

Ward E, Street 1, Apart. 2
Merced Assembly Center
Merced, California
May 18, 1942

Dear Mrs. Perry,

Trusting that this letter will find you and Mr. Perry in the best of health.

I just received your telegram today concerning the question of the rental of our spray rig and the tractor and fully understand the contents thereof. I received your telegram this afternoon but this morning I also received from Roger Thomas a note given to the J.A.C.L. President who evacuated here one day later than we did, to give to us and this what Thomas wrote. Quote:

Equip
"Winkler Bros. need your spray outfit to properly take care of your place. Please wire me at once stating Mrs. Perry who has your "power of attorney" is to release outfit on rental basis to Winkler Bros. for four weeks."

Signed,
Roger E. Thomas Unquote.

Well, anyway we were thinking what to do about this when this afternoon, as I have mentioned, I received that telegram from you. At any rate we have thought it over and this is what we would like to have you do for us. As we understand it so far, Roger Thomas might be given the power to issue an order on any stored farm equipment that was necessary to carry on the production of farm products and in this case there is nothing for you to do but obey. However on the other hand if Roger Thomas has no authority to issue such an order, we would still like to stick to the answer of NO because as I have told you, the tractor and the spray outfit is all fixed up for storage and we would not like to take it out unless we have to. Also another thing that I would like to discuss with you in regard to the Spray Rig and the Tractor is this: We have thought it over and anytime that any one is interested in buying the tractor and the spray outfit, will you please try to sell it for us. We would like to get \$1000 for the tractor and the rig together. In fact if Winklers are interested about this matter, you could even sell it to them; that is, if they are willing to pay that much. At any rate will you please try to sell that rig and the tractor for us, and in the meantime if Thomas gets such an authority, there is nothing we could do and the only thing would be to let them use it. If such a step becomes necessary, will you please go ahead and see that they are going to use it properly, fair rental, care of it in an orderly manner and returning it in good condition. When it comes to this matter, we will leave it to your better judgement as we all have the fullest of confidence in you. A little later, please let me know how all this turned out.

Now that I have finished writing about the business, I'd like to tell you a little something about our trip over here and boy....I mean a trip. Well, after we pulled out of Santa Rosa, the train headed out to Sacramento and then through Lodi, Stockton, Manteca, Modesto, Turlock, Atwater, and then finally Merced. Gee, it sure was a hectic trip all the way and gosh but the train sure was slow. We must have been traveling about 35 or little more most of the time and the only time it would open up would be on the open stretch and there weren't many stretches until after you passed Sacramento. We had lunch on the train consisting of sandwiches, cupcakes, orange, and milk. When we passed through Turlock, we could see the Turlock Assembly Center and it was then that we had sort of idea of what our place at Merced would look like. Well.....here and behold, we finally arrived in Merced about 6:45 and gee but were we tired from sitting down. I played the Portable radio almost all the way and it worked swell. Dogone the luck but here in Merced I can't pick up K.S.R.O. Well,

anyway we arrived at the Merced Depot about 6:45 and from there the Greyhound Bus took us to the Assembly Center which is about 15 blocks from town. After we reached the assembly center, our hand baggages were inspected and then we also were inspected for contrabands. After this was over, we were assigned our rooms. By this time it was nearly 8:00. We carried our hand luggages to to our room and then we, that is I, went to get the rest of the large luggages which the army trucks brought near our camps and they dumped the whole works right on the ground and each of us had to find his own. However this wasn't bad because lots of people from other places already in camp so they all helped us out. This job of carrying our luggages to our room took us about an hour and now it was close to 9:00 but there were lights all over the place to do the work in so it wasn't bad. Well, after that, even though it was late, they told us to go and eat in the mess hall so we did and after that it was getting late so we made our beds and relaxed for the night.

Over here there are all kinds of jobs one can apply for although most of the better ones have been taken by the people already before us. Sunday, the day after I arrived here, I got myself a job in the mess hall as helper, that is get things ready for eating, chopping meat, vegetable, & wash dishes. Boy!! have I got dish water hands now.....No kidding. I go to work on the second shift starting at 12:00 noon until 8:00 at night. They say one person from each family should be doing something so although this isn't exactly my type, it will give me something to do anyway.

Our mess hall consists mostly of Sonoma County people and even our cook is from Sonoma County. Tomorrow my Dad is going to work on the road crew and probably going to hoe grass, fix the roads etc. Boy! that dish washing job sure is a HOT one and I mean hot; gee but your sweating all the time when your washing.

We have a pretty nice bunk to sleep in. The size is about 20 x 20 so there is enough room for the five of us. The camps are built into barracks and there are 4 apartments in each barracks. The place is divided into Wards such as a, b, c, d, e, etc. Our ward is E and the street is 1, and Apart 2 etc. There must be about 35 barracks in a single ward. This is about all I can tell you at present time because this place sure covers a lot of territory and as soon as I get more time, I'll really look the place over and will give you the lowdown. Until then, its getting pretty late now, 12:30 A.M. so I'll be closing now and hoping to hear from you whenever time permits you. Please give my best regards to Mr. Perry and all of the family sends there best wishes.

So long for a while.....

Yours very sincerely,



George Ito