

all the dry leaves, branches and dry stuff from the garden. As a matter of fact, I had told Sam about wanting to do that when we were up there yesterday afternoon and when we got up there this forenoon he had one fire started and quite a pile of leaves raked up already. He was afraid he said to make too large a fire for fear somebody would give him heck. The place looks pretty good now and a lot of fire hazards are out of the way. I also opened up the kitchen and front room doors to allow the air to circulate and left them open for over an hour so the house would lose some of its stale odor. I am at a loss to know what to do about mice in the house. When Joe and I went up there to get your Dad's things for shipment I looked around here and there for a box that he mentioned and I never noticed any damage done, but yesterday Sam and I looked for a barrel of mice that he wanted Sam to send him and up in the attic where his things are stored the mice had gone into some boxes and had a picnic with the newspapers that were used to wrap things. I didn't have time to inspect things very closely and only hope that they have not damaged anything, but nevertheless, they are around and I will have to see if there isn't some form of poison that I can put around. Quite a few months ago I checked over the chesterfield and chair to see about moths and at that time when I removed the cushions I noticed mice tracks there so I took all the cushions and set them up on top of those chairs that are in the corner of the living room. Since then I have not seen signs of mice in that room and never thought about going upstairs to look around. I believe the quickest for me will be to get some poison and put it all over the place to try and get rid of them as fast as possible. There is no danger of anyone getting into it, if they do, they shouldn't have been nosing around, so as soon as I can get to town I will do that very thing. Here is one question I would like to ask you, Kaz---have you given anyone besides me, a key to the house? There are some things that I can't account for, for instance - the pipe wrenches have never come to light; your Dad asked for a certain box that contained canned goods - we were not able to locate that; then yesterday Sam and I hunted all over the place for that barrel of mice that your Dad claimed he had stored upstairs and it is nowhere in sight. I feel so funny about those things, because I am the only one, supposedly, that is going in and out of that house, and where are those articles? I am sure that we searched every nook and crook and neither the wrenches nor the box, nor the barrel can be found. As far as the wrenches are concerned, they could have been in the barn and Sam had one barn key long ago so there is a chance to me that something might have happened that I wouldn't know about, but unless you gave someone else a house key there is no reason for anything getting out of there, because I have checked the locks and windows every time I have gone there. I hope that your Dad is mistaken about these things - I wouldn't want him to feel that I am allowing someone to nose around the house, which I assure you has never been done. Yesterday is the first time since you left that anyone besides Joe and I have been in there and being Sam had the letter I asked him to come in and look around for that barrel and the shears he asked for. So much for that - mention something about xxx this when you write for I would like to know.

Now, for the tractor - as soon as we finished at Johnny's we went up there yesterday because Joe figured it would take a little while to grease up and get the machinery started so we wouldn't waste time today. Well, he started on the tractor, of course. Oiled, greased and put fuel and water in it and then proceeded to crank. Well, he cranked and cranked and then I took turns at it. He tried first this and then that and we only got about two puffs out of it in over two hours of cranking and cussing it. Sam finally came along and he couldn't offer any constructive advice so Joe had just about given up and decided to get a mechanic this morning when he got the bright idea that part of the trouble, at least, was in the carburetor. By that time it was nearly dark so he decided to take the whole thing off and bring it home to work on by the kitchen light. As it often goes, we had company that stayed until quite late so he didn't get at it until this morning. He took it all apart and found it all gummed up and a gasket rotted and scattered here and there on the inside. He showed me the parts as he took them apart and the thing was really a mess.

