

Hongkong, April 17th, 1967.

Dear Mabel.

I hasten to acknowledge with thanks your letter of the 10th and gift check. I have been carrying the check in my pocket for the last two days. It arrived on Saturday when the banks were closed. I will cash it today. Thanks ever so much. The feel of the check bolsters my spirit greatly.

I have definitely decided on going to join Kwok Hing and I hope to be able to reach San Francisco by June. The decision is made. The hope still remains a hope. I haven't taken the first step towards processing my papers. I am unable to begin until Kwok Hing has succeeded in having our application for entry ~~by~~ approved by the officials on his side. I haven't heard from Hing about this matter yet. Since he is terribly busy with his canning business I am afraid he is too preoccupied with urgent work to attend to our application for entry. The initiative has to be taken on his side. Time is running short and I have doubts about ^{our} being able leave Hongkong in time for Jo-Jo's wedding.

We have been to the cemeteries to lay flowers on mother's and May's graves. On our visit to mother's grave Sunday before last, we were accompanied by our cousin's wife and one of her sons recently from the mainland. They commented favorably on our choice of such a convenient location ^{resting place for mother.}

Although unemployed for years, I have not been idle all the time. Lately I have been doing some odd jobs for Kwok Hing in the way of getting machine spare parts for one of his side-line projects. In addition, I have done many other things for him to lay the ground work for a couple of other sideline projects. These projects ~~will provide~~ when established will be a source of great interest to keep me busy when I get there.

I suppose you are fully occupied with preparations for Jo's coming wedding. If I fail to attend his wedding I hope to attend Gloria's later on.

We are all well. I hope you and yours are the same.

Yours Lovingly.

Chen

P.S. Just received a letter from Hing saying he has been working 10 to 12 hours a day, 6 days a week, for the past few months. Judging from the looks of things, there is a likelihood of his working at this same rate for another two months. He complains of having insufficient time for sleep. His youngest daughter is now big enough to use the walker-chair.

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HONG KONG



Mrs. Ed. W. Gee,

1199 Laurel Street,

Berkeley,

Calif., U.S.A.

Second fold here

Sender's name and address:

L.C. Lee,

Kwong May Alumni Ltd.,

28 Stanley St. 2nd flr.

Hongkong.

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No. 9/54

To open cut here

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Hongkong, May 17th, 1967.

Dear Lily.

We have had an eventful and an exciting week. You must have read about the trouble in Hongkong originating from labour disputes. Political agitators have turned it into political propaganda for ulterior purposes. The disputes are now overshadowed with ridiculous demands that have no bearing whatsoever with labour. Ugly demonstrations, acts of violence and riots have disturbed the normal life of the whole colony. The entire population is apprehensive not so much about ~~the~~ security as about the prospect of having more and more similar ~~unrest~~ disturbances that may flare up any time in the future. Peace and order is constantly threatened by the mobs. I am sending you under separate cover some newspaper clippings of recent dates that will give you fuller reports of what has taken place. Curfew has been imposed restricting traffic movements. I am staying home as much as possible ^{but} I have ^{to} been going to the Kowloon side every day to visit King Seng who is in hospital ^{Baptist Hospital in Kowloon Tong at the end of Waterloo Road.}

I am glad to report that King Seng has had his ^{operated.} operation for hernia. I succeeded in getting him into the hospital on the appointed day ^{just} when violent demonstrations and riots ^{in Kowloon} were at their height. He obligingly submitted to surgery on the morning of the 12th last Friday. The operation was satisfactory. He ^{now} is in excellent condition but still confined ⁱⁿ the hospital. He will be coming home day after tomorrow. Soon after the operation in the morning, Bill arrived from Bangkok in the afternoon. I took him to see King Seng immediately. They were glad to see each other. Bill left for Manila after a brief stay of 3 days. On Mother's Day the 14th I took Bill to visit our Mother's grave where we laid some flowers.

Now that King Seng has had his hernia removed and his old affliction ^{is} no longer bothersome, his physical condition may be described as fairly good. There only remain a few other faults that need to be ^{watched and} corrected from time to time.

After a week of tension and excitement and daily visits to the hospital, I certainly am feeling tired. I am taking a rest from my occupation,--m.j. game. For the next few days however I still ^{have} a few left-over duties to attend pertaining to King Seng's hospitalisation. Although tired my mind is more at ease as I pride myself for having done a wonderful job for King Seng.

I have received a very nice letter from Tim. Its contents concern King Seng's case. They are valuable information which I deeply appreciate. I shall write him expressing my thanks, in a day or so.

Do you know I have discovered a remedy for rheumatism? It's an accidental discovery. I have been sleeping in King Seng's bed left unused during his stay in hospital. The bed is of hard plank boards unlike the soft cushion bed ^{that} I have. Instead of sinking my body in ^{to} something soft, my spine lie stiff on hard boards. My rheumatism ^{has gone!} ~~disappeared~~. Sleeping on a hard ^{bed} is a cure for rheumatism. Try it. Yours with love *Chen*.

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Mrs. Lily L. Hsu,

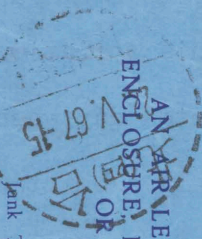
1787 Jackson Street, Apt. 1.

MISSING TO
Taipei, Taiwan
Republic of China
Calif., U.S.A.

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Sender's name and address:

L.C. Lee,
Kwong Wai Alumni Ltd.
28 Stanley Street,
Hongkong.



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No. 9/54



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Hongkong, June 10th, 1967.

Dear Mabel.

I have received Joe's wedding announcement. It gladdens my heart that the little youngster who visited me in Canton has reached manhood and is taking the first step towards shouldering life's responsibilities. He has my best wishes for a successful and fruitful life. May he and his bride be blessed with health and happiness. At the same time I congratulate you and Ed for having such fine children and done so well in their upbringing. With three sons, the youngest one ^{now} getting married and a daughter soon to be married, all fine children and well behaved, all capable of great accomplishments, both you and Ed are blessed with the rare richness of life, your home is blessed with the happiness that outweighs all worldly goods. My wife and I extend you our heartiest congratulations.

Your accompanying letter that came with the wedding announcement and enclosure of two checks was read with great interest. Thank you very much for everything. I see, you are a frequent visitor to Lake Tahoe and Reno, and that you are planning to go there again on the 4th July. These two are ~~very~~ exciting places where ~~much~~ fun and thrills abound. All people going there are full of hope and jollity, but 99% of them look glum and disappointed on the return trip. Take care. It's a place where one could lose his shirt. Here I want to offer a piece of advice which may be called a plan-of-strategy.

- 1-Limit your capital investment. When it is exhausted as a result of bad luck, don't invest any more but quit and call it a bad day. Wait for another time.
- 2-Avoid crap or any dice games. Whatever winnings are not worthwhile for the money invested.
- 3-In the midst of One-Arm Bandits watch for a machine that has been left by a preceding customer after a long stretch of bad luck. Then it should be the opportune time for you to take over the machine, for a few subsequent plays might be a lucky ~~and~~ turn of fortune after a long bad spell.
- 4-It is worthwhile to play Kino. For a small sum invested one could win big dividends that are worthwhile. Even then, remember to limit your capital investment which I should say 2 or 3 dollars. You will not lose your shirt.

