

May 10, 1944.

Dear Frank and Family:

I am mailing under separate cover, the two books I found in the dark desk at Forestville. I am quite sure that one of them is O.K., but I don't know about the other, however, I could not find anything else so I am sending it along. If there is still another up there, I wish you would let me know and I will go there during the day so I can look around a little better. Joe and I went up at night and had to use the flashlight so we might have missed the book if it was there.

We are going to put on the first cover spray up there starting Friday. We did the calyx weeks ago and at that time we were very sick about the crop because we had such heavy frosts, rain and hail. The bloom was beautiful, but that stormy weather raised heck with it and things looked pretty bad during the calyx stage. Now they are looking better every day and there will be quite a bit of thinning to be done, especially East of the dryer where they are mixed. It is funny how the fruit set this year - on the same tree there will be limbs with maybe only three or four apples and then limbs with ten or fifteen clusters that have to be thinned. All in all, there will be quite a few apples up there. The trees look grand, big green leaves and very heavy foliage. The cold spell etc. did some damage in the way of sour'sap, but we found only two young trees dead from it. There is a lot of die-back on the big trees, well, I wouldn't say ~~that~~ that it is really die-back so much as it looks like little-leaf, but I wouldn't be surprised that a lot of that will have to come off next pruning season. It is much worse around the Molino district than up there. We are still having plenty cold mornings here even now and the frosts hit us so heavy a while back that we have no crop at all. Our cherries are a perfect blank, and the apples are almost as bad as two years ago when we had the smallest crop we could remember. The bloom was heavy, here too, but just at that time we had morning after morning of real heavy frost and then rain and more rain and then more frost. I never saw such a funny season and it is a wonder that there are any crops at all.

Joe is still discing our place and hopes to finish today then he is going to harrow up at Forestville before we do the spraying. The ground is in swell shape, just the right moisture and it is turning over wonderfully well. We have had two rains since he disced at Forestville so he intends to pull our little harrow disc ahead of the harrow this time to take care of what little grass grew since. That place looks like a garden with very little cultivating as the ground is so sandy and easy to do up.

So Teruo is on his way - hope he gets into something he will like.

There are no young kids left around here at all now and a lot of the young married men have gone, too. If it wasn't for the Mexicans we would have a heck of a time getting our work done. We have three of them right now and of course, there are days when we have to find something for them to do, but we have them when we need them badly, and that means a lot right now.

Tell Teruo to write to me whenever he finds time, and you be sure to tell me if I got the wrong book for you. In the meantime, take care of yourselves, and good luck to you.

Sincerely,

E.