

Letter from Tsuruno Meguro to Fumio Fred and Yoneko Takano, July 13, 1942

Do not show this letter to Fumio's father.

How have you all been doing? It has been hot every day. I am worried about you because you have not written to me. Did your sister-in-law give birth to a baby?

We are well as we are. People who work here got paid and that made them all happy. How about the living conditions in Santa Anita? I got coupons twice. I buy soda and ice cream every day. The store is pretty busy. I feel like I haven't seen you for a year even though it's has passed only two months since we were separated. Are you getting along well? There was a talk given by George Smith the other day, wasn't it? Did you attend the talk? He also came to Pomona.

They show us a movie once a week. Japanese dancing and movie events were held on the fourth of July and quite crowded until midnight. I believe that you had lively events in Santa Anita.

In Pomona, women go to classes, learning many things. I am learning "ragu-tsugi," [= patchwork], and made a small piece. I am planning to learn how to sew kimono and go to the class from Wednesday.

Yoneko, what are you doing? It was too hot to stay inside or even to write a letter the other day. Misako, Yoshiko, Masako, and I all wonder how you have been doing. I never forget about you even a few moments. No matter how old you are, you are still a baby girl to me.

My neighbors are the farmers from San Jose and they are all quiet and good people. Sometimes I hear that washed clothes are stolen. I am wondering how that is happening among the Japanese here. It is strange.

By the way, Yoneko, I received a letter from Miya Kuwanishi [?]. I wrote a letter to see if I can order a sewing machine.

Misako is quite busy, working at the mess hall and also helping Mr. Unoura as a typist. Masako is working without complaining. If you complain, don't work. Yoshiko and Ryoichi are well.

Every day, I spend a whole day, washing clothes and doing the ironing. People get lazy without working. Papa wanders around outside and talks about rumors.

I planted flowers around my house. I saw the small buds on the flowers. I also planted tomatoes and beans on a ridge. Everyone here grows something in the yard. Cucumbers' flowers have started blooming in some places. We are going to move somewhere someday and do not know who will come here or if this place may be used as a camp for

soldiers eventually. I believe whoever comes here will be happy to see the flowers and vegetables in the yards.

I will write to you again. Take care of yourself and get along well. Give my best regards to Takano's papa-san. Good-bye

From Mama

July 13

To Fumio
To Yoshiko

[Written at Pomona Assembly Center]