THE 1942

WORLD WAR II

DIARY OF

TOMOE TOMINE

DIARY PAGES VERSION

ALAMEDA Japanese American HISTORY PROJECT





It is a privilege to read the innermost thoughts of another human being, decades after her death on October 12, 1997.

Tomoe Otsu Tomine's ("Toh-moh-A Oht-soo Toh-mean-A") diary begins written in Japanese on January 1, 1942, then switches to English in February, the very month all the Japanese on the island city of Alameda, CA., would be torn from their homes and eventually sent to incarceration camps around America. This document only shows you the English language pages.

By the diary's February entries, Tomoe had moved some 24 miles south of Alameda to what is now Fremont, hoping to avoid the evacuation, which proved fruitless. She lived with the Ushijima family, along with her mother, Yoshino Otsu, on the Ushijima farm. Back then the area was called Centerville. The diary's late February to May 9 entrees are written from there.

On April 16, Tomoe switches back to Japanese. By September, her writing becomes sporadic, then non-existent in October. There are a few more English entries in November and then it ends.

Tomoe Tomine was a thoughtful person, a talented singer and an eloquent writer. She was extremely devoted to her husband, Susumu ("Soo-soo-moo"), as he was to her.

The Alameda Japanese American History project is proud to present this material for you to read today.

It was a beautiful day out but stayed in all day arranging the room and helping around the house. my one big task is cooking which keeps me busy all day long.

In between, there was some ironing to do.

At eleven o'clock the mailman brought two letters for me — one from Susumu and the other from Tatsumi Yamamoto.

Susumu's letters are the only thing that keeps me going. If I didn't have him I'd be so lonesome.

Tatsumi is so kind to me. He is always concerned about my welfare.

Sudden change in the weather brought rain which was quite unusual, and unexpected.

We were thankful that we had moved two days before schedule.

Attended Kiko's home wedding at the Naruo's. She looked very sweet in her bridal attire. Chiyo looked very attractive in her red and cream gown.

It was good to see see my friends once again — missed Miyo, Masano and Fusano though.

Bob Naruo's home across the street was a peach. Everything modernistic from front to the back. I can't even dream of a place like that.

The girls brought me home but we got lost and by the time we finally located the house, it was twelve o'clock. We must've spent over an hour on the road.

Washington's birthday — also Susumu's and George's.

Regretted deeply that I wasn't able to make the trip over to Redwood City. Seemed like a good Sunday was wasted.

Mr. & Mrs. Yamachika moved in. Jack, Jake, & Yas came with the truck. Fed thirteen people for lunch.

Wrote to Susumu and Mr. Ishii. Also to thank Yas-san for mother.

Worked on Susumu's sweater for the first time in a long while. I must hurry up and finish it.

Holiday — George was home. Took him to the matinee in Hayward. Saw "The Corsican Brothers" & "Glamour Boy". Both swell.

First ride to town since my arrival. Was a beautiful drive. Almond blossoms blooming along the road, and mustard grass covering the meadows with its yellow blanket.

Went over to Sensei's back yard and Sensei was surprised. He thought I was dead since I never go out.

Told Kiyoshi I'd knit him a pair of socks. It's anyone for me to finish Susumu's sweater so that I can start on his sox.

Another day ended peacefully with amidst merriment & laughter. Mrs. Yamashita is the clown of the house.

FEBRUARY 24

Rain
Went to Hayward with Harry to Employment Office and Bank.
Found two letters from Susumu.
-was glad to hear the Ishii's saw approved of me.
Kyoko has written to Susumu again. Hope she isn't in to make more trouble.
Wrote letters to Susumu, Takeuni, and Sato-san.
Waited up for George, and had another "jam session" up till 11:30. What a riot! George imitated a Filipino and was he good! Mrs. Yamashita was standing right by to keep the ball rolling.

FEBRUARY 25

Beautiful day.
Did a little ironing in the morning.
Received another letter from Susumu, and one from Masano in San Jose.
Harry George and myself drove to J.a.c.L. headquarters to have our pictures taken for the J.a.c.L. identification cards. Just one shot so it may be a failure. Sorta anxious to see it.
Met Chizu Takimoto, Lillian, Sakata sisters, etc. at the Headquarter.
Wrote five letters — to Masako, Susumu, Mary, Toshi & Masano.
Bought some yarn for Kiyoshi's socks. Knitted all evening and got to the heel.
Baked a devil's food cake for the first time. It tasted pretty good but it had quite a number of holes which didn't look very professional.

