

Block 30-5-1

Manzanar, California

July 11, 1944

Dear Wagell Bros.,

Hello! I presume you are wondering who is writing this letter to you. Well, I am a former student of Elk Grove Union High School. And I was in same grade with all of you. Before I go any further I will introduce myself. My name is Bill Taketa and I hope you will accept me as one of your pen pals. You may recall the memories about old days when we had fun in freshmen's first semester activity in which we were supposed to learn rules and procedures, manners, etc. I guess you are wondering how I received your address. I received your address from my pal, Leo Uchida so this will explain why I am writing to you.

I presume Leo have told you mostly about Manzanar so I'll make it short. Manzanar is located between the two great beautiful range of mountains, the Sierra (on the west) and the Panamint (on the east). The two nearest town are Independence and Lone Pine. This war time community sprung up in the midst of desert when the evacuation begun. The first census read 10,000 peoples.

but since then relocation has decreased it to present population of 5900 peoples. At the present, peoples are going out daily to relocate to some midwest or eastern section of the country.

It has been two long years since I came into this camp. I experienced many disappointments, miseries, and also bright sides of life. Since I came here I met many new friends. How was your school last semester (was it fun)? The school here are same as any other school except than our classes are held in barracks instead of regular school building. The students here came from 200 different schools. There are few students from Elk Grove H.S. here <sup>and 2 other girls</sup> (this fall term) Leo and I are the only senior from Elk Grove. What subjects are you planning to take this coming fall term. I am planning to take 3 required subject, ~~so~~ Physics and Trigonometry. I hope I will be able to pass them if I take it.

What you doing nowadays? As for me I am working as a account clerk.

Well, I guess I have to close for the present. And I hope you will answer my letter.

Hoping you will answer ~~my~~ my letter I remain,

Hopefully,  
Bill Lakota

