

Sebastopol, Calif.  
Friday, May 22, 1942.

Dear Kazuo:

Well, I had hoped to be able to write and tell you that we could pay you \$1000.00 cash for the outfit right away but as those things usually go there is always a snag somewhere. I went to my sister's as soon as I could get away after writing you the other morning and if this had happened about two months ago we could have had the money from them. I still could have about half of what we needed, but they had made an investment lately that left them rather short so I thought it best to just forget the whole incident. When Joe got home and I told him everything that had taken place during the day he was keenly dissatisfied, however, we talked it over and decided that the best thing to do was to let you know that we couldn't handle the deal at all and then see Winkler about it. Yesterday morning I had to go to Santa Rosa quite early and while there I went to Thomas' office to see how much they had to say about the sale of equipment stored by Japanese and Knight was out of town so all I could find out from the girls was that as far as they knew the only thing Knight did was to see that a fair price was paid. They said that in a number of cases appraisals of the articles had been made and the buyer required to pay not less than the appraisal. I got nowhere there, anyway. On my way home I asked Weeks what the sprayer was worth and he said at the best right now it would be worth \$500.00. Of course, he admitted that if anyone needed it real badly they would pay possibly \$600.00 but that he would tell anyone the same thing he told me if they asked him his opinion. My only purpose in asking him this was in case we did buy it and something happened that we had to have our cash back again I wanted to be sure that we didn't take too big a loss because after all, we haven't a cent to put in on it out of our pockets right now and if something happened to Joe's earning power I would have to sell the outfit quickly. At any rate, after leaving Weeks I had to go to the bank and while there Fuller came up to me and started talking about this and that. In the course of the conversation I told him about the equipment and about your letter saying that you didn't want to rent it, but that you might sell it. I didn't tell him that you set a price because I figured Joe might still want to try to get the cash somewhere and in that case I'd keep still until I was sure that we couldn't make the deal ourselves. Fuller asked me if Joe and I would be interested in buying it and I said we certainly would but that we had no money and couldn't get it. He suggested that I write you asking what your lowest price would be for the sprayer, tractor and disc, too, so that if we got it we could put the disc to work on cultivation this year yet as there is quite a bit of that to be done. He further said that the bank would let us have the money to close the deal if he thinks the equipment can stand the amount of chattel mortgage he would have to put on it. He didn't come right out and say just how much he thought it could stand, but he did say that if we could get the three pieces for less than \$1000.00 we should try to get it. Well, after telling him that you hadn't set a price as yet I wouldn't tell him then so I just let it go at that. When Joe got home last night I told him what had transpired between Fuller and I and he got all enthused again, but as he says, in borrowing from the bank we have the chattel mortgage to record and at least 6% interest to pay whereas from my sister it would have been purely a plain loan because they had their money laying there in a checking account without interest anyway.

We talked it over and over last night and finally came to the conclusion that I should write you explaining everything and also right here I want to say that I don't expect you to decide anything in our favor because of our affairs with you. We consider this pure a business deal and are treating it at this end as though we were dealing with strangers and want you to do the same. Now, this is what we propose to you: if you care to accept \$900.00 for the three pieces I will talk to Fuller and arrange for the loan from him, that is, if he sees fit to mortgage it for that much. The reason for arriving at this figure is mainly this - the \$100.00 difference will give us the amount to pay interest for one year and enough for the insurance on the equipment. Joe says the disc needs repairing before it will work properly and we would have to do that right away. I believe Joe and Lloyd can take care of most of it, however, we have to have it in good order if we want to get some of these jobs around here and start getting some money back on our investment. We are not buying this to make money off of it necessarily, but primarily to have a spare, so to speak, in case of trouble next season. Nevertheless, due to the fact that we have no money to put into it of our own it will be necessary for us to get something out of it right along so we won't be burdened with interest too long. I guess I am making this sound like a church sermon and I assure you I haven't meant to, but it is so hard to put an idea and picture circumstances on paper. I think you people know us well enough by now so that you can realize what this whole thing means when it is a matter of dollar and cents and as Joe said last night - aside from the fact that he believes a stitch in time will save nine next year - the very fact that you people have always taken care of your equipment and have hated so to part with it makes him want to have it and take care of it as much as possible, too. He said he would hate to see someone get it that would have it all shot to thunder right away so that after a year it wouldn't be fit for any use. I want to say right here, by the way, that in talking with various ones who might have some inside dope on what the government may do about equipment I have been unable to find out anything about whether or not the equipment may be ordered released for use, however, Thomas told me the other day that he would not be surprised if the government later might order all such equipment appraised and sold for that figure. I am merely giving you this for what it is worth and I wouldn't be in any hurry to sell it on account of his idea, but if and when that time should come you would have to take exactly what the appraisal was at the time and I understand that what appraisals were made by Thomas' office were not exactly high in many cases. Just between you and me I think it all depended on who asked for the appraisal and who the buyer was, if you know what I mean. Far be it from me to suggest that Mr. Thomas might lean one way or another but he is looking out for Mr. Thomas first - the main reason why I suggested not telling him anything about the deal until it was all over and why yesterday I asked at his office about how much they could do to force or stop a deal between two parties. George, on all this affair, I am taking it for granted that your Grandad knows all the circumstances and is perfectly willing to have you and your Dad set prices, etc. I do not intend to use the power of attorney in this deal at all unless it becomes necessary on the bill of sale and if I can get out of it I will have either the Grandmother sign it or else send it to the Grandad. I will leave that up to Fuller, of course. So much for business!

