

Helen E. Amerman  
War Relocation Authority, Minidoka Project  
Hunt Branch, Twin Falls, Idaho

Tuesday  
6:30 PM

Apr. 10.

Dear Family,

I'll start this now although Mr. Fogarty will be coming any minute to take me down to school. He's night school principal and gives us rides. I have some tag ends to attend to, including composing a test.

I was late writing because I spent Sunday making up for a water shortage. The pump in one water tower went bad Thursday, and Friday



we received orders not to use  
water for baths or laundry.  
I had left my hair and all  
my clothes for Friday night  
so by Sunday when we  
could use water I was  
filthy.

Last week was rather  
a pleasant one. I've gotten  
chairs and tables in my  
senior coe class room

10:30 PM Wednesday!

So it goes!

Well, as I was saying, the new  
furniture has made a tremendous  
difference. I actually enjoy my  
senior class now - I'm beginning  
to feel as though I'm accomplish-  
ing something there. One of my  
chief headaches is the fact that  
Helen Gilbertson looks upon the  
room as hers, because she has it  
6 quads a day and she makes



2/

**Helen E. Amerman**  
**War Relocation Authority, Minidoka Project**  
**Hunt Branch, Twin Falls, Idaho**

It a habit to drop in frequently and put it around or even establish herself at her desk which is at the front of the room so I usually have an older teacher standing behind me during my class. It's especially awkward when she wants to write stuff on the one black board for her classes and I turn around to find there's no place to write my illustration of a joint — or when she can't repress her interest and enthusiasm and takes the opportunity to add her two cents' worth.

Enough of that — now that the class is only 49 we are quite chummy and



happy.

April 1 we split my class of 60 and Dixon has one section all to himself. We moved a few in from my 7<sup>th</sup> + 8<sup>th</sup> grad section, too, so now I have two decent (at least to me) classes of 35 and 39. (30 is the limit in most accredited high schools). At last I can accomplish the kind of teaching I was taught to do. The arrival of a real desk that day, and a real class book that I didn't have to rule laboriously each 6 weeks were almost beyond belief, especially April 1.

To crown my joy spring just burst upon us and our weather is delightful! We need coats right and



3/

**Helen E. Amerman**  
**War Relocation Authority, Minidoka Project**  
**Hunt Branch, Twin Falls, Idaho**

morning and during the day its comfortable with doors + windows open and no fire. My room is in the center of the building and is much cooler than end rooms. There are quite a few meadow lakes and down by the canal there are redwinged black birds and sea gulls. We are delighted to see green grass here and there among the sagebrush and in sheltered corners by our porches. Our Idahoans gently remind us this is grazing country. Last week it was Monday choir, Tuesday finished



How War Came, Wednesday  
Miss Major took Evelyn Anderson,  
Marjorie Green, Miss Hest,  
Miss Koontz and me in to  
see Random Harvest. It  
is very good.

Thursday was chow again.

Friday night Miss Hest  
and I went over to the School  
of Prayer - a Lenten study  
group. It was very pleasant -  
about 10 of us with Abetakiwara  
and Father Kitagawa leading.  
There were three nice fellows, a  
charming doctor (middle aged  
father of one altar boy), a young  
married woman, a girl my  
age, Miss Hest, Mrs Peppers  
and me. We discussed  
Church history.



41

**Helen E. Amerman**  
**War Relocation Authority, Minidoka Project**  
**Hunt Branch, Twin Falls, Idaho**

Saturday I was elected Secretary of the local branch of the Idaho Ed. Assn. and their alternate for delegate to the convention in Boise. I was also placed as advisor to the Student Council by Gladys Gilbertson (regular election).

After school (we've cut lunch to a half hour on Saturday and get out at 4:30) I went to town with the lights. I did a pile of shopping, almost first since December, in a half hour. Then we had a fine chicken dinner (served without silverware) together. We did errands and then went to the second showing of



Margen for Error — very good.  
We wonder what town was  
like before the WRA! When our  
eyes got accustomed to  
the light we discovered  
almost a whole row of  
project staff in front of us!  
After the show there were  
milk shakes — a gala evening!  
Home at 12:30.

I didn't go to early church.  
Slept till 9:30. Then played for  
Abie's Sunday school at 10:45.  
They are darling. About 15 in  
assorted ages up to about 10  
years old — starting about 2½ or 3!  
He is charming with them too!  
I spent the rest of Sunday  
in shampoo, washing, bath,  
manicure, ironing.

About 6 Kay and I decided  
to stir up some fun and invited



5/  
**Helen E. Amerman**  
**War Relocation Authority, Minidoka Project**  
**Hunt Branch, Twin Falls, Idaho**

the new men on the staff for coffee  
and sandwiches. We had  
Charlie Bowen, <sup>math teacher</sup> & ~~that~~ crash  
victim - internal injuries - of  
naval air patrol over Atlantic  
convoys - a fascinating  
youngster who plans to resume  
his legal residence in Mexico  
and marry the grand daughter  
of General Obengand (?), Mr.  
de Young a young academic  
intellectual without manners  
who is staff anthropologist,  
Mr. Albertson (a charming  
Idaho native about 30)  
of the Personnel Dept.  
Also Mr. Spicer, de Young's boss.  
We had Bob Coombs and



For Chief Yeager too — it  
made 11 of us with Thery,  
Gen, and Lona. Afterward  
Mr Albertson + Charlie took  
Kay and me to the show  
next door — Backstreet which  
was good but a fool of a wine.

Monday night choir.

Last night I did too many  
odds and ends so had to  
compose the test when I  
got home. Gave a bath and  
writing the test I was  
ready for bed.

Sought it was Episcopal  
choir, then a call at the Fyrmoto's  
with Mrs. Pappas and home.  
I stood and talked with  
the girls for almost an hour.  
Now it's 11 and I'm ready  
for bed again.



6/

**Helen E. Amerman**  
**War Relocation Authority, Minidoka Project**  
**Hunt Branch, Twin Falls, Idaho**

Tomorrow is choir, Friday  
School of Prayer, Saturday  
~~the~~ Episcopal choir at 4:30.  
Sunday 8 AM church, 9 AM  
special service, 11 Sunday  
school. And soon!

We have it light here till 8:30  
now! I like this season!

I must close!

Love,

Helen