

Thursday, Sept. 13, 1945

Dear Kazuo:

Needless to say I feel like a heel for not being able to take time to answer your letters - am happy that Susie told you I wrote her. It is the same old story here, I think I will write before going to bed, but by the time I have the bookwork and housework done the time is well nigh 1:00 each morning and I have no pep left to sit up and write. We really have been very busy - busier than I ever suspected we could be, but the help situation was even worse than former years. Oh yes, plenty of it, but not worth having! We find it so much easier to do things ourselves than to keep asking someone to do it and then find it done wrong, nevertheless, it taxes every ounce of our strength and we have no time to even think. We finished gravs and are now on late stuff. Some dryers will be all week on gravs, I understand. Sam was down a couple of days ago and he said they would be all week on them up there. And speaking of them reminds me - there are 18 of them up there - they are all partners as far as I can understand, however, Sam signed the lease. You know there is a new ruling requiring every dryer man who buys outside stuff to post a \$5,000.00 bond before he can operate. Well, those of us who own property can fix up a financial statement and get by, but those who do not own property must show resources of some kind or put up a \$5,000. cash bond. In talking with the agent the other day he told me that there were a number of dryers that would have to quit operations and I quizzed him a little further and found that the bunch up there could not fill out a financial statement and it seems that none of them wanted to or could, put up the cash so it may turn out that they will have to close after the 15th, which is the deadline. I made the crack to the agent that they would probably operate anyway and he said they wouldn't after the representative from the marketing division visited them. He told me that the representative expects to visit us right after the 15th so soon after that happens I will know just what happened up there. The way I feel about that outfit I just don't care if they get a license or not - they are so darned cocky. And then, too, I think that if they can't operate the dryer they will thinout and just a few will remain to finish up the late stuff on the ranch. That will give you a chance to make different plans, but for heaven's sake don't jump at conclusions - none of this may come out the way I would like it. They may find ~~someone~~ someone who will back them for the bond. So far they haven't been back to talk with me - one of them did come down to find out if they had to take that out and Joe and I told him it was compulsory - the next I heard about it is what the agent told me. In regards to your last letter and in connection with this - if they do get the bond and operate then the picture remains the same - there are 18 of them there - they are using every bit of the cabin and two sleep under the tank. As I have said before - the situation is not a healthy one - it is very unfortunate, but still it is so. You people know that tribe better than I do - they may be perfectly alright toward you, but I don't trust them as far as I can throw a bull by the tail. For instance, Sam hung around the dryer crew the other day for over an hour. He said hello to me and answered my questions about how long they would be running gravs, then a little later I asked him how many Star Kings they had picked and he said they didn't have any on the place. I explained what I meant and told him where the trees were, and told him they should put them in the packing house at the ceiling price. He said he would tell the boys about it when he got home and they might pick them. That's as far as the conversation went - he didn't ask whether I hear from you or anything else. That is the reason that I am skeptical about you folks moving in there anywhere. Legally Sam is the only one who has a right to be there according to the lease, but it would be a very miserable affair trying to get the rest of them out of there, unless they can't operate the dryer - then I think I could oust them pretty fast, with exception of Sam. I don't think the Milligans would object to your

staying in the tank house, however, it may be embarrassing at times. I feel sure that they personally would not resent it, but they may be a little bit reluctant due to the feeling existing and fear that some darned fool may try to do harm. I hope you understand what I mean - it is the same with a lot of people around here - they themselves feel perfectly alright about minding their own business and letting others alone, but they are afraid to speak their minds or do a kind deed because they think some crackpot might do harm to them or their property. Joe and I have gotten over that fear - we have definitely decided that the chance must be taken if we want to carry out our convictions about this being a free country and every man being created equal. As explained before, we feel very miserable about this whole affair and will do all possible to make it as easy as possible for you folks when you return. We don't have too many facilities here due to the dryer crew being here in the cabin, but you are welcome to anything we have at our disposal. We still have three Jamaicans and will have them 10 or 12 days more, but the place will be vacant by the time Johnny and them arrive, I am sure. Johnny's tenant was here the other day and he said there was some new ruling now about not being able to evict a tenant before 6 months after notice was given. Well, if that is the case, it complicates matters more because if the tenants wanted to be nasty they would have us over a barrel. I feel sure that each one of these want to move as soon as they can locate housing. Of course, Hesse has his own place to move to but the fellow on it can't find a place for himself and has the right to stay there until he does find a place. Milligan is in the same position - he intends to build as soon as he can, but materials are held up worse than ever and knowing this as well as I do, I cannot force the issue too much. They were nice enough to move in when we needed the protection there very badly and they have put up with a lot of inconveniences there from time to time, so I do feel they are entitled to consideration. All I can say is that we will work out something when you return and I am sure that they will cooperate 100%. If I just wasn't so tied down with this dryer business I could take time to talk things over with them a little more, but as it is, I can't run up there when I want to and now that they both work on night shift and sleep daytimes it is even harder to contact them. They are both at the potato factory on night shift and I imagine someone comes to stay with the girl while they are away.

Well, let us leave things the way they are for the time being - I am still hopeful that the dryer will close after the grays and that will clear up quite a bit of trouble. If it doesn't turn out that way I will go to see Milligan and see what can be worked out. The last time I talked with him I told him about you saying that you would put up either in the packing shed or the barn and he was of the same opinion that I had - that is, that it would not be too wise to try and stay in the packing house, on account of the Filipinos, but he told me he thought it was perfectly alright for you to stay in the barn if you could fix it good enough, that he would not be disturbed at all about it. At the same time he told me that he gathered that the Fillies were very mad about your return and that even Sam had made some remarks about not being pleased. The latest I heard and it was supposed to come from Sam is that you have the place for sale for \$25,000. Joe heard it in town the other day and since then McFarlane told us and Hesse told us that he heard it, too. So goes the news from here - I must get down to the dryer. I am sure that I haven't cleared up anything for you, Kaz, and I am terribly sorry, but I have painted the picture as it is. I will write you as soon as anything happens up there - whether they close or whether they get a license. In the meantime, please forgive me for neglecting you so long and for not being able to do a little more for you. When you get here I am sure you will understand why. If you folks can figure out anything different than I can, please let me know. Best regards to all from all of us. As ever,

Lea Perry