I hope the packages arrived safe and sound. Tell Ito that I carried every one of them from the house at Fville to the car in the yard and the next time she moves she had better make more bundles and lighter! No kidding, I really raised a sweat doing that....the next time I am going to wait until Joe gets home.

- at Merced  
1942 -

The cost of sending those things was \$3.69 which I paid and tell her that I will take that amount out of the sale of the oil and peat moss if I ever sell it. No use sending her the bill, I will file it with her other papers here.

Yesterday while in Santa Rosa I went to the P.G.&E. about the dryer meter up there. As I thought it is on a yearly basis like our own here and they said there wouldn't be any point in having it shut off from now until dryer season as the minimum has to be paid in order to get the rate so they suggested leaving it as is and when the dryer starts having the bills presented to whoever assumes the responsibility at that time - either Winklers or Sammy. The monthly amount is \$5.08 which means that the account will have to pay that until Sammy takes over. The house bill was \$1.86, but it should be very small until dryer season when the large amount of water used will probably send it up. If things turn out alright this year it may be well to let the next contract be the same way, but if the charge on the house meter is exorbitant during the summer then whoever takes the place next year will have to stand that. We'll see as time goes on.

Got Tsugiye's pink slip yesterday and have put it in the vault. Am sending the white one as I believe she had better sign it and have it here in the Buick just in case any checking is done on stored vehicles later on. We will need it for her license plates in '43 if she has to have them, anyway.

RAMOS?

Just got letters from your Dad and Chips. Will answer both tomorrow if have time. Chips really gave us the low-down on conditions and I surely got a kick out his disgust with the privacy you have down there. He said there are no more family secrets as every one can hear what the fellow next door is saying. Just think what swell people that will make out of you all. You won't talk about anybody or anything bad for so long that you won't know how when you get out by yourselves. Maybe some more of us should be subjected to such out and out "curtailment of speech". Your Dad says he heard that you would be there for the duration. I do not doubt that one bit, but we hope the duration will not be long. I really don't know whether he means in that particular place for the duration or just away from here, but I do not think that you will be in that hell hole too long, I mean as soon as the large acreages are ready for occupancy you will be moved where you can produce things to help this thing to a finish. That is my understanding, at least, and everyone seems to think that all of these people will be put to work doing something as soon as things are in shape for them at the large relocation centers.

I am making this letter do for most of you people. Please find out about Mrs. Ito's town gossip sheet and magazines that might come here. If she can have them sent to her I will send them along when they arrive. Well, I might wait until I have two or three things to mail before I send them. I'll find out at the Postoffice if I can just put a wrapper around two or three papers at once and send them for a cheap rate.

Gosh, I enjoy these epistles from you kids and I only wish I had a lot of time to write often, but keep on writing and I will do my best to get some through to all of you from time to time. An afterthought - if you people can get together on the equipment, please make a separate sheet stating that you have decided to sell it to Joe and I for such and such a price and sign it. This will serve for Mr. Knight when and if the price can be met. Thank you for doing this for us. In the meantime, keep cool! Best wishes from all of us to all of you.