

TRANSLITERATION

Feb. 12, 1940

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Libe moder:

Ich ken dir shrauben az ich un Bili seien gotzudank gezunt.

Mir hofen az du Meri un Len seien di siim.

Mir kan nit shiken gelt di voch. Ale arbaiter haben mer nit gezalt gevaren biz di letste mitvoch. Di kompeni machen naier arengments zu bazalen di helfen.

Mir haben genug gelt zu bazolen tante Sere.

Un a par taler far spending.

Nekste voch mir velen shiken gelt di selbe vi alemal.

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Ich shik zurik Meres peipers. Ich vel shraiben ir a leter shpeter far araingments zu komen do.

Gerus mer al.

Ich un Bili shiken dir unzer lib dein liben kind.

Moris.

TRANSLATION

Dear mother:

I can write you that I and Billy are (thank God) healthy.

We hope you, Mary, and Len are the same.

We cannot send money this week.

All workers have no more been paid since last Wednesday.

The company is making new arrangements to pay the help.

We have enough money to pay Aunt Sarah.

And a couple of dollars for spending.

Next week we will send the money the same as always.

I am sending back Mary's papers. I will write her a letter later for arrangements to come here [to visit].

Regards to all.

I and Billy send you our love, your loving child Morris.

NOTES

Maurice grew up in a Yiddish speaking home and did not learn English until attending school in Newport (RI). Moe and Billy worked for Uncle Sam (Cherlin) with an opportunity to earn some income during the Depression and gain valuable business experience. They began shortly after high school. Moe was around 17 years old. Two years later he penned this letter and within four years Billy and he enlisted in the Navy.

The Yiddish incorporates some English transcribed into the Hebrew alphabet (company, arrangements, ...).