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Newspaper Clipping (1978)

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Letters by missionary to China

Lindsay Gazette

reveals a world long past

Jan 11, 1978

"Letters From Hazel" is the title of a remembrance book compiled and published by Winifred Todd of Strathmore in memory of her sister who wrote the letters while she spent 21 years as a missionary in China.

The letters embrace the

uneasy period in history when a second world war seemed inevitable and, indeed, did come about.

In China, where war hardly ever stopped, the Japanese were busy fighting a badly organized Chinese army during the Manchurian war

(and later WW II) with air raids, confusion, food shortages and censorship.

Hazel Todd was among many American Christians who worked amid the Chinese in their war torn villages—preaching, teaching and ministering to the sick.

Her letters to her family in Strathmore (130 pages) are simple, straightforward and unaffected, with only the slightest hint at the hardships and deprivations experienced at every step.

In a murderous climate, near constant danger and often without anyone to talk to in English, the writer simply paints a picture, describes what goes on and rejoices when she succeeds in gathering those around her whom she helped to find salvation in the message of the scriptures.

"For myself," she writes, "I do not covet being the missionary who makes a big noise, but one the Lord can really use."

Bouts with malaria, typhoid, anemia and lack of

proper foods led to her death in 1941. Her last letter, written on her 48th birthday on Oct. 20 of that year, states matter of factly that she had run out of quinine and other major supplies such as kerosene, with little hope for replenishment.

Wishing her family a "Merry Christmas, lest it be too late", she died of a heart attack on Nov. 17, 1941. The news reached her family in Strathmore on Nov. 27, 10 days before Pearl Harbor. Her remains lie buried in the garden of the missionary compound where she worked and brought a measure of relief to those who suffered.

The book may be ordered direct from Winifred Todd or from Charlie Todd, both of Strathmore.