The day was overcasted and threatened to rain, but the sun was shining by noon.

No mail today which was disappointing.

Washed my hair after two weeks. Feel light-headed now.

Took a walk along the highway with Takaye. The air was crisp but it was nice out.

Tried spading in the field and found out what a hard job it was.

Jack & Sumiko came to see their father & mother. They brought their baby with them. She's a darling.

Finished Kiyoshi's socks — one side. Started on the other.

Missed Susumu's letter today. The 'Sunset' was exquisite!! Tomorrow will be a fine day.

Ideal weather again just as I predicted.

Ironed all morning.

Received a mail from Susumu. He's worried about the evacuation. I wonder what'll happen if I have to separate further away from Susumu? Will we ever meet again? That is my sole worry. Susumu went under another examination. I hope it will show favorable results.

Wrote to Susumu in the afternoon.

Harry varnished our room so that we can move in.

Mr. & Mrs. Yamashita moved into the back house today. Harry also moved out into the back.

Stayed up late again. Seems like we never get to bed before eleven.

Mask was over at Motoyoshi's. Said there were rumors about my marriage. Even congratulated me.

moved into Harry's room. It looks sweet! Nice + cozy.

Received a letter from John. It was full of compliments. Said I resembled Ginger Rogers. If I can remember correctly Stan once told me that too. Even though it isn't true, its a great compliment to me.

Got Mrs. Motoyoshi + Sakaye's hair.

Intended to go to a movie tonight but George worked on late shift so no cars. Might get to go tomorrow.

MEMO

The month of February has gone by. In spite of the current conflict the world goes around. In another week the war will enter its fourth month, and things aren't any better.

Lately we have been hearing unfamiliar words like, enemy aliens, contra-band, curfew zone, evacuation, F.B.I. and others.

We hear of many dangerous enemy aliens being "taken in" by the F.B.I. agents. Some of their sons are serving in the U.S. army. Their family must evacuated from the prohibited area. Such is the lifes of the Japanese in the U.S. today.

Worse things are expected to happen. We are ready to taste any medicine now.

MEMO

Sunday — beautiful day. Had several visitors. Stayed home and wrote letters. Learned to drive for the first time & when the car started to me, I got so nervous I forgot everything. I wonder if I'll ever learn to drive.

At night, George, Harry, Min Ota & I went to San Jose to see a movie. Expected to see "Suspicion" but wasn't playing, so saw "Keep 'em Flying." Got home at 1:00 A.M. for the first time in a long while. Seems like I can't stay up any more.

MARCH 2

Went to Hayward with Harry.
Reported at the Employment Dept'y.
Weighed myself and found
I gained three pounds since
I came to the country. This
life must agree with me. I
better watch my step though.
Received a letter from Summie.
I disappointed him last Thursday.
I hope I can go this week.
Finished Summie's sweater and
Kiyoshi's socks. Turned out pretty
good but I hope its not too small.

MARCH 3

March third — Girls Festival.
The Motoyoshi's celebrated the
day with oosushi and other
Japanese dish. Brought a
dish over for us too.
Received five letters — Masano,
Masako, Tatsumi, Summie and
Mary. Seems like everyone is
talking about the coming
evacuation.
The prohibited area has been
designated. All Nisei's as well
must get out. No specific date
has been set but it won't be
very long. Where to go is our
problem. Yes, where can we go?
Baked an apple pie but the
crust was lousy. The boys en-
joyed it though.
Sugar, Tom, Sam, & Archie
came over to play poker and
stayed till 12:15. Enjoyed watching
them even though I don't know
the game.

MARCH 4

All Japanese including American citizens must evacuate from the prohibited area. No date has been set as yet but plans are being made to evacuate them within sixty days.

The government requests the Japanese not to get panicy for they are going to provide us with comfortable quarters and appropriate work.

Two weeks have passed since we settled down here, and now we have to think of re-settling some place else again. This time it will be pretty far away, and most likely the climate would be very disagreeable.

Received letters from Susumu & Sato san. Sato san said if he leaves Calif. we may never meet again.

