

Date? July Summer 1942  
Monday evening 10:30 P.M.

I had a very busy day today. I went over the house and saw the boys. I was surprised how it turned out. I was surprised how it turned out. I was surprised how it turned out.

Dear George: Some day I hope to find time to write you a letter - seems that the days are getting shorter and shorter and I just simply can't crowd everything in. As I said before, I hope that when I write one of you the others find out so you won't think I have forgotten any of you, but whenever I have something to discuss with one I write that one and postpone the other letters until something has to be taken care of. Well, to start with, this morning early Ed Winkler came here and told me that the pump had been leaking badly and that he thought packing was all it needed, but that he wanted me to know that he was having somebody look it over. He also asked for the packing shed key for Sammy to get the peelers out. I gave him the key and told him to advise Sammy that I would be there in an hour or so to talk with him. As soon as I could get the kids out of bed and ready I went up there. Sammy was busy as heck, he had gotten the peelers out already and was busy trying to get the water started in the tray tank but couldn't find pipe wrenches. I had taken my inventories with me to check off whatever they were using and looked it over for wrenches. I found that there were a couple of them listed as being in a box with grease guns and odd tools and, in fact, I remember distinctly that they were there when we checked the inventory that day. However, upon close inspection I found that they were gone and I am certain you must have done something with them for nobody has been in that barn since you gave me the keys. Sam said he thought he could do some work with a monkey wrench, but as in the case of the pump, he said he couldn't stop the leak, or even try to because he had nothing to work with. I believe that Sam should have the use of them if you still have them somewhere for certainly through the season around the dryer he will need them from time to time. I have already told him that I am responsible to the court for everything on that place and that in turn I will hold him responsible to me for anything that is missing when I check up. I hope this meets with your approval. I only wish that I were in a position to run up there every time they had to have something, but in the first place, I've been picking up our own apples a little at a time - last week I picked a few every day - ran around in spare moments trying to line up a dryer crew - to town for this and that - to the doctor when I just couldn't seem to perk and all this with a front tire that is down to the fabric and absolutely no chance of getting a new one. We have hopes of getting new ones for Joe's pickup, but when that is done it is supposed to be used exclusively for the one purpose and they tell us we must be pretty careful. I feel sure that Sam will be trustworthy and I fully intend to go there as often as possible to look things over, but I might as well be frank about it, from the ways things are turning out around here I will be lucky to get there once every ten or twelve days instead of a couple of times per week as I had hoped to do.

This is Monday evening and we are no closer to getting our own dryer than we were a week ago, excepting that the boys promised to try hard to line up one by the end of the week. I wrote Johnny last night and he can probably tell you what a picnic we have been having. So far there has been no one here to ask for any kind of work and everyone tells the same story. I hope to go into town after kids to pick up the apples starting the end of the week - that is, I have talked with some mothers and they believe it would be alright to go after their kids, those of the ages from 10 to 15. Today the two kids and I picked up ten boxes of dryers and ten sacks of juice at Tsugiye's place while Bob and Lloyd picked. Joe came home at 4:30 and from then on he and I picked from the ground until 5:30 and between all we took in a load of 72 boxes. Of course, Bob gets here about 8:30 and Lloyd at 8:00 so the hours are not the longest in the world, but they have a long way to go and chores to do before they leave so we can't kick. Anyway, we are thankful to have them at all. The stuff down there is of better quality and has less worms than this here, but it is falling badly - that is the reason we are

WINKLER

LABOR PROBLEM

anxious to get off some this week. We went over the heaviest today, but I was surprised how it turned out. Joe and I walked around all over the place and there are a number of good trees that we will hit tomorrow and the next day because if we try to let them go until packing starts I don't think there will be half of them on the trees. I have never seen so many large apples on the ground so early in the game before. At Forestville this morning they were picking up and there, too, the ground was covered. I don't know how many green ones they got off, but they picked some. I imagine the tags will be turned over this week end.

The Winklers are trying hard to get some late apples to run on so that Sam will have a good season, but they are few and far between and these big dryers are certainly running their tails off after the stuff. We have a number of orchards lined up, but the situation being as it is, we are at a loss to tell these people what we can do. They have been swell, so far most of them, in fact, all of them have told us that they would wait until the last minute before giving them to someone else. I had hoped to know definitely tonight or tomorrow, but now they tell me that it will take until the end of the week on sugar beets down there and then they will know how many can come to work here.

This evening Harry Silva was here with one of the boys that worked for him last year and who was all set to start there this year - I wrote a letter to his draft board begging them to defer him until the dryer season is over. Gosh, if they take all these fellows I don't know how in the world the fruit will be taken care of. The dryer man that Tony had picked for us got his notice also, and that is the reason that we are without a crew right now. Surely they will have to do something about it before another season rolls around or people will go nuts trying to run these places.

Well George, I am about falling asleep and I want to get up early tomorrow morning to get a few picked up before I have to clean up and go to Santa Rosa with a friend as a witness when she applies for her papers. My, this turmoil has certainly upset people's lives - everyone has troubles and more of them every day. I promised her I would appear at 10:00 so I can figure half a day gone on that deal, because while I am over there I will take care of some other business.

GRADUATION  
Ted

Hope this finds you well as well as the rest of the crowd. Did mean to write Ted and tell him about the graduation exercises and how well they spoke of all the kids that were at Merced, also how the crowd applauded when the various names were mentioned for special awards....they really acted like humans!

If anything occurs to you that you think I should be doing or not doing in connection with the place, please write me. I took care of the war risk insurance on everything necessary and the total amount came to \$6.00 for one year. Tomorrow I will have Stargo cancel the insurance on the Buick that comes due in August as we have that fire insurance policy on it and it is sufficient.

When you can find time drop me a postal telling me what happened to the wrenches and if you want Ser to have them in the event that they are up there somewhere. Best regards to all from all of us.

Sincerely, Lee

P.S. When writing your Grandpop please tell him that the papers were all O.K. and that when I find time I will write him, but I just can't seem to do more than one per evening as I get started so late and am so tired.