On Joes's wedding day we are going to have a nice little dinner among close friends and their family. In place of a formal announcement I will inform all present of the happy occasion. This will take them in surprise. On top of that I get some red eggs on the table and make another announcement of celebrating the first month of Vivian's 3rd son. It would be another surprise for our guests. We are going to have a jolly time together.

With best wishes to you all,

Yours with love,

Chen

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BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION
AIR LETTER
AÉROGRAMME



Mr. & Mrs. Ed Gee,

1199 Laurel Street,

Berkeley,

Calif., U.S.A.

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Sender's name and address:

L.C.Lee,
Kwong May Alumni Ltd.
28 Stanley Street,
Hongkong.

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No. 9/54

To open cut here

Hongkong, Aug. 1st, 1967.

Dear Mabel.

Lily is an excellent reporter. Through her correspondence I have been kept informed of you folks movements. I am glad to hear that Louise and Stanway will be going with you to the East and to Montreal. I have already relayed ^{news of} your travelling to Kwok Shen who will be expecting to see you all. Where are the newly weds? Have they returned from their honeymoon to Honolulu? I am glad to hear about Sherman's excellent work.. I congratulate him for having a chance of visiting Turkey. He will be greatly ^{profitted} ~~profitted~~ by travelling abroad and gaining new experiences. I suppose Tim and family are already in New York.

Great changes are in progress on the mainland. Startling news good or bad will surely be coming. The recent crisis in Hongkong would ^{seem} ~~be~~ insignificant by comparison. The situation is rather confusing and we do not know who's who and what's what. I am quite concerned about Lily's children when I read that paratroops and gunboats had been sent to Wuhan. The Wuhan University is taken by the paratroops. I hope no harm has come to Chang Chi-ping and family. Widespread disturbances in Canton are reported. I do not know which side ~~for~~ what has taken the upper hand. Here in Hongkong, the crucial period is passed. There is no chance ~~for~~ organised massive demonstrations, ~~or~~ widespread riotings, ~~and~~ or labor strikes. At the moment we are faced with the aftermath of whole trouble, such ^{the} ~~as~~ nuisance bomb outrages. For the past 10 days, there has never been a day free of such bombings. Bombs both real and bogus ones were thrown or placed in public places where there was ^a ~~was~~ congestion of people. Police vans, police stations, post offices are likely ^{for} ~~for~~ targets ~~and~~ bombs. Bombs have been placed at tram car stations, bus stops and even at the airport. Half of them were real explosives and half were harmless duds. The ~~people~~ people are incensed by these outrages and all are in unison in ^{condemnation} ~~denouncing~~ ~~of~~ the agitators and ring-leaders for their callous concern of human lives and public security. On the otherhand, the left-wing newspaper, described these outrages as "heroic" and "patriotic" acts against imperialism. Police raids have been made ~~on~~ headquarters of these lawbreakers and thousands of arrests have been made. The left-wing newspapers shamelessly come out with their yelling against such persecution and oppression by the imperialists. The arrests were described as "kidnappings" by imperialist gangsters".

Thank you for your letter of the 28th with enclosure of remittance which I greatly appreciate. I am remitting £3 to Liverpool for my investments covering three months or 12 weeks at 5/ per week. A visit from Dame Fortune within these three months would not be too late.

Regards and best wishes to Ed.

Yours lovingly,

Chen.

Hongkong, Aug. 13th, 1967.

Dear Frank.

Heartiest congratulations on your initiation into the exalted Grandfathers Club. We are all happy to hear this best of all news. We all send our best wishes to Elsa and your brand new grandson. Denny must be very happy to become a father. Elsa has certainly picked the correct date for the baby's arrival even though it was way ahead of due time. Imagine what a happy coincidence that the baby was born on the same day as Kitty's birthday!! Our congratulations also go to Rosalyn on her promotion to grandmother's status.

In my capacity as a veteran grandfather I wish to offer a piece of advice to the newly initiated. It is the secret of how a beloved grandfather should behave. First of all do not act your age. Your behaviour should be childish. You should think like a child which in your case is not difficult. You should talk like a child. You do ~~many~~ various childish things that are fitful to the various growing stages of a child. In the presence of a child be very careful of your language. When you first hold your grandson in your arms, the proper ~~language~~ language to use is to keep on repeating "Goo, goo", "Ah goo, goo" and so forth. As your grandson grows older, you should participate in his games and share the fun he is having. The idea is to grow along with him through the years from babyhood to boyhood until he reaches manhood. In the interim between the stages of his growth, more new arrivals continue to come to demand your attention. From now on for many years to come, you are destined to ^{yourself} behave/like a child all the time.

I am glad to hear that Rosalyn keeps a watchful eye over your ulcer diet. I feel grateful to her. You should be thankful to have her looking after you to the minutest detail like a child. I presume this is your preliminary steps towards learning to behave like a child and becoming a beloved grandfather.

We are all well and everything is quiet. There have been some unpleasant incidences but none of a serious nature. News of late indicate the situation on the mainland is none too well. Confusion and turmoil and unrest all portend of great changes are to come. It is difficult to speculate on its outcome. We can only hope for a change to the better.

Our going abroad is hinged on only one person King Seng. He is the main stumbling block. I haven't come upon any definite idea of solving the problem. I am now trying to tackle it from a different direction. I hope to take him along as a case for medical treatment. I hope to obtain a visa for him on that score. We shall see.

I hope Lily is well and working as usual. I think her family are all well. Tell her not to worry. We have been [✓]through many similar crises in the past. I think

we can outlive this one. Have Mabel and Louise started on their trip to New York?

Ah So and I send you and Rosalyn our love and best wishes.

Yours affectionately.

Chen

P.S. Rose and P.K. are ready to leave for San Francisco. Their things have already packed.

Hongkong, Oct.12th,1967.

Dear Mabel.

Today is Chinese Remembrance Day. I have ordered a bouquet of roses to be laid on mother's grave. They are 6 roses of 2 different colors together with a cluster of tiny other flowers as representation from her children and offsprings of the younger generation.

Our application for visa was rejected on the ground that we did not meet the requirements. I wrote to enquire where and how we had failed to meet the requirements. As yet I have received no reply to my enquiry. I expect one to come within the next few days. I am afraid the answer would be unsatisfactory. I have written to Kwok Hing asking him to proceed with his plans for us. I think this is the only solution.

I have met the lady whom Lily asked to see me. We had lunch together and discussed in detail our common misfortune. We have lots in common with certain variations in detail. Her son is violent and needs to be confined, while King Seng is an extreme introvert subject to wild gesticulation and yelling, ~~which has been a~~ ^{been} His disturbances have almost/entirely eliminated through recent years of home medication. His is not a hospital case and home medication has proved effective. Lately his "attacks" occurred only ~~one~~ ^{once} or twice a month, whereas in former years we had to suffer his disturbances 6 or more times a day each ~~lasting~~ ^{lasting} from 1 to 2 hours in duration. Wherever we go we have to bring him along with us. It is ~~unthinkable~~ ^{unthinkable} to leave him behind with no one to take care of him.

I have received your letter of the 2nd with enclosure of a gift for me and Ah So. We thank you very much. ⁹ I have noted down all obligations from you as well as from the others. We hope to be able to reciprocate some day in the future.