MARCH 5

Another warm day like yesterday. Was my first really happy day in a long while.

Harry took me to Redwood City to see Susumu. It only takes half an hour to the hills. Took some lunch, flowers, and sweater. The sweater was just right.

Spent a perfect afternoon up on the hill with noone around to bother us. It was an ideal day for a picnic. Sat on the green grass over-looking the valley and talked of the past and future. Felt like staying there for hours & hours.

Took "Lady" out on the car for the first time, and she really enjoyed it.

MARCH 6

Nothing exciting occured. No mail either.

Spent the day reminescing of the first time we had together — Susumu & I — yesterday.

Wrote to Susumu in the morning.

Six guests from Sekigahara's camp came for a visit.

Finished one side of Harry's socks.

MARCH 7

Got up at 7:40 which was unusually early, after the breakfast dishes, and ironing and a little house-work, it was already ten-thirty.

Got Susumu's letter. Susumu was very glad to see me. He thought I looked younger and prettier since I came out to the country (Ho ho ho!)

Susumu looked handsome as ever, I thought too.

Takaye & I took a walk again. Walked up to the Niles Rock today. Afternoon walk was rather hot. From now on well do it in the morning.

Takaye wanted to hear the Japanese records so we played it for the first time in a long while. I still ~~Japanese~~ think Japanese music is good. We even tried to dance to "Jennen no Hi".

Went to bed with a slight cold. Intended to get up early and make hot cakes but couldn't do it. Got up around 8:30, took a ride to San Leandro.

Felt rather low so went back to bed again. Mary dropped in around three o'clock which was a great surprise & pleasure. Got up and went to Sakata's with Mary, but came back right away and went to bed again.

Toshi, Masako, Haruko, Fake, Yoe Johnny, Tusaye, Yasuko, Yuki Yuri and many others dropped in from town.

Sunday is usually a visiting day around here.

Got up and reported to the Employment agency, but still felt dopey so went back to bed after lunch.

Received a letter from Kiko. She seems very happy. Married life must be wonderful. I hope my turn will come soon.

Another letter was from Tatsumi. He said my last letter encouraged him alot.

Spent the rest of the day in bed.

MARCH 10

Back to the daily routine.
Feel fine now. Started to rain in the afternoon.
Received a letter from Susumu, Mrs. Martin, and a wedding picture from Mr. & Mrs. Kanno. Both look elegant!
Wrote back to Susumu, and also thanked Kiko.
Today the ladies are starting to transplant the tomato plants. It is getting rather busy around the house for that reason.
Mrs. Yoshimura is in her overalls right in with the country ladies.
Went to see "Suspicion" in San Jose — Sakaye, George, Harry & myself. Joan Fontaine won academy award in this picture. She really deserves it. It was a wonderful picture.
Went to the bowling alley for the first time. Seems like an interesting game.
Got home at one o'clock.
Was still raining.

MARCH 11

Started out fine but commenced to rain in the afternoon again. By evening the rain had changed to wind and is still blowing hard.
Received two checks from the unemployment office, a letter from Susumu, and one from Chizu.
Nothing exciting happened.
Still don't know when we are to evacuate and where. The best thing is to forget the war and evacuation and live from day to day.
The willow trees in the front are turning green with the rain. Quite a change has come over in the surrounding in three weeks. The beautiful peach & almond blossoms are just about gone. Apricots are in full bloom now. The river underneath is running more swiftly after the rain.
Wrote to Susumu & Betty.

MARCH 12

Nothing extraordinary occurred. Just a daily routine composed of housekeeping & cooking. Finished Harry's socks. Yoshimi brought the J.a.c.L pictures. Are they frightful! The ladies were out in the tomato beds transplanting.

MARCH 13

Today was Friday the thirteenth, but I got away without any bad luck.

Harry said he had his share of bad luck cuz he had to get up at 4:30 AM. to cover the tomato beds on account of the rain. He got to sleep all morning though.

Rev. Motoyoshi dropped in and talked for a while. On the way home he suggested Suzuno & I get married as soon as possible if the doctor permits. Suzuno should evacuate with me, Sensei thinks.

Received a letter from Suzuno & Toshi. Toshi suggests we get together for a fiddle musical soiree. Sure like to go to S.F. once again.

