REMEMBERING CLEM

By Walter McClennen

OR1	CINAL	LETTERS	COMPOSED	RV CLE	MENT	SCOT
					, I W I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	. 71

Clem Letters from Mission Training & Early Tehran Years

Credits:

All letters are from the Scott, Doty, Mueller Collection.

August 13, 1946

Dear Mother,

How are things going at the ranch. Probably you have been good and busy out there. Things have been busy here too. This morning Carol walked almost all the way across the kitchen. I wish you could see us all, M, Leete, Mary, and I, standing there encouraging here. Sometimes the cheering section is too much for her and she buries her head in her dressand then peeks shyly at us.

Sunday I took Russell to church again and at Huntington Street we picked up Miss Merriam who was going to the South Church since her church was closed. She is still using a cane after twisting her ankle on her trip to Gloucester over a month ago. We heard an excellent sermon from Dr. Clinchy and Dr. McKeith was among the congregation. I think Dr. Clinchy was writing some good sermons on his vacation in Maine. While I was at church the Dotys were on their way to East River where they had a fine day with the Howes. I guess Terry made a real hit with the children of the neighborhood.

Cousin Russell as usual plied me with questions about the ranch and about your plans most of which I was unable to answer. When are you and Lizzie planning to leave for the east? Is David coming all the way? I imagine that you are not planning to go to visit the Williamses. Are you going to visit Cousin Ethel on the way home? When do you plan to arrive in Hartford?

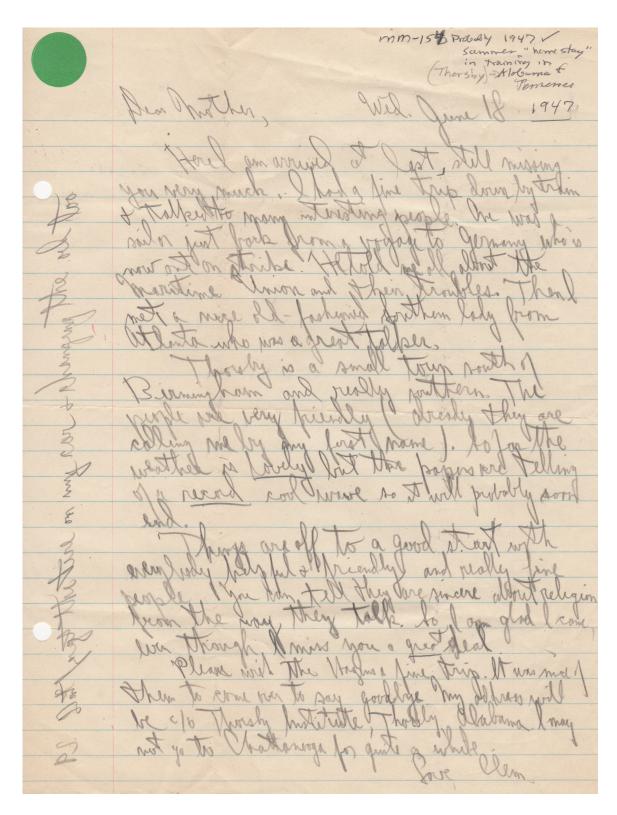
Although my application for admission to the Hartford Theological Seminary has not been officially approved Deen Wells said that there is little chance of my being turned down. Their shortage is of living quarters rather than of class-rooms and professors. So I will be starting in the relate in September taking courses in education.

Tomorrow night the Scrantons are coming to dinner with Mrs. Eastman. I hope that the weather will be good; right now it is rainy and chilly. M is still surprised at the lack of Kansas City weather here. Jane is coming home from the hospital on Friday I believe with a nurse whowill stay only a week. Let's hope she gets a good steady nurse to help with her four.

Lots of love to everybody in Colorado. We hope that you and Willi and Retty and taking plenty of pictures, especially of the little girls.

Sincerely ,

clem.



