



New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
a Statutory College of the State University
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May 3, 1985

Loni Ding

San Francisco, California 94133

Dear Lori:

Are you still planning on a New York trip? My schedule for early summer is beginning to get tight. In fact it has been a "hectic" spring so I haven't dropped you a line before this. Also, you wanted a resume of my scientific career. One is enclosed. One shot in Italy is on page 76 of "Go For Broke".

I was hoping I could find a story that was written about growing up on a dairy farm in Connecticut. The enclosed material taken from a University of Connecticut brochure will give you some glimpses.

In World War II I was a "kodomo". After graduating from OCS and eventually going overseas I heard that the 442nd needed replacement officers out of the pool I was in. Having grown up in a fine, hard working rural community but parochial in its viewpoint, I thought serving with the 442nd would be an opportunity to join a group of Americans I never had contact with before. I knew many were from farm backgrounds like myself. I didn't know until after I joined the unit what a lucky choice I had made. We hit it off wonderfully well. We were all completely loyal to each other. WE were a family that had a mission. We trusted each other. We all were motivated to do our best, not just for the 442nd, but for our country. Let's get the war over and go home to return to peaceful ways again. Of course, for many Nisei's the pieces to pick up were much more difficult than for me. My family had not been removed from their farm.

We fought hard and we played hard. Back in the rest areas the boys from Hawaii, especially, would love to get rid of their GI boots when it wasn't too cold, sit around a fire and cook up some chickens that had been exchanged with local citizen's for chocolates and cigarettes. Of course we had lots of rice to go with it.

In the hospital those that could walk would visit all the 442 boys that couldn't. A family spirit of concern and support and pride was maintained wherever we went.

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Whenever I see anything associated with the 442 I am filled with nostalgia. Whenever I see a "Japanese" name in this country I am interested in the connection. Many of us still keep in touch and will continue to do so "forever".

Sincerely yours,

R. H. Foote

Dr. Robert H. Foote
Professor of Animal Physiology
and Jacob Gould Schurman Professor

RHF/tb
Enc.

P.S. - I returned tonight from an International Conference in Boston. There was a telephone note saying you would be in NY a week earlier, June 1-2. Count me out. That is graduation weekend at Cornell. When weekends are reserved and then changed it usually will not fit my schedule. I have a 365-day/year schedule. I am now booked all of June. Good luck. RHF