Wrote to S. in the afternoon. The day was very unsettled. The ladies started to work out in the beds but had to quit when it started to rain.

MARCH 14

The rain storm that came last night continued throughout the day. Freezing temperature came with it, and the wind almost took the trees by the roots. Around five in the afternoon the storm ceased, and snow were seen on the distant mountain peaks. Must have been the coldest day of the year.

MARCH 15

Yesterday's storm became a thing of the past and today — Sunday really became a sun day. The rain increased the water in the river below, and the water is flowing gayly with a merry tune. The slow heaving of the sea somewhere in the distance, and the hearty chirping of the birds in the trees tells one that Spring is in the air.

Being Sunday, we had many visitors from Alameda.

Kiko & George and Chiyo dropped in and surprised me. Kiko seemed very happy.

The ladies had another "Jam Session" at night with Mrs. Mikami joining the colony. The "samisen" added color to the merry-making.

The ladies can forget evacuation when they're singing and laughing away.

Could've gone to the movies but stayed home.

Nice day again.

Mashno dropped in, which was a pleasant surprise. It's her birthday today. She is 24 too.

Housecleaning, scrubbing, cooking and ironing was enough to keep me going all day.

Finally got through with the dishes around 7:30, then wrote three letters — Susumu, Toshi & Takumi.

Received Susumu's letter in the morning.

Nothing special happened today. Did the usual thing around the house.

George, Harry, Sugar, Sugar, Sam, & I went to see "Captain of the Clouds" and "Unexpected Uncle". Both good pictures.

MARCH 18

Received a letter from S.
He expects me Thursday.
Was a long day today waiting for Thursday. Wishing for a nice day so we can go for a walk again.

Tomorrow will start a new month for us in Centerville. Has a whole month passed already? Time seems to have gone by swiftly since every day brought forth a new event.

MARCH 19

— was a very happy day. Lying in the grass and searching for a four-leaf-clovers with S was wonderful. Couldn't find any, but happiness was with us anyway so it didn't matter much. Talked about evacuation and our future. S. plans to ask for a leave to settle his business. Hope we can both go to L.A. together and have our final fling.

Poor Harry slept in the car while we walked in the sun.

Wrote a letter to "S" and a letter of congratulation to John in the evening.

Heard Skig + Tsuno dropped in while I was out. Too bad I couldn't see Fusano and talk with her.

MARCH 20

Excellent day. Spent about three hours outside. Got a slight tan. Hope to continue adding color.

Finished George's socks. Started a pair for myself for a change.

Lady — the cocker spaniel — is cuter as ever. Today at supper time she got so excited she fell backward trying to stand up on her hind legs.

Played some records in the evening. It was good to hear Shina-no-Yoru" again.

MARCH 21

First day of Spring — the day was worthy of the occasion. Just enough chilliness in the air to remind us that winter was making its exit.

The sky was blue, trees green with new leaves, birds singing of spring, and the lazy mooing of the cow all helped to welcome the new season.

Exactly one year ago today Susumu & I met for the first time. I can still remember clearly the beautiful "Shina-no-Yoru", "Aizen Yakyoku" and "Hana Kotoba" sung by Susumu accompanied on the guitar by Ota-San. They were rehearsing for an entertainment for the Kibei Conference. Now I wish I had gone to that confab. I would have enjoyed it.

MARCH 22

First of the week is usually busy.

Today being Sunday, we had plenty of visitors again.

Daddy & Lou dropped in for a while. Min, Setsu, Nami, Jomi & the brother dropped in on the way home from San Jose. Mrs Iwatashi had sent some "Ohagi" for Mrs. Yamashita our mother. I thought it was rather sentimental.

Stayed in my room & wrote to Sukumu while guests were busy with their conversation in the dining room. Kiyoshi kept me company.

MARCH 23

Went to Hayward for the unemployment compensation. Sakaye went with us, and we did a little shopping here & there.

A new curfew has been established restricting the movements of all Japanese, American-citizen alike, alien Italians & alien Germans. Under this law those affected must be at home between 8:00 p.m. & 6 a.m. and can only travel within five miles. A special permit is essential to travel outside of these limits. This is to go into effect Friday morning, March 27th.