He washed every part with gas and made a new gasket and then put it together and we took it up there. He put it back on, turned the engine over ten or twelve times and off she went, but rather stubbornly. It died again and again and kept doing it all afternoon while we were working. If I had done the driving I would say that it was my fault, but Joe handled it all the time and he couldn't keep it going steady. He thinks that the rings are bad because it has no compression and he says that it feels like something is holding back on it when he starts out because it sort of trembles all over when he lets the clutch in. The clutch itself is bad, it chatters when you start out and beside that the gears howl like the devil. Guess this sounds awful to you by now. Well, you know your tractor better than we do, but we are a little bit worried about it, especially when it is time to do the discing and heavy pulling. Joe is no mechanic, of course, but he has driven a number of tractors in his time and taken care of a few of them so should be able to detect a few of the noises, however, we want to tell you about it and ask your advice in case of trouble. Joe feels that we can struggle along with it for the spraying but is afraid of the discing job due to the fact that it seems to have such ~~fix~~ little power. If you were within speaking distance then we might let it ride until something serious happened, as it is, we want you to let us know what you think so that we will be prepared when the time comes. If something should happen before we are through with the spraying would you suggest that we get a mechanic to check it over. As a matter of fact, I don't know what I am thinking of - you couldn't get a lot or back to me before we are through with the spraying. But I mean is this - if it does blow up before we are through with the spraying, of course, we will finish up with our ~~suxxxx~~ outfit but then do you want it checked over, or do you know what it needs done? It is a question whether the trouble is serious enough to need a lot of doctoring or if it ~~fix~~ is just a minor ailment. If it is serious, would you want it taken care of, or would you rather have our outfit do the work and put this one away as is. It makes no difference to us - our outfit is not in the best of shape, I mean it has seen a lot of work, but is running fine and I am sure can take care of whatever has to be done up there. I don't know what the expense of fixing yours would be, whether it would be cheaper to have that done or pay us for the use of ours. That is entirely up to you, but we would like to be prepared in case something happens. As far as the spraying goes, there is no time to bicker - if something happens we will have to work fast and the fastest thing to do is to finish the job with ours - I am sure you appreciate the fact that every day counts on this and we do not want to waste time waiting to make decisions. In the meantime rest assured that Joe will keep it going as long as he can without harming it needlessly and it may go on for a long time with all its extra noises, we don't know!

I have so many things to talk about, but the time is getting late and that brush job sort of did me up. Joe is sitting here reminding me of things to say - right now he told me to tell you that he thinks the pruning job up there is superb. I don't understand much about it but I will say that the trees look perfect - no suckers and plenty of fruit spurs. Sam says that he did it as well as he knew how and I believe it. The trees are still quite dormant, I mean no buds starting to open. Everyone says the weather has been grand for keeping the trees dormant and giving people a chance to catch up with some of the work. I feel very ~~xxxxxxx~~ proud of the fact that the entire place was pruned thoroughly - thanks to Sam. So many farmers are just dying to get pruners to do the pruning after the spraying, but no luck. The fillies are starting the hop work now and the wages are higher there so they won't listen to any pruning jobs. Sam has promised to stay until the spraying is done and then he intends to take a day by day job. That guy gripes me sometimes and then I feel sorry for his weakness. I gave him \$100.00 on account last Friday night and he told me yesterday that he didn't have a penny left. I figured up all the payroll for your place, this place and Johnny's and paid him for all that and also for the Chev sale. I gave him all these checks amounting to over \$200.00 yesterday and told him he had better put it all in the bank. He said he would and this morning when we went up there he was coming from down town already so I hope he did as I said.

Now he is worried about his income tax and asked me to help him with it. I already told him that he would have to pay plenty and he just bit his lip. He may wish he had some of that money that he gave the Chinaman before he is through with Uncle Sam. Good thing he has nobody but himself to worry about, isn't it?

