

March 27, 1943.

Dear Kazuo:

You might know we have been having some good weather or I would have written before. Yes sir, with exception of yesterday forenoon we've enjoyed sunshine every day for a whole week! When we awoke yesterday it was raining and it continued until noon then the sun came out and again this morning there is a bright sun shining. It is about time for it to make up its mind one way or another. At that, we have rain often enough to break into the work and even to harm the bloom, I am afraid. Everything is getting in full swing now - the pears, prunes, peaches and cherries are white as can be and the apples are turning from pink to white in some sections. I was up to the ranch last Monday and was surprised to see how slowly they were opening up compared with ours here. I was under the impression that they were so far ahead, but guess they speed up a little later. We finally finished the spraying up there two weeks ago today after stopping for rain every day or so. We started out with the elgetol and put on 2700 gallons of that then it rained for four days and so Joe was afraid to use that and we got lime and sulphur. We put on 3300 gallons of that stuff. Sam helped us throughout the spraying and helped us put on the nitrate one day when it was too wet to spray. We got him to come down here for two days to help us with lime and sulphur, but his hands got pretty sore and Joe and I had to finish alone. He was here last week and his hands were all healed up so I guess it wasn't as bad as it looked, but I know he hated to go on with the work. The gloves we buy nowadays are rotten. Joe paid \$2.00 per pair for them and they didn't last two days. The last ones he got weren't rubber, but just canvas with some sort of coating that peeled off as soon as you bent the fingers. Sam came down to tell me that he had another letter from your Dad on that barrel of liso so I went up again and made a thorough search of the whole house. This time he told Sam that it might have been in the garbage can that he put away. I looked all over for that can and finally thought about looking in the basement and sure enough, there it was. Gosh, I had about given up on that stuff. I found that mice were getting into all that stuff stored over the kitchen and I bought some poison and put that out when we were spraying so the other day I looked around for results. I didn't find any dead ones, but most of the poison had been eaten and I am going to renew the process in a few days. There isn't much else to do for them, I guess. The last day we sprayed I opened the living room and kitchen doors and let the air through all noon hour. When we go up for the next spray the weather should be nice and warm and then I will air the whole place out again. I pulled some of the worst clumps of grass out of the garden and got all the dry stuff out, but I will admit that I haven't time to really do it up right, that is, to spade it and trim all the shrubbery, etc. Sam has time, but I hate to ask him to do it and perhaps he would dig out more stuff than necessary if he doesn't know the weeds from the flowers. Anyway, I haven't nerve enough to ask him to do any of it. I get so darned mad at that bunch - we need help so badly and they lay around for days at the time, but we don't dare ask them to do anything. Joe gets up guts enough once in a while and every time they just look at us and never seem to make up their minds whether or not they want to work...makes a guy feel funny as heck. Sam has never deliberately refused to do anything for us, but we always wonder how he feels when it takes so long for him to say 'yes' or 'no'. Some time ago he told us that he didn't intend to take a contract for hop work this year because he wanted to help with the work up there, etc. He said he would move over there and when we wanted him we could just call up for him. Well, Joe thought if that were the case maybe we could plan on him to help with the spraying and propping until thinning time when he would be plenty busy up there. He acted as though he would be willing to do that. We told him we would give him the gas to come down here with. He came down two days and we filled his tank, then he never showed up again until the other day with the letter from your Dad. Of course, we knew his hands were bad, but he admitted that they healed right up and never gave any excuse for not showing up. Joe told him that day that we wouldn't bother him to help as long as he was going to be making \$1.00 per hour in the hops and that we had a young kid in mind that was rejected by the draft board.

