be at least 44.

Lovingly, Jessie

Dear Clara: The bunch of Omnibooks came and I have already read some of them. Thanks very much for sending them. There was one by Saroyan I read which was good. I like them better than the condensations they make in the Reader's Digest.

The green suit also came. It is nice because it is a little bigger than mine are and therefore is not so tight over the numerous layers I wear now. As soon as I get it pressed, I shall wear it, that is after this cold wave has passed. It will give me something for spring.

Did you make a contribution to the Chinese Mission to the Blind in my name. I can't understand how they are sending me a receipt otherwise for I made none. I made one once in 1942 when I first got home.

I pretty nearly had to sleep in the park last night.

I was over to Hwei Wen to a meeting and got home about nine o'clock but when I went to look for the key to the compound gate, I found I had left it at Hwei Wen. So all I could do was to pound on the gate which I did for about a half hour without any results. Finally the boy from the house next door, one of our pastor's, ~~said~~ came out and said he could climb over the wall and let me in. The servant was asleep but once I got in the yard, I could wake her up. I wasn't sure that I could get back into Hwei Wen because the gateman there is hard of hearing too and having left my purse, I had no money so I couldn't ride the subway all night as they do in New York. I was so tired that I was determined not to walk back to Hwei Wen which would have taken me about twenty minutes.

With love,

78 Mou-tso Road, Nanking, March 26, 1947

Dear Ruth:

I sent you an airmail letter through the army post office about sending me some Theelin. Since I cut down on the dosage from two or three to one a month, I certainly have not been feeling so well. My arthritis suddenly took to troubling me again. I've been so depressed and nervous that it seems to me that I don't do much of any thing. I'm sorry to put you to such trouble when you are so busy, but if I bought it out here it would cost me two or three times as much or more if I could get it which I am not sure that I could. I am enclosing a check for \$50 which I hope will be sufficient for a first payment. I'll send the balance when you let me know how much it is. I hope you will be able to get it off to me airmail so that it will be here before June 1. I wish you would send it to me airmail for as I said, I really need it as soon as I can get it. The Vit. B. I have several of so that could come ordinary mail, if necessary.

There are stringent import restrictions being enforced now. I don't know how they would affect matters such as the things sent to me. Probably wouldn't, but I heard that Christmas packages containing toys which are on the prohibited list had to be returned. I've ordered two pair of white shoes through New York so I hope to get them smuggled in by this method.

The last day or two I've been struggling with a bad cold and sore throat. I sort of ache all over. I'm supposed to go to Chinkiang ~~tomorrow~~ day after tomorrow to a meeting and can't decide if I am able to do it or not. They gave me such short ~~in~~ notice that I will have to break some other engagements to go. I suppose there is a perfectly good reason why notices could not have been sent out a little earlier, but I don't know how they expect to get a quorum of their committee on three or four days. I'll see how I ~~will~~ feel tomorrow.

These army folk have really been very nice. They are very much interested in China except they are scared to go out on the street so the younger one sometimes just goes along with me just to get out. Every time they get a chance at me they ask me all sorts of question as to the meaning of things they see from their window. This house overlooks a busy street and they do get a fair cross section of Chinese life from it.

I have all the red curtains up now and I feel they look quite nice. Wesley Church gave me some bright red scrolls because of my moving into a new house, so that my color scheme is predominantly red. I also have a lamp which the Hwei Wen Alumnae association gave me when I first came back also red. My friends have come across with quite a collection of ~~misc~~ vases so that the place does not look so bare as it did.

I went out to buy myself a little milk pitcher last week. The shopkeeper however got the better of me and showed me a set of teapot, sugar bowl and creamer which I bought at a rather high price. They were so pretty that I simply could not resist them. They cost me \$40,000 or more than three dollars. After I go without things for a while my sales resistance gets worn down. I looked at some lace curtains at approx. \$3 a pair for my parlor. I guess they are too expensive. A house is like a child, I suppose. You like to keep it looking nice. I could have bought cups to match my teapot and perhaps I should have. Somehow they were not quite so pretty.

I asked the servant what the Chinese name for milk pitcher was and she said the Chinese didn't usually use them so perhaps they

