

# **REMEMBERING CLEM**

By Walter McClennen

## **ORIGINAL LETTERS COMPOSED BY CLEMENT SCOTT**

### **Letters & Clips**

#### **Credits:**

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mm-244

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 CLOTHING.

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 ALREADY TEACHING AT THAT TIME.

I RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF APRIL 11 YESTERDAY. I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT YOU ARE GETTING YOUR 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 ~~TRAVELERS~~ 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

P.S. I'll probably leave Rome on August 15.  
(not definite yet.)



mm-323

April 13, 1952  
Easter Sunday

Dear Mother,

Here it is seven o'clock on the morning here, and probably 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. I've just been to the Easter sunrise service in the church. Imagine that later on today you will be going to Center Church, which will be filled. I wonder if Mr. Newsham 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 hospital 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 myself for causing you all that worry, needlessly.

In the ten years since then I've tried to do a little better about being considerate of other people but I haven't always succeeded. I have been reading the little book ~~which~~ 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 in 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 pew downstairs and I sat up in the gallery. I remember watching you and Dad and Betty 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 lot and I don't like being so far away.

Lots of love  
from Clem.





moment that they are Christians and the next moment that they are Moslems. What to do ?

I've finally decided to go to India at the end of June. I hope that there I can get a position teaching the people of the country. I like Americans but they already have so many advantages, it seems as if I could do more good teaching some of the people of Asia.

I've just been reading Justice Douglas's book about his travels in India and Pakistan. Very colorful and interesting.

Hope that the photography is going well. This is a rush season here as everybody has picture taken for the New Year. Perhaps in Denver Easter brings extra business.

Lots of love to all five Mullers.

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Clara

Tahmir Iran Co. Teheran



AMERICAN MISSION  
TEHERAN, IRAN  
OCTOBER 21, 1950

DEAR MOTHER,

YOU ARE CERTAINLY FINE TO WRITE ME SO REGULARLY. I FEAR THAT I HAVE NOT BEEN VERY GOOD AT WRITING LATELY. SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ARE REALLY GOING. ALSO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO HAVE PRIVATE LESSONS IN ENGLISH ARE COMING AROUND IN BIG NUMBERS. I WONDER WHEN THE RAGE FOR ENGLISH IS GOING TO SHOW SIGNS OF WEAKENING. IT WOULD BE SAD TO BE A FRENCH TEACHER HERE AND SEE ALL YOUR STUDENTS DESERTING YOU IN ORDER TO LEARN ENGLISH. EVEN MANY OF THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE NOW BEING WRITTEN IN PERSIAN AND ENGLISH INSTEAD OF ENGLISH AND FRENCH.

LIVING HERE IN THE MOSLEM WORLD YOU CANNOT FAIL TO NOTICE THE IMPORTANT OCCASIONS JUST AS A MOSLEM IN AMERICA WOULD NOTICE CHRISTMAS. THIS MOON ( IT IS STILL TRUE THAT THE MOSLEM MONTHS ARE TIED TO THE MOON ) MARKS THE MONTH OF MOHARRAM. FOR ALL THE SHIITE MOSLEMS IT IS A MONTH OF MOURNING FOR ON THE TENTH OF MOHARRAM HOSSEIN WAS KILLED. SO YOU CAN SEE BLACK FLAGS HUNG FROM ALL THE MOSQUES AND REVELRY IS FROWNED UPON. THERE IS NO MUSIC ON THE RADIO; ONLY ENDLESS READINGS FROM THE KORAN. LAST NIGHT JUST AS I WAS GETTING TO BED I COULD HEAR A LOUD REGULAR CHANTING OF MANY VOICES TOGETHER REPEATING OVER AND OVER SOME UNINTELLIGIBLE WORDS. IT WAS A GROUP OF MOURNERS MARCHING DOWN ONE OF THE STREETS. THESE GROUPS MARCH AROUND THE CITY ESPECIALLY ON THE TENTH. THEY USUALLY BEGIN MILDLY BUT GRADUALLY BECOME MORE VIOLENT IN THEIR EXPRESSION OF GRIEF. THEY BEAT THEMSELVES WITH CHAINS OR WITH WHIPS UNTIL THE BLOOD RUNS DOWN THEIR BACKS. A FEW CUT THEIR HEADS WITH SWORDS AND LET THE BLOOD STREAM DOWN THEIR FACES. THIS HAS BEEN FORBIDDEN BY THE GOVERNMENT BUT SEEMS TO BE CREEPING BACK. OF COURSE ANYBODY WHO TAKES PART IN THESE MOURNING PROCESSIONS IS LAYING UP SPECIAL CREDIT FOR HIMSELF IN HEAVEN. IF A MAN DIES FROM THE WOUNDS HE HAS INFLICTED UPON HIMSELF HE WILL BE CARRIED IMMEDIATELY TO PARADISE. IT IS STRANGE TO THINK OF THESE OLD BELIEFS STILL HAVING SUCH POWER IN A CITY OF OVER A MILLION PEOPLE, WHICH IN SOME PARTS LOOKS SO MODERN.