Joe told him at the same time that he was planning on him to take care of the thinning at Forestville and didn't want him to fail us there. He just sort of grinned and then told us that he had changed his mind about moving - he intended to stay at the ranch and commute to the hop yard. He didn't seem to be either hurt or pleased that we had found someone else to help us here. Funniest guy! Just the same he is a 100% better worker than the average that we can find now and he knows what he is doing, excepting around machinery. We thought he would know all about the sprayer up there and Joe asked him so many questions only to find out that he hardly knew what made it run. After working with him spraying Joe decided that it would be a good idea to have someone that knows more about the tractor do the cultivating, etc. This boy we have in view has driven all kinds of tractors, mostly big ones and he is a dandy mechanic and welder. The main worry we have is that he was deferred for a minor ailment and if they call him again they might take him. He wants to get steady farm work if he can so he can keep out of it. Of course, his folks have a farm and he works there quite a bit, but he can't busy steady there so he wants something like this to take up the slack. Joe intends to do all he can alone, but we will get stuck with the spraying and cultivating that come in about the same time. If we can get him to do the cultivating at your place while we are winding up spraying around the country down here it would be swell. Then too, Joe could go on with the dryer if he can take over with the cultivating when we finish the spraying. Well, anyway, we have hopes of having help for a while, at least. The kid that helped us spray early in the season has promised to help us with the rest of the spraying around here, although he has a steady job.

Joe and I still have our nitrate to spread. He just got through planting 30 some odd trees. We had to plant all Golden Delicious and fill up the rest of the holes. The only reason we got the Golden's was that Prosser decided not to plant this year and gave up his order. They are more than we wanted, but Joe thought he would put them in and then graft later if they do well. I have been trapping gophers every day and doing very well. I get two and three per day. I got a kick out of your place - I took traps up there and told Sam that I noticed there were a couple of gophers around his house bothering some young trees. I set the traps one evening and the next morning when I went up I had one in each trap. Sam just looked at me so funny when I told him about it. He wasn't home when I got them out and I never could figure out whether he believed me or not. His cat ate them both so the cat knew I wasn't lying, and I didn't see any more work going on around the trees, either.

I thought the bloom looked good the other day when I was up and Sam said it looked like a heavy crop so I hope it turns out well and that we can get help to harvest it at the right time. Oh yes, Sam told Joe the other day that some young Filipino is trying hard to get a gang together to rent the dryer up there. I imagine they will get together like Andy and the crowd did in that one down town last year. I know they made plenty money for each one and they are going to do the same this year. Whoever this is, I don't know, but from the way Sam talked that is the plan if he can get enough together to handle it. I asked Sam to try and do that, but he wouldn't hear of it. He thought I should run it and that is out of the question altogether. In the first place we can't handle two so far apart and in the second place we can't afford to run it for wages alone as it entails too much time and work, let alone counting the time and expense spent in running back and forth which would have to be done very, very often while it is operating. God, I wouldn't be sleeping nights or anything else. I will either have to be in the field or in our own dryer all summer, because Joe can be in only one place at the time and two to one he will have to take the field work so he can watch both the crew here and up there and do the trucking from both places. I have hopes that everything will work out in good shape, but I am not going to tie myself with promises to anyone - we are going to do our utmost for everyone concerned and hope for the best.

The dryer up there will need some repairs if it is rented - the porch where the barrels are is completely gone - big holes that are very dangerous. The steps leading up to the platform are falling apart and need some new wood.

I can't think right now, but I know there are other minor repairs that will have to be made for safety's sake if nothing else. In a way I hope that somebody will work out a scheme so that it can be operated this year on a tonnage rental basis like last year. If a group can work it out I think they can get enough apples around there to make a decent run as the crop promises to be a big one. All these other dryers are busy getting their machinery installed. We got our two machines last week and Osborn got the ones for the Okamoto dryer. Hankins has the Cordoza dryer all torn up and expects his peeler any day, also. To date I have knowledge of only two hand machine dryers that are rented and those two are the Aburano dryer and the one that Andy has at Forestville. The Winsby dryer is another one that is being changed over that I just learned about this week. I imagine that when the season starts there will be two or three more hand operated ones running if the labor can be had as they ran last year and are in good shape. Dryers that didn't operate last year are probably out for the duration. Well, I imagine things will work out alright as time goes on.

