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Dear Ada and Herb:

Herb - Thanks for the birthday wishes - very thoughtful of you when you are covering seven states, and busy as a bee. How you can carry on at the rate you do is beyond me. I am anxious to see that sewing machine. Hope you make a million and buy a farm somewhere and enjoy life - but you wouldn't as life would be too tame. I've looked for that yarn you mentioned. So far I have nothing to offer. I went to the part of town where the yarn is sold and couldn't find a soul who spoke English. I got the enclosed samples - don't know what they are. The other day I saw thread shop on our way down town and the next time I get the car I'll go down and see what they have. There is plenty of wool yarn here but it costs almost as much as in America - that's the way ~~every~~ most things are in Shanghai. I have no idea how much I should pay for the thread.

Ada - I envy your trip to the coast. And that new car too - everyone has a new car but us. I feel the need of one myself complete with chauffeur. I rode the pedicabs for awhile but had two narrow escapes so now walk or taxi - most places I go aren't worth a taxi trip. I thought I'd be able to share the car and chauffeur with Ernest but he'll have <sup>no</sup> part of it. Many a day I've wished for you to help me shop. If conditions would only get better out here I could send you things for your shop. I can send in up to \$25.00 US with a ~~license~~ <sup>pass</sup> but over that have to get an exporter's license. When I get an export license I have to go to the Bank of China and with U. S. buy Chinese currency at \$324,000.00 to one U.S. dollar. Then to purchase items is to pay the black market rate which is over \$800,000.00 to one now. So the item costs over twice as much if I have a license. I've picked up several things lately. In a little old shop the other day I found ten 9 inch Chinese plates which are rare. The old shop keeper asked one million each for four, two million each for another four and two and half million each for two. I said, "Why the difference - I like the million dollar plates better than the two million plates." In a disgusted voice he said, "O, missy these plates 125 years old, these ~~one hundred~~ one hundred years old and these only 80 years old." I bot them and will enjoy them for their age rather than beauty. We are planning a trip to Peiking as soon as school is out - hope to find some old things up there.

We've been busy lately getting Quentin Roosevelt introduced to Shanghai and CNAC. Last Tues. we had 21 CNAC personnel here for buffet supper. He is a likable person - represents PAA 20% interests out here. He will take some of the work off Allie as he has been doing part of PAA's work for months. He is grandson of Teddy and does not think much of the Franklin side of the household. He and his mother were in Shanghai when the war started in 1937 and was on the same ship with me when we evacuated to Manila.

CNAC has grown by leaps and bounds during the past year. There are two ~~and~~ other airlines here but CNAC flies almost as much as the other two combined. Allie is putting on weight and feels grand. Nancy thinks they work her too hard at Sacred Heart but at least she is learning she has to get her lessons daily - sometimes I feel sorry for her as they do expect so much homework. She bowls duck pins at the club and does almost as well as her mother. Merly says Craig is thinking of going to Stanford. He probably feel more at home there than in any other school. That will make you two long for the west coast again. If he marries young as many of the boys are doing now ~~days~~ you won't have him much longer.

Our best wishes for your new business and love.

*Herb*