

Apr. 12

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

Sunday
9:15 PM

Dear Family

There isn't a great deal to write
after my late letter of last week.
I manage to keep running
from one thing to another.

Wednesday night was
Episcopal choir.

Thursday night we had
a rather brief choir rehearsal
and then I corrected test papers
until I could ride home with
Mr. Fogarty. It was cold and
raining.

Friday Kirby Page spoke
at school. He spoke in the
morning for nearly an hour
and again in the afternoon.

He ran part of a series. The morning was on what has led to the present conflict (the nationalistic principles of self interest, sovereignty and patriotism). In the afternoon he presented the logical reasons for some sort of world organization. He says there is a direct parallel between the arguments used by Patrick Henry as to why Virginia should not ratify the constitution and Senator Lodge's arguments against joining the League of Nations. He lists as the requirements for peace: ~~not~~ international mind, international heart, and international machinery for government.

The students were pleased from classes if they wished to go. They packed the social hall (school dining hall) and listened spell bound. Most came back for the second talk and lot for the

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evening talk.

I got the furniture for my 11th grade Coe room at noon so now it's just about complete. Having my two classes cut down has made me feel like a completely new woman. I have 30 and 39 in the afternoon now.

In the evening I went over to block 10 for one of the most interesting meetings I've attended. It was the Lenten school of prayer which is really not an adult class for a review of the things you study in confirmation classes. There were just four Jes plus Father Kitagawa - Mrs. Tamura and two nice young fellows. We talked about almost everything.

"Father Joe" is a brilliant
fellow and very charming.
He's a tiny bit like Donald
Evans but with a somehow
deeper personal interest in individuals.
He and one of the boys walked
more than a half mile out of their
way home to escort me to within
sight of the dorm — it was a
rainy night too.

Yesterday we awoke to snow
which lasted till noon. It was
cold and damp and gray
till dinner time and then
cleared. I got quite a bit done
but instead of the cold afternoon
of work I had planned I had
a delightful 3 hours of chatting
with the new curriculum
adviser Miss Fitzsimons. She
reminds me a little of Miss
Agason and is delightful
personally as well as professionally.

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Our former curriculum man
left for the Army in January
and his secretary quit so she
has a job to get into step. I
suppose I took advantage of the
situation and others may
be jealous or something, but
she has been friendly and
no one else seemed to take it
upon himself to help her
learn about the project. Of course,
in telling her about how things
worked it came natural to
speak from my observations
and philosophy and
experiences. She seemed very
favorably impressed with my
guidance point of view and

way of organizing my
files on student work. Some
may feel I blew my own horn
but I'll call it a reward for a good
neighbor policy.

Last night I drank coffee
with Jen and Jona and
one of the primary teachers
from next door. I corrected the
last of my test papers from this
week's test in history, and read
Paul Keene. Also I did a washing
and mending.

Today we had church at 9.
Father Kitagawa preached his
first English sermon on the
Epic of Aeneas and it was a jewel.
We have now nearly a morning
prayer service now — it's at
sang Eucharist with sermon
— the congregation don't take
communion. The girl's choir
sounded pretty good.

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I was about to dash home for breakfast before playing for Sunday school when Father Kitagawa invited me to stay over near there and have breakfast with him and Dr. Mrs. Shigaya (a delightful young couple) with whom he stays. I did and really enjoyed the homely atmosphere of eating at a table with just a "family" group.

It was nice enough so I could be quite crisp looking in my tweed suit, red shoes, bandkerchief and straw hat of 2 years ago. I haven't accomplished much except looking at newspapers and typing a couple

of hours on Art's thesis. It's
nearing the end on it. If I could
just get the time and energy to
work one full day I think I
finish it.

Today it has been delightful
out. At 6 Louise^{and} and I walked
over to Block 14, up to the end of
the row of blocks and down
the other side of them to 1 and
then home past the hospital.
It is so good to see people out
enjoying the weather and
playing ball. Several fields
have been cleared for baseball
and there is a basket mounted
for practicing basketball in
nearly every block. I've only seen
one "court" (a smoothed
place with 2 baskets) on the
project though.
They have planted trees
in the upper blocks (22-44)

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and have holes dug in a few
blocks on the other side. The
trees are fairly sizeable (perhaps
10' to 15' ft.) and they have
nearly enough for one to
a barracks building. They
should make a big difference.

The staff housing is beginning
and there will be apartments
ready for a few families in a
month. They'll never know
what they've missed by living
in town the first year!

Margaret wrote she couldn't
come ^{for spring vacation} because of having a
bad tooth extraction job
slated.

I'm too sleepy to be really
intelligible. After our walk
I had "supper" endless
sandwiches, a pint of ice
cream + a bottle of coke.

I hope Ben got my birthday
~~letter~~ card and note. I'll try
to get a letter to him soon.
Time just flies too fast!
I hope he has a happy few
weeks in Montclair.

Love,

Helen

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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