IN MANY WAYS IRAN SEEMS TO BE SLIPPING BACKWARDS. TREMENDOUS STRIDES WERE MADE DURING THE REIGN OF REZA SHAH BUT PERHAPS HE MOVED TOO FAST. HE BITTERLY OPPOSED THE MULLAS ( THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS ) BECAUSE THEY ARE SO CONSERVATIVE AND SO OPPOSED TO WESTERN IDEAS. NOW THAT HE IS GONE THE MULLAS

ARE REGAINING MANY OF THEIR LAST POWERS. MANY THOUGHT THAT THE FUNERAL OF REZA SHAH LAST SPRING WAS IRONICAL. ( HE DIED IN AFRICA AND HIS BODY WAS FINALLY BROUGHT BACK TO IRAN LAST SPRING. ) THE MULLAS TOOK A PROMINENT PART IN THE FUNERAL OF THE MAN WHO HAD SO BITTERLY OPPOSED THEM. HIS TOMB IS LOCATED NEAR ONE OF THE SHRINES OF THE SHIITES, THE TOMB OF AN IMAM ( SAINT ).

REZA SHAH'S SON, THE PRESENT KING, IS TRYING VERY HARD TO MODERNIZE THE COUNTRY. EVERYBODY AGREES THAT HE IS SINCERELY WORKING FOR THE COUNTRY RATHER THAN FOR ANY PERSONAL ADVANTAGES. BUT HE IS ALSO TRYING TO WORK THROUGH THE DEMOCRATIC MACHINERY THAT HAS BEEN SET UP BY THE CONSTITUTION AND MANY PEOPLE THINK IRAN IS NOT READY FOR ITS CONSTITUTION.

ON THURSDAY I RECEIVED A NICE LETTER FROM RETTY. IT'S HARD TO REALIZE THAT THERE THE LEAVES ARE OFF THE TREES AND IT IS GETTING COLD. THIS WAS A BEAUTIFUL CLEAR SUMMER DAY HERE, QUITE HOT IN THE AFTERNOON BUT NOW IN THE EVENING I CAN FEEL THE COOL BREEZES SLIPPING DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAINS AND I'LL BE SLEEPING UNDER A BLANKET TONIGHT. AT THIS SEASON I THINK MOTHER WOULD BE CONTINUALLY PUTTING ON OR TAKING OFF LAYERS AS EVERY HOUR THERE IS QUITE A CHANGE IN TEMPERATURE AND ALSO THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SUN AND SHAD

I'VE JUST BEEN TO THE EVENING CHURCH SERVICE IN PERSIAN. THERE WAS A BIGGER CROWD THAN USUAL BECAUSE ALL SHOPS ARE CLOSED TODAY IN MOURNING FOR HOSSEIN. A GOOD MANY OF THE PEOPLE WHO COME TO CHURCH, ESPECIALLY TO THE EVENING SERVICE, ARE NOT CHRISTIANS. SO IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT SOME OF THE MEN WHO AN HOUR AGO WERE SITTING NEXT TO ME IN CHURCH LISTENING QUIETLY TO THE SERMON ARE NOW OUT IN THE STREET BEATING THEMSELVES AND CHANTING THEIR LAMENT OVER HOSSEIN.

