

## Chapter 27

### 1931 - Picking up the Pieces

1-31-31 Georgia to Mother from Lima, O. "As Raymond is working on accounts, the youngsters in bed -I'll write. Patty Lou gets her bottle at 9:30 PM. Mary Ida was delighted to receive her pretty dress. The booties are just right for Patty Lou. Georgiana is walking, jabbbers more and tries to say things. We are delighted that 'on acc't of his conscientious effort' Raymond's salary was being increased \$15 a month. This was his best month, nearly \$1500 worth of business. Charles, Mary Ida and Raymond have had the flu lightly & we kept them in bed to nip anything in the bud. Raymond & I keep well & happy. Lovingly, Georgia. **Her last letter.**

Georgia Peterson was hardly over the sorrow of the events of their recent lives and particularly the trip home with James dying. The birthing and nursing of Patty Lou must have had an effect on her health. In January the influenza swept the country and the Peterson children got it. She nursed them through that and then she was ill with it. Her lowered resistance and the months of strain combined - she got pneumonia and then died 2-6-31.

Ruth came for the funeral, helped with the children and returned to finish out her college year. Then she and Raymond decided to marry. This brought his children back home from the Fillmores- This from Ray Peterson, Raymond's son.<sup>65</sup>

2-9-31 Direct Wire from Foreign Dept. to Mr. R. A. Peterson, "Accept our deepest sympathy in your sad bereavement. C.M. Yocum." *Sadness alone cannot express it.*

But then had come joy! 1-6-31 "My Dear Duncans - At last! At last! At last! Gee, they have told us we can go back to Tibet! I just don't know how to take it - now that we really can go. One minute I want to cry and the next I want to shout for joy. I do know that I feel like going in a heap after being relieved of the strain of these long months of waiting. G. Young."

2-3-31 "Well, this letter will have to be a little different from the one written less than a month ago, for they have changed their minds and they say we can't go for another year. Gee! but it hurts when

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<sup>65</sup> Letter written about his memories of their early life by Ray Peterson, March 1993.

they go to talking about closing the work out there.”

2-17-31 To Morse from Duncan: “In this mail a box of apple sprouts, three apple trees 2-years old, 1/2 dozen grape sprouts & one dozen strawberry plants. T’an is on his way to preach for you. I just returned from taking good pictures of the Devil dances. (New Year’s Festival).”

2-18-31 Mrs. Shelton to Miss Taylor: “Poor little woman, her life must have been miserable and she was glad to go. Wonder if it means anything to the Batang situation. It looks so lonely for Miss Y- and Mrs. O- to return alone. Such a tragic wreck it is!”

2-19-31 W.A. Warren to Bro Duncan: We have just received the check for \$80.00 instructing him (Plopper) “to make this payment toward the \$8,000,000 fund for Pensions...some substantial and cheering contributions. But nothing has created a greater sensation in the office as this 1/100,000th of the total goal coming from Batang. As was remarked in the office, “God is a reality to the missionaries in Batang. We can hear again Shelton’s ‘Come on!’” *Marion D- was really trying to reestablish a good relationship with the UCMS and the American churches.*

Marion D- to Miss Young and Mrs. Ogden: “The telegram came from the Board yesterday being just one month and five days on its way - We were glad to hear of your starting. When the Washi leave in some twenty days we will be sending men to meet you in Chungking - either Traming or Fu Gway Djong. Bares left to go to Yengin, and maybe Gartok, will be back in 15 days.”

3-17-31 Minnie to D-s from on board S.M.S. Asama Maru: “Here we are -arriving Yokohama 3-19 and Shanghai 3-24. We sailed Mar. 2nd. I am having a time with loneliness & homesickness for Harold & Ruth. Sacrifice does not come in leaving home until we leave our children behind.” Rate of exchange in Shanghai is \$1 gold for \$4.19. They got D’s lists of needs and are waiting for Marx to bring them some money.

3-21-31 Dsang Wun Chin, D’s cook, is being sent to meet them. Chudranh will meet them in Tatieulu.

4-20-31 They had to wait five days for the Yangtze waters to rise enough to float their boat to Chungking but Dsang Wun Chin had not arrived yet. Mr. Jones was helping with arrangements and got their goods through customs in time for them to leave on the next boat in two days. So they leave money for Dsang Wun Chen for the shopping he must do. They catch the boat sleeping on the deck in the cook’s bed. His wife objects; and comes to look on them frequently. 4-25-31

4-27-31 Minnie noticed the changes in Chinese policy re:schools. The Revolution intends to modernize their schools and

mission schools must conform or go to the Gov't. At the Consulate in Hankow they learn that a new province, She Kang (Sikang), is being carved out with Batang as its capital.