I wonder what you have been thinking about not having the house rented by now. Well, lots of things have entered into the deal from time to time. I have had various prospects lined up and for one reason or another they all faded out. Some had small children, one party had a big heater she wanted to put someplace, also wanted bottled gas that can't be had any more. Another one wanted to use bottled gas, also and none of them ever asked about a bathroom. Finally, one didn't care about bottled gas, but did ask about the bathroom and it was then that I got wise to the fact that there was no up-to-date bathtub in the house. Well, it seemed that the tub you have there is ~~xxxx~~ not so hot for most people and so I gave up ~~xxxx~~ the idea of trying to rent it and figured maybe somebody would need a house bad enough to put up with that. I got so darned busy with one thing and another that I didn't give the house much thought for a few months and nobody bothered me about renting it. I talked with Mr. Butler and he told me that sometimes it was worse having certain people in a house than having it vacant. When I told him that Sam was on the place and that one of the boys slept in the tent house very often he said he thought that was sufficient to take care of the insurance coverage. Everything was going fine until Bill Cardason stopped in here about a week ago and told me that Lodesto and his bride of some months wanted to rent the house. I don't know whether or not you know Lodesto - he is related to Sam and is the Holy Roller of the outfit - nice fellow, but thinks he is just too nice. I just met his wife a couple of weeks ago when I was up to see Sam one night. She is a Mexican girl and seems to be very nice and neat. Gosh, when Bill told me that I just about fainted - being relatives of Sam's I didn't know who to say - didn't want to hurt Sam's feelings and yet didn't want them in the house at all. I asked Bill if just the one couple were going to live in it and he said - well, Lodesto's brother and his bride would want to move in, too. I told him that I would see Sam the next day and then either make a decision or talk it over with the lawyer - in fact, I told him the lawyer would have to know about it before I could rent it at all. This was all baloney, but I had to stall so I would have time to think it over and visualize all the pitfalls, etc. before making a final decision. I had really planned on seeing Sam the next day, but before I got ready he was here himself. I asked him what he thought about the idea - what he thought it would be good, or whether it would give me a lot of extra trouble that I couldn't cope with. Sam told me that as far as Lodesto was concerned he was O.K. but he didn't know much about his wife and he did know that the brother was married to an Indian girl. That settled the mess right then and there for me - I told Sam that I didn't want Indians around ~~xxxx~~ the place and to my pleasure he agreed fully with me and further said he didn't think I should let them move in at all because the whole family might come around and camp, etc. I told Sam that I would see Geary last afternoon and take his word for a decision and then let Lodesto know. Well, as a matter of fact, I had to go to Santa Rosa, but I did not bother Geary about the deal. I told Sam the next day that Geary told me I had better not get mixed up with something I would be sorry for. Just a little white lie, but a life-saver for me - I don't want Sam to think that I would keep Lodesto away from there even though he talked the way he did, and passing the buck to the attorney will never come to light. That way everybody is happy and Sam told Lodesto about it and everything is settled, aside from the fact that all these factors have prevented the house from being rented by now there is the one point regarding the moving of all these articles and packed things. It would take days to transfer all these things upstairs and then all I could do is lock the door leading up there and from then on trust that nobody would molest anything. I don't believe there is any danger of fire - there has never been a thing out of place since you have left and from now on we will be up there often working around and strangers could just as well surmise that the place is occupied. I really feel sure that everything is just as safe as

having some type of people in it. If, however, you feel that I should have somebody in it I can try further to rent it, but I am afraid that the only type I could get in there would not be too choosy - this fact is based solely on the aversion that "whites" have to those tubs, nothing else wrong with the place as far as I can see, unless someone insists on gas which they cannot get. None of the oil companies will install tanks now and the only people that are getting it are those who move from one place to another and take their tanks with them. The company that owns the tanks will move them from one place to another for the users. I have been to all the outfits here in town and they all tell me the same thing.

