Manzanar, Calif.
August 18, 1944

Dear James —

Howdy, ole partner, how are you coming along? I received your letter yesterday and since I have time I decided to answer it. Well you seem to be complaining about your hot weather. I bet, our weather is more terrible than your weather. The thermometer is always between 95° to 100°. Man! you can't stay in the house around here, its too hot. Lucky I am working in a office where there is a cooler.

At last the army have caught up with you, huh! (trying to evade draft?) (just joking). It won't be long before they draft me too. If they draft me, I will gladly join. If I am drafted, I will go into the engineering or mechanical department of 100th Infantry Battalion.

Have you heard about the famous 100th Battalion in Italy? I will give anything to join them.

So your car went haywire, Well do you want me to fix it for you - you know I am a expert at it (just kidding) since I been working with Ford company for years and years. You amaze me with height, I am just like a midget compared with you. I am 5 foot 5 in, and tipping the scale at 145 lbs. Don't kid me about my brain capacity. But I wish I had a big brain capacity like you have. Are you planning to go to a college? (after the war). As for me, If I have a chance I would like to go to a auto mechanic trade school.

The authority, few days ago announced the damage caused

by the recent fire. The damage estimated to about $19,000.00.

I got a surprise for you. My mother made a slipper for George and you. It isn't much of a slipper but I hope you will like it. Those slipper were hand make. I hope it will reach you on your birthday.

Well, my letter turned out to be lousy so I'll close but before I close I would like to wish you a "happy birthday.

Your former classmate,
Bill Tokita

P.S.
Pardon my writing and English.

Bill Takeda
30-5-1
Manzanar, Cal.

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AUG 18
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1944
CALIF.

Mr. James Waegell
Rt. 2 Box 2230
Elk Grove, California