

Oa, Ponape
March 24, 1953

My dear honey girl,

I am sitting at the desk at Oa. Martin has gone up to get his clothes and in a few minutes we will be shoving off for Kolonia. I think such a movement is not difficult for you to visualize. Today the ship, Rogue, is leaving for Pingelap and Mokil to help relieve the backlog of passengers for those two islands. From Pingelap it will return to Ponape and help the Chicot load copra. Lepen, Ishiro, Quelle, Tikios, Irene, Yasko, Ingke are some of the passengers. That means as I gaze out of the window here I see only Johann and Koichy cleaning on "Johanny's land". Oscar helps with the school in Kolonia, so we have only the two left here. The land has been kept up surprisingly well. It has been dry so that means weeds have not prospered as usual. We are especially trying to keep the sides of the hill around our house clean, because of the new coconut trees. They are also making good progress on the land beyond the school house.

Saturday, Sunday and Monday we had the Pitok here. There were a few over 600 people in attendance. I felt we had a good time, as far as pitok's go. Naturally people must prepare food for the guests, so that cuts into the meetings, but all in all I think this was the most profitable one we have had thus far. We studied about the Church. Its beginning, nature, leaders, rules, work, end, etc. I think it was an eye-opener for many; and generally there was much interest shown. The spirit was excellent. The 4 churches of Ma'alania had made good preparations so the food was good and in abundance.

(Wednesday morning, the 25th Colonia) I just did get a start on this letter in Oa when Martin arrived on the scene and I closed the house and shoved off. We had a good trip in, the weather being perfect, the waves not too high, and the machine running well. Aleta sent me a film for our movie camera and now I am taking it for her. So I got a few shots while coming in yesterday. The roll for our other camera which you sent arrived. I took a few shots at the "Pitok" and will take the rest in Kiti.

Both the Chicot and the Rogue are in port. The Rogue had engine trouble so now is scheduled to leave today. They are working day and night to unload the Chicot and get it on its way. By the way the Errol leaves Guam today and is scheduled to leave Ponape on the 31st of this month for the eastern field trip. That trip should take about a week and then one week here with Louise means I could possibly get away on the 8th of April if I go by way of Kwaj. I think if it is still possible to go that way that I will do that. The non-scheduled flights out of Guam by Trans-Ocean are only once a month and at the end of the month (around the 22nd) so that would mean a couple of more weeks of lay over here. However, I have not heard anything from Ebeye as yet in reply to my letter asking for more information on the flights, etc.

There were packages for us on the ships. Christmas gifts!!! From the Murasimiges there were shoes and a scarf for you; shoes for me; clay sets and books for the boys. You thank them and explain that we just got the package although they mailed it in Dec. The same goes for the Kawanos. They sent a big tin box of cookies. Your Aunt Eileen sent an apron and stockings for you; handkerchief and socks for me; and books and socks for the boys. From P.E. Pearson, 303 Terrace, Aberdeen, Wash. there was gum, candy, fruit cake, marshmallows and nuts. You answer the above will you. There was a box from a church in Boston filled with soap. I will take care of it and the others.

I am sending the stockings on to you. Perhaps on some occasions you may need them in Honolulu, if not then America. There was a letter and check from Christian life. I am sending that to you along with a note from the Palmers.

I got a note from Ches and Florence mailed from Vancouver. They ask for the \$100 which they invested in plumbing etc in the Colonia house. I shall reply to them. I still await the \$300 which I have invested.

Your two letters of last week mainly delved with finances so I shall try to give you an account of how we stand. With the checks you mentioned in your last letter deducted we have a balance of \$1283.27 in the Honolulu bank. I have written to Carl mentioning the \$686.10 we have coming from your travelling. This has not been deposited as yet; i.e. the bank has not notified me that it has been deposited although very likely it has, and I will hear about it with my next statements. Your salary for February and Marge; the boy's allowance and the house rent for these two months has not yet been credited to the account. Carl was awaiting word as to when you arrived in Honolulu. That word was sent sometime back, so now it should be deposited anyday. If they send you notice of this, please forward it to me so that I can keep up on the account. I have received your travel account, but have not yet received your tuition, books, fees, etc. expenditures. As soon as I do I will forward this amount to Harold Matthews and Carl will have this deposited. All of these things together run to about \$1100, so you see that is quite a sizeable amount. The reason why the account was overdrawn I think I explained in a former letter. Alice had not left word about the CWVR funds, and I had assumed that they had been deposited and drew against our account for some goods from ITC when every thing was going half-price. These were not foodstuffs, but roofing and building materials handled by CWVR funds or the churches. The churches are paying their balances due me, so I think most everything will be balanced by the time I leave. How did you know that the bank account was overdrawn? To my knowledge no checks "bounced"; the bank took care of that, a fact for which I am grateful. They paid for the check which came in while our account was overdrawn, and charged our acc't \$1 for overdrawn services. If your mother should come when would she come? It is now the end of March; that means there is April and May left. It would amount to about three hundred and some dollars wouldn't it? For that short length of time could your mother rent her house? Could she afford to be away from her work seeing she is financially pressed? After June 7, graduation, are you going to Portland to be with your mother while I am in school? How much time during the furlough will you be with your mother? If buying films to take pictures is a luxury and we are not in the luxury class, is a 4 to 8 weeks stay in Honolulu also in the luxury category? These are some questions I would ask in regard to your mother's coming to Honolulu.

