

December 26, 1943.

Dear Kazuo:

Well, Christmas is all over and maybe we will find a little time to relax - that is, after we get the dryer accounts straightened out, which will take place - we don't know when! Our checks from GPC were here, but some of the boys who can figure decided we were not getting all we had coming to us, so nobody accepted the checks and after a few days they called them all back. Now they might get stubborn and pay us when they get good and ready, but I really think they will want to get them off their chest as soon as possible, and they will probably come through with what belongs to us. In the meantime, we can't do a thing about making full settlement with anyone and it is still something to worry about until taken care of.

How did you folks get through the holiday? Hope you were all able to be up and around and enjoy what Santa was able to bring you. I understand the flu is making quite a stand there in the camp and am just wondering how many of you are down. Right now Tommy is down with it and was pretty bad last night. His temperature went so high he was out of his head at times and scared me plenty. I called the doctor at 3:00 this A.M. and then he came out this forenoon and prescribed for him. Bobby came down with it Friday night, but he was better already yesterday and then the little guy had to get started. It is 6:00 P.M. now and he is beginning to get a little more fever, but I don't dread tonight so much because Doc gave me some stuff containing the sulfa drug and that will ward off pneumonia, at least.

Bob is still coughing awfully bad and keeps it up continually which does not improve the chances for a night's rest, but he will have to do more than that to keep me awake tonight by the way I feel. Last night for the first time in months we thought we'd get to bed before midnight and did manage to get there by 11:15, but Tommy woke me up once before 3:00, and then again when he was delirious - from then on I didn't sleep any more. There are quite a few cases of the stuff around here and everyone seems to run such high temperatures with it. I do hope it doesn't get tough - there are only a few doctors left and nurses are so darned scarce, it would be impossible to get anyone to take care of home cases and the situation would be simply terrible if it gets as bad as during the last war.

Say Kazuo, I hope you will understand how I mean what I am going to say. I am returning the check which you were so kind to send for Xmas - you'll never know how much I appreciate your thoughts, but, under the circumstances I would be an awful heel to accept such a reward. I feel quite confident that when the court checks over the report and the hours I actually put in on the ranch that they will grant me some sort of fair compensation and that is all I ask. Last year things were a little on the different side - the ranch income was much smaller and I did not do much work up there, in fact, none at all until the season was over. I did not turn in any time on the estate and didn't even discuss the affair with Geary. When Christmas rolled around the purse strings were pretty tight around here and I was thrilled to get the check you sent - with it and a little additional I bought each one of the kids a bond and they would not have had it otherwise. This year we did very well and I was able to buy the kids a larger bond than last. We bought no toys at all for anyone here and Joe and I did not exchange gifts for the first time since we have been married. The choice of gifts was extremely poor and the quality worse than that, so we put off our buying until after the war. I am sure that if and when I can contact Geary he will allow me compensation for my time, as I said before, and I do not feel that you owe me anything personally. One never knows, you may need this badly some day and please accept my thanks for your kindness. When we meet again some day you may be able to do something for me, who knows?

RETURNED
XMAS CHECK