June 1947 – From Thornsby, Alabama – training for missionary service.



AMERICAN MISSION
MAGRIPHA OF .W.J.X YE OD THOM KHIABAN STALIN
TEHERAN, IRAN

SUNDAY NOV. 21, 1948

DEAR R & W .

BY NOW I GUESS THE TWO GIRLS WILL HAVE HAD THEIR TONSILS OUT. I DO HOPE THEY ARE DOING WELL. I KEEP THINKING OF MY LAST VIEW OF THEM AS YOU DROVE AWAY FROM THE TABERNASH STATION LAST MAY. I WILL HAVE TO REMEMBER THEM THAT WAT FOR THREE LONG YEARS AND WHEN I GET BACK THEY WILL LOOK VERY DIFFERENTLY. SOMETIMES I THINK THAT IT IS FOOLISH TO BE SO FAR AAWAY BUT AT OTHER TIMES I THINK OF ALL THAT CAN BE DONE IN THIS COUNTRY EVEN BY SOMEBODY WITH NO SPECIAL ABILITIES.

MOTHER WRITES THAT YOU WILL BE MOVING TO WINTER PARK SOON, ARE YOU GOING TO HAVE A NICE PLACE THERE? IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT WINTER IS BEGINNING THERE SO SOON. THIS IS A LOVELY DAY, JUST LIKE EARLY OCTOBER IN NEW ENGLAND. I AM SITTING ON THE BALCONY OF THE SCHOOL WHERE I CAN LOOK OUT OVER THE COMPOUND WALLS TO THE NORTH ARE THE BARE BONES OF THE MOUNTAINS WITHOUT A BLADE OF GRASS UPON THEM. JUST NOW THERE IS A LITTLE BIT OF SNOW NEAR THE TOPS. FROM A LITTLE HIHHER UP I WOUND BE ABLE TO SEE DEMAVEDD, THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN IN IRAN, OVER 18000 FEET WHICH HAS SOME SNOW EVEN IN MIDSUMMER. TO THE SOUTH ARE ALL THE GOVERNMENT OFFICES I CAN HEAR TAXI HORNS ALL AROUND FOR SUNDAY IS A BUSINESS DAY HERE. THE LEAVES OF THE TREES ARE SLOWLY TURNING BROWN AND FALLING BUT MANY TREES ARE STILL AS GREEN AS SUMMER. QVERHEAD IS A PERFECT CLEAR BLUE SKY WHICH YOU GET TOX TAKE FOR GRANTED HERE.

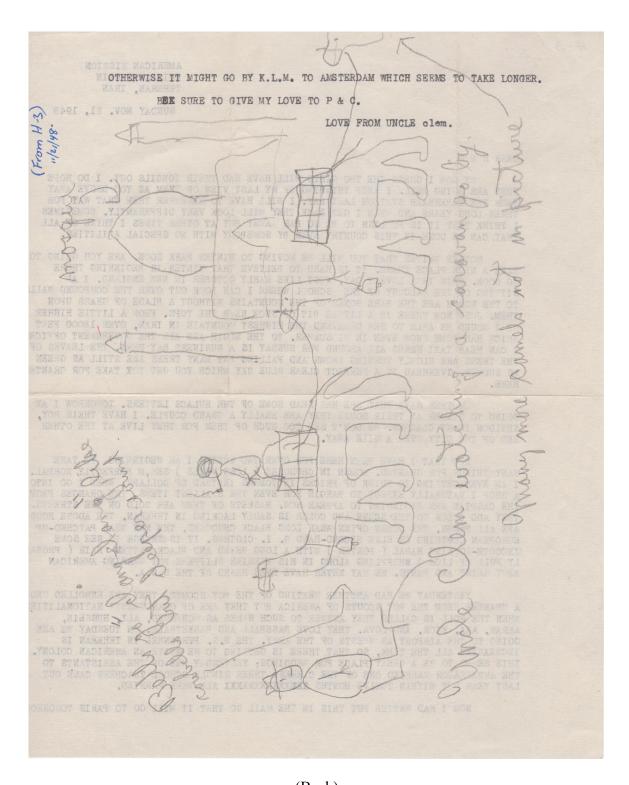
MOTHER SAYS THAT SHE HAS READ SOME OF THE HULACS LETTERS. TOMORROW I AM GOING TO DINNER AT THEIR HOUSE, THEY ARE REALLY A GRAND COUPLE. I HAVE THEIR BOY, SHELDON IN MY CLASSES. WE DON'T SEE TOO MUCH OF THEM FOR THEY LIVE AT THE OTHER END OF THE CITY, OVER A MILE AWAY.