Mar. 3, 1943 - Well, here I am with another breath. We were all steamed up to go up there and spray this morning only to wake up and find it had rained during the night and everything was soaked. Joe decided we had better go up anyway, and possibly haul in the balance of the brush while waiting for it to clear up, so up we went. It looked worse the farther we went and when we got there it was drizzling quite well. Joe got the sprayer outside and under that shed to work on and I chopped up some limbs, set two gopher traps near a young tree and then went to Sam's and made out his income tax report. Joe had a heck of a time getting the pressure up on the sprayer - we got Sam up there but he wasn't much help. After opening and shutting everything in sight a couple of times it finally perked. Then one gun stuck and wouldn't open up so he took that apart, oiled it and put it together again and now it is working. As long as it continued to rain Joe thought he might as well do a few little things to the tractor - he got the heat control to work a little better - it seemed to be frozen and it surely took a while to free it enough so it would turn part-way, at least. He also tried to find out what ails something around the tracks - it won't roll down hill at all and Joe says something must be binding to cause that, but he couldn't seem to locate it. Anyway, everything is ready to go as soon as the weather clears and I only hope Sam is willing to put in long hours so we can get it over with soon. Sam acted very ~~sheepish~~ sheepish about his little jaunt yesterday and I didn't have nerve enough to bid him about it. He looked like something the cats dragged in and I'll bet he went on a toot. He told me the other day that he didn't take a drink for over a month after he left here and that one day a friend came along with some wine and whisky and that started him off again. Some fun, eh?

About the trees your Grandad wanted put in, Sam proceeded to count the spaces and in the meantime I saw the nursery about those and ours, also. I found to my disappointment that we couldn't get over 20 of the 64 we had ordered and there would be none whatsoever from now on. As a matter of fact, we ordered Baldwins, Greenings, Jonathans and Golden Delicious and we can't have anything but Golden Delicious because Prosser ordered 500 and as long as he can't get all of them he has cancelled his order until next year. Due to this fact they split up the 300 that they could get for him among all the orders, giving them all a percentage of what they wanted. Here we had all the holes dug and will have to fill them in. Bennett suggested that we try some little retail place, but he couldn't think of any that had stock on hand. We tried Santa Rosa and Healdsburg and then Montgomery Ward, but all they have are Golden Delicious and we wouldn't bother with just those. In fact, the fellow thought they had them, he would have to order for us and we were a little leary about it. Walt Bennett told me that we had better put our order in early for trees for next year and he would do his best to supply us. Some disease got into Henry Martin's young trees and he lost over 80% of them. That is the reason that Bennett lost out on orders - he was depending on Martin's and when they failed him it was too late to get so many from our nurseries. Bennett says that due to labor conditions it is going ~~xx~~ to much harder to obtain them next year unless orders go in early and get preference. Perhaps it would be well in view of these facts to place order for the necessary ones up there, too, if you wish.

I am making up the income tax reports today and will send and Teruo copies when I have completed them. I have been held up for time due to the depreciation on buildings and equipment up there and

after talking with the collector in Santa Rosa the other day I believe that I can be safe in proceeding with the returns now. I am taking it for granted that neither one of you have other ~~xxx~~ income outside of the place - after all, if you did have and I knew nothing about it I don't think there is any harm done. I am filing these reports as guardian and can only report the income that is within my jurisdiction, I think. This depreciation affair is the only life saver for the farmers, because so much money is put back into the farm yearly that if it wasn't for the depreciation allowances we would be paying tax on all the money that is spent for improvements and keep broke all the time. As you know, the court has decreed that everything on that ranch belongs to the ranch and to you boys, regardless of whether your Grandad paid for it out of his own money or not. In other words, all the buildings, the dryer and packing house equipment, including the washer are all part of your property. The only things that I am not taking depreciation for are the truck which is in his name, and the tractor and sprayer I am afraid to list as there could be a point raised on ownership there. Of course, if he does not file nor claim depreciation on those things you could claim them, but it won't be necessary this year as you won't be paying anything as near as I can figure.