Thinking of you and all the others constantly. Has Frank returned from his trip to see his grandson? How is Louise? I hope she is well and happy. I haven't heard much about Albert and Denny. I hope they are both getting on well. Charlie wrote that Mon Kwong and Timothy had met with Kwok Yin in New York. I suppose Mon Kwong has returned to S.F. by now. Is Jo-Jo back from his honeymoon? How is Gloria getting along? I hope Ed is carrying on as usual. Regards to them all, and all best wishes.

Yours with love,

Chen

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HONG KONG



Mrs. Ed. Gee,

1199 Laurel Street,

Berkeley,

Calif., U.S.A.

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Sender's name and address:

I. C. Lee,

Kwong May Alumni Ltd.,

28 Stanley St. 2nd flr.

Hongkong.

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Form approved by Postmaster General

Hong Kong No. 15/60

(Made by Kwong Yiling Brothers, 24-26)

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Hongkong, Nov.27th,1967.

Dear Mabel & Ed.

Thank you very much for your birthday card and gift. It is very kind and considerate of you to remember my birthday. I have been having so many birthdays that I have forgotten its correct date and my actual age. It so happened this year that it fell on Thanksgiving Day. It was an auspicious date and I felt doubly pleased. You will be interested to know that the day started with a great big BANG. City traffic was stopped. While I was having my morning breakfast a bomb exploded in the street near our house. Was it meant to celebrate my birthday?

Kwok Hing is now in New York and will be going to Indiana next week to purchase new machinery and additional equipment for his expanded factory, which is to be erected on his new piece of land comprising 70 acres. He is to stay in America for only a couple of weeks before returning home.

He is having his business reorganised and registered as a limited company, naming me and Suen Cheong as shareholders and directors. This will establish our status on which we all can go in the interest of our new company. We will plan to make good use of the large acreage of land for a few other sidelines we have in mind.

Oi-ling and family will be leaving Singapore for home in America next April. They also intend to visit Trinidad. By that time I hope we all shall be there to welcome them.

Lily wrote that Charlie is suffering with diabetes. This is news to me as I have always been under the impression that he was in excellent health. I hope his case is not serious and will disappear after careful treatment. I was surprised to hear of it and I feel somewhat concerned.

Best wishes and love to you all. How is Ed these days? I hope^{he}/is keeping well. We are all well. Hongkong is in the midst of confusion due to the sudden devaluation of the ~~pound~~ sterling. The value of American currency is appreciated. Instead of getting HK\$5.65 for an American dollar we can now get HK\$6.00. But prices have gone up. A can of Carnation Milk is now \$1.15 instead of \$1.00. Petrol has gone up. I used to get my package of Edgeworth tobacco for HK\$2.20. Now I have to pay HK\$2.50. There is ^{no} transaction in real estates. People are going into buying stocks and shares instead ~~of~~ they are more easily convertible into cash immediately. Property holdings do not have such quick turnovers.

Yours lovingly.

Chen

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Sender's name and address:

H. G. Lee,
Kwong May Alumni Ltd.,
28 Stanley Street, 2nd flr.,
Hongkong.

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HONG KONG



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SHAKING HANDS



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Form approved by Postmaster General

Hong Kong No. 15/60

(Made by Shing Yling Brothers, 24, 24, 1)

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Dear Mabel



KUNG HEI FAT CHOY

Jan. 30th, 1968.

財 羨 喜 藏

Today is the Chinese New Year. Each year about this time I remember your birthday is near at hand. Five days later is the 5th day of the First Month which is the birthday of the God of Wealth and also your birthday. As usual I have no expensive gift to send you except a card expressing my love and all best wishes for many happy returns. Ka So and King Seng also send theirs and their heartiest congratulations.

I want to thank you for your generous New Year gift check. It is greatly appreciated. It has enabled us to pass a joyous and a really happy New Year. Out of this check I have allotted a share to Ka So as a gift from you for her birthday which was last Wednesday.

As to our going abroad, we are only waiting for definite news from Kwok Hing. Kwok Hing is a methodical man. He does things step by step. He is only ^{have} waiting for his naturalisations papers which should have been issued him a month ago. As soon as he has received these papers, he is to file our application for entry permit. By first obtaining naturalisation, our application will be that much strengthened with a better chance for its approval. As the tense situation here has eased considerably there is no reason for us to leave in a hurry. ~~Wm~~ A delay of two or three months would not matter so very much. However we are anxious to leave in early summer.

Love to you, Ed and everyone in your family.

Yours lovingly.

Bro. Chow + Sis. Ka So.

*enclosed herein is an unused stamp
that came with letter.*

Hongkong, Mar. 11th, 1968.

Dear Mabel.

Thank you very much for the gift check which came enclosed in your letter of the 6th. At first I was going to share with Ah So a 3rd of the check. Now I have decided to share it with her half and half. The reason for deciding to share the bigger amount was because of a lucky break in the mah-jong game last evening, which incited my generosity. We both thank you for the gift.

I am glad Gloria is doing fine at college. I hope she will win a scholarship to continue her studies. I shall not be disappointed in my hope for she is a bright girl. I have noted down the addresses of Timothy and Sherman. I will write them some time later.

We are expecting to have Oi-ling and family here next month. After a short stay in Hongkong, the family will all return to the States by way of Europe. I am afraid you will not be able to meet Oi-ling in New York when you go east, for she won't be there until later. As to my movement it is still undecided. It ~~will~~ depends on how soon Kwok Hing can get our entry permit. I hope to be able to leave in early summer.

Hongkong is peaceful at present. I believe there won't be any serious trouble in the immediate future. However, nuisance disturbances will continue incessantly for some time to come. These are not so terrorising as the negro riotings that happen to most of the big cities in America. Wherever we are, it seems we are living in a turbulent times. The best we can do is to retreat to unknown places away from world politics to eke out the remaining years of our life. Kwok Hing has found an ideal place for our purpose.

I am glad Lily is doing fine in her work. She is a remarkable woman. She is world wise and knows how to live in realities. Unlike me, she is not given to day dreams. All my life I dream of getting something for nothing, of big accomplishments with the least effort, of winning a fortune at the Races or in football pools. By the way, the big cash sweep at last Saturday's Race Meeting was over. As usual, the numbers came out wrong. It seems those who manipulate the numbers have not learned to draw the right numbers in spite of my long years of coaching.

How is everybody? I hope they are all well. I hope Ed is keeping well. Best wishes and regards.

Yours lovingly,

Chen

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Mrs. Ed. Gee,

1199 Laurel Street,

Berkeley,

Calif., U.S.A.

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L.C. Lee,
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28 Stanley Street, 2nd Flr.
Hongkong.

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Hongkong, April 16th, 1968.

Dear Mabel.

Thank you for your Easter card. Thank you for your Easter gift. They reached me yesterday. I am glad you and family are back from your recent trip to the East, And that you have seen Kwok Shen and family. They must have been very happy to see you all together in New York. I hope you enjoyed the visit.

As you 3 sisters are planning another invasion of Reno, I wish you all good luck. I don't expect you to break the Bank, but I do hope you will return home with some substantial loot. Anyway, have a good time.

I am delighted to hear both Tim and Sherman are getting on so well in their respective line of work. The youngsters are certainly climbing up and their accomplishments have put us oldsters to shame. Progress is marching on.

You mentioned something about Gloria "getting out from teaching". Has she been teaching? What does she teach?

Kwok Hing writes often. He is very busy with his business which is getting on satisfactorily. He is now planning to build a house/^{and factory} on his newly acquired land. No action has been taken/^{yet} about applying for us to come over. He will do so when the proper time comes. I expect that we shall be starting on our trip by Summer.