NOW THAT I HAVE BEEN HERE FOR OVER TWO MONTHS I AM BEGINNING TO TAKE MANY THINGS FOR GRANTED. WOMEN IN CHUDDARS (LONG VEELS) SEE, M PERFECTLY NORMAL. I AM EVEN GETTING TO THINK OF PRICES IN TOMANS INSTEAD OF DOLLARS. WHEN I GO INTO A SHOP I NATURALLY EXPECT TO BARGIN FOR EVEN THE SMALLEST ITEMS. THE ORANGES FROM THE CASPIAN ARE BEGINNING TO APPEAR NOW. BASKETS OF THEM ARE SOLD ON THE STREETS. THEY ADD COLOR TO THE SEENE AND COLOR IS SADLY LACKING IN TEHERAN. THE ADOBE HOUSE ARE ALL BROWN, THE WOMEN OFTEN WEAR LONG BLACK CHUDDARS, THE MEN WEAR PATCHED-UP EUROPEAN CLUTHING OR ELSE SECOND-HAND G. I. CLOTHES. IT IS TRANGE TO SEE SOME UNCOOTH-LOCKING HAMAL (PORTER) WITH A LONG BEARD AND BLACK MATTED HAIR (PROBAB LY FULL OF LICE) SHUFFLING ALONG IN HIS PERSIAN SLIPPERS, BUT WERRING AMERICAN ARMY SHIRT AND PANTS. HE MAY NEVER HAVE EVEN HEARD OF THE U.S.A.

YESTERDAY WE HAD ANOTHER MEETING OF THE BOY SCOUTS. THEY ARE ENROLLED UNDER A CHARTER FROM THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA BUT THEY ARE OF OVER TWENTY NATIONALITIES WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED THEY ANSWER TO SUCH NAMES AS MOHAMMED, ALI, HUBSEIN, AKRAM, ARA, EGOR, AND LOVA. THEY LOVE BASEBALL AND BASKETBALL. ON TUESDAY WE ARE GOING TO THE AIRPORT AS GUESTS OF THE ARMY. THE U.S. PERSONNEL IN TEHERAN IS INCREASING ALL THE TIME, SO THAT THERE IS GETTING TO BE QUITE AN AMERICAN COLONY. THIS SEEMS TO BE A GREAT PLACE FOR WEDDINGS; YESTERDAY ONE OF THE ASSISTANTS TO THE AMBASSADOR MARRIED ONE OF THE CLERKS. THREE SINGLE SCHOOL TEACHERS CAME OUT LAST YEAR BUT WITHIN TWELVE MONTHS KNEXNEREXMARKE ALL WERE MARRIED.

NOW I HAD BETTER PUT THIS IN THE MAIL SO THAT IT WILL GO TO PARIS TOMORROW

(Front)



(Back)
November 1948 – To Retty and Willi in Colorado – Settling in to teaching in Tehran.