5-8-31 Dsang Wun Chin met them 40 li down river from Kiating and refused to go to see his family in Chungking. He asked for his salary and expenses.

5-24-31 After a three-day wait for their goods, they re-packed onto horses- left on the 30th. The road is reported quiet to Tatienu.

5-31-31 Apparently the tai-tai of Ma Siling is coming to Tat to meet her husband. Chu Dranh is coming with the party. Mr. D-suggested bringing in \$2000 in silver and \$1000 in cloth which people can take as wages and sell for more than the silver cost. For the orphanage \$500 worth of cloth, \$50 of thread, \$50 of sewing machine thread, \$50 of white yangbu (cloth) and a dozen cotton pughais (duvets) as dowry gifts, silk for their hair and 'mudree' (?) and other 'drees' (?) for their dresses. Get our mail there and the magazines.

5-20-31 LN Bare for the TCM to Mr./Mrs. CM Fillmore: "The sad news of your daughter's death came and we wish to express, as a Mission, our sorrow and our sympathy. Our appreciation of her beautiful character as Duncans were on the field when she arrived in 1924 and through the difficult period her gracious tact, quick and sympathetic understanding won for her a high place in their love and esteem."

"When the Bares came and they were received into her home, they learned to know, love and admire her - an inspiration and challenge to us all. Oh our hearts do go out to you who have lost such a daughter and to the children who have lost such a mother."

June, 1931 Shru-Nee Hlamo to Mr./Mrs. Fillmore sent via MacLeods: "I am the one who took care of Mrs. Peterson's children and the children were always talking of how good their grandmother and grandfather were, as well as their Aunt Kate and Aunt Ruth. When I heard of Mrs. P.'s death I could hardly stand it...surely it could not be true. She was always so good to me - took care when I was sick. I never can be grateful enough. Mrs. P- was a wonderful Christian, a true example of what Christ wanted his followers to be - she will have abundance entrance into heaven. I am anxious to know about the children, please tell me, are they getting along. You have a daughter to be proud of. May God comfort your sorrowing hearts."

6-6-31 Waiting in Tat for Ma Tai Tai, Chang Tai Tai invited Minnie and Grace to go to meet Ma Tai Tai. Lien Tong Ling of the Nanking Gov't called on them. He was always good to Minnie in Ba. He is going to Gandisi for peace talks; these Gandisi have scared the merchants out. The women will use two of Ma's chairmen to help, one

to help Minnie get on & off these mules and one to carry the food basket, etc. Dsang Wun Chin made some good bread. They quite like him now even though he talks too much.

6-6-31 Duncan to Hardys and MacLeods, a newsletter: The Chinese and Lhasa Tibetans are fighting near Kanze for a year and the Chinese have the worst of it. He is concerned that it may become a regular war between China and Tibet. The Panchen Lama is in Nanking and the Chinese may be trying to reinstate him. Ma Si Ling was defeated in Kanze; he may be replaced. His Tai Tai left for Tatienu so he may be quietly shelved. Your old friend, Liu Tongling, appeared on his way to Kanze to arrange peace. Chu Dranh was sent to Tat with the Washi acc/Tai Tai.

Alberey is about to pass on with celiac disease (A deficiency disease caused by faulty absorption of food) which Bares are trying to cure by all kinds of diets except bananas which we can't get here. We welcomed another son, Robert Malcolm on May 19th. - Scots enough to suit MacLeod even. The orphan boys and girls are passing out into the great world fast - Hao Gway Hsang married a Pinjang recently. He told of their house being re-painted with red trimmings, etc.

Mac, all your graftings of apple trees has paid off and your persimmon trees are growing well, but the Bartlett pears are wild. Dr. Hardy, your introduction of foreign wheat was fine and is eagerly sought over the Valley to supersede theirs. It makes better bread and mien so is the best agricultural contribution to the Valley. The young apple trees are being sought over the Valley and I give them away gladly as I know the more there are in the Valley the less stealing here. It is a veritable forest -the trees have grown so well. The alfalfa gets less as the Ky Blue grass takes over; both apricots and walnuts are higher than the houses. Their repair of the ditch didn't work as it washed out so they went back to a wooden trough as in the beginning. 25 more mong of fields are under cultivation now.