Got a notice from the Bank this morning on the bond premiums that are due again on the 27th of March. Which reminds me that I had a letter from Geary in regards to the \$1,000.00 and then I went to see him instead of answering because he was mistaken on one point that the company raised. He was under the impression that your Grandad had put up the money belonging to the guardianship as security and the company came back with the report that the money was his personal affair therefore they couldn't pay it back to him until the Federal Reserve said so and they thought not until ~~xx~~ he was freed. Well, Geary wrote to me and told me that he had said the money belonged to you kids and wanted to know if he was right. I explained it to him and he said he didn't think there was any use in fighting with them any longer if that was the case. He knew the money was safe and they were merely protecting their rights in doing it this way - in other words, they want some high authority to tell them that they can pay that money back to a prisoner of war and nobody seems to know just who that high authority is. A few days after I saw Geary, Mr. Hotle called me up and told me that they had gotten notice to block all the Japanese accounts of those who were prisoners and all those who might have any connection with those accounts. Of course, the allowance made monthly is ample and I don't think any harm will be done to anyone, but due to this fact I think it futile to argue with the bonding company further. The money is perfectly safe there and all you are losing is a little interest if you could invest it properly.

Sam asked me to write to your Dad about the Miso and the shears so I had better do that. Sam is surely lazy about answering letters. He showed me one he got from your Grandad months ago and I haven't heard him say he answered that one yet. Winkler was to see him about three weeks ago and asked him to try and get a crew for the dryer up there. He said he would like to rent it if Sam could get the men. I was told that he joined the co-op dryer so he must want that one just as speculation, however, Sam told him that he was sure he couldn't get that many men this year due to the high wages being paid in all lines of work and also due to the fact that so many machines were being installed - the boys would not care very much to peel by hand. I do blame them, but if they had shown a little more willingness to work last a few of the dryers might not have been so anxious to spend all that money on power equipment and they only cut their noses to spite their faces, after all. Every person we've talked to that is installing equipment says the same thing it would be impossible to get Fillies to work for them this year when they knew they had them over a barrel. They showed that already last year they got left out it serves them right. Of course, they can go into other lines of agriculture and make more money, perhaps, but they won't be able to do that in this area. There are quite a few of them

GRANDPA'S
PROB. LAY

around here in the hop yards, but when you ask them if they intend to work in apples they just look at you and grin and they 'don't know.' Foxy grandpas - but they might wish they hadn't been so foxy before the season is over.

Winkler has not said a word to me since I showed him the letter from you in regard to the lease. As a matter of fact, I have only seen him on the road or in town and never talked with him. I asked Sam if he really felt that he couldn't get a full crew for him and he told me that he wouldn't care to work for Winkler, furthermore, he would like me to run the dryer and he do the labor or run it on shares. This is out, first-because the court still hasn't decided that I can do any of it in that manner and second - and most important - because Joe and I haven't the capital it takes to run the dryer and buy so much outside fruit. It takes a lot of outside stuff to keep that dryer going in good shape and it takes a lot of time and effort to get that stuff, besides a lot of money to pay for it. Sam thinks it would be so easy because your Grandad used to go out and estimate orchards and buy them cheap, etc. but he knew his onions about those things and we don't know anything at all. I don't know whether Sam feels hurt that I can't bolster his dreams about things like that, but I can't help it, I have plenty to worry me now without getting into any more trouble. I told him that maybe he could rent it by the ton and handle the deal to suit himself as long as he paid his rent, but he doesn't go for that at all - he can't hang on to five cents and is afraid he will get into trouble with his help. It is still early to figure on renting the dryer and as time goes on someone may be able to get enough help and have guts enough to get out after fruit enough to make a run there. Our own is a headache - we don't know when we will receive our machines and Joe has so much outside work to do he can't spend any time down there figuring and changing things around. Everything will come at once and then he will have to work day and night to get it put together in time for the season. Alfred Hallberg got his machines a couple of weeks ago, but he is the only one that has received them. Ours are coming with 50 or more others and Lord knows when the shipment will be in. Joe still has to order chains, belting, sprockets, pulleys and a million other things. Everyone says we can get all the necessary stuff for the dryers, but it takes so much red tape and time to put the orders through.

When you find time, please let me know what you know or think about the tractor, also about the trees.

Hope this finds you and Grandma feeling fine. You relay any of this stuff that you want to your Grandad, won't you? I have been wanting to write him for a long time, but I just can't seem to keep my letters answered and I know he would rather hear from you any day.

Best wishes to you, from all of us

Lea Berry