

7-22-43

Dear Family,

Forgive me -time has caught up with me J These have been busy days, and hot! Right now I'm up to my ears and don't see how I'll ever get things done ,but I know I will!

I just can't individualize the days (really nights)of last week. I know Tues.was a Relocation Guidance Comm. meeting that lasted all the afterneonand Tues. and WEd .mornings I was runnin, conducted tours of high school for sixth graders before they should choose electives.

Wed. P.M.was Community Services Staff meeting and there were some case conferences ,too.

I've written several letters - mostly to Japanese proteges who have relocated . Also I've been quite avidly reading Eve Curie's Journey Among Warriors.

Fri.night I visited my friends in the hospitaland then went to an organization meeting for a young peoples group . From there I went to the Scavenger Hunt Dance put on by seniors . It was a real success . The unforgettable part was that half way through the evening they asked every one to sit down and be quiet for the feature attraction --Miss Amerman would now favor them with a song! And there must have been over a hundred people! I could'n't get out of it -so, since I could remember nothing clear thru I accepted Gladys's suggestion of America! Yosh Uchida ,my pal ,immediately started a grouper fellows humming harmony for accompaniment and I got thru -- but oh my ! After that they had Bob Combs demonstrate dancing with his dream girl and Ruth Candee gave a clever skit -a monolog in Breeklynese --but they had time to prepare!

Saturday I got quite caught up in the after noon with the staff meeting - and at night I did a big washing and ironing and would have followed thru with hair and manicure but Mrs. Peppers came in for a visit.

Sun. was hot and aside from Sun. school about all I did was read. In the evening I called on our patients and attended Baccalaureate which was lovely \_ outdoors in a barren "shell". They had an orchestra of teachers and students (about 20 pieces) and the graduates wore caps and gowns (boys royal blue ,girls white ). It was just at sunset with lovely sky and warm air . Mosquitoes too! They're bad with all the irrigation ditches.

Monday night I planned to write but it was hot \_ we went to the can\_ teen for ice cream and cokes --also I had to spend rather a lengthy session with Esther Herndon explaining why she couldn't go to Jr.college in Jan. Then Thorpie wanted advice on one of her boys.

Yesterday was shot with a long meeting of the Relocation Comm. again.

Last night ni had fine intentions of writing . It was breathlessly hot so Charles and I sat on the steps and chatted . Then the cook next door presented us with a cold canteloupe. When we had finished it was 9 !

Then I started to settle down and Gen started to scold me ( teasingl for not having made the dress I bought the goods for --so, on a bet, I joined her in the living room for a race . She was cutting out a summer dress . I cut out my suit in 25 min. and in 2 hours had it pinned and ready for stitching !

Today has been hectic but cooler with "shoers" ;( 10 drops in an hour is a shower, 20 would be a rain, 30 a downpour.) Fortunately my sneezing stopped ss unexpectedly as it began and starting Fri. I began to feel quit peppy.

Temorrow night is senior banquet. Fri., graduation. We leave (Esther and Ellen Herndon ,Bob and I ) here Sat. at 8 AM and I willget off in Valleje about 10 SU<sup>N</sup>. Margaret will meet me and take me to Benicia. We are planning (she suggested it ) a dinner party for that night , inviting Larry , Gwen, and Nick, and a date for M argaret . I'll probablygo to Pale Alto Men. mornng. Tenny has a room saved and I'llbe at work by afternoen!

It all seems impossible but I'm sure it will come true . I'llwrite when I can.

Love

Hal



operation Thursday. Ed twisted  
and turned his credits to get  
enough for him to graduate  
and he was quite heartbroken.  
I got him consoled and  
made what arrangements  
I could. I thought to read in  
the paper that Father Kall's son  
had died in a Jap prison camp  
in the Philippines. Just as  
I was composing myself to  
write a letter of condolence  
there was a crowd going  
past our door - returning  
from the drowning of the  
youngest brother of one of my  
former students. He had  
stepped into a drop-off while  
wading in the canal. He  
was washed 2 miles down  
through the roughest part and



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evidently was thrown against  
the rocks.

The rest of my evening  
was spent in quiet activities  
like letters, Darning, ironing,  
and finishing *The Grapes of  
Wrath*. I also judged selections  
for the *Pen Club Magazine*.  