Oi-ling and her children are arriving here this afternoon. After staying overnight, they will fly to Taipei early tomorrow morning. Bill is still in Singapore. He will be coming here by the end of the month. He too will fly to Taipei to spend a month with his family. Afterwards the whole family will return to Hongkong for a 3 week visit with us before starting on their way home to the States.

Besides, reading, writing and mah-jong, I have taken up another hobby. It is photography. I have bought a small camera and I have been carrying it around snapping pictures all day. It's about the size of my palm. In addition to my inseparable pipe, I also carry this camera with me. A few years ago my interest was learning Japanese. Now I am having another new interest. Yours lovingly. *Chew*

Hongkong, July 30th, 1968.

Dear Mabel & Ed.

Mr. Hsu Ying-chong came to my house and discussed about Gloria's coming visit. We do not have definite news about her coming. As soon as we are informed of the date of her coming and the flight number of her plane, we shall make definite arrangements at the YWCA for her accomodation and her friend's. I hope to hear from her or from Mr. Stephen Tsai within the next few days.

I hope you had an enjoyable and a profitable(?) time in Las Vegas. It must be terribly hot there at this time of year. I suppose Jo-Jo and his wife are now back from their brief vacation. I wonder if they had seen Ming and Kwok Shen while they were in New York.

We are all well and very fortunate not to have caught the flu that is raging in Hongkong. The epidemic is widespread. Government hospitals and clinics as well as private ones are overcrowded with patients waiting for treatment. Private doctors also have more than they can handle. Their offices are filled with people all day long. I called on Dr. Lim (Kwok Hing's brother-in-law) the other day and found his office fully packed and even overflowing to the corridors. Both he and his wife do not even have time for lunch and they cannot get home until long after 8 o'clock in the evening. His wife also a doctor has ~~xxxxx~~ an office of her own in a different section of the city.

I am sending herein enclosed pictures of a ~~man~~ character star whom you well know. I wouldn't be surprised if he is given a contract with the Hollywood picture producers. I shall send the other folks more of these pictures as soon as ~~xxxxxx~~ reprints are finished and delivered to me.

Things in Canton do not seem to be very peaceful. I suppose the folks there are well, though having a tough time. I see Cleveland, Ohio and Gary in Indiana are not having a happy time too. What is the world coming too, these days?

Best wishes to everyone.

Yours lovingly.

Chen

Frontletter dated July 30th 1968



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Dec.15th,1968.

Dear Mabel & Ed.

Thursday last the 12th was my birthday. On the same day I received your birthday card and birthday gift check. They arrived right on the dot. I appreciate your kind thoughts and present. How did you have timed it to arrive so timely?

In the evening I had a birthday dinner in the restaurant next door around the corner. I had the Liu family and the Hsu family as guests. It was only one table and we were crowded in a small nook. The whole restaurant was crowded with many other parties in celebration of various happy occasions, for this month was considered a "lucky" month among the people.

I have received word that Kwok Hing has gone to New York. He is to stay there until the 23rd when he will return to Trinidad for Christmas. His daughters Yuk Yee and Sum Yee however are to follow him on the 17th. They all will be together in New York for about 10 days before Kwok Hing returns home. The girls will stay on a little longer until the 3rd of January. Kwok Hing's wife Yvonne has to remain in Trinidad to look after the business during Hing's absence. I am glad about all this arrangement for the holidays. Both Yuk Yee and Sum Yee have a grand opportunity of seeing all their cousins in one place. Furthermore it will be their first experience of seeing REAL snow at Christmas. Just imagine the two tiny tots Yuk and Sum who left Hongkong a few years ago are to travel all by themselves from Trinidad to New York!! As you are reading this the three families (Hing, Shen, and Oi-ling) with the exception of Yvonne and Jemaine, are having a grand reunion together. What a happy time they must be having!! We in Hongkong are all well. We will soon be going to join them soon. We hope to do so by Chinese New Year.

I close with love and all best wishes of the Season.

Yours lovingly.

Chen

P.S. On the birthday card you wrote that a letter was to follow. I delayed answering you waiting for the promised letter. I am still waiting.



TO OPEN SLIT HERE

Sender's name and address:

L.C. Lee,
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BY AIR MAIL
AIR LETTER

PAR AVION
AEROGRAMME



Christmas Greeting from Hong Kong

謹自香港祝君聖誕快樂

Mr. & Mrs. Ed Gee,

1199 Laurel Street,

Berkeley,

Calif., U.S.A.

Bayside, April 8, 1970

Dear Mabel.

I am feeling fine, particularly since Monday when the weather became warmer. Except for the absence of 4 molars, which impede my eating, I feel like my old self again. In another few days, when I have the denture in place, and have no difficulty in eating, you will see that my weight will start climbing up to normal^{al} in no time. My radiation treatment is about to end. I still have about 7 more treatments to go. Then I shall start packing for a warmer and more comfortable climate. Hints about detaining me here after radiation have been heard. For what purpose I do not know. There is no sense of taking on more operation and hospitalisation when a fellow is back to normal health again, eating well, sleeping well, full of spirit and energetic, agile in his every movement and jumps around like a young athlete.

I am feeling fine, for things are happening just as I have anticipated. Before leaving Hong Kong I have certain ideas of what I intend to do when I get to my destination. I started the ball rolling by writing letters to friends as feelers to test their reactions to my various propositions. To date I have received quite a number of replies that are most encouraging. I am optimistic about the future. I am impatient to see things in operation and development.

Tim is a busy man and he has work to do. I seldom get to see ^{my} him. It was only a few days ago that I went to consult him about/case. Doctors and patients do not often see things eye to eye². I am afraid that he has realised that ~~he~~ a stubborn contrain^{wise} uncle is a hard man to deal with. ^{saying} It was at this meeting that he presented me with a check/that it was from you. I was certainly embarrassed. Imagine that a doctor is paying a patient! Shouldn't it be the other way round? Well, the money comes in handy. I am going the round of bookshops browsing and in search of some particular books that I have long intended to get. The acquisition and collection of books is another ~~more~~ enjoyable pastime that I ~~intend~~ intend to continue pursuing.

Mrs. Mesick is back from her vacation. I called on her yesterday and got a tie for present. Love. Chew.

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

L.C. Lee,
222-19 39th Ave.
Bayside, New York,
11361.

ZIP CODE



ALWAYS
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12 Columbine Row
Connecticut

Mrs. Ed. Gee,
1199 Laurel Street,
Berkeley,
Calif., U.S.A.

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Bayside, N.Y.
April 23rd, 1970

Dear Mabel & Ed.

My present indisposition has caused you folks undued excitement and concern. I am being pampered and I am being spoiled by the attention and care that all you folks have so graciously given me. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for your deep concern about my health and your kind interest in my welfare, You have endeared yourselves in my heart.

I am I am glad to report my condition has greatly improved and *fast* reaching full recovery. My mouth and tongue no longer hurt and my earache is totally gone. I can now swallow and drink with ease coughing and sneezing is no longer a torture. Except for the absence of all my upper teeth which ~~has~~ rendered the intake of solid food impossible, I have to rely on liquid food to satisfy my gnawing hunger, for my appetite has never been impaired. You ~~will~~ be interested to know that I have never touched a single pill that Tim ~~has~~ prescribed for me ~~for~~ as a pain reliever, ever since the first of this month. Personally I am feeling my old self again, except that I am dying for a taste of solid food. I am hungry for a beefsteak and my mouth waters for a roasted chicken drumstick. If I had my dentures I could easily regain all my lost weight in no time.

