

March 7, 1949

Dear Mum, Olive

Well, I wonder if you have received any of our letters yet. We are having a change in train schedules and it takes them quite a while to straighten out when they will carry mail etc. We got a letter from you mailed February 14. We got it last Friday night.

Kennie is beginning to grow up. He always comes and asks me now when he wants to go to one of the other houses. Tonight he told Lillian he was to come home at five thirty. So she told him when it was five thirty and home he came bringing Tommie with him. Discipline is beginning to take with Tommie but it is a long tough process. The best punisher we have found is the barrel. Into the barrel he goes when he is naughty. The barrel is in the farthest room of the house so he has no audience. There is nothing to frighten him and no way he can hurt himself. He just has to repent poor lad. He just doesn't like it and we have to resort to it less often than we did. When he is good he is so very good! The corn you sent has come up through the ground and looks real husky. It just makes our mouths water to look at it.

Mum, I was thrilled to hear that President Frust said what he did about Max, but I just think it shows President Frust's good judgement in recognizing Max's worth. The thing I know about Max better than Pres. Frust even knows it is that there is not a better husband or daddy in the world. That's why I dared to come all the way to Africa with him.

Mum I don't think there would be any duty on a small of elastic sent out here. Ki Henderson received two pieces of dress goods for her little girls the other day. They were sent in a manila envelope and mailed just like a letter boat mail.

Olive, I bet that gold colored suit is becoming to you. While we were in Lisbon we sheltered a couple of Methodist missionaries, young girls, for a couple of days. Of course we didn't take any money for it so they bought me a gold colored bathing suit. I like it a lot. I haven't used it since we left Lobito, but there I used it every day. The swimming is certainly wonderful there. Did I ever tell you that we buy our coffee in the bean here, roast it, and grind it ourselves. We also grind whole wheat, in the same grinder for our cereal and is it ever delicious! It has to be cooked a couple of hours, but try it some time. We also buy rolled oats (Quaker) in tin cans. But it is expensive so we have it about once a week. We buy bran and mix it half and half with flour. This is the children's favorite cereal out here. Of course occasionally we have corn meal mush. The average African eats two pounds of corn meal made into (thick, thick mush) a day. This with some stewed beans makes up his diet. The school children are learning to grow and to like many kinds of healthful vegetables, so that now lots of educated Africans have a more balanced diet.

Love to you both

God watch over you,

Betty