I was amused to hear of the boy's reaction to school. Michael's attitude sounds as if he was a candidate for the doctorate degree and felt there was too much noise in the library where he was trying to write his dissertation. Merrill's attitude was mine I guess. My parents mentioned that until the 8th grade I missed school as often as I possibly could. Do you think their illness is due to the fact that Honolulu is a bit cooler than Ponape? Or do you think they are run down? Or is it that types of illnesses like that just go through the schools often?

I received a nice letter from your grandpa Rae. I shall try to answer later to you. I plan to go to Ronkiti sometime today if I possibly can. I am selling our Crafts machine, and all of our gasoline; so as not to have that source of "pilikia" for the women.

Iemima stayed with Lela this past week-end and seemed to be quite normal again. I do not think her difficulty is from overwork. The times it has come upon her has been when she has had the least to do.

Would you mention to the Crossets that I received their letter and think I will in Honolulu from the 12th to the 19th. They asked about speaking at a missionary conference being held at their church. I would not want to make any cut-and-dried promise for you know how things can be changed out here.

John and Maria were married at Oa this past Sunday. They delayed it until the people of Palikir were somewhere near the U area. I performed the ceremony and enjoyed it. The fathers of the bride and groom gave us about 150# of kep and a pretty good sized pig. I imagine you will want me to leave that gift here on Ponape. What about the sandal type of shoes and the apron? Do you want me to bring them or leave them here on Ponape?

I visited in the hospital last night. Siter is now out of the TB ward. I hear Alonzo may be released soon. Isinimary is still in. They have grafted some skin on to his heel. The Kapinga boy was at Sarawi. Alonzo has Sarawi every night around his bed, and I arrived last night as the service was in progress.

Dr. Hanlin will come down on the Errol. I sort of expected him on yesterday's plane, but he sent a note saying he thought we might have a few days here to go over finances of this station and building plans while the ship was getting ready for the trip. There was no letter from you this week. Cres' letter asking for \$100; the Liebenzeller mission asking for \$1500 for the books they sent; a card from Harold; and a note from Harvey Meekan.

The kittens were not fed by the mother while the boys were in at the Feb. Pokon. You will remember that they were born at the time of the Pokon. Wilson's dog has pups. Our two dogs were the father... it is quite evident. They are cute little brown images of their papas. The chickens are all laying eggs. While I was in Oa we found 9 nests so I had eggs to eat while I stayed there. The flower bush outside the desk side door are all in bloom. The birds are mating; the fish are running in schools; the mai trees are coming out with small fruit and the Ponapeans say "spring is here."

One thing I would appreciate knowing is-when is the Aha for all of the islands; and when are the small island conferences? I do not want to make plans with outside churches while these Hawaiian board churches are meeting. Could you ask either of the Bobs to find this out and let me know.

I will send you a check which I received from Harold for the "boat maintenance" account. That means two checks: 1) \$25 2) \$125. I am trying not to spend any money here, and what money I do get I will send on to the bank or you in the form of checks or P.O. money orders.

I am sorry you had the extra worry about finances. You have enough on your hands with 6 courses and the boys and the responsibility for the household. I hope you didn't have to go hungry, or be embarrassed because of this overdrawn business. If anything should go wrong you can always call the bank and find out what the score is. The Hawaiian Board is there, if there should be any emergency which should be handled.

Word from Michigan tells of Donny and Kent being big shots in the basketball world. Dad moved a house on to a lot; and then traded the house and lot for another house and lot. Hilda is still handling special sick cases; Gerald and Max are trying to get into the Real Estate game. \$10 was sent to the ABCFM for our account by Aunt Agnes. I guess that is about all.

I love you honey and pray that God will give you strength to carry this terrific load you have a bit longer. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Tell the boys that Daddy says to study hard. Cornelius and Thomas mentioned to send greetings to you all.

Much Love,

Chet