6-20-31 While waiting for the animals to get in Minnie and Grace are going out to the hot springs to camp for ten days. Grace has been sick.

6-30-31 The Cushoshing house is being prepared for the women to live in in Ba so the officials can't take it over. They returned to Tat 7-1 in time to leave with the caravan 7-3-31.

6-30-3 1 Raymond Peterson and Ruth Ogden were married this day returning to Lima, O. to begin their new life and bring the children back from the Fillmores.

6-30-31 Marion says the "tears will flow plentifully" when they arrive and he will "pad my shoulder if Miss Young thinks that it will be of any use. Don't take me too seriously. To Ogden and Young

Company.”

7-6-31 Marion D- sent a letter to the Christian Evangelist describing the recent war and peace efforts, the dance festival and their closing exercises at the school with three boys graduating from the first year of Middle School ready to go to Yachow.

7-24-31 Litang was reached on 7-19. Not too much rain yet. Relapsing fever was found here but they found their medicine was left in Tat and what they had was stolen. Minnie says, “This is the dirtiest, filthiest, stingiest & most ignorant place I was ever in.” Then some 250 Chinese soldiers arrived and after a 3-day gun count took the women out with them.

Meanwhile in Ba; the Bares refuse to extend their term of service and insist upon leaving in 1932 whether a doctor is coming or not; Mrs. Grubb, an itinerant widow missionary, without knowledge of Tibetan and only a little Chinese dialect, working independently, has visited Ba several times and is now returning to Atuntze to work with the Morses 10-8-31. In the USA, Harold Ogden in L.A. graduated from Hollywood High School in 1932 and went to the Univ. of Southern Calif. studying in the field of international relations.

8-6-31 Minnie writes to ask if the three boys headed for Yachow could rent the horses to ride there from these men. Also she asked if D’s and Bare’s donkeys could be sent to meet them at Miliding to take their light loads and mules be sent for the heavy ones, as the Washi do not want to go further into Batang Valley then that point. The message was sent from the mountainside where the mail runner came up. Also from Grace: “Only four days travel left. We are so tired of our road food. Oceans of Love, G. Young.”

8-8-31 A last letter giving expense money total needed to pay the Washi: Rs. 491 in Miliding. And thanks for the apples - they taste so good.

So Minnie and Grace arrive in Batang 8-12-31 ready and willing to work.

8-15 & 10-9-31 An exchange of letters with a Muriel Robinson, itinerating independent missionary, answering her request for expense money needed to get to Ba. Marion told her of Mrs. Grubb whom they already have to support when she comes to Ba and asked her to do God’s Will in another area. She agreed that she had already seen God’s Will that she not go to Ba.

8-18-31 Duncan sends Mac a welcome check for some of his goods left in Ba and tells him of Mrs. Ena Grubb arriving with one donkey and only a little Chinese of Kwangtung dialect expecting to suffer persecution as her way of doing God’s work.

11-12-31 A letter to Morse warning him of a family and a

single woman, Mrs. Grubb, coming. The husband over the years has run up a bill of 900 Rs owing to the Mission and to Peterson which he will never pay.

Duncan also tells of Dr. Bare's trip to Gartok for a month and then Duncan himself went, again at the invitation of the official. He also did medical treatments, distributed tracts and sold some Bible Scriptures. Bare has been invited to come again and will take his whole family next spring.

While there the man, who stole or bought from the man who stole Marion's camera in the 1927 robbery, came up and asked him to sell him some film. Marion told him it was too expensive and would take a year to order from Shanghai so he should get it from Darjeeling.

11-16-31 A letter from the UCMS notifies the TCM that it is necessary to **abandon the TCM and make a permanent closing of the work**. The letter gives the details of what is expected: turn the work over to the Christian natives. The TCM was quite incensed not just over the closing but the manner of it. That fateful day, just six weeks since they arrived (8-15-31) in Batang, Grace Young came in with the mail a little earlier than usual. "They are closing the work. We cried and we talked it over from every possible viewpoint and wondered and wondered this and that. As soon as we had lunch we went over to Mr. and Mrs. Duncans'. They sent for Mrs. Bare. We talked of what we could do and how we should answer you."

