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G. M. Rhoades, U.S. Embassy, Stgo. Chile

Stgo. de Chile
Tuesday - 9th.

Dearest Moth' and Frieda and Pat (carbon copy),

Was so happy to get your letter last week - but was so very surprised to hear Pat has left your home and hearth and is getting up out of his tarpaper shack and briskly doing a mile or so before breakfast! Don't tell me your going to lose that good old baywindow, Murph' - it won't be you without it! Would love to hear more about Army life - you know you people up there see and hear so much about it that you probably don't realize how little we really know down here - in fact any time anyone down here gets a letter I frankly ask them to read the parts about war life and WAVES and WAACS and some of those new alphabetical agencies, and canteens, etc. Helen Rhoades Mc. wrote and enclosed some articles about rationing which were very interesting and strange. And I was about to ask you if you'd do some more shopping for me!

Y'know when I came down here a year and a half ago I didn't buy many new things because I thought I could easily get things down here, and now my wardrobe is getting rather sketchy - especially shoes. My jefe (boss) was in Argentina a while back and he brought me back a pair of shoes - he has very good taste in clothes and picked me out a darling pair of green alligator (famous in Argentina) pumps with lovely high heels and thin soles - everything here has really thick platforms and they aren't made with proper lasts and when you wear these shoes and take a step you can never tell whether you are going to land inside or outside the shoe! I'm thrilled about the shoes though, because except for a pair of Chilean ones, I haven't had a new pair for two years now! If you could see your way to clear to send a pair - any color, any shape (size 7 narrow) it would be wonderful, but don't use your coupons on them if you can really only get 3 pair a year now up there. Also, I need a pair of rubber boots (to wear over shoes, and not just galoshes, but real high rubber jobs, cause our rainy season is about to start - everyone in Stgo. wears high black shiny rubber boots, but they can't be worn over shoes so aren't so good for the office. Elinore's mother sent her a pair from N.Y. which are thin, brown, very pretty and go over her shoes. Also, I need winter dresses, panties, slips, hats (they ones here are so darned elaborate); and I'd love another suit - dressmaker style, etc. They've told us we can get suits by sending the jacket in one package and skirt in another if they are too heavy, but the packages now can weigh 11 pounds. If you can manage to get hold of any clothes and send them in the usual way, I'd be most delighted, and anything else you think of that I don't mention and you can get, just throw in, you can send more than one package at a time, you know. Just think what you'd need if you'd been wearing everything for 2 years (purses, etc.), except for the lovely and so welcome things which a kind family had sent you from time to time! Will you send me the slip for bank balance again, the little part you usually cut out? I've deducted for all the things you've bought and told me about, and want to be sure you have, and that Moth' has taken out for part of hospital, etc. Sincerely!

I'm ^{sending best mail} enclosing some pictures of a penguin island we visited - I was thrilled to see the funny little birds - they totter about like little old men and stand on the edge of a rock and wait for a wave to come up around them so they can slide back down on it into the sea! We were scared to death crossing from the mainland to the island, as you have to ride on a narrow plank which is connected to a cable by two big hooks, and four of you get on the plank and hold onto the plank, which unbalances you, and then the man lets go the rocks and you go whizzing down to the slack of the cable, with the mad Pacific boiling away beneath you! Then you pull yourself up the cable on the far side, and land on the rocky island, and all the penguins nearby get scared and slide down into the sea and swim away - the last ones can't get a good start, so they dive under the water to catch up to the others - under water they shoot they the ~~the~~ very wind. Wish you could have visited them with me!

P.S. was going to write more today (late later) but have been invited to visit on a funds for a day down so. Will write you from there!

Love,
Gladie

Ple. send me a few checks airmail & a lot of them steamer mail
Ple. " " " calling cards airmail & most of them " " " "

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

This is lots later but it seems almost impossible to get a letter written these days. When the mail comes in by plane we all crowd around to hope for a letter and when a group of us get none we start questioning and discover that we haven't written to anyone for a month or so, but still hope springs eternal!

Bea Bergen and I are taking a plane Friday for Concepción, down south, and then a little train to Chillán and on to the fundo where a friend of Bea's lives, and we are going to spend 3 or 4 days there and then probably fly back again. The plane trip is about 1-1/2 hours and on the train you leave here at 8:30 in the ~~morning~~ evening and arrive there at 9:00 the next morning, and a difference of \$3. We both can get more time than we are taking, but the invitation is just for that time, and Patricia and I have decided to wait until June or July when the skiing season is on and go up to Portillo for a week or 10 days - I love the altitude up there and so think I had better take my vacation where I feel healthy instead of just trying to see the country. The vitamins haven't come yet so I bought a few here (6 cents U.S. each) to get started, as I have practically no gums left and the dentists just tell us all that it's because we were using a circular motion in brushing our teeth! If you could find out what kind of tablets your Dr. was going to send and would mail me a few in an airmail letter each time, it would be swell. He probably tried to ship them airmail and I think they are refusing packages to individuals by air express these days. And if he put them on the steamer, they are probably sitting up in the river at Guayaquil, Ecuador, as the Copiapó, according to all the newspapers, went aground up there, where most ships do have trouble due to the long narrow river and the shifting mudbanks. Anyhow, I think I shall have to find some good vitamins or else land in the hospital ~~where~~ or clinic where most of our office spend their spare time!

I'm sorry you and Frieda didn't write a check as I asked you for Xmas. I suppose that's supposed to make me feel good that you all send me subscriptions to magazines and then don't accept a gift from me?

I don't seem to be able to get a letter finished - so I'll just throw off a few & some pictures by steamer mail, & see if I can get a letter to you from Chillán!

Love,

Judith