AGAIN MANY THANKS FOR ALL THE LETTERS. I'LL TRY TO BE MORE REGULAR IN WRITING FROM NOW ON.

LOTS OF LOVE FROM clem



mm - 257  
AMERICAN MISSION  
OCTOBER 15, 1950

DEAR MOTHER,

YESTERDAY I RECEIVED YOUR LETTER TELLING ABOUT YOUR TRIP TO WILTON AND VERMONT. IS COUSIN MARJORY AS ENERGETIC AS EVER? I REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I WAS IN WILTON JUST BEFORE I LEFT FOR IRAN. COUSIN M. HUSTLED US UP AND DOWN A GOOD MANY HILLS AT A REMARKABLE SPEED FOR ANYONE HER AGE. IT MUST HAVE BEEN NICE SEEING BEARDSLEYS AGAIN. THERE IS A VERY NICE LADY FROM VERMONT STAYING WITH THE ELDERS HERE NOW, MRS. CONGER, WIFE OF A PROFESSOR AT MINNESOTA. SHE WAS SAYING THIS MORNING THAT THE AUTUMN COLORS MUST BE LOVELY IN VERMONT JUST NOW. DO YOU KNOW WHERE IN TURKEY GEORGE IS GOING? THE SON OF ONE THE MISSIONARIES HERE, ROBERT ALLEN, IS A TEACHER AT ROBERTS COLLEGE AND SAYS HE LIKES IT THERE VERY MUCH. I'M TERRIBLY SORRY THAT MR. FOWLE NEVER RECEIVED MY LETTER. I AM WRITING HIM AGAIN TODAY. HE WAS SO FRIENDLY IN HIS LETTERS THAT I WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO MEET HIM. I WISH I COULD HEAR YOUR PAPER ABOUT YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF EUROPE. PERHAPS YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO SEND ME A COPY ( BY REGULAR MAIL, NOT AIR MAIL ) AFTER YOU HAVE READ IT. IT'S NICE THAT COUSIN ETHEL WANTS SO MUCH TO HEAR IT. I SUPPOSE ~~HER~~ RELATIVES ARE NOW SAFELY BACK IN ENGLAND ~~(XXXXXX)~~ ( PROBABLY RESTING UP ). YOUR ART LESSONS WITH MRS. CONIFF SOUND VERY GOOD. SHE MUST BE VERY GOOD AT EXPLAINING HOW TO GET EFFECTS IN PORTRAITS. I REMEMBER MR. HEWITT WELL FROM MY DAYS AT MILTON. WHEN I WAS FIRST THERE HE HAD CHARGE OF THE PART OF THE DORMITORY WHERE I SLEPT AND PART OF HIS JOB WAS GETTING THE BOYS QUIET AT NIGHT. HOWEVER I REALLY THINK THAT IF WORLD CONDITIONS PERMIT I WOULD LIKE TO STAY IN IRAN LONGER. AFTER LONG HOURS OF EFFORT I CAN BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND A LITTLE PERSIAN BUT THAT WOULD NOT BE MUCH USE OUTSIDE OF IRAN. HOWEVER AS I SAID MANY TIMES THIS SUMMER NOBODY CAN REALLY SEE A YEAR AHEAD THESE DAYS. WHO WOULD HAVE PREDICTED A YEAR AGO THAT OUR SOLDIERS WOULD BE FIGHTING IN KOREA? YESTERDAY I WAS READING ABOUT THE NEW ORGANIZATION FOR DEALING WITH ATOM BOMB ATTACKS ON NEW YORK AND IT SUDDENLY MADE ME REALIZE THAT AMERICA ISN'T A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE ANY MORE. A YEAR FROM NOW WHO KNOWS WHAT MAY BE HAPPENING? THE RED CROSS ON TEHRAN MIGHT BE COLLECTING MONEY FOR THE BOMB VICTIMS IN NEW YORK.