(Minnie to Mr. Yocum) "You wouldn't have wanted to see us as we faced such a terrible thing. Now, you would see the most forlorn-looking bunch you ever saw. Can it be so? I really cannot believe our Brotherhood would allow such a thing to happen."

Both Minnie and Grace refused to quit and decided to stay until the money and food ran out. Then the tragedy of the siege of Batang happened and although neither side allowed damage to happen to the Mill House where the missionaries took refuge, the rest of the property was nearly destroyed, except for the orphanage.

Their orchard fruits and garden foods were looted and their own supplies reduced, so as not to burden the little church, even that determination to stay had to be given up. They left for home and in Nanking Grace was offered the chance to remain in East China. It was suggested that she at least stay in Luchowfu Hospital while Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Copron went home on furlough. Duncans had also stopped in Nanking and were agreeably surprised.

In their reply 11-17-31, the main topic was the Shelton Memorial Fund still consisted of \$80,000 incl: that invested in the Tibetan Chair. The TCM could exist indefinitely on the interest alone resulting from these invested funds. The missionaries themselves were

willing to supplement these funds from their own pockets. The anger was extended also because there was allowed no chance to appeal, i.e., to work out a deal which would keep them open.

The anger was such there was even a threat of the TCM going over their heads and appealing directly to the churches. To have to close so fast as they have designated the spring of 1932, was impossible without wrecking the chance of any take-over successfully by the native Christians. They were also insulted that Alexander Paul was writing to the China missionaries to supply the station, rather than allow them to stay. Duncans were sure that the property would be ruined by neglect and vandalism, rather than representing a solid on-going investment.

11-24-31 A joyful letter from Mac tells Duncan that he has taken that Congregational Church as pastor and it sounds rather swanky in living style. He had always intended to settle in a "church of the species, 'Campbellite', (founders of the movement producing the Christian Church, Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ were Thomas and Alexander Campbell) but at the time the brethren were at a high pitch of uncontrolled emotion and bedevilling one another with all manner of unholy ribaldry and I was in no condition to get into the melee. He has heard that the UCMS is hopelessly in debt and millions are out of work in the country with nation-wide drives for funds to feed them. It is hard on the Republican brethren and the Democrats are 'waxing fat and kicking up their heels.'"

Morse seems to have gone into obscurity and Batang has heard nothing of him for a long time. To Marion finally: "Congratulations on the addition of a son - Thanks for the check."

1931 Annual Report Marion Duncan: Personal. Uneasiness due to fighting in Kanze and an uneasy peace, but no fighting in Batang area. Tibetan and Chinese study one hour daily each. Taught Tibetan Men's S.S. class. Alternating preaching with Dr. Bare and four nationals of the church board. Oct 10-31 on trip to Gartok with 100 treated medically, 500 tracts, and Gospels given or sold - Third trip into Inner Tibet. Theft of fruit and vegetables by Chinese soldiers is worst annoyance. Son, Robert Malcolm, born May 19, 1931.

Educational: 93 students and ten teachers ended with 103 students with children from the city outnumbering the orphans. No religious teaching is allowed by the government regulations, but the Gospel of Mark and a catechism are used in the Tibetan language study. Three boys left for Yachow schooling after Junior Middle School graduation. Establishment of Hsikang Province with Batang as the capital is a political event of unknown importance. Kg is still taught by Hla Hsi.

Treasurer: 3 caravans of goods and cash arrived - Chu Draw brought one taking five months; another by Yishiyozezh taking four months; the last by Ogden/Young party arriving Aug. 12. Market here depends upon soldiers' pay and they were paid twice this year, but helped us more as merchants were glad to have checks to send to Chengtu or Sianfu rather than Tachienlu. Fighting Kanze with Tibet scared merchants out of Tachienlu. Business is now picking up as it is said in the peace treaty with Tibet Lhasa was given Kanze and Myarong, which belonged to Tibet before Chao Erh Feng conquered them in 1905. The TCM has enough cash to run for the next year. Cloth and tea are satisfactory substitutes for cash. The Treasury takes less work every year as our budget is reduced.

Property Committee: Extensive repairs on the ditch were completed with three troughs now used as 114 more fields have been opened for irrigation by townspeople. A wall was built around the Cushoshing home and collapsed section of wall was rebuilt. Buildings were white-washed and extensive repainting done at hospital and the Japoding residences. Timbers rot quickly here so have to be replaced every six years-porches were therefore replaced. Acc/to natives all are in first class condition. The Old Mission Mill has been rejuvenated, three mill stones bought to complete a two-grinder mill. New water wheels and huge wooden troughs were hewn and carried down the mountain. A teacher's widow has charge of the mill supporting herself and three children doing the milling for the orphanage and the missionaries. Her children attend the mission school.