Received a letter from Chizu in regards to the furnitures we left behind. They are planning to rent their house.

Received a letter from Susumu.

Nothing unusual; just the idea of being locked up after the 27th is sickening.

Went to San Jose with Harry, George, Sam & Sakaye to see the town for the last time.

Saw "The Man Who Came To Dinner". Good comedy.

Received a letter from Tatsumi. He is returning to S. F. today.

Inamura son has gone back to Stockton.

Found my letter ~~letter~~ addressed to Susumu on the dresser which should have been mailed yesterday morning. It was an important letter concerning our trip to S.F. too. Sent it out this morning.

Received a letter from Miyo & Susumu.

Hiroshi Kanda came over to tell us that it would be safer to take our furnitures and that no one will be given a permit for that purpose after today.

Sam offered to take us on his truck so Harry, Sam & myself made a hurried trip to Alameda and brought back all the furnitures. Called up Toshi Y. while I was in Alameda.

Sam, Harry, Suzu, Tom, Sakai and I started out for S.F. from 9:30 for our final

spree. Harry forgot his birth-certificate so all were worried about getting across the bridge but we succeeded. Went to "Club Lido" for the first and unfortunately the last time. Never had so much fun! Had steak dinner, saw a good floor show and even danced. Tasted "Tom Collins" for the first time. Wasn't bad at all. Even held a cigarette in my hand. Took a few puffs. It was fun to pretend for one night. Sam bought a corsage of two gardenias for me. That would probably be the last corsage for a long time too. Left the Club after 2 A.M. Crossed the Bay Bridge for the last time, bidding farewell to S.F. and her beautiful Bay, reached home after 3:00. Mom was pretty sore but "what's done cannot be undone".

End of a perfect evening!

Curfew started today. A memorable day for us.

Received an unexpected wire from Susumu saying he made a trip to S.F. on the 26th cuz he thought he couldn't get a permit later. Rather disappointing but it's all for the best. Glad he made the trip. I wonder what Mr. Sugaya had to say. Anxiously waiting tomorrow's mail.

Heard from Kobe. Made me feel happy.

Awfully sleepy. Going to bed early.

MARCH 28

Received Susumu's letter explaining his hurried trip to S.F. He met Sato san, Ishii san, Nomura san, Mr. Ota, Joshi, Masato, etc. Mrs. Nomura had just become a mother, and Mrs. Ishii is expecting in the near future.

Susumu, Ota-san, & Joshi got together Wednesday night and had a musical soiree. Susumu seemed to have enjoyed it very much. Sorry I couldn't be there to join them.

Mary Tatsuno came to Centerville today since none can evacuate voluntarily after Sunday.

MARCH 29

Was a quiet Sunday on account of the curfew. Mary & Sam came around so we got together & looked at albums & school annuals. Jok & Harry were trying to jitter-bug — Jour dance teach.

The Mikami family and Masato moved in next door. They have a total of fifteen people there now. What a mob!

Mr. & Mrs. Yamashita left from this house yesterday for Sanger. It's so quiet with Mrs. Yamashita. She was our leading lady, that's why.

MARCH 30

Scrubbed, changed the pantry paper, dusted, cooked, etc. Was an unusually hot day — the hottest day this year.

Sam drove me to Hayward to the Employment Bureau. Sam went to the War Board so. Took a chance and dropped in an ice cream parlor.

Received a letter of apology from Susumu, and another from Joshi. Joshi hopes we go to the same "camp". I hope so too!

Wrote to Susumu and Joshi.

MARCH 31

Nothing exciting happened outside of the daily doings. Stayed home and ironed

Another month passed, and we are still able to live here. Thank Heaven! But it won't be long before our date will be announced too. San Francisco received the first order to evacuate. Certain districts around the water front must leave by Sunday April 7th. Japanese town district is still safe.

It stands to reason that the country people would be in the latter group since their produce is essential to the country. They must carry on till the last day. Neglecting the crops is considered sabotage and is subject to arrest.

April Fool's Day. Didn't get caught tho.

Frank drove Fusayo, Sakaye and myself to Centerville.

Bought a pair of white shoes, a pek blouse, panties, monk's slacks, etc. Noticed the sales girls were all courteous. Drove home via Niles to enjoy the scenery. We sure can enjoy the beauty of Spring if it weren't for the present condition we sight.