I have had my last radiation treatment. Thus radiation therapy has ended. The specialist doctor in charge of my case has examined me and approved of the progress I have made. What is to be the next step? He hasn't decided yet. He is to consult the dentist and the radiation doctor before reaching a decision. ~~Never~~ Nonetheless he is satisfied with my improvement. He made an appointment for me to see him again in two weeks. My leaving for my adopted "home" has to be postponed.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your most recent letter and your accompanying check which I have turned over to Ming Hwa who is now acting as my New York treasurer. Here, before going further I must add that Ming Hwa is a thoroughbred traditional Chinese daughter-in-law of the old school. Her filial love and devotion to the care and attention in comforting us oldsters especially ^{me} in my present indisposition, has endeared herself in our hearts. Besides driving me daily to the hospital for ^{my} treatments, she looks after my every comfort at home and never neglects to provide me with proper diet food, ~~beef tea and~~ ^{chicken soup at intervals} ~~between~~ ^{the} meals. Among ~~our~~ Chinese families of the present day, how many of them could boast of having daughters-in-law like our Ming Hwa? Here, I must add that ~~what~~ ^{what} Ming Hwa is doing for me here, is being duplicated by Yvonne for Ka So in Trinidad at this very minute. Our family may not be rich in a material sense, but we are rich in God's blessings. Having Ming Hwa and Yvonne as our daughters-in-law is one of them, ^{for this} ~~for which~~ we are thankful.

While waiting for ^{of} my next appointment with the doctor, I have days of idleness ahead/me. I intend to visit Oi-ling in Norwalk this coming week-end and stay till the middle of next week. I hear Dr. Sun Fo will be visiting New York in a few days. I want to meet him and talk of old days before separating again for our respective destinations. I have been to see Chan Hang Won, one of our two ~~xxxx~~ veteran flyers in the early days of the Chinese Republic, and it is from Mr. Chan that I learned of Dr. Sun Fo's coming.

I must hurry back to Trinidad to work. I have wasted a quarter of a century in Hong Kong leading a non-productive and a purposeless life. I want to make up for lost time and try to do as much as I can. This explains my impatience for leaving New York.

Best wishes to you all.

Yours with love.

Chen

Bayside, N.Y.
July 1st, 1970

Dear C.Y.

Nobody likes surgery and I am particularly more so. I came to New York in March for medical treatments hoping that my ailment ~~could~~ could be cured by medication or by radiation therapy. When surgery was proposed I strongly opposed it and strove to dodge it or to stave it off as long as possible. I argued back and forth and presented numerous excuses, but all to no avail. When doctors and specialists confronted me with their medical opinion and declared ~~xxx~~ surgery was necessary in my case, I was cowed and had to yield in favor of wiser counsel. So on the 27th May, I again entered hospital for the operation.

It was a nasty operation which took the doctors 4 hours to perform. I was lost to the world and I do not know how many hours later that I remained in the operation room. It was dawn the next morning that I awoke and found myself back in my hospital room. I was speechless, for I could not utter a sound. I was banaged up looking like Frankenstein. My neck and jawbone were stiff and immovable. My lower lip and face were swollen beyond recognition. Numerous snakelike rubber tubes dangled about me. I could not eat or swallow. I had to be fed by a rubber tube through the nose, while another tube was attached under my chin to assist my breathing. Fortunately I experienced no pain, but it was an ordeal under such a condition. Three weeks later I was permitted to leave the hospital. I am now home recuperating. I have now recovered my voice, but I still can't talk distinctly. The stiffness of my neck down to my right shoulder blade is loosening rapidly and my swollen lip is subsiding. I can now eat and drink with more ease, but limited to semi-liquid foods. I went to have a check up with the doctor the other day and he was perfectly satisfied with the progress I am making. He congratulated me on the rapid rate of recovery and marvelled at the high spirits that I had shown throughout the whole operation. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ He attributed the success of the operation to my physical fitness and stamina, my pluckiness, my optimism and sense of humor. In turn, I paid tribute to his professional skill and praised highly the excellence of modern medical science.

Since I left Hongkong in February I haven't seen a single "sparrow" 麻雀 neither have I heard the sound of one. This is a heavy loss to me. It has deprived me of a steady daily income. Unemployed, and 5 months without income, you can well imagine the strait I am in.

However, I do not begrudge it. Now that I am no longer haunted with the nightmare of impending surgery and my operation has turned out to be a success, what does it matter that I have lost this ^{one} source of income. I console myself with the familiar Cantonese saying:--

"Green hills there are still remaining. Fear not the prospect of firewood shortage. Life's fortunes still abound aplenty, awaiting to be unearthed and claimed". 大難已過 留得青山在 不怕有柴燒 今後尚有大把世界撈

I want to thank you for your kind letter which reached me while I was in hospital. I am glad your son Hao Chak, my protege, has been promoted assistant manager in the bank. If you hadn't interfered with your help in filling out ~~the~~ ^{his} qualification sheet, he would have been promoted manager instead. You have spoiled his chance with your amateurish banking knowledge, after all the excellent groundwork that I had laid out for him 15 years ago. Still half a loaf is better than none. I congratulate you.

Life in America is different from that in the Orient as you may have noticed. Here it is a life of stress and strain. The working hours are 8, but 3 more hours are spent on the road travelling back and forth from work, totalling 11 hours each day. After the evening meal at home, very little time is left for relaxation and the enjoyment of life's pleasures. Time and more time, less and less of labor are prized. Hence, numerous inventions of time saving and labor gadgets and products appear on the market. There are washing machines, vacuum cleaners, motorised lawn mowers for the home. To save labor in cooking, there are instant coffee, instant tea, instant cereals, and instant pudding. Before long I wouldn't be surprised if the Hippies set about popularising instant marriage, instant divorce, instant birth and instant death. Not to be outdone by the Americans, I am going to buy a lottery ticket for instant wealth.

I intend to leave for Trinidad on the 15th. Your letters will reach me when addressed to c/o K. H. Li Canning Plant, Waller Field, Arima, TRINIDAD, W.I.

I close with best wishes.

Yours sincerely.

L.C.

Bayside, Nov. 12th.

Dear Lynn-Poon-Tow & Co.

[Dear?]]

Please note "& Co." includes Charlie, Frank, kinsfolks and intimate friends. You may have copies of this letter made for distribution to Mabel, Louise and interested parties. This is a report of my present visit to New York.

I have been here fully two months and I have seen all of my kins and a few friends living in this part of the country. Sum Yee from Trinidad has come and been here 10 days purchasing supplies to be brought back to Kuo Hing. Yuk Yee from Pennsylvania has come here no less than 3 times to see the folks in Bayside. Hoong Wei from Binghamton came home the last weekend. Hoong Yee staying home goes out every day giving piano lessons to a few private students. Hans is attending school. I am glad to see everyone is well and doing well in various activities. As Sum Yee is about to finish the mission of her trip, both she and I will be leaving for Trinidad this coming Thursday. Future letters to me should be sent to my old address in Trinidad, where I shall resume living my life of isolation.

