

Pacific Far East Line, Inc.

ON BOARD SS Pacific Bear

Dear Folks, AT SEA 1/19/1959

This is our eleventh day at sea!
So far it has been a very different trip than our others. Right now we are in the middle of a blizzard and the boat's big fog horn booms out every two minutes as a warning to other ships that might be in the vicinity. We have travelled a very Northernly [sic] route and are now latitude 44° and longitude 157°. They think that it will take about four more days to get to Yokohama. The weather has been bad most of the trip and this freighter rocks not only up and down with every wave but rolls back and forth to about a 25° angle. It makes it quite difficult to sleep but we are getting used to it now.

The first two days out of San Francisco were very rough. Jake, Mark and Ruth were good sailors but the rest of us fed our

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breakfast to the fishes. Outside of that first morning, we haven't

been sick so have lots to be thankful for.

The baby has been just perfect. She is eating better, sleeps good [sic] and almost never cries [sic]. When we go to the dining room - she plays or sleeps on the bed until we come back. I can just feel that many people are praying for her!

We are having school almost every day for the other children. It helps to occupy their time. They also have games and books in the lounge.

We have two nice bed-rooms [sic]. They each have two single ~~rooms~~ beds and one upper berth, 2 closets, a shower and toilet, 5 drawer dresser, sink etc. The lounge is on the same floor and the dining room down one. We are really getting spoiled (and fat) with all the good food and not much work to do. The cabin-boy even makes our beds every day.

There are only four other passengers. Two Korean fellows,

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one Burmese boy and one American

lady who is a missionary to Korea.
We don't have to dress very fancy
which is a good thing as the
facilities for washing aren't very
good. There is a machine but it
is in the crew-quarters so only
Jake can use it.

We haven't been able to get -
outside much as it has been
raining or snowing most of the
way. The spray dashes up on both
decks every time that the boat
dips.

I suppose that Phyllis has return-
ed to Colorado? ~~Has Fran been back?~~
How did the pictures turn out? I
am eager to see them. Did you
keep your chin up, Mom?

Continued. This is Wed. P.M. the
21st. We didn't have Friday last
week as we crossed the Internation-
al Date Line. We are nearing
Japan now and should arrive
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sometime tomorrow. The snow has
stopped but it is still windy and
cold.

Our ship travels at the rate of
12-15 knots per hour. A knot is

about 1½ miles.

Bye for now - will add a little
tomorrow.

Love

Florence, Jake

+ Kids

Land Ahoy! I awoke early and
saw the smoke from a freighter.
Soon five or six Japanese fishing
boats bobbed over the horizon.
Soon there were ten or twelve and
then a whole fleet of them with
their white sails flopping in
the wind. The shore-line [sic] came into
view and now (10:30 A.M.) we
are nearing the end of the
peninsula and will head for
port. We plan to be in by 2:00 P.M.

Fire + Boat drill adds to the
excitement of the day! Everyone
dons life-jackets + reports to their
station by one of the life-boats.