AMERICAN MISSION TEHERAN, IRAN AUGUST 21, 1949

BEAR MOTHER,

IT WAS JUST A YEAR AGO TODAY THAT I LEFT FOR IRAN. IT HAS SEEMED A LONG YEAR AWAY FROM YOU AND ALL THE FAMILY. I'VE OFFEN THOUGHT HOW NICE IT WOULD BE TO WAKE UP IN THE MORNING TO FIND THAT DURING THE NIGHT I HAD MIRACULOUSLY RETURNED TO HARTFORD AND THAT I COULD HEAR YOUR RADIO PLAYING LISTENING TO BEN HAWTHORNE. THEN AFTER BREAKFAST I WOULD GO OUT TO VISIT THE DOTYS ON MIDDLEFIELD DRIVE. IT IS SO HARD TO REALIZE THAT THEY ARE NOT IN HARTFORD THIS YEAR. A YEAR AGO AS THE SHIP SLID THROUGH THE NARROWS AND THEN WE BEGAN TO FEEL THE OCEAN SWELLS AND THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OF CONEY ISLAND SLOWLY GREW DIMMER AND MORE DISTANT I STOOD AT THE RAIL WONDERING WHETHER I WAS NOT MAKING A TERRIBLE MISTAKE TO GOME SO FAR AWAY. NOW THAT THE YEAR HAS PAST I AM SURE THAT I DIDN'T MAKE A MISTAKE. I STILL MISS YOU AND THE FAMILY VERY MUCH BUT I NO LONGER FEEL AS I DID AT HOME THAT I AM SITTING AROUND CONTRIBUTING SO LITTLE. I TOLD YOU OFTEN HOW BADLY I FELT DURING THE WAR THAT I HAD BEEN SUCH A FAILURE HUT NOW I FEEL THAT IN SOME SMALL WAY I AM MAKING UP FOR THAT. THERE ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT BATTLES TO BE WON DURING PEACE AS DURING WAR. IN FACT, IF WE DON'T WIN THE PEACE, WINNING ONE WAR AFTER ANOTHER WON'T HELP US MUCH. * * * I HAVE BEEN READING THE LITTLE BOOK YOU SENT ME EVERY MORNING, USUALLY BEFORE BREAKFAST, AND I FIND IT WONDERFULLY WAR AFTER ANOTHER WON'T HELP US MUCH. * * * I HAVE BEEN READING THE LITTLE BOOK YOU SENT ME EVERY MORNING, USUALLY BEFORE BREAKFAST, AND I FIND IT WONDERFULLY HELPFUL. THE PASSAGE FOR AUGUST 20, YESTERDAY, WAS AIMED RIGHT AT ME, BEING ABOUT LOCKING AHEAD, NOT BACKWARDS. THERE ARE MANY WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITIES HERE FOR SERVICE, AND I HOPE I OAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM. I HAVE JUST COME BACK FROM THE SLIMS OF SOUTH TEHERAN. PROBABLY HALF A MILLION PEOPLE LIVE THERE IN POVERTY AND DIRT. IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL IF SOMETHING LIKE MITCHELL HOUSE COULD BE STARTED THERE, MR BUHER HAS JUST RENTED A HOUSE TO USE THIS WINTER FOR A CLINIC AND SOME SEWING CLASSES FOR GIRLS WHICH MISS CHASE WILL RUN. YESTERDAY I HELPED HIM MOVE SOME FURNITURE IN THERE. CABINETS FOR MEDECINE TABLES AND CHAIRS. AS SOON AS THE CLINIC OPENS THEY WILL BE OVERWHELMED WITH SICK PEOPLE, AS PRATICALLY NOTHING IS AVAILABLE FOR THEM, DURING THE WINTER I HOPE THAT I MAY BE ABLE TO DO ODD JOBS THERE, PERHAPS WE WILL HAVE READING CLASSES FOR ILLITERATES, I HAVE BEEN WORKING STEADILS AND NOW I HAVE ALMOST FINISHED DR. LAUBACH'S SECOND BOOK. IT IS EXASPERATINGLY SLOW MOST OF THE TIME. AHMAD, WHO OFTEN WATCHES THE GATE, IS USING THE SAME BOOK AND WE OFTEN HELP ONE ANOTHER. I AM A LITTLE BETTER AT READING BUT ID DON'T KNOW THE MEANING. IT IS REALLY FUNNY TO LISTEN TO US AS WE SIT THERE AT THE GATE. AS ONE PASSERBY REMARKED IT IS REALLY A CASE OF THE BLIND LEADING THE BEIND. SO I FEEL THAT MY FIRST YEAR HERE HAS BEEN A SUCCESS AND I LOOK FORWARD TO ACCOMPLISHING A LOT MORE IN THE SECOND YEAR, HELPING MR. BUCHER AND