BUT TO TURN TO MORE PLEASANT SUBJECTS I WENT ON A FINE HIKE WITH THE SCOUTS AGAIN ON FRIDAY. WE WENT UP A NARROW VALLEY IN THE MOUNTAINS WITH A WILD RIVER RUSHING ALONG THE BOTTOM. HOW DIFFERENT IT LOOKED FROM THE VALLEYS IN SWITZERLAND WITH THE PEACEFUL GREEN ALPS AND ALL THE LITTLE CHALETTS. IT'S HARD TO REALIZE THAT PEASANTS WERE LIVING IN THESE VALLEYS IN LITTLE VILLAGES VERY MUCH LIKE THE PRESENT ONES AT A TIME WHEN THE SWISS WERE ALL BARRARIANS. WE CAME TO A CRUDE BRIDGE ACROSS THE STREAM, MERELY TWO BIG LOGS WITH SMALLER LOGS LAID CROSSWISE. IT'S A SAFE BET THAT IN FOUR THOUSAND YEARS NO WHEELED VEHICLE HAD EVER BEEN UP THAT VALLEY. FURTHER ALONG WE CAME UPON A TINY SHOP WITH SOME LOVELY PURPLE GRAPES LYING ON BIG ROUND COPPER TRAYS. GRAPES AND MELONS ARE FAVORITE FRUITS HERE IN IRAN, PARTLY BECAUSE THEY ARE SO REFRESHING WHEN YOUR THROAT IS DRY ~~XXXXX~~ AFTER A WHILE THE PATH BEGAN TO ZIGZAG UP A STEEP SLOPE AND THE BOYS WHO WERE RUNNING AHEAD BEGAN TO GO MORE SLOWLY. WE ENTERED ANOTHER HIGHER VALLEY WITH BEAUTIFUL TREES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE STREAM. FINALLY WE FOUND A SHADY SPOT TO EAT LUNCH WITH THE PLEASANT SOUND OF RUNNING WATER LULLING US TO SLEEP AFTERWARD. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ BY THE TIME WE STARTED DOWN AGAIN THE SUN WAS GETTING LOW AND THE BLAST OF HOT AIR WHICH COMES UP THE MOUNTAIN VALLEYS IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON WAS SLACKENING. A BIT AFTER SUNSET THE COLD AIR BEGAN TO BLOW DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAINS AND WE WERE GLAD OF SWEATERS.

I'VE JUST BEEN TO CHURCH, HEARING MR. KLERKOPER PREACH A VERY GOOD SERMON IN ENGLISH. TONIGHT I'LL TRY UNDERSTANDING A SERVICE IN PERSIAN. A NUMBER OF PEOPLE USUALLY GET THEIR HOURS CONFUSED. DURING THE ENGLISH SERVICE THEY LOOK MORE AND MORE PUZZLED AND FINALLY LEAVE, BECAUSE THEY CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IS BEING SAID. SOME OTHERS ASK ME BEFORE THEY COME IN ABOUT THE LANGUAGE IN WHICH THE SERVICE WILL BE. NOW I KNOW ENOUGH PERSIAN TO TELL THEM THAT THE SERVICE WILL BE IN ENGLISH.

PLEASE THANK UNCLE MAYNARD FOR HIS LETTER. I'LL ANSWER HIM SOON. LOTS OF LOVE TO THE DOTYS. PLEASE GIVE MY REGARDS TO ALFA STOLSON.

LOVE FROM CLE.



mm-286  
MAY 5, 1951

DEAR MOTHER,

ANOTHER WEEK HAS RUSHED BY AND WE ARE GETTING EVER CLOSER TO THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. I SUPPOSE THAT SOON YOU WILL BE ATTENDING 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 BETTY HAS AN APARTMENT IN DENVER BUT I SUPPOSE THAT <sup>THEY</sup> WILL BE GOING OUT TO THE RANCH AS SOON AS WILLI 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 MAMMOTH MEETING AT BAD ISCHL IN AUSTRIA. THEY WILL COME FROM JUST 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 NORWAY AND SEE THE FAMOUS FIORDS? I SUPPOSE THAT YOU GO NORTH OF THE ARCTIC 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 GOOD TIME MARCHING UP AND DOWN THE STREETS WITH BIG BANNERS SAYING, "HURRAH FOR PEACE: DEATH TO THE WAR MONGERS."