In our Bayside household, Hans, the 14 year old kid, is the first to get up every morning to deliver newspaper to about 70 customers before going to school. He is followed by Kuo Ying who has to take the subway to work in his city office. Ming gets up later and oftentimes goes out shopping and other outside activities in addition to the management of the household. I am the last one to get up and find the house almost empty. Everyone has work to do and earning regular incomes. Being unemployable and unemployed I am the only ~~man~~ one not working. Having nothing to do all day except smoking, coffee drinking and reading. I am idle while others work. I am spending money while others are earning incomes. Being non-productive, I have a guilty conscience of becoming a parasite, a burden and a nuisance to others. Even Hans the 14 year old puts me to shame. He is

also a producer as a wage earner. Seeing him coming home with pocket full of money makes my mouth waters. I can't help recalling the time when we were youngsters helping our dear mother at shrimp picking at 6 cents a pound. Hans has inspired me to seek also a newspaper delivery job for myself. I am learning to ride a motor bicycle, enabling me to take on a job similar to his. (A picture of me riding on a bike will be sent you later). For the job, a bike is a neccessity, but it should be taken as an investment, as well as a ^{big} problem for me. To raise money for the purchase of a bike, I am buying lottery tickets hoping to win a prize big enough to pay for the bike. So far I haven't been lucky to win any prizes yet.

Louise wrote that Lily has not yet fully recovered from her bad leg and seldom ventures outside of the house. I feel greatly concerned. Now that she has formally retired, I hope more attention and greater care should be given the injured leg. I hope she is well and in excellent condition otherwise.

All in all my six months visit to America has done me a lot of good, and I am in fine spirit. I am glad to find all the kins-folks on both the West and East Coast are all well. I have seen every one of my grandchildren in America. I am happy to see the younger generation in the family is growing and coming up in the world. I feel confident that each and everyone of them will prove their mettle and give a good account of themselves in life. May God bless them all.

As ever lovingly.

Bro. Chen

Waller Field, Arima,
Nov. 18th, 1970.

Dear Mabel & Ed.

Your letter of the 14th together with the birthday check arrived today, for which very many thanks. My birthday will be on the coming Saturday. We will have a dinner with plenty of shark fins, a local product. We have had many shark-fin dinners/^{on} one excuse or another. We had shark fins returning from when Bill visited us two weeks ago. He was ~~on~~ a business trip to Mexico and was on his way back to New York. We had shark fin dinners to celebrate the resumption of work at the factory. And we had a similar dinner to celebrate a record day of production.

The factory has resumed production and/^{is} operating smoothly. It began production 3 weeks ago with a working staff of half a dozen native youngsters,--all ahrd working and each is muscular and strong like Mohhamud Ali (Cassius Clay). The whole family pitch~~e~~ in and help too. Ka So and King Seng, each spends 6 hours of work per day. Yesterday was our record day of production in which we used up 14 bags of beans, 1400 lbs. Today we are going to top that record with ~~another~~ an additional 4 bags, producing more than 6000 cans for the day's operation. Kwok Hing's production goal is set on using 10 bags or half a ton of beans yielding about 3500 cans of processed beans daily. This outstanding record could only be ^{made} by united family efforts under MY DIRECTION.

I have just written letters to Lily and Louise. I am glad Pao Key and family are with Lily. I am riding on my cicycle to work every day. It is bareback riding with my shirt off in this November weather.

Yours affectionately,

Waller

L.C.Lee,
k.h.li Indust

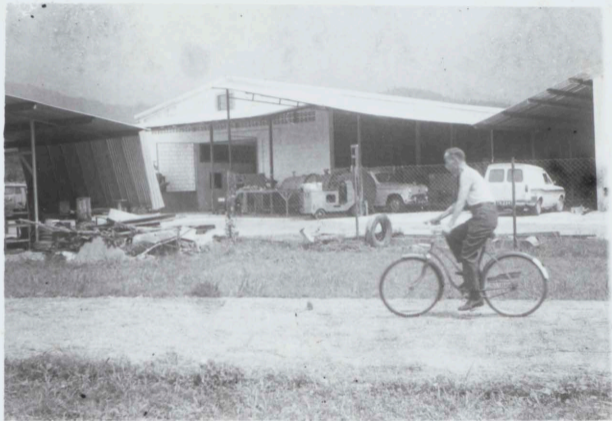
Ltd

BY AIRMAIL
PAR AVION

Wallerfield, Arima,
TRINIDAD, W.I.



Mr. & Mrs. Edward Gee,
802 Stockton Street,
San Francisco, Calif.,
U.S.A.



nov. 7th 1970



a young papaya tree
in the garden.

Nov. 7th - 1970

Waller Field, Arima,
Mar. 28th, 1971.

Dear Mabel & Ed.

Last year this time I was in New York for medical treatment. I was ~~then~~ in a dilemma debating the question of whether or not to have surgery. Fortunately I ^{had} the benefit of Tim's professional advice and counsel which helped me to reach a decision. I am ever grateful for his encouragement and assistance. It is now 8 months since I had my surgery and I am now practical^{ly} back to my normal self. The infected part of my tongue has long been healed and my deformed jawbone is nearly back to its proper position. The sunken area on the cheek will soon be filled up. Still having no teeth only when it is ~~in~~ eating that I am experiencing some difficulty. Now that the jawbone is ~~about~~ in a more satisfactory position, it is time to have a new set of dental plates made. I have had consultations with a dentist. My next appointment with him will be some time next week.

We are all well here. How are you and the family? How is Sherman and Joseph? Is Gloria continuing her study at U.C.? I haven't heard from any of them ^{for} a long time.

Conditions here are in a turmoil. With the Gneral Election coming up some time in May, politicking is furiously raging and rising in tempo. On top of it all is the labor unrest which is the greatest detergent factor ^{progress in} to business and industry. I am sending a few newsclippings about current conditions. Please pass them on to Charlie and others who would like to know something about how things are here.

How is Louise? I am wondering how she is getting on. How about Lily and her daughter's family? Please write me something about the rest of our family folks.

Yours with love.

P.S. I shall write Louise in a day or two. Please telephone her.

Waller

Waller Field, Arima,
Aug.17th,1971.

Dear C.M.

Your good letter of the 30th July could not have come at a more appropriate moment. It reached me just when I was in one of my frequent moods of despondency, longing for companionship and good cheer; when I was just musing over the words of the sad song:--

"Tis the last rose of summer, left blooming alone,
All her companions are faded and gone"-----

Suddenly out of the blue when I least expected it, your cheery letter came. Instantly I felt as if I had come into a big fortune. My low spirit was lifted sky high. Please accept my appreciation of and thanks for your kind letter that came so timely.

You have asked me the reason for sending you the newsclipping on the enraged Nigerian Etonian. I thought it would be of interest to you reminding you of your happy school days in England. Little did I expect it to bring forth from your pen such a lengthy discourse on the school system, school discipline, school atmosphere and student life in England. To one who has never been to England, it is extremely entertaining. I am rather amused by the experience you had with the House Matron, a strict disciplinarian. You were taught the difference in the usage of the words SWEAT and PERSPIRE and that in England "only horses sweat and human beings perspire". Tell me dear C.M. was Churchill addressing the animals in war-torn England when he called for "Blood, Sweat and Tear"? You were also advised and even admonished by this same august personage against using the word HATE because of its biblical implication. To my mind it has no ^{more} biblical implication than thousands of other common words such as 'kill', 'steal' 'covet' and 'adultery' as mentioned in the 10 Commandments. Were I in your place at the time, I would have shocked this prudish creature with the retort, -- "Damned rubbish. What Hellish nonsense!". So you suggest that it is more correct to use DISLIKE rather than HATE when expressing intense displeasure. Frankly, I often use both these words on varying occasions according to the degree of my displeasure, -- EXCEPT however I never use the word when applying to persons. I do not hate a person for offending me or has incurred my wrath. Being a man of a peaceful nature, I would merely resort to passive resistance by ignoring him as if no such a person had existed, and try to avoid his company as much as possible. I do hate things however, that are nasty or disgusting. I hate hypocrisy and sham, pomposity and arrogance, conceit and deliberate rudeness. These are indications revealing the smallness of a person who either has a warped mind or an immature mentality. These are attributes of human behaviour, either acquired or inherited but not without hope of correction and improvement.

