

Thursday morning
October 22, 1942.

Dear George:

Got your newsy letter of the 13th and enjoyed it a lot. I am only sorry that I haven't a lot of time to answer all these swell letters from all of you people and our soldier friends - I could keep happy just doing that and receiving all the news from far and near. Got a card from Buck the other day from his camp in Texas and I know he is anxious to receive mail so will have to put aside a little time to answer him, too. So far haven't heard from Lloyd, don't even know where he landed, but I imagine something will come along as soon as he is well enough from the first shotts to write home. He promised he would keep us well informed from whatever source he can so I will have to add him to my list of correspondents and keep him happy, too. Gee, we hated to see him go worse than ever, but there was nothing to be done about it. Stanley Rose is leaving soon, too, although he joined the merchant marines and doesn't know just when he will be called.

Thanks for the reimbursement, hope the watch will work for a long time now. Lloyd, Joe and I went up to the house one evening before he left and tried to find everything you wanted and I hope we did a good job. He didn't have time to get the picture frames from town so I got them a couple of days ago and will mail them to you as soon as I can find time to wrap them so they will make the trip. Couldn't get all you wanted - in fact, all except the very small ones, but they don't intend to have any more for the duration so I grabbed all I could get regardless of pattern, etc. Hope they are O.K. I think I may have time to rig up some sort of container within the next few days, but just haven't got the time right now.

The lease on the ranch itself runs out in November and so far I haven't heard from anyone excepting Winkler himself. He told me that he intended to have a talk with Tauzer when he went over there on other business. I told him what the setup was - that I couldn't decide on a lessee all alone, the court had to approve it and that I thought the family sort of hoped that Sam would take it this coming year. That was just a feint, in a way, although Sam did seem very anxious for it all along until lately. The last time I talked with him he said he couldn't finance it, otherwise would be pleased to have it. He had been corresponding with your Grandad and of course, if they talked about it I don't know, but he seemed to feel that he was wanted there. At any rate, when I told Walt that he came back with the idea that it would be a losing thing for you people as far as that dryer was concerned having him there because he wouldn't be able to get the apples to put through. He said a number of the people that took apples to them this year there would not do business with a Filipino and he thought that for your own sake you would be better off not having him. He did think, that the setup this year would be the ideal thing, that is, having him there to look after things and to run the dryer. He intends to have the Case ranch again and he said maybe more ranches next year, that is, more with late apples and then could give the dryer a nice long run in late stuff. This year they didn't have over 60 or 70 green tons and they couldn't keep the crew there for that, because they all had jobs down below that paid good money. As it is, right now, two of them would like awfully well to get away and we are just swamped with apples. They ran boxes for two days and in the meantime the sacked stuff got way ahead of them. Another load came in a while ago and I am sure they have over 1000 sacks there now to run. We have been trying our darndest to get some men from other dryers that are closing this week, but they all seem to be starting to prune or going down below. From now on I am afraid that we are going to lose on account of rots if we can't get help. This bunch is so darned independent, they won't work on Sunday and last week a couple of them were sick off and on which set them behind.

For the past two evenings they have worked two hours, but even then, the stuff is way ahead of them and I am beginning to worry. I am personally very dissatisfied in Sam and just between you and me would hate to have to be responsible for the way things were run at the ranch up there should he have it. When he came here we had hoped that he would take charge of the crew and that we could put our trust in him, however, he has just passed the buck to everyone else and they just pull him around by the nose all the time. Whenever we ask him if they will do something for us, he just grins and says he will ask them, then almost every time comes back with the remark that they are all too tired or that they are going somewhere and that he can't get them. Disconcerting, to say the least!, don't you agree? Another thing that I might as well tell you about is this: he is hitting it up altogether too much to suit me and a lot of people around Forestville have become acquainted with that fact lately. A good many evenings here when he goes down after work to help Bill with the scraping he is filled to the eyes and does not know what is going on. Of course, you know him whereas I don't, and it is up to you, but I am just giving you this for what it is worth, and believe me, I am not hiding any of it or building it up for any reason outside of the fact that I am interested in getting you folks a square deal and keeping myself out of hot water with the court and yourselves. I don't care what happens. What other people think or feel should be done will not sway me a bit, but what the court thinks and what you folks think makes a lot of difference. I want you to weigh these facts well before you make any sort of decision. As I said before, so far I haven't had the time to have a talk with Mr. Fuller about the matter, I haven't seen Tauzer for months and just know what Winkler told me and what Sam has said from time to time. I do wish, however, that you would have a talk with your Grandad and let me know about a cash lease or any other form he would like to have made up. In the case of a cash lease, of course, the man with the highest price will get it, and in the case of a lease like the present one, it is a matter of choosing the one that we believe will do the best by the ranch and do what is fair all the way through. In that case, you know, we have to have implicit trust in the lessee as far as turning in the correct figures is concerned and there is always room for doubt if a person is inclined that way. Winkler admitted that they made plenty money off the Case ranch on account of the immense crop and also that they came out in good shape off the Ito place, however, he said he would not take it another year on the same basis because as compared with the Case ranch they had to foot too much on your place. This, I believe, would be something for the court to decide as long as they say they have to approve the lease.

