

Tsingtao,
14 First Taiping Rd. #
Iltis Huk,
August 15, 1937

Dear Gordon and Bessie,

I received your letter last weekend and was so glad to know that you were on your way back to Saskatchewan. Then Florence Cooper sent a newspaper clipping that you were both staying at the Mc Eown home, so you arrived safely. By now, Gordon, you will be hard at work again. It will be nice if Bessie can stay at home for a few weeks. I will enjoy hearing all the news of people in and around Saskatoon. Isn't it terrible that the crops are once more a failure? Whatever will Roy and Albert do? I am waiting for Lillian to arrive to find out what she knows of their future.

The news of a possible new job in the autumn sounds good. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be given the responsibility of a new project like that? And of course the money addition sounds like a fairy tale; but I seem to remember that your original salary at Gainesville was not munificent. It is encouraging to be considered ready for advanced work. Congratulations. I think it is time there was some tangible sign of appreciation for all the hard years of work and study you have put in.

You have not mentioned for some time whether you are taking out your citizen papers in U.S.A. or not. I remember you spoke of doing so if you got a permanent job there.

Aug 16
The political situation in China just now is very serious. There is a serious conflict in Shanghai, and the news changes from day to day. Not far from us is a man who gets the Reuter news hot off the press, so we sometimes go there to read the latest despatches. There is no need to write of events for by the time you receive this you will know far more than I can write now. Lillian's coming has been a source of anxiety in this situation; I have written her to Japan to disembark at Kobe and take a boat across here to be with me. I know that on her boat is the son of a friend who lives on this street, and his people have written him asking him to look out for Lillian. She is due to arrive in Shanghai August 24, and I am afraid that by that time there may not be any safety in landing there. I was to have gone to Nanking tomorrow morning, but when I heard that the radio news yesterday morning announced that the High Schools and colleges would not open until September 20, I thought there was no immediate need for me to go, and there is no knowing how communications may be cut off at any moment. I shall now wait to see what develops and to hear what Dr. Wu advises. I think we are quite safe here, and when we think about our own safety our minds turn to the terrible loss of life and property that other people face who are not so fortunate as we are. So we try not to pity ourselves, or think about our own dangers. What RUMOUR and gossip does is nothing short of phenomenal in such a time, for when there is an event, there may be a dozen versions of it, and none of them correct. We try not to put too much faith in first versions, but wait until they are substantiated.

Outwardly life goes on very smoothly and pleasantly. This wonderful spot is ideal for a holiday, as I have already written you. This is Sunday and we went to church at 11.15, then came home to "tiffin" (commonly heard here for "lunch"), after which I helped do the dishes for the cook has a stomach upset, and is on rice water for the day. The "boy" carries on magnificently but we try to help out. Then a sleep, tea, and now I am doing this. Later we shall go for a swim, have dinner, and likely to the song service at 8. Last week we have two typhoons in a consecutive 7-day bad weather period, and to-day the strong wind makes us think we are getting the effects of another typhoon said to have its centre near Shanghai. In this weather there will be real breakers, and we may not do so much swimming as jumping the waves, which is rare sport. I am really learning to swim, and in smooth waters venture some distance out into the deeps. If I stay a couple weeks longer I may master another stroke or two. The sea water is very invigorating, and we think the daily swim the high point of the day's pleasures.

Here are the addresses of Dr. Cora D. Reeves' property in Gainesville:

This is Dr. Reeves' statement:

The house seems to be 749 Franklin St, Gainesville
Sue Parish is the real estate agent.

The two pieces of land I own are

S. 30 ft. lot 3; N. 30 ft. of lot 4 Blk A
W.R. Thomas Sec. 4 T. 10 R. 20

S. 55 ft. Lot 3, Blk 6 of B.W. Brown Plot of
Sec. 6, T. 10 R. 20

Perhaps when you have time you might look at these and see what the conditions seem to be. I have had quite a time deciphering her writing, so do not know if the above makes sense or not.

I am enclosing some Chinese stamps for Dr. Becker; sorry they are not in complete sets. I perhaps could get him special stamps if he would specify. He is very kind to offer to fill out my American collection; and when I get around to seeing what I have I shall let him know. Ask him if he is interested in having me save for him new stamps of current issues. Ask him to let me be his agent, if that would be any help.

We shall try to write you as soon as Lillian arrives, so that you may not worry over her. Do let me know about your work, and your holiday. I am looking forward to Bessie's letter from Saskatoon.

I wish you were both here for a swim now.

Lotsof love,

Herence

University of Regina



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