Bought everything I need! Now I'm ready to evacuate,

Lakaye & Tusaye came over and made two delicious lemon merangue pies, and were they delicious!

Received Susumu's picture finally. Nice picture but doesn't do him justice. The finish is very poor.

Tried walking to town with Lakae & Tusa, but didn't succeed. Was finally picked up by Miss Egashira.

Collected Lakae's treat at Clovedale Creamery, and got a lift home from Tusaye Tanaka. Got off at De Coto Road and were going to walk back home, but was spied by Sam & Harry who were on their way to pick us up. We must've walked about two miles in all.

Wrote to Masako & Susumu. Received a card from John. He's on his way to Colorado.

Rain — no work outdoor. Practically the whole next door was over in the morning.

Sam drove me to the War Board in Hayward. Bumped into Mr & Mrs, Kondo, Miss Tomimatsu, Jimmie Tudenna, etc. Had to wait an hour and a half for my turn. Went to the Employment Office for the final O.K. The man in charge thought that next Thursday would be too far in advance, so he told me to come back next week. He couldn't be sure whether orders would change again.

Received a letter from Jimmie Kusuda via Air Mail. I wonder where he got my address? He's now at Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

APRIL 4

Rain again. No work.

Mrs. Hitomi and Mrs. Kitajima were over in the afternoon.

Mrs. Kitajima entertained with the "Shamisen" while Mrs. Ushijima sewed on a "futon". Mom is working hard on the bed-spread.

Wrote a letter to Susumu in the afternoon.

APRIL 5

Still kept on raining.

Stayed in all day. Mrs. Yoshimura, Mrs. Ushijima & mom went out to transplant from about three o'clock.

Shizu & Tom Mitsuyoshi, Sam, Suzu, Sakae, Tusaye, Johnny, Harry, George, & I went to an Italian dinner in Niles. Our time was limited so we had to keep an eye on the watch. Had a swell steak dinner, and all went home contented. Bought ~~an~~ a pineapple pie for mom's birthday (Incidently mom is fifty today), and some candy for Kiyoshi. The day was just turning to night when we left for home. It's such a shame to have to pass by a theatre and not be able to walk in. "Bed Time Story" was playing at the Niles theatre.

APRIL 6

Johnny, Harry & myself went to the War Board for leveling permits. Asked for one to go to the optometrist and got it. Johnny had to go into Colorado so went with him.

Went to Rokuji Garage & George Kano was still working there. Heard of Yosh Nakagawara's marriage to Cherry Shiozawa. He's home on a furlough from the army.

Went to Dr. Robinson and had a re-check. Got a pair of rim-less. Went to Dr. Watada's Telegraph Office and saw Stan. He looked thinner somehow. I guess he's worried about Jean. She's expecting next month sometimes.

Received letters from Masaru & John. John wants us to go out to Colorado. He seems to like it alot. Masaru is ~~pa~~ cutting spinach. Seems like hard work.

APRIL 7

Tuesday - stayed home and ironed.

Went to play tennis with Johnny, Harry, Sakae but the courts were full so didn't get to play.

Started in the blanket - knitting with old yarn. Hope to finish it before we leave here.

APRIL 8

四月八日 — Today is Buddha's birthday. Obasan made some "おもち" I helped too.

Went next door in the afternoon to a service. About twenty people were there.

Also Chiyo's birthday. Bought a card but don't have her address. Will mail it as soon as I find out.

Went to Centerville with George, Kiyoshi + Sakae. Bought my ticket to Redwood. Sure must, they asked for the traveling permit.

Oba-san made some "okuski" at night for me to take tomorrow.

Going to bed with hopes for a "sunny day".

APRIL 9

Got up early — six-thirty for a change. The day was unsettled but wore my spring outfit. Left home at 7:30 with my lunch and some lilacs. The bike trip wasn't so long, and I reached Redwood in about an hour.

From 9:30 to 4:30 -- had a wonderful time with Susumu. Kiyoshi joined us too. Three of us had lunch with cokes + ice-cream too. The boys enjoyed the Japanese food for a change.

Looked at Kiyoshi's album + one of Susumu's too. It was very interesting. During the rest hour we hid in the laboratory and played cards. Kiyoshi was busy with the "lab work." Later in the day the two of us went back up the hill with Susumu's guitar and we sang and played to our hearts' content. We even ran under the tree to find shelter from the April shower.