Winkler did handle the Penn Grove stuff, but there wasn't any there to speak of. He wasn't able to buy a pound outside of what he had control of and I think Mr. Covey was very dissatisfied that the dryer didn't operate, outside of that, the Filipino in the town dryer got ahold of everything that wasn't dried cooperatively at Oehlmann's dryer. We will be running for at least four weeks yet, but are through this week on local stuff.

Oh yes, I wrote Tsugiye about forms that we have received covering ~~their~~ our Ford truck and Sam brought down two forms from Forestville last ~~ex~~ night I imagine covering the Studie and the one sold Sam. At any rate, there are two for you folks. So far we haven't received one on Johnny's Chev truck. These forms have to be back within ten days so there isn't time to get the dope from the cars here and then send them to you and back again. I am filling them in with what information I have and then stating that the machines are stored and giving the reason for same. The purpose of this, as I understand it, is for gas rationing and to better set up the tire ration affair. They want to know how much the vehicle is being driven, how much you carry on it per trip, how far it goes, how much gas it uses each trip, how many tires, serial numbers of tires, how many miles they have gone and a million other things. A good deal of this we can get from the speedometer and the certificate and the looks of the tires. I will have Joe go up with me to the Studie so

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he can make a wild guess at some of the answers. I have been told, and not by authorities, that the purpose of this is to see to it that all vehicles that are fit for use are being used and not used to excess and that tires are properly taken care of, etc. I have been told further, and this is premature gossip, that they intend to take all these vehicles out of storage and put them to work in place of vehicles that are unfit to be on the roads. This part has me worried - if that time comes, there is nothing I can do but unlock the place and turn the Studie loose and also give up the Chev here. They say that there would be some sort of lease drawn up on the cars and a set rent paid on them to the owner. This applies not only to stored cars by you people but to all vehicles that are not being used enough to justify keeping them in private hands. I still don't know whether this is going to apply to passenger cars or not, so far the blanks cover trucks only. Another piece of gossip that Joe brought home from Forestville is that the Government will soon be appraising the stored farm equipment because there is no more being manufactured and too much worn out equipment on hand, and that after a fair appraisal is set on it it will be sold to whoever can prove that they need it. He said a fellow told him that someone already had spoken for it and that as soon as that took place this certain party intended to buy the tractor and sprayer. All this, for just what it amounts to, it gives me a little something to worry about, that's all. I have had no notice from any authoritative source and am wondering if you people have had any inkling at all of what they intend to do with your possessions. Of course, the thing that makes it worse is this: if they really intend to make appraisals on these articles they will not allow them to be sold to just anyone that may want to buy them for speculation - the purpose of the whole thing is to keep the farms going with what equipment is available and the things will be turned over only to those sadly in need of them and that can prove that they can't operate with what they have. Well, think this over and let me know as soon as you hear anything about it from the proper sources.

Lloyd left last Saturday and so far I haven't heard from him. He was headed for Monterey Presidio, but just for his uniform and preliminary shots, etc. as far as he knew. He is trying hard to get into the mechanical division and I hope he makes it so he can go to school for a while and prolong his going over there. Stanley is going into the merchant marines soon and then there won't be anybody left to help us out in the pinches. Bob will be hearing from the board before the year is out, infact, he is thinking about joining something before they draft him. Guess he will be more than lost without Lloyd - he depended on him for so much all the time.

Well, the sun is out and it is warm enough for me to get outside and do some work. I have a lot of ranch apples to sort for dryers and vinegar plant and must get at it. Tonight is packing night and tomorrow I haul the dried stuff into town. Gosh, there is plenty to keep my busy from daylight until dark and when I get tired of doing one thing I always have ten more things to choose from to break the monotony. Oh well, it's all in the game and I only hope we don't fold up under the strain before it's over.

Write when you find time and let me know what you think about some of these things - it will help me a lot in deciding and answering questions.

So far the bond money hasn't been returned - I am going to ask Stange, to check up on it and let me know the reason.

Sincerely,