LEARNING A LOT OF PERSIAN.

I'N VERY SORRY TO HEAR THAT YOUR EAR AND BACK ARE STILL TROUBLING YOU.

THEY DO SEEM TO BE PERSISTENT. PROBABLY YOU ARE NOW IN COLORADO BUT IN CASE
YOU DIDN'T GO I'LL SEND THIS TO WALTHAM, I H AD A NICE LETTER FROM MRS.

BEARDSLEY AND I DO HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO COME TO IRAN IN MAY. I SPOKE ABOUT IT TO MRS. ELDER AND SHE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU STAY HERE.

DEAR M AND LEETE.

YOU MUST BE REALLY BOILING IN WALTHAM ACCORDING TO ALL THE REPORT I GUESS I WAS REALLY LUCKY LAST SUMMER, I CAN REMEMBER THE COOL EVENINGS WHEN WE SAT ON THE GRASS BESIDE BACK BAY AND LISTENED TO THE ESPLANADE CONCERTS! IT'S TOO BAD THAT MOTHER HASN'T GOT A NICE COOL COTTAGE AT THE TO ALL THE REPORTS. SHORE THIS YEAR. LOTS OF LOVE TO THE THREE GIRLS FROM THEIR

P.S. WOULD YOU LET ME KNOW MY BANK MALANCE? I WROTE YOU I MADE OUT ONE CHECK FOR TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS. IF I KAN HAVE ENOUGH I'D LIKE TO WRITE ANOTHER CHECK FOR FIVE HUNDRED. ALSO WOULD YOU PLEASE SEND ME FOUR OR FIVE MORE CHECKS.

AMERICAN MISSION TEHERAN, IRAN APRIL 23, 1950

DEAR MOTHER.

HERE IT IS A LOVELY SPRING DAY IN TEHERAN. ALL THE LEAVES ARE FULLY OUT NOW AND MOST OF THE BLOSSOMS ARE FALLING FAST IN THE SPRING BREEZES. THE LILACS ARE LOVELY. IT IS JUST LIKE THE END OF MAY IN CONNECTICUT. EVERYBODY IS SITTING OUTDOORS ENJOYING THE SUN. THE ICE-CREAM SELLERS ARE OUT IN FULL FORCE. THERE ARE SOME BIG DARK CLOUDS HANGING OVER THE MOUNTAINS BUT THE SKY OVERHEAD IS A LOVELY BLUE. THE LITTLE MEN SELLING ODDS AND ENDS SEEM TO BE MORE NUMEROUS THAN EVER BUT EVEN THEY LOOK HAPPY NOW THAT THE CHILL WINDS ARE NO LONGER CUTTING THROUGH THEIR THIN CLPTHING.

A FEW DAYS AGO WE HAD A NICE PICNIC OF THE TEACHERS.
MISS DULANEY, THE TEACHER FROM MOBILE, ALABAMA, WHO IS MY AGE
WAS THERE, AS WELL AS THE YOUNGER TEACHERS. IT MAKES ME FEEL
VERY OLD WHEN SOME OF THE TEACHERS MENTION THAT THEY WERE
STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL WHEN AMERICA ENTERED THE WAR, WHEREAS
MISS DULANEY AND I WERE ALREADAY TEACHING AT THAT TIME.

I RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF APRIL 11 YESTERDAY. I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT YOU ARE GETTING YOURX ARRANGEMENTS MADE. IT LOOKS AS IF I WILL BE LEAVING FOR ROME ON JUNE 20, BUT THE DATE IS NOT YET DEFINITE. I'M HAVING TROUBLE GETTING A VISA FOR AUSTRIA. THE AMERICAN EMBASSY SAY THEY HAVEN'T ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT AND SEND US TO THE FRENCH EMBASSY WHO SEEM TO KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT IT. I'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO STOP IN ROME A DAY TO GET AN AUSTRIAN VISA. HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO GET AN AUSTRIAN VISA OR WILL YOU GET IT IN EUROPE?

I'M RETURNING YOUR CHECK FOR FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS AS I DON'T WANT TO CASH IT AT THE OFFICIAL RATE. COULD YOU GET THE BANK TO GIVE YOU INSTEAD FIVE HUNDRED-DOLLAR TRXXX AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVELERS CHECKS? THEN IF YOU COULD AIRMAIL THEM TO ME I COULD GET THE FULL VALUE HERE FOR WHAT I NEED AND BRING THE REST TO EUROPE. I HATE TO GIVE YOU THIS ADDED JOB BUT IT WILL SAVE OVER TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS IN EXCHANGE.

THIS , MORNING I ATTENDED PERSIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL AND HEARD THE STUDENTS REPEAT THE PSALMS THEY HAVE LEARNED BY HEART. ONE OF THE BEST WAS ONE OF THE LITTLE GIRLS FOR WHOM YOU SENT A CHECK. THEY ARE BOTH MAKING FINE PROGRESS. IT'S HARD TO REALIZE THAT LITTLE MORE THAN A YEAR AGO THEY COULDN'T READ OR WRITE OR EVEN KEEP THEMSELVES CLEAN.

LOTS OF LOVE

CLEM

(imad this

April 1950 – To mother from Tehran – Planning to meet her in Rome for travel.

MAY 5, 1951



DEAR MOTHER,

ANOTHER W EEK HAS RUSHED BY AND WE ARE GETTING EVER CLOSENTO THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. I SUPPOSE THAT SOON YOU WILL BE ATTEDDING THE GRADUATION EXERCISES AT THE SEMINARY. IT SEEMS VERY HARD TO BELIEVE THAT IT WAS THREE YEARS AGO IN MAY WHEN LITTLE MARJORIE YOU AND I ALL FLEW OUT TO THE RANCH. I'M SO GLAD TO HEAR THAT RETTY HAS AN APARTMENT IN DENVERBUT I SUPPOSE THAT WILL BE GOING OUT TO THE RANCH AS SOON AS WILL I GETS BACK FROM EUROPE. I'M STILL NOT STRAIGHT ON WHO IS PAYING FOR THE TRIP. IS IT A SKI CLUB OR SOME SCOUTING ORGANIZATION? WE ARE CONTINUALLY GETTING LETTERS URGING ALL BOY SCOUTS TO ATTEND THE MARMOTH MEETING AT BAD ISCHL IN AUSTRIA. THEY WILL COME FROMJUST ABOUT EVERY NATION IN THE WORLD. I GUESS THE TOWN WILL BE A LOT NOISIER THAN WE SAW IT.

I HOPE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT YOUR SUMMER TRIP. WHAT PORTS DO YOU STOP AT ? DO YOU GO ALONG THE COAST OF NORW AY ABD SEE THE FAMOUS FIORDS ? I SUPPOSE THAT YOU GO NORTH OF THE ARTIC CIRCLE. IT DOES SOUND VERY NICE AND LOTS OF FUN.