As I understand from your letter, you seem to attribute the reasons for your alleged "waywardness" to the education that you got from attending an English Public School. I can readily see that. There is ample evidence of your "waywardness" as shown in your letters which are invariably profused with delightful expressions interspersed with rare literary gems.

My present situation here is more like that of a hermit, companionless and cut off from the outside world. A year of inactivity has made me indolent. Time hangs heavy on my hands. With nothing to do, boredom and a guilty conscience has crept over me. Remorsefully, I grieve over the sinful waste of precious time which should be devoted to useful and productive purposes. Thus conscience stricken I aim to exact some measure of usefulness out of my idleness. I spend my time in constant reading and meditation. I am glad to say these "occupations" have benefited me greatly. From reading, I derive pleasure and entertainment as well as much enlightenment. From meditation, not only do I find peace of mind, but a philosophical outlook of worldly affairs in general and human nature in particular.

So you see dear C.M., idleness when WISELY used is not entirely a wasteful pastime. Though not productive of substantial contributions to Society, it is not devoid of merits by itself. If I had the advantage of an English Public School education like you and your gifted pen, I would certainly write a book in praise of Idleness, extolling its virtues, its benefits and rewards. A painstaking research delving into ancient Chinese literature would produce valuable relevant materials and pertinent sayings of the sages on the subject, would make the book delectable reading. An apt title for the book could be "The Virtues of Idleness, - Its Benefits and Rewards". Such a book should be a best seller and especially appreciated by the millions of worshippers of Indolence.

Perhaps you will think such a book is contradictory in nature. Well, I am known as a contradictory ass all my life. I always take an opposite view of things against most that is orthodox and conventional. Remember, there are two sides to a coin. What appears on the surface is not necessarily true of what is on the under side. In mah-jong playing for instance, I would play the white or red card against conventional rules simply to satisfy my curiosity and belief that in a game of chance any card could be just as good as any other. Admittedly I am a contradictory ass, but with this difference. When things look the darkest, when despondent and in despair, I being a contradictory ass, am prone to take an optimistic view and believe in a silver lining. I am a firm believer of the old Chinese quotation (塞翁失馬). What seem to be misfortunes may turn out to be blessings in disguise. So while others deride and condemn Idleness and even regard it as sin, it behooves me to take up the challenge and hasten to its defence. Instinctively I would turn the coin over to show the brighter side.

Quite a stir in world affairs has been aroused by the announcement of a Nixon-Mao pow-wow. At this early stage it is difficult to assess its implications and impacts on the international situation, notably the reactions of the countries in the Far East. In some quarters it is viewed with favor, while there are others who are gravely concerned about the consequences. By and large, it is not without forebodings. One writer draws the ~~parallel~~ parallel with Chamberlain's visit to Berlin in 1938. Chamberlain returned from his visit in jubilation. Having his umbrella he declared "We will have peace in our life time". The disastrous years that followed were too well known. Now it is Nixon's turn. He might come back from Peking with a similar declaration of peace. Instead of an umbrella, he would wave a copy of Mao's little red book. Whatever is to be the outcome is anybody's guess.

This month marks the first anniversary of my discharge from hospital after surgery. I am glad I am still alive to observe it. I am now fully recovered and in excellent health EXCEPT a little hard of hearing. I cannot chew my food because of a sawed off jawbone and poor dentures. I cannot speak distinctly because of a damaged tongue. I have lost 25 lbs of my normal weight since I left hospital. I now weigh 101 lbs which has been constant for the past 10 months. I believe 101 lbs will be my weight until death. Thus it is reasonable to expect that I should die at 101, no more and no less.

I long for companionship. What wouldn't I give for an opportunity of seeing you and talking with you here. We two near-octogenarians ^{when} walking side by side and arm in arm would make an interesting picture in testament of ^{our} good health, good living and longevity.

Well, bye, bye, C.M. for the time being. I hope to hear from you often.

Yours etc. *Le.*

Waller Field, Arima,
April 22nd, 1971.

Dear Ed. & Mabel.

I have received Mabel's letter of the 16th with the Easter gift. Thank you very much. A substantial part of the gift has been put to a purposeful use which is in line with Mabel's noble nature of 劫富济贫. I am sure Mabel will heartily approve when I shall tell her later.

No Mah-jong. No work. No income. No spending money. But, life here is simple living. Expenses are negligible. My daily needs are scarce.. I have no bad habits, except tobacco and coffee. I have no use for too much money. I do not know what to do with it. I do not even know how and where to spend it. I can go about town/in a wrinkled shirt tugged into a pair of shorts with barely a dollar in my pocket and come home with not one cent less.

I am glad the children are all doing well. Elaine has written something about Gloria's visit. I didn't know she would be going to Canada. Yuk Yee is undecided about whether to go to Syracuse or a smaller women's college, Elmira. I hope she would choose the smaller one with only about 750 students, and a 35 acre campus.

There is no chance of my following the footsteps of the minister winning a jackpot on the football pool. This game is forbidden here. I am terribly upset about it. There is a local lottery but the first prize is too small to suit me. I want a bigger prize at a very small investment. When you go to Tahoe, don't waste your money on the one-armed bandit and other games except Kino. You can't win ~~in~~ wrestling ^{with} the one-arm bandit. The other games are too costly ^{for} ~~to be worthy~~ ^{the small} of winnings offered. Kino is a more attractive game for small investments. Even then, it is wise to limit yourself to only a few tickets at a visit. Luck or no luck, I wouldn't spend ~~and dollar~~ more than a dollar or two on it. Avoid ~~such~~ crap, blackjack and the slot machine. True, there is no excitement in Kino. There is none in football pool or lottery either. I pray for your success on behalf of the ~~poor~~ POOR. Like you, I also play for the same

刻富洛賓

purpose / PLUS the satisfaction of winning. I also need your prayers for success.

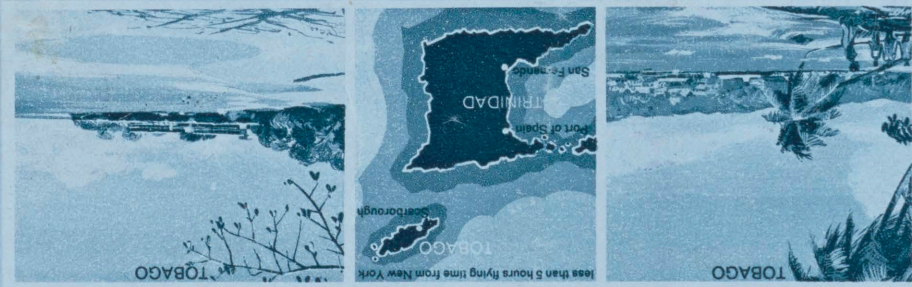
Physically we are all well and enjoying beautiful weather. But mentally and emotionally I am ill at ease. I long for a change. Having nothing to do I INTEND to practise on Chinese calligraphy. I have sent for writing brushes and ink from Hong Kong. By devoting an hour or 2 each day to write ^{ing} Chinese, I could master the art and become famous .