Four-thirty came in no time, and regretfully we said 'good-bye' not knowing when we'll meet again. My hopes are high. I have a feeling we can meet again soon. Please, Lord Buddha, let this hope come true.

After several poor connections, finally reached home at ten to eight. Thanks to Sam. Might have been sitting in the "cell" by this time if it weren't for Sam.

When I reached home, everyone was waiting on the front porch. Harry & Kiyoshi had gone to the De Soto Manor after me.

Sakae was over to bid me farewell. She is to start working in a family from tomorrow. I'll miss her too.

Kiyoshi said "we missed you today" which was the best thing anyone could've said.

— 17PRIL 10 —

Nothing unusual

Cleaned up for a change.

Went to Washington Union Hi and hit some tennis balls around. Later played basketball for the Alameda girls against the Scottie's. The score was unbelievable but was a good work-out.

Letters from Susumu and Masato.

Baked a gingerbread. Turned out rather well.

Received a letter from Chiyo unexpectedly. She's in Tulelock with the family.

At night wrote to Susumu, Chiyo, Betty.

APRIL 12

Sunday - played tennis again - Lon, George, Lakae, George & myself. Sure got nice and stiff. A bottle of Coke was very refreshing after the exercise.

Lakae's first day off.

Lakae still driving George's car. He's pretty good.

Lon treated us to an ice cream cone.

Kiko & George dropped in around six-thirty. They had come beyond the limit.

Wrote to Masako in the evening.

APRIL 13

George, Lon, Johnny & I went to Hayward again. Went to get a permit to go to the optometrist again. Got it right away. Bought a white blouse for Lakae. Rained in the afternoon.

Nice day. Ironed in the morning.
Went into Oakland & Alameda with Johnny & Tusaye in the afternoon.
Stan gave me a pair of dark glasses for a souvenir.
Saw Masa Hanamura, Tusako Nakata, Mas Nakata, Sam Rokutani, George Naruo, etc in Alameda.
Got home after six.
Received a letter from Susumu. Susumu wishes to buy me a ring but can't decide what kind to get. If possible, he would like to get married, but we must ask the doctor about his condition.

General clean-up today. The curtains were taken care of too.
Letters from Miyoshi & Toshi.
Miyo is in Petaluma. She's busy packing up like the rest of us.
Toshi is just about ready with her things. Seems like the San Franciscans are going to be sent to Tanforan Race Track near San Mateo.
Went to Mikami's in the afternoon and read the novel "子" by Yusuke Tsurumi. Swell book.

Wedding MEMO Gifts

Mr. & Mrs. Omizuka $5.00
Mrs. Ushijima 5.00
Mr. Mitani 30.00
Mrs. Yamada 3.00
Matsura & Maeyama - bureau
Mrs. Yoshimura & Mr. Yamada - lamp stand
Mrs. Noda - Sheets
Yo Murakoshi - Sheets & pillow slip
Kiko & George Narus - Towels
Toshi Yamamoto - Towels
Nobu Domoto - Towels
Shigeno Maeda - pillow slips & towels
Chiyo & Miyo - towels
Shijo san - bag handle
Kasai san - coat hangers
Sato san - $10.00

NOVEMBER 1

NOVEMBER 14

NOVEMBER 15

To Halsine Masuda, a baby boy at Arizona camp.

Miss Chigoko Tsuno's marriage
to Mr. Isaka Matsushige.

This ends the English portion of the diary.

Tomoe Tomine's diary was made available for the general public by her daughter, Amy Tomine.

The hand drawn art of Tomoe was done in 1937 by S. Maeda.

At right: Tomoe and her husband, Susumu, celebrate Christmas together in Alameda, circa 1950s, several years after their return from Tule Lake camp. They were initially incarcerated at Topaz in Utah.

A second version of this diary is also available. The "transcribed text and illustrated " version includes photos, news stories and notations not included in this, the "diary pages" version.

To learn more about the WWII incarceration of the Japanese, click here.

To read more about Sus and Tomoe, see the PDF, "The Picture Worth A Thousand Lifetimes."



ALAMEDA Japanese American HISTORY PROJECT