THIS MORNING WE HEARD THE KING OF IRAN HAS SIGNED THE LAW
TAKING THE OIL AWAY FROM THE ANGLO-IRANIAN OIL COMPANY WHICH WILL BE
RATHER UPSETTING TO THE BRITISH. OF COURSE THE PROPERTY IS STILL
ACTUALLY IN THE HANDS OF THE BRITISH BUT THERE SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT NOW
THAT THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT WILL SOON BE IN CONTROL. TUESDAY THERE
WERE BIG DEMONSTRATIONS HERE IN FAVOR OF PEACE AND IN OPPOSITION TO THE
WAR MONGERS SUCH AS ATLEE AND TRUMAN. I DOUBT IF ONE PERSON IN A
HUNDRED KNEW WHAT THEY WERE MARCHING FOR BUT THEY HAD A GOT TIME
MARCHING UP AND DOWN THE STREETS WITH BIG BANNERS SAYING,
"HURRAH FOR PEACE: DEATH TO THE WARMONGERS."

I HOPE YOU ARE GETTING SOME OF THE WONDERFUL SPRING WEATHER THAT WE ARE ENJOYING. THERE WILL BE A BIG GARDEN PARTY AT THE AMERICAN EMBALY FARTY ON THURSDAY FOR THE BENEFIT OF AN ORPHANAGE. UNLESS ONE OF THE LAST FEW RAINS OF THE YEAR ARRIVES IT WILL BE A BIG SUCCESS.

I THINK I WROTE THAT IN OUR COMPOUND WE ARE NOW USING WATER FROM OUR OWN WELL, WHICH IS A BIG STEP FORWARD. BIT BY BIT LIFE IN TEHERAN, IS GETTING MORE WESTERNIZED. THE NEXT STEP, I SUPPOSE WILL BE REAL BULLTIN BATHTUBS INSTEAD OF THE PRESENT TIN AFFAIRS. I SUPPOSE THAT YOU ARE TOO YOUNG TO REMEMBER THE DAYS WHEN PEOPLE USED PORTABLE TIN TUBS IN AMERICA, BUT YOU PROBABLY USED THEM IN EUROPE.

Poton have from Dam.

May 1951 – Of Iranian/British oil ownership conflicts and life in Tehran.



April 13, 1952 Easter Sunday

Dear Mother,

Here it is seven of clock on the morning here, and prohably you have not yet gone to bed. It is cool with showers, quite unlike the warm summer weather we have had during the past week. If we just been to the Easter sunrise service in the church. Limagine that later on today you will be going to Center Church, which will be filled. I wonder if Mr. N ewsham is still there.

Even though this letter will be several days on the way, I want to wish you a very happy Easter. It seems strange that some of the men who came to the Easter service this morning brought briefcases, for this is a working day and no holiday. Now I can hear some children on the way to school.

When I was sitting in church this morning I happened to think that it was just ten years ago that you received a telegram saying that I was in the haspital at Camp Croft. And I couldn't help being filled with shame for all the trouble that I had caused you. I remember how worried you looked when you arrived at the hospital. I can never forgive my self for causing you all that worry, needlessly.

In the ten years since then I'vex tried to do a lattle better about being considerate of other people but I haven't always succeeded. I have been reading the little book waiting you gave me called "God Calling " every day. It says in one place that life is like a school, as we go on we learn. It's also true that some of the students in the school learn much faster than others. I've always been a very slow student. I'm still learning some of the first grade lessons.

The Elders are planning to come back to Iran early in May but they seem to be having some difficulty in getting permission to enter the country. Some people are saying that now is not a very good time for Americans to leave Iran who want to get back in. However nobody can tell what the attitude will be six or eight months from now. As I wrote before I plan to spend the summer in Kermanshah and come home for a visit int the fall, but that is still provisional.

I wish I could be back in Hartford today. I remember well one Easter Sunday years ago when there was not room for the whole family in a new downstairs and I sat up in the gallery. I remember watching you and Dad and Retty and M during the service and thinking what a nice family you were. I still feel that you are a fine family. I do miss you a lott abd I don't like being so far away.

Lots of love

from clem.

April 1952 – Easter reflections on church, family and his accident ten years earlier; homesick Clem.