

In the mail . . .

Sir:

I am taking the liberty of answering your card for my husband, (Albert Othick, '36bus) who is now in Cuzco, Peru. We left the states August 5 and were on the liner Heiyo Maru for 23 days before arriving at our port of call.

Mr. Othick recently accepted a position with the Sasa Gibson as accountant. This is an English firm of importers famous in South America for their woolen and banking business.

I am leaving next week to be with him in Cuzco. It is rather hard for we Oklahomans to become acclimated to the high altitude in this country and I have to go a little higher at a time. Cuzco is the oldest Inca city in South America and only recently a new group of ruins have been discovered close to the city. Mr. Othick wrote me that he had been to visit the Temple of the Sun and the famous stone of thirteen corners. The cathedrals in this country are beautiful with their gold altars and wood work.

At Cuzco live many Chollas or half breed Indians and the women are very picturesque. They wear as many as sixteen petticoats of different colors and high topped white boots and a big white Panama hat.

We are fond of Arequipa. The people are courteous and the climate is wonderful. It never rains here and is around 70 degrees all year. Arequipa is at the foot of the Misti, a once active volcano and I have a feeling it may be active again one of these days as we see smoke coming out of the top and sometimes at night a fiery piece of lava goes rolling down the mountain. A week never goes by without an earthquake. They are only small quakes but it gives one a funny feeling to wake up in the night and hear a low growling that seems to come from the Misti and then the doors swing open and your bed has the jitters.

In Arequipa there are only three American women but nearly all of the upper class speak English and speak it well. I always feel embarrassed when I try to speak my terrible Spanish to someone and the person answers me in English that is better than my own English. Mr. Othick speaks Spanish, Quecho and English and I am sorry that I do not speak better Spanish. At Cuzco, Spanish is forsaken for the Indian dialect.

We miss Biff Jones and the football games, the Friday night dances, Professor Newton and Dr. Gittinger.

People ask us how we like South America and we say very well, thank you, but they forget to ask us how much better we like the good old U. S. A.

Sincerely,
 MRS. ALBERT OTHICK
 Arequipa, Peru

Sir:

I am working as boys' adviser in the Junior High school building at the U. S. Indian Vocational school at Albuquerque, N. M., and it's really been tough here all right. The hours are long—about 16 a day. I have one afternoon off. The rest of the time it's a continuous grind.

But believe it or not, I like it. That's a fact. I can deal with the boys directly and I think it's lots of fun.

I have just organized a scout troop and boy, are we clicking off. It meets here at the school—we have our own troop room and everything. It's the first time I've ever been able to give the time to a troop as I really wanted to, and do I enjoy it.

We have 24 boys in it now—three full patrols—and I think will have to organize another patrol pretty soon. We have enough new boys.

I have a jim dandy Sunday school class, composed of older fellows.

You see, this school has grades from the seventh through the twelfth. Several university students stay out here and the government pays their board and room and they go to school at the University of New Mexico (the same school we beat last year 25 to 0—remember?).

ED McCURTAIN, '35AS, '36MA.
 Albuquerque, N. M.

Sir:

I received a last-minute appointment at the University of New Mexico to teach two courses and do some research in local government. I'm compiling material for a dissertation in the same field, in the event things turn out that I become a teacher by profession.

Best regards,
 F. D. BEHRINGER, '34AS, '35MA.
 Albuquerque, N. M.

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