Minnie O- Orphanage: It has 17 boys and 27 girls, total 44, one death. Mr. D- has charge of the land, gardening, and milling. One boy left to live with his sister and three girls married. "I have done some translating; taught a SS class of young girls; taught the singing of hymns at school."

Evangelism- Dr. Bare, Li Gway Gwang: In Jan. the Church Board chose Shao Ji Sen as chrmm and Shru Shao Yuan, vice-chrmm. Several Board mtgs held during the year- from church collections 50 Rs to the pastor's salary. About 35 people attended the Easter Sunrise prayer services, 300 witnessed the Resurrection Story by a native cast of 40. Batang Bible School averaged 98 attendance; Thurs. Bible School-90; mixed communion service-43; Tibetan preaching-63; Chinese preaching- 45.

At Yengin 208 attended Easter services; Li Gway Gwang conducted 195 services; averaged 30 in attendance. He spoke 70 times at Ja Da and other villages-average- 62. A room has been leased at Ja Da. A 3-day Christmas program was held at YenJin with a Christmas play, preaching and music with 450 attending. 283 poor were given

food.

Matron and Nurse-in-charge- Lois B-: “It interfered with the schedule of my eldest son’s school work. With the resumption by Miss Young of these duties on 8-20 it brought a sense of relief as well as a more efficient program and management to the hospital. A nurse assistant helps. Credit for good or successful work should go to Lhatsu, our Bible Woman.

Matron and Nurse-in-charge- Grace Young: Return trip to Batang took five months, 7 days, now here safe. “Began work with two months of cleaning and painting. Began language study again. Cable to close work came 9-23-31 and brought such heartache and sadness. So we are sending some of our boys and girls back into heathenism. I wonder if God will ever forgive us for it. Storms have fallen upon us; circumstances beyond our control, but I still believe that if we wait on God, his morning will come after a little while and we can again take up the unfinished task”

K Louise H. Duncan- Tibetan Christian Orphanage: The orphans moved into their new home in Jan. It was built west of the compound but not all of the floor boards had arrived. The matron, Tsering Lhamo, liked the new stove and chimney, which was unusually large. All the upstairs windows had glass panes in the upper half and Chinese style, oiled paper in the lower halves. A 3-year old girl taken in looked quite pretty after she was washed and dressed. Two boys reached the age for dismissal. One returned to his family with his 200 Rs dowery and bought donkeys and two cows to help his family. Three weddings were celebrated; the girls marrying Chinese soldiers. Two of the brightest boys went to Yachow for further schooling.

Life goes on for the children attending school, receiving medical care and regular de-worming, and attending Sunday School. Most of the work of the orphanage is done by them - washing and mending their clothes, cooking, cleaning the compound and gardening. Gezong Den Druh and Drong Sen worked after school for the Bares and one girl worked for Mrs. Duncan - all of their pay going into the Orphanage Fund. One boy with a weak heart, but skilled with his fingers started work on wood carving. One girl was in hospital for sore eyes for almost a year; another sleeps there with a scalp disease.

When regular school closed in June there was a two-week vacation then summer school was opened: girls were taught mending clothes, weaving apron strings, working with wool, and gardening. Boys had classes in rope-making, mending, and gardening.

In August the Orphanage was turned over to Mrs. Ogden with the boys’ work turned over at once and the girls’ work, accounts, and property management turned over Sep. 6th. Accts incl: wages Rs 426;

paid-up dowries Rs 563 1/2; dowries still owed- two; Food Rs 1184; furnishings, firewood, manure- Rs 503 1/2; clothing and cloth Rs 990; (Cloth is for use and for wages or exchange for food, etc.). School hand-work class for 11 girls at school. Also called on girls who had married and left the Orphanage.

Personal: Teaching John Kenneth 2nd grade work under Calvert.

Historical Notes: 1931-32 Japanese aggression in Manchuria, Shanghai and North China which leads to consolidation of power by Chiang due to need for a military leader. KMT becomes a personification of Chiang begins 15 years of warfare against Japan, degenerating as a radical revolutionary movement.