

The best Christmas present for our family came in the form of a 1949 Ford. Now the entire family can go to church together. On Thursday nights, the choir used to freeze and get bounced around on the pick-up truck as I took young people home. It warms us to know that after ~~two~~ ^{SIX} year's since evacuation, we are slowly gaining back materially what was broken and lost by the army order. In the course of our road back,.... a quiet miracle is taking place within each of us, and within our family circle. Never have we felt such peace and unity of working together in the fields...going on trips...and off to a movie.. and regularly going to church. It is a precious, heart warming experience, we wish we could spill over to all the world.

G. grandpa....is past eighty. His sparse hair is greyer. Ever since we can remember grandpa has been well-groomed when he steps out. He sways more to the side and takes longer to reach his destination, but his shoulders are gallantly straightened as he walks about his work. He has not yet allowed his years of good living to give him a moment's right to give up doing things. One day, we heard a strange sound coming from the bedroom. We ran into the bedroom to find him sitting in bed trying out Marielle's violin. In all these years, he had never had an opportunity to get a close look at the violin. We knew that it is his awareness of everything that adds to the wealth of life that makes us glad to know him. How much he has enriched our lives! This year, he has learned to enjoy the movie (with a little Japanese explanation). It adds much to the pleasure of the entire family now that no one is left home when we step out. He hasn't had much luck as a fisherman this year. As an alien, his license costs \$25 and he knows he didn't see enough fish! His chief hobby is raising herb tea and chickens. His pet peeve...the endless battle with the weeds.

Grandpa and Grandma took a new interest in baseball. The whole family had a long season of anxiety when the Sacramento Solons failed to climb much higher than 4th place and ended the season at the bottom of the ladder.

Grandma....is amazingly active inspite of her ~~70~~ ⁶⁸ years. She gives much in service to her large brood of 5 children and 17 grandchildren. Her Christmas cactus is a wonder to behold. She is the chief gardener. Always raking, sweeping, pinchhitting as a housekeeper and cook (cause her daughter-in-law is seldom at her post!) Because of her patience and enthusiastic cooperation, it was possible to fulfill 35 speaking engagements...speaking directly to 5,000 persons.

Grandma would go to a movie everyday if she could. She can't speak English but comprehends much. We often find her enjoying the radio. She likes the funny hit that sounds a lot like "gusta-la" Her biggest single-handed contribution to the family has been the peeling and drying of hundreds of perssimons. She cracked over 20 pounds of walnuts. Much effort and love went into shopping and packaging parcels to Japan.

Nami...1948 has blessed her in better health. Longer hours out of bed has given me a valuable private secretary. She has enabled me to send out letters in behalf of better understanding and goodwill. She is the steadiest of my six piano pupils. Has contributed greatly to the family by quietly knitting Xmas gifts. After years in seclusion, she has enjoyed stepping out for a bit of social life. Is catching up on cooking,...she is our chief hair-dresser..and the gentlest, understanding soul!

Marielle...It was a special day when her six-year-old pigtails were cut. We gave her a toni home permanent. My, what a change! She is growing too! Was the chairman of her Girl Scout troop. Received her service star, now a First Class Rank, and is working for a badge in sewing, cooking, and housekeeping. Is practicing the violin and played in the school orchestra. Keeps up her piano too. Very much a tom-boy. A good sport. helped all summer picking berries.

Alfred...Boss of a 35 acre farm. The fruit season all rolled up still brought fair results. But Al is ready to face the truth "that Florin never was a grape country." "So he has made a decision not to depend entirely on the vineyard for a living. We shall both work out. He has been promised his old job as the strawberry salesman. On the market. This summer, when our strongest breadwinner came down with arthritis..we were shaken a bit, but luckily, it has been a mild attack. We pray earnestly that he will be spared. He is almost completely recovered. Missed being the winner of a fishing derby. He caught the 18 lb bass 2 days too soon. Almost slipped right off the church roof as the men in the church put a new roof. Always there with vision and sensitive understanding, I know now why I dare.