

Home, February 4, 1945.

Dear Kazuo:

I just wrote a long letter to Tsugiye and thought I had a lot of time to write a newsy one to you, but it is past 10:30 right now and I should not be up so late. I feel pretty good again now, but every few days I get sort of low in vitality and my nervous condition seems to climb so then I have to slow up again. I am still taking treatments from a chiropractor for the nerve in my neck and face that went haywire and he still massages the muscles on the right side of my face. Don't know whether it was just the aftermath of a bad cold, or a combination of that and a nerve let-down, but I was miserable for three weeks and then it started to let up. My face is all straightened out now and I feel pretty strong, but not enough to go to town on anything as yet. I didn't even feel like driving the car until a few days ago.

I am sending the statement - surely took me long enough to get it done up. I sent word to Geary long ago that I couldn't finish up the work on account of illness and then last week I went to work on it and took his copies and all the tags to him on Thursday - he was surely pleased with the returns and just couldn't get over it being just a little less than last year's. I told him I hated to have to give it up this coming year, but just could not handle it, especially not knowing how my health will be. Now, I am so glad that I let Sam take over, after getting sick I surely could see it was a smart move. Joe was up there yesterday patching those small boxes and storing them in the packing house. When we hauled them in from the orchard and our dryer we didn't bother to do any patching - we just piled them in the dryer and on the porch and figured we would patch them in rainy weather when we could take time to do it right. I told Joe to count them as he puts them away - I know they won't all be there, because in many cases when I was handling them, in the orchard and in the dryer the darned things would split on the ends and spill stuff all over. I took heads out of other boxes that were laying around here and put them in a lot of them, but at the end of the season we just put them aside and now we will fix as many as we can find heads for. There are not an awful lot of them in this bad shape, but in most cases, the rest of the box is real good, only the head split. I think that like here in the dryer where we use the box grab trucks that it weakens those heads considerably and then the weight in them just makes them pull apart in the weak spot. At that, those boxes are much cheaper than sacks. We have been buying from 500 to 750 sacks each year and they are always rotten by the next year. Joe and I are going to try and buy some of those boxes for ourselves this year, even if we can only get enough for this ranch. For Mendocino County we will probably always use sacks as they are so much easier to haul, but they surely raise heck with the fruit. Oh, by the way, I ordered the 500 boxes for up there - we tried hard to get them somewhere else, but to no avail, so we had to give the order to Jim. Joe and I are getting 300 for ourselves, too. Don't know how soon they will be ready - he had a lot of orders ahead of ours, but he said they would be ready much ahead of harvest season.

We have been having a lot of rain here the past week and it has retarded all the work - you know how that goes. Joe said the boys were pretty well along with their brush raking and burning up there and are going to spray as soon as the weather clears. One of them stops in here almost every day to get information - he asked Joe all about sprays and he is always here about the machinery. I got a kick out of him the other day - Joe wasn't home when he stopped so he told me all his troubles. The sprayer had a few leaks somewhere when they started it and he was worried sick. I didn't know what he meant so I told him to stop at Johnny's place and talk with Joe or else ask to go in and tell it to Mr. Weeks. He talked with Weeks and he advised getting a new one of those cylinders, but then they found they couldn't get a new one, so they decided to have that one brazed or welded. When Joe got

home I told him about it and it was too late to run up there, but he went up the next morning and looked it over. He says it is something that has leaked ever since we have been using it and that it never seemed to make any difference to the performance, but he did notice that it had a few mo: holes now. It is the air chamber and I don't know much about what its real function is, but as I understand it, it has a spray in it when the outfit is operating and I imagine that is what ate the holes in it. Joe says the one on our outfit is made of cast iron, but this one is made of stuff lik the tank, no thicker. Anyway, they are going to have it fixed - guess that is the only thing to do. They got the tractor back and then it wouldn't start for them. They came down and got Joe and he couldn't do anything wit it so he told them to get the guy that fixed it. He went up there and adjusted something or other and it has been starting nicely since then. I think it cost them nearly \$125.00 to have it gone over, but Joe thought they did a nice job on it. We had our little "CAT" gone over very lightly because we don't intend to work it so hard this year and we have the "Case" to use for dusting and other work until the limbs come down too low. Right now it is at Palin's having the wheels weighted with cement. Joe is going to fix a take-off for it so we can spray with it where the ground can handle it. It is so much faster than the crawler, but of course, it is high and we have to figure using it only until the limbs get low. This year we are not going to do any cultivating or spraying for outsiders. They are hopping mad that we refuse to do it, but it is too hard on the equipment when we can't have it fixed, and besides, it is darned hard on Joe. Trying to keep them all satisfied at the right time is too much. We feel sorry for those who have no equipment and can't buy any right now, but we have to start feeling sorry for ourselves, too.