Hope to hear from you again soon.

Yours lovingly.

Lehua

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An air letter should not contain any enclosure.
If it does it will be surcharged or sent by ordinary mail.

I.C. Lee,
Waller Field, Arima,
Trinidad, W.I.

Sender's name and address

Mrs. Ed. Gee,
1199 Laurel Street,
Berkeley, Calif.,
U.S.A.



BY AIR MAIL
AEROGRAMME
AIR LETTER

September 11 1971, Taipei.

Dear L.C.

Need I tell you once again that your letters have a salutary effect on me in that they give me a spiritual uplift. They hearten and encourage me, not that I get fits of depression, but they help me to bear the after-effects of my two operations.

To have lived well beyond the biblical three score and ten is a physical achievement which is viewed differently. The West says the good die young and the iniquitous live to make amends for transgressions, whereas I the heathen, attribute it to the accumulated good deeds of my ancestors. Please note I make no reference to my own good deeds, which are not few. What say you to this priceless confession?

Let us now examine even cursorily the wreckage left by Nixon, his government, his arch-Pacifist Mr. Dinlight, his isolationists, his misguided and misinformed supporters and others including the unwary and wily. Before touching upon this much discussed subject, I wish to remind you that our bad deal at the hands of the U.S. Government started from Chungking days. First we had the triumvirate - Stilwell, Davies and Service; then we had Marshall who was reported to have said that with a stroke of the pen he managed to demobilised 50 divisions of the Nationalist Govt; whereas on the other hand the Taskis gave full support to the Chinesees Commies. AND before I branch off to the trail of wreckage wrought, I ask you to give a thought to the worthy deeds and vile misdeeds of the CIA, an Intelligence Group whose functions go beyond that of gathering information or misinformation, resulting from reconceived views prompted by malice. NOW I am getting malicious and vicious but past and present events justify this burst of indignation. En passant, do not think that I explode on the slightest provocation; that is not my habit and I do not write to all and sundry in the manner indicated above. To quote an instance, one American with an Anglo-Saxon name told me he would like to have Nixon impeached, to which I made no comment and permitted him to rattle on. I believe I said nothing more damaging than to err is human! There is no sense in joining him in condemning his leaders in harsh terms for all we know that person only wants to test our reaction.

With regard to the change of front, one could advance innumerable reasons but the more vital ones as they occur to me, are political pressure from Dinlight and Coy, the isolationists, the manufacturers of machinery, steel products, planes and other hardware, war weariness, economic depression, and party politics, including Election, just to mention a few. Above all these, are dreams and illusions fostered by misjudgment and misinformation.

Righteousness and justice can be of little weight in international dealings. A Chinaman's word is his bond but this does not hold true with nationals of many democratic countries, who when their interest demands are not above employing specious arguments, circumlocation and the like to befuddle the unwary and the timid.

The trail of wreckage is indescribable in that even democratic countries which had diplomatic relation with us only a few months ago had thought fit to change front. The fence-riders naturally wasted no time to do the biddings of the powerful. BUT, are we isolated? The answer is a definite NO because however much we may dislike losing fair-weather friends, it is better in the long run. In our hour of need we want trusted friends and above all we must have confidence and faith in our cause. Despite indications to the contrary, I do not feel lost and abandoned simply because I know we may come out badly battered, but unbowed and above all victorious in the U.N. and in any gory war.

I get thoroughly roused when I think of people leaving a trusting friend in a quandary, betrayal if you prefer the expression, on the doubtful pretext of being realistic in the night and trade possibilities of the Maoist regime. However if you wish to hear my views on the so-called military might of Maoism and trade possibilities of the under nourished 700 or 750 million people, an exaggerated and optimistic estimate of the Maoist regime and other related items such as the death toll, I shall oblige him as I hear from you.

Now in your idle moments will you let me know what the overseas Chinese in your part of the world think? Put them on the right track and bolster their morale. Those who are Christians know something about Fight the good fight with all thy might. The Fight referred to, in my heathenish mind, has much to do with Moral Fight than a bloody armed clash.

Write when you are inclined and look after yourself.

C.N.

Waller Field,
Sept. 27th, 1971.

Dear C.M.

I have yours of the 11th. Your priceless confession has accomplished its purpose. It evoked a smile from me. It would have evoked loud laughter if I had an audience to repeat it to. You in your right mind must admit there is no logical connection between the good deeds of our ancestors and our personal achievements or blessings of good fortune. Whatever connection or influence there exists is viewed with derision. Even church ministers have black sheep in their families. And church goers do have criminals among their midst. A common cynic Cantonese quip has this to say:—"Those who repair bridges and build roads (good deeds) are not blessed with descendants; while ruthless murderers and arsonists are rewarded with bountiful harvests (if they go farming). 修橋鑿路 子孫折墮

殺人放火 耕田好禾

There is no denying that China at present is in a quandary like a helpless turtle on its back. Your comments on the causes and reasons responsible for our sad plight are not entirely baseless. It is with intense mortification to review the blunders we have made in our Chungking days. And now we are suffering for our sins. I have made copies of your letter and circulated them among friends in San Francisco, New York, Washington and Canada. Your views and a hint of optimism on the favourable outcome at the U.N. will serve as a much needed tonic to bolster the morale of the overseas Chinese.

It is easy and convenient to lay the blame for our misfortunes on the shoulders of others and on circumstances beyond our control, though not without some justification. On the other hand, have we ever stopped to examine ourselves honestly? Were we also not to be blamed for the numerous blunders we had made? Did we have men/vision, able and competent in the guidance of our national destiny? Were those in responsible positions not guilty of negligence, reveling in complacent appeasement? In the past score years what have we done to remedy the damages wrought as a result of our errors? What have we accomplished in the field of international affairs to strengthen our position and prestige as a founder member of the U.N. and a force to be reckoned with in world politics. Only as a sitting duck in the Security Council, even our comfortable seat is now threatened and begins to wobble. Fair weather friends are deserting us. Even our trusted and staunchest ally is ready to betray and abandon us. It is a sad awakening and a costly lesson. It is severe punishment for stagnation and complacency.

Righteousness and justice as you have said has no weight in international dealings. So has gratitude. For years we have served as a faithful watchdog for our trusted ally on the Pacific. Our only compensation has been but a mere pittance of foreign aid. Even that we have to grovel for the dole. Now when we are in serious trouble and in need of friends, this staunchest of friends, lured by visions of dubious gains is ready to court favours of our enemy at the expense of a faithful and trusting ally. Talk about gratitude! Bah!

However, crying over spilt milk is of no avail. Sneering at sour grapes would not soothe our anguish and succor our disappointments. We must strike out to adopt a firmer attitude, chart our own course and make the best of a bad situation. We must be aggressive in asserting our rights. Since it is so fashionable among fair weather friends to change front, we too will follow suit. We will change from senility to aggressiveness. I hope our leaders are bold enough to grab the bull by the horn and initiate a dynamic policy.

L.C.