

December 22, 1942.

Dear Kazuo:

I received your lovely gift and money order yesterday and don't know just how to say "thanks". I really feel that you shouldn't have done that, nevertheless, it is deeply appreciated and we all join in sending sincere thanks to both you and Grandma. I think your choice of the spread was very tasty and could not have pleased me more. I bought the boys twin bedsteads a few weeks ago for Christmas and with part of the money I have ordered spreads for them and the balance went bonds which are already hanging on the tree.

I hope your Christmas will be a good one. Ours was to be a very quiet one and will be so, however, today Joe and I attended the funeral of Harry Fuller and it has made the whole community, including our home, just a little sadder than it should be at this time of the year. I feel not only the loss of a friend who has been very good to me over a period of twenty years, but of a sincere counselor who can never be replaced. Last Saturday I had intended to go in and discuss that proposition with him, but not feeling too well on account of a cold I thought I would put it off until Monday. It was Saturday evening at dinner that he passed out very suddenly with a heart attack. He had been feeling a little bum during the day, but was at his desk until late afternoon and then had stayed to help the kids hang the decorations before going home to dinner. I don't think he ever knew or suspected that he had a bum heart and he never knew what happened to him. He will certainly be missed by the whole court and I don't know what in the world the bank is going to do without him - it just won't be the same. I feel so lost, we had talked some about the coming season and were making plans for borrowing money, etc. and now I am at sea, I don't know whether someone else will see things the way he did, although Mr. Cochran told me that they would continue with the same policy and that everything would be alright whenever we were ready to borrow. Mr. Cochran has known me ever since the first day I went there to work just twenty years ago the 21st of this month and I believe that no matter who takes over, whether it be someone from here or outside, that he will have a lot of influence on the decisions made in connection with loans. I only hope that nothing happens to Cochran before the new man is familiar with the system and all. Cochran and Harry had been very close for years and I think he can be a lot of help to the man taking over. I am not sure that they will decide to move Hottle up to that position, I rather think they will bring in someone from outside who has more personality and initiative. Hottle is a fine fellow, but he has not the power to go ahead and furthermore, is not too strong since his long illness of a few years ago.

Right now (9:30 P.M.) it is raining terribly hard. It rained very hard during the services both here and at the Chapel of the Chinese. While waiting outside the chapel I got soaked almost to the skin and then dried out and got soaked again in Santa Rosa before coming home. Didn't feel too good when we got home and right now I can hardly keep my eyes open. Sam took a bad cold Sunday night and yesterday he couldn't work at all. I got him some cough medicine and Joe went up to see him today and said he was sitting up near the stove. I was kinda glad it rained as long as he couldn't work - I would feel worse if the weather was nice and they weren't out there getting it done. As soon as the rain is over I think he will be well enough to work and a couple of days will wind it up here. Then they are going up there and we hope to get one or two more to help them. Well, we had to pay them 70% and hope we can stay at that price. It seems that most of these fillies are getting 75% all around here. Sam told Joe the other night that he knew that all the other boys were getting 75% but that it was up to us to pay what we wanted. Joe told him he thought furnishing them the house, water and electricity and wood should be worth something and that we couldn't afford more than 70% under the circumstances and he seemed satisfied.

Oh yes, Joe and I are buying the little truck from Sam. He had a couple of chances to sell it and he was asking \$75.00, but he kept telling Joe that if we thought we were going to run the place up there that he would rather let us have it for less money to use up there. Well, we really haven't any use for it unless we do handle the place, but Joe thought we would make a deal with him on these grounds: we paid him \$50.00 for the jalopy, if we need it up there, that's all we pay, if we sell it, we give him everything we get over the \$50.00. This suited him fine and I think he is getting a good deal, don't you? It doesn't look anything like when you had it. He let his nephew run it all summer down below and when he got it back they had even lost his stamp so he had to buy another one before he could get his gas ration card the other day.

Well Maz, I notice this letter looks terrible, but I feel somewhat like that myself. I think I had better get a night's rest and see if the world looks any brighter tomorrow.

I will say again "thank you and Grandma very much for your kind thoughts of us at Christmas and I sincerely hope that all this evil will soon blow over and let people be free once more to live their lives as God meant them to be."

Best wishes to both of you, from all the family.

Sincerely,

*Lea Perry*