

January 11, 1945.

Dear Kazuo:

Received your letter yesterday and I am sorry that I did not send you a line or two sooner explaining why you have not heard from Lea. She took sick during the holidays and has been quite bad ever since. It seemed to start with a bad cold in the head and then developed into ear trouble and finally affected a facial nerve that is keeping her from using her eyes and sort of putting her out of commission altogether. Right now we are going to the chiropractor every day for nerve and muscle massage and then she is to have three shots per week from the local doctor to build up nerve resistance and they think will straighten that condition out soon. In the meantime we are not able to do much of anything else. Yesterday I took a ride up to see Sam - they have half of the pruning done and all the fertilizer scattered. The weather has been very bum for pruning and has slowed them up, however, he said they would be through in a week if it didn't rain. Our pruning here is getting along very slowly - one man got hurt and the continued heavy fog all day long sort of keeps them inside.

Lea wants me to tell you that just as soon as she can use her eyes and her hand is steady enough to write she will finish up the book work and then send your statement. Also to thank you for the Christmas gift. She says she owes letters to Tsugiye and your folks to thank them for their gifts, but I am a poor hand at writing and have to bother someone so they will have to wait until she is able to take care of it. In the meantime, if you see any of them, please tell them what is wrong.

We got a nice letter from Ted the other day - surely surprised to hear he was over there already. They are certainly taking everything that is left around here under 35. Some of these ranches are going to be without caretakers if they keep it up.

I don't know of anything else to tell you right now. Things are progressing very well at the ranch, I think. The boys have the tractor at one of my neighbor's and it is about ready for them. I saw it the other day and from what the fellow told me it was not going to take as much fixing as we at first thought. It won't be in tip-top shape, but it will carry them through if they treat it right. I just hauled home eleven of your ladders that we had patched. I picked up all the broken ladders you had around the place and took them all in. He did a fine job and the whole bill was \$22.25 so I thought it paid...right now they are as good as new. The fellows up there have been using what good ones there were and some of ours and some of our neighbor's so as soon as I can get around to it I will take back these and haul home everybody else's. The box situation is still somewhat up in the air. I went to Geyserville to see about some shock that I heard could be bought much cheaper than here. They didn't have a bit and had so many orders from their growers that they couldn't promise me a thing. I could have saved about 10¢ per lug if they had it, but guess there is one thing left to do and that is order them from Glaszer. He is the only dealer anywhere around here right now and soaks what he pleases. One of the Fillies is borrowing all he can from his prune boss, but they won't be near enough and with the big crop we expect it is going to be impossible to rent boxes. We are ordering 300 for ourselves and

500 for you. It may happen that they can pick carrier up there in which case we can take a few hundred of ours up to them. They will probably have plenty fellows to pick and we don't want them to kick for lack of boxes, so I really think we can work it out with the new ones and a few borrowed ones.

One of the boys was down the other day for the key to the gas tank. He has applied for their gas and he said that last year they had too much of it stolen out of their drum at the dryer so they are not going to take any chances this year. I am not sure that the tank is still in condition, but I gave him the key and the rest is up to them. They still did not know what they were going to do about an orchard truck. I had to bring mine home as it was completely shot after the two seasons there. The first year I overhauled it underneath and put in a new piece which held it together until the middle of this season, then it went very slowly until we hauled in the last props when it let go completely and I had to wire it together to make the last load or two. I am going to make a new one by taking the low wheels off of this one and putting them on the frame of that old spray outfit of mine. When I get that made I am not going to give it to them to wreck. I am sure they can pick up something that can do the work for one season. Our little old Ford is getting so shot that I never know when it will go out in the middle of the season and if it should, then I need the orchard truck myself.

Well Kazuo, this is about all from me. I hope that Lea will be well soon so she can send you all the returns for the year and explain more of what is going on. In the meantime, I hope you are all O.K. and that Johnny's family is well also.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Perry