Geary is going to let me know when the court is ready for the hearing and I imagine he will write me a note on investing in bonds again. He spoke about that the other day, but he has to take it up with the judge first. He wanted to know if you had talked about coming back right away, and I told him that your brother was in France and that you did mention coming back immediately. He said he hoped you would not try it until sentiment had turned toward a little more leniency. So far I haven't see anyone back here, but I know that the Kikuchi boy was in the bank one day when I was there, although I did not see him. There were all kinds of remarks about the incident, and I understand that his stay was not too comfortable for him. Our neighbor told me the next day that she thought he had an awful nerve to come back and she hoped he was smart enough to realize how people felt about it. That is just a sample of the intolerance and misunderstanding that exists, but believe me, it can make a person feel mighty uneasy. I get blue around the gills just listening to such conversation and so many times I want to shoot my face off, but one has to be careful about those things. I hope this thing will clear up soon, so everybody will forget the meanness and ~~ixk~~ 'live and let live' as the old saying goes. My sister from Pengrove told me the other day that she heard that notice had been given to several operators of ~~the~~ chicken ranches to vacate by such and such a date because the owners were coming back. She said there was a lot of talk about what was going to happen if those people came back, and it will be interesting to see just how far some nitwits can try to carry the threats they make. I have no doubt in my mind that the law will do all in its power to keep things in tow and punish those that are responsible for bad acts, but as I said before, it can be very disconcerting and perhaps painful for the people involved. Joe and I often express the fact that as far as we are concerned, there is nothing we would like more than to see our Japanese friends back in their own homes, but we do not wish it so badly that we would want them hurt in any way to accomplish this. I have had so many people ask me - "Do you think the Japanese should come back before the war is over?" To this question I always answer - "No,

I am not anxious to have them back before the end of the war, but for a different reason than you have. Your reason is that you don't think they should ever come back, but you don't like to say so. My reason is that I don't believe in persecution and discrimination and rather than see these people subjected to all this, I say I would rather that they didn't come back until folks around here got straightened out and learned to be as tolerant toward the Japanese as they are toward their own race." That shuts up the average guy, but some of them get mad and call names and then tell their friends that so and so is a "Jap lover," etc. etc. Get what I mean? I had a clipping from the Press Democrat for Tsugiye to give her an idea of what has been going on the past week, but I forgot to put it in her letter so I am sending it to you. I don't know whether you folks get the P.D. or not. Of course, if you do, you already saw this. By the time I went to bed last night it was pouring like a cloudburst and the wind blew like sixty. Now it is 9:00 A.M. and the sky is overcast, but everything is calm and serene. Water is on top of the ground everywhere, though, and how we will ever get our fertilizer spread before spraying is more than I can figure out. When we got the fertilizer for your place and Johnny's in Dec. we were not ready to put ours on so we put it off and now we can't get all we wanted because when the Germans raised heck back there they stopped all shipments of fertilizer and they have no hope of getting as much as has been ordered. My dad had five tons ordered also, so now we are going to buy five tons of some other stuff from a feed company in Petaluma and then divide it between us and if the Union gets a little bit we will divide that too. The Petaluma stuff has only 3% nitrogen, compared with 10% that the other had, but maybe we can put chicken manure on next year to make up for it. Of course, that won't help it this year, but it is the next best thing. I don't know just what to explain about the statement - best thing to do is for you to look it over and then ask me questions. Labor was much higher than the year before. You know when we are so busy during harvest season we don't have time to really sit down and figure expenses, but when the end of the year comes and the figures are all compiled we sometimes get surprises. In working over statistics that I keep from year to year I find that the Mexican labor was really expensive, especially picking. It cost more per box than the year before, but there was one consolation - we saved every apple that could be saved, whereas the year before we lost too many for lack of help. The cultivating expense was more, but the reason for that was Joe went over an extra time on account of rain packing it too much after what he thought was the last cultivation. The spraying also was done twice more than last year on the late stuff. That labor and material on the dryer boiler gets my goat, but guess it couldn't be helped. I knew about two times that it had been welded, but when they paid me for the rent they handed me an extra bill of more than \$40.00 for more welding and the explanation was that it almost went to pieces all of a sudden and they had to work fast because they had the kiln full so they didn't get the same guy, they got Jim Ford to go out, thinking that he would fix it right. Well, it seems that one of the boys up there who had worked in the shipyards as a welder finally had to get down there and show the guy what to do, but anyway, he was there a long time and sent his bill ~~ERRRR~~ according to the time he put in, not the good he did. I think, however, that it is in as good as a shape as one can expect, considering how badly burned the whole boiler is, and it probably won't be long before something will have to be done about it. Something else that makes me mad is that darned water system and expense on it every year. I had to get Weeks out there three times last year and each time it was something simple that had to be done, but it is a long way out there and they charge plenty just for the time it takes. I made up duplicates of everything that I thought would be of interest to you and wouldn't cause too much bulk. Originals of everything and checks, etc. go to Geary for filing, of course. Out of paper and out of time, too, so will say so long for this time. Hope you are all well and happy - got a cute letter from Ted - he seemed to be making it O.K.

Best regards to all of you, from all of us.

Leo Perry