



Letters by Ernest Kuhn. 1971

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Jan 31-71

OK page

Dear Mom & Dad.

~~You don't letter mail that you
had not received any mail from us. I
hope by now that they have arrived.
The one letter had several photos in it. It~~

is Sunday evening and Christine is feeding
Christine and I am trying to settle back
into the normal routine. We had a
big party today for Christine - supposed to
be at one month but that was on a work
day so we waited until Sunday. Started
at 0900 in the morning with some of the
older men and women having a ceremony
called a baci (pronounced Boe-see) -
at which time various chants and
expressions of good luck etc are given
and then the older people tie a string
around the bride's wrist and then
on the parents. Last about an hour. If
you remember the photos from our wedding
it looks the same - a big silver bowl
filled with rice and a tall decoration
of made of banana leaves and flowers
etc. After the baci the "old people" eat.

In the meantime the other guests arrive and the drinking begins until moon rises we all. I guess we had 70-80 people total. Patz broke up about 3 in the afternoon - after finishing a case of beer - then eating - and then a case of champagne (Calypso style, not bad). All the local civilian and military officials came. The governor of the province is a brother to the King of Laos and physically is nearly naked - would make a good Santa Claus because when he gets 'loaded' - !! I got him to hold Christine for a while and took more so some day she can see her boy being held by the King's brother!

The body seems to be doing fine. We have the Filippine doctor here about every few days and so far no problem. On the 4th of Feb we have to go back to

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Chengmai so the doctor can see both Christine and Louise. ~~He~~
~~She's been "runny" for a couple~~
~~of weeks but doesn't seem to amount~~
to anything. The hospital ran a sample
through the lab yesterday and
didn't find anything. The milk we
are using is similar fortified
with iron and the doctor says
that Christine really doesn't need
the iron and that may account
for it. We haven't had her weighed
for about 2 weeks, but at that time
she had only gained a pound. She
would have been 3 weeks old
then. She is pretty active - especially
her leg and neck. Jam drop eyes
she turned herself over onto her
stomach with no help - In her crib
in the morning she is usually in a
different location than where she was
put at night. No last feeding is around

9 at night and she sleeps till about
3 or 4 to be fed and then again at 6 -
from then on it's pretty regular 5 hour
interval. ~~Also generally no time of~~
~~more than between 7 and 8:30. She~~
~~morning. (Because today she~~
~~wanted until about 0930 just because~~
~~of women was putting a bandage on her~~
~~arm she stopped a little, to forget~~
~~and for a few seconds - then she picked~~
~~and then went back to her doing~~
~~elsewhere and I'd lost timing.)~~
She has been taking 2 ounces of
orange juice for the past couple of weeks.
The doctor said to start on probenecid
at one month, but we haven't yet.
Probably will in a couple of days.

Her hair is still coal black but
no one can decide on her eyes. I think
they look green - most people say
they're black and a few claim they are

blue - ?? genetically I don't know
how eye colors go but her are still
a mystery. Generally speaking people
when they first see her, say she looks
like me. In a way she does but
it's hard to pick out specifics - more
a little bit. However she has 2 dimples
and her chin looks like Mother's -

Several people have remarked that
after seeing your picture on the table
but I think her general facial shape
looks like Thaeme - ? So, I guess you'll
have to wait until summer and see
for yourself. I'm taking photos has
about 72 shots in a row & takes a
while. Generally she is fair complexioned -
but I guess this is resolution - because
some people say she is sort of in the way
between Thaeme and me color-wise.
I guess the best thing is just little
you girl grow up and see what
happens !!

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I assume you got the letter
about me becoming new Area
Co-ordinator of Hala Klony (Barbados
Is.). Was a little surprised - I am not
really sure I like it 100% at first -
one I have to deal with all the
administrative backlog and red tape
which I really don't like plus -
~~am going to lose about £200 per
year who's getting in overtime pay~~
while I was first in charge of the
refugee program. However there has been
a fairly long time to try to get me a grade
increase. - ~~At last got my raise~~
~~yesterday. Do you have any information~~
~~for the budget for you? I'm~~
~~thinner and help more and dedicated!~~
~~Let you give calculated gift back~~
~~about 20% plus. Also give credit to our~~
~~salary account and etc total.~~
Anyways, I will be responsible for co-ordinating

The entire program now - Refugees,
Public Health, Education, Dissemination,
Well drilling, public roads, etc.

I will be, as of tomorrow morning, the
Senior American representative up here.

Last night ^{the} section of USAID I mentioned
above - Refugees, etc. has an American
"deputy" - although except for Refugee
Affairs - none of them live in Hawaii -
they come over 2-3 times a month. Of the
total program Refugee Affairs is the
most important and in a way I have
to give up operational control of the
program to assume the general
overall co-ordination. The Refugee Affairs
office in Honolulu however is hoping
to have "one of their men" in the AC job -
even though by becoming AC I
switched from Refugee Affairs office (OEA)
to the Office of USDAO for Field Operations
USDAO. There are a total of 7 AC's - and
Honolulu is probably the next to
smallest in size, but we are in an

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important geographical position -
on the Thai, China, Vietnam, Burma border
area. I figure my refugee program ~~alone~~
the present fiscal year will run about
\$4.9 million dollars - including air
cost for rice drops etc. Is even as Refugee
~~Officer~~ my program was pretty substantial.

As far as I can tell I will be the youngest
As in Laos. Bob Worley in Luang Prabang is
about the same age but has been acting
as several times while the AC was gone
for several months. I'm now into the
~~decent~~ deeper jungle of old pros
and can either get along fine and
come out smelling like a rose or get
completely cleaned up. Will just have
to wait and see -

Well, its now 9:30 and I'd
better get to bed. ~~Well will again.~~
~~I~~ ~~I had to and Jim's~~
~~presently never leave when I need~~
~~to leave, I went as I did.~~

~~For the Chinese calendar. Also,~~
~~you should be getting your~~
~~Electric with like a motor -~~
~~Included is a slogan for 825 which~~
~~I hope will ease the customs if~~
~~not take some money out of my~~
~~next pay check.~~

Happy Valentine's day -

Lam

Zenia, Play home
: Chester

PS. guide line on customs say that
strung pearls are 44% and radles
10-11 1/2%. So let me know if the figures are
different. The place where I ordered them is
a military exchange and they say the
customs generally follow the exchange price
as settled for customs duty.