I just happened to think about an article in the last Times and I cut it out to send you. These articles are disturbing, to say the least, and I don't know how far they will go on this stuff. I don't believe there is too much to worry about on that equipment up there if we make use of it, although it would not surprise me a bit to have somebody turn it in to headquarters. If I am ever bothered about it I will take it up with Geary and let him straighten it out. He knows the setup and that we are using it when necessary in the operation of the ranch so perhaps he can go to the bat. There is only one sticker and that is if they check up on the amount of time it is being used - I have been told that if the equipment was ~~not used~~ not used to the fullest extent that it would be made available to needy farmers when not in use. I don't know what the mean by motor vehicles, but I presume that refers to trucks only. Our plans were for using our Ford and Johnny's Chev to do the hauling up there, but if worse comes to worse we may have to get the truck out, too. It is just a lot of extra work getting it in order and unless we have to we won't do it.

How is Johnny's family getting along? I wrote Tsugiye long ago and have never had an answer. Hope this doesn't indicate there is something wrong. Guess your livesance about as uneventful as ever. Chip hasn't been heard from for ages, either. How many of the gang has gone into the army? The rationing is taking up considerable time around here. Starting Monday we have to use coupons for meat and I hope that we can buy a little more of it than we have been able to get the past two months. We haven't had beefsteak in this house for over three months, as a matter of fact, I have bought beef of any kind only three times during that time and two of these purchases were made in Santa Rosa. This town has been terrible and when one can't get into town at the right time (the meat comes in on Monday evening) it is just too bad. I usually got into town along about Thursday or Friday and there wasn't even a smell left in the shops. We have been very fortunate in having our ice locker with pork and veal in it. We are about through with the pork, but we just put another 165# veal in it last week. I am still makin butter and the chickens are laying and the rabbits all have little ones (35 little ones in all) so we have nothing to kick about. Our city friends are certainly kicking, though. They come up here and just about die when they see how much we have all around us. Wait until our garden gets going - we have had two messes of lettuce already and the peas are about a foot high. Joe is going to plow up the big plot for me this coming week and then I will sow more lettuce and put in the rest of the stuff little by little. Its a cinch we can't depend on the town markets to keep us alive any more and I will not go and stand in line to get something when I have plenty to do at home.

Lloyd has written three times since being overseas. He seems to be in good

spirits and guess he is working plenty hard. He says he is driving on night shift and through a lot of mud mix and slush and that he has to keep awake or else! I write to him very often for they don't get mail regularly and I think that way he stands a chance of getting mail before getting too darned homesick. I know his mother and sister write often, too, but I don't think those kids can get too much mail. I got a letter from his brother the other day. He has been overseas since last Fall and I think is not very far from Lloyd, but of course, they don't know it. Wish this thing would wind up - it just makes me sick to walk down the street and see nothing but women and old men - all those young faces gone and the thought all the time that many of them will never be seen again.

I've written this in so many different spells that I forgot whether or not I told you that Weeks' man is going out to put new plungers in the sprayer before we use it again. It was leaking badly the last two days and when Joe asked them what caused it they said right away that the plungers last only one or two seasons ~~xxx~~ and that they would have to be replaced. Joe is going up with him to see how it is done in case we have to do it again at some future date. When that is done we intend to take the tractor in to Berglund's and let them find out just what is causing all the grinding and grabbing. Joe thinks it would be very foolish to run it the way it is pulling the disc because something more might get beyond repair and make the job cost more. In a way I hate to think of having to put out money for these repairs, on the other hand, it is probably best to have your equipment in good shape than to have to pay it out in ~~ex~~ income taxes and have poor equipment on hand to work with. Which reminds me, I filed income tax reports and imagine I will hear from them for using the wrong forms, but I couldn't get the kind I was supposed to use for guardian so I sent the next best. I treated all the equipment and fixtures as though they were yours and took off depreciation on all of it, which I believe is the proper thing to do. In this manner I cut the net income down below the taxable amount for each of you - I haven't the form before me right now, but I think it turned out to be something like \$412.00 each. I filed a partnership form covering all the income and expenses and then showed this division for each one of you. Due to the fact that each one was below the \$500.00 mark I did not file separate returns for each one. If they want it any different they will have to let me know - this usually takes about one year, and by that time I can get more information from somebody who knows. Geary just told me to file the returns and didn't give me any instructions so I did the best I knew how.

Think I have rambled on long enough here and will call it quits for this time. Tell Tsugiye I would like to hear from her if she isn't too busy. Say hello to Grandma, too.

Best regards from all of us,

As ever,

Lee Perry
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