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 EMBASSY PARTY 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 BUILT-IN 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.

*Lots of love from Mom*



Dear Mrs Little

mm-308 Sept 21 1951

Many thanks for your letter which came today. Thanks for being such a very good writer. ~~Little~~ Little Card is getting used to his school by now. There are a lot of new little boys & girls in our first grade. Some of them are very cute, especially two little Indian boys with braided hair. Their religion forbids cutting hair. About business, no money for Howard. They have several million already. I'd much prefer giving to some of the schools in Iran. Then draw the Boykes & Mrs Dohy - I don't think they need the CARE packages any more. They can buy plenty of food in Austria. In fact I think the Austrians have better & more food than the English and certainly lots more than the Iranians. School is keeping me really busy now but still I enjoy it. I'm getting acquainted with all the new students and the new teachers.

Of course the children are eager to do all sorts of things such as go on hikes, publish newspapers, give plays, have hobby clubs etc. etc. Tomorrow the Boy Scouts are going on their first hike of the season. Today quite a few clouds appeared in the sky over the mountains. Early this morning it was a beautiful sight. It's probably raining hard now the Caspian and the rainy season may come early here. Staying here at the Eldar is a little girl about 8 or 9 from Isfahan who has lost the sight of both eyes. Yesterday they took her to the best eye specialist in Iran and he has just said that there is nothing he can do for her, but she is playing happily with some dolls. What you fortunate is having 3 healthy girls. Write soon for a Cub Scout meeting. Love from Alan. (OVER)



MM-220

AMERICAN MISSION  
TEHERAN, IRAN  
AUGUST 21, 1949

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DEAR 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 OFTEN 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 GO ~~SO~~ 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 <sup>IN THE ARMY</sup> BUT 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 HELPFUL. THE PASSAGE FOR AUGUST 20, YESTERDAY, WAS AIMED RIGHT AT ME, BEING ABOUT LOOKING AHEAD, NOT BACKWARDS. THERE ARE MANY WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITIES HERE FOR SERVICE, AND I HOPE I CAN 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 BOHER 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 MEDICINE TABLES AND CHAIRS. AS SOON AS THE CLINIC OPENS THEY WILL BE OVERWHELMED WITH SICK PEOPLE. AS PRACTICALLY 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 STEADILY <sup>ON PERSIAN</sup> 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 I 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 BLIND.

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'M 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 HAD 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 LESTER.

YOU MUST BE REALLY BOILING IN WALTHAM ACCORDING TO ALL THE REPORTS. 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 ESPRANADE CONCERTS. IT'S TOO BAD THAT MOTHER HASN'T GOT A NICE COOL COTTAGE AT THE SHORE THIS YEAR. LOTS OF LOVE TO THE THREE GIRLS FROM THEIR

UNCLE CLEM.

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



mm-262

AMERICAN MISSION  
TEHERAN, IRAN  
NOVEMBER 23, 1950  
THANKSGIVING DAY

DEAR MOTHER,

I'VE JUST EATEN A DELICIOUS THANKSGIVING DINNER WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TEACHING STAFF AND THE MISSIONARIES AT THE HOME OF MISS DOOLITTLE. PERHAPS YOU CAN REMEMBER MEETING HER ON THE PIER IN NEW YORK JUST BEFORE THE SHIP SAILED. SHE WAS VERY NICE TO INVITE THE WHOLE CROWD TO HER HOUSE AS WE AMOUNTED TO OVER FIFTY, COUNTING CHILDREN. THEY SAY THAT IN YEARS GONE BY THE AMBASSADOR USED TO INVITE ALL THE AMERICANS IN IRAN FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER. THAT WOULD BE AN IMPOSSIBILITY TODAY.

IN SPITE OF THE GOOD TIME HERE I HAVE BEEN THINKING OF YOU GATHERING FOR DINNER IN HARTFORD. BECAUSE OF THE TIME DIFFERENCE IT IS STILL MORNING THERE. PERHAPS YOU ARE GOING TO SEE THE CHILDREN AT THE VILLAGE. THEY ARE ALWAYS SO FULL OF ENTHUSIASM ON THANKSGIVING. I SUPPOSE THAT BETTY AND WILLI WILL BE EATING THEIR DINNER EVEN AFTER YOU HAVE FINISHED YOURS. I WONDER IF THEY WILL BE IN DENVER.

SUNDAY

WELL TIME HAS FLOWN BY AS USUAL. I WAS ALL READY TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE SURPRISING SNOW STORM WE ARE HAVING HERE WHEN I LISTENED TO THE RADIO AND HEARD OF THE STORMS IN AMERICA. THEY SOUND TERRIBLE. WE HEARD THE NEWS FROM LONDON AND THEY WERE TELLING MOSTLY ABOUT A PEA SOUP FOG IN LONDON BUT THEY DID MENTION THAT THE WIND IS BLOWING OVER 100 MILES PERHOUR IN NEW YORK.

MONDAY

WE HAVEN'T HEARD MORE SO I GUESS THE WIND HAS PRETTY WELL STOPPED IN NEW YORK NOW. TODAY THE SUN CAME OUT AND THE SNOW BEGAN TO MELT RAPIDLY BUT THIS MORNING THE CHILDREN HAD A FINE TIME WITH SNOWBALLS IN THE SCHOOL. IN FACT THEY HAD SUCH A FINE TIME THAT THREE WINDOWS WERE BROKEN. WE DON'T GET AS MUCH SNOW AS HARTFORD SO WE HAVE TO MAKE REAL USE OF WHAT WE DO GET.

UNFORTUNATELY THE WINTER AGAIN FINDS THE SAME PATHETIC SHIVERING PEOPLE ON THE STREETS. HOW THEY EVER LIVED THROUGH THE LAST TWO WINTERS IS A MYSTERY. I SUPPOSE A LOT OF THEM DIDN'T AND THE PEOPLE WE SEE SHIVERING ON THE STREET CORNERS ON THIN COTTON CLOTHES ARE AN ENTIRELY NEW CROP.

TWO INTERESTING STUDENTS HAVE ARRIVED WHO CAME OVERLAND FROM INDIA BY WAY OF THE KYRER PASS AND AFGHANISTAN. IT'S PRETTY LATE FOR TRAVELING OVER THE HIGH PASSES AND IN A FEW MORE WEEKS THEY MIGHT GET SNOWED IN FOR THE WINTER. IMAGINE SPENDING THE WINTER IN A LITTLE AFGHAN VILLAGE!

TUESDAY

I'D BETTER MAIL THIS BEFORE I'VE KEPT IT A WEEK. I'M GOING TO WRITE THE HAZENS SOON BUT THE PRE-CHRISTMAS RUSH IS REALLY GETTING UNDER WAY AND THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WILL BE HECTIC I'M AFRAID.

LOTS OF LOVE FROM

clem



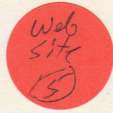
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# THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

STALIN AVENUE

Tehran, Iran

(for English-speaking Children)



SEPTEMBER 10, 1950

DEAR M AND LEETE AND CAROL AND SALIY AND MARILYN:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE LETTER WHICH WAS WAITING FOR ME WHEN I ARRIVED HERE. IT WAS SAD NEWS ABOUT UNCLE EDMUND'S DEATH

I HEARD THE NEWS IN ROME IN A LETTER FROM MOTHER. BY THIS TIME I SUPPOSE THAT SCHOOL HAS STARTED FOR DITTLE CAROL. I JUST CAN'T IMAGINE HER AS A SCHOOL GIRL YET. BOTH OF RETTY'S TWO ARE IN SCHOOL NOW AREN'T THEY? IT DOESN'T SEEM AT ALL POSSIBLE. WE ARE HAVING A REALIY BUSY TIME HERE GETTING THE SCHOOL READY. THERE IS A LOT MORE WORK TO DO NOW AS I AM THE ONLY TEACHER WHO HAS BEEN HERE TWO YEARS. THE TWO NEW MEN TEACHERS SEEM LIKE FINE FELLOWS. IT MAKES A LOT OF DIFFERENCE WHO THE TEACHERS ARE AS WE MUST WORK SO CLOSELY TOGETHER. ONE OF THEM IS VERY INTERESTED IN THE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF IRAN SO I SEE WE CAN HAVE SOME FINE TALKS TOGETHER.

NOW THAT I AM BACK IN TEHERAN IT DOESN'T SEEM AT ALL A DANGEROUS PLACE. PEOPLE HERE ARE WORRIED ABOUT INDOCHINA AND YUGOSLAVIA BUT THEY AREN'T MUCH WORRIED ABOUT IRAN. RIGHT NOW THERE IS TROUBLE WITH SOME OF THE TRIBES IN THE WESTERN MOUNTAINS BUT NOTHING SERIOUS. THE OLD KING REZA SHAH BROKE THE POWER OF THE TRIBES FORGOOD.

LAST NIGHT I TRIED TO TALK TO A LADY IN PERSIAN AND FOUND THAT I WAS USING FRENCH AND GERMAN WORDS INSTEAD. IN A FEW WEEKS I HOPE I'LL GET STRAIGHTENED OUT.

just now I can hear the voices of Armenians singing in the church after their service is over with come the Persian service and then the English service. I'm going to attend both Persian & English but I won't understand much of the first, I fear. At one o'clock Mrs. Carr, who met Mother in England is coming to dinner with the Elders. I hear she has two children from school. I certainly felt sad when I saw Mother's plane flying off, and I wish I could have been going along.



H-15

March 21 , 1953

Dear Retty and Willi,

Here it is New Year's Day here in Iran. This card is to wish you a very happy new year during 1332. The year 1332 sounds quite modern to me now; I have been in Iran so long. No longer does it have medieval connotations.

I hope that all the family is well. I imagine that David is busy growing and the girls are busy with school. Have you begun teaching yet? Certainly teaching is enjoyable but it has its headaches too. As I wrote you before this is the first time I've taught a class all day long. My "family" in the fifth grade is 28 in number now. It's very hard not to have any teachers pets. I think that is a big argument for having more married women teaching. The single teachers, who have no children of their own, get too fond of a few of their students. Certainly a teacher really ought to know a lot of psychology. There's a little boy who has been here a month, who seems to be starved for affection. He always stays after school, engaging me in long talks. He wants to always sit next to me in the chapel. At the slightest criticism he bursts into tears. Clearly there must be something wrong at home, yet what should I try to do about it. Both his father and mother, whom I have met only briefly, seem pleasant, competent people. I've tried my best to be friendly without making him a person who gets special favors and is thus disliked by the others. Then there is a little girl who has a habit of lying and cheating. Her father is Iranian, a wealthy and prominent man, her mother is German and must have been quite a beauty when she was younger. He wants to raise the children as Moslems, she, although she has given in over many things, wants to raise them as Christians. The children themselves seem to be confused as I have heard them say that they are Christians one



from.

mm-329

Dear Brother,

✓ June 22 4 A.M.  
1952

Just a line to let you know  
I am going to leave in 2 hours. Arrive  
Hartford, as I said before, July 2, about 9 A.M.

Oh wonderful to think I'll be there so  
soon. I've been rushing about, packing &  
saying good bye. People came to say good-  
bye almost all day, so I had to finish  
packing after midnight. However I can  
doze in the bus.

Are the Dotys at Pine Orchard?  
Really hot weather has come here now.  
People are going away fast. I'll write from  
Baghdad.  
Lots of love from  
Chen.

Only 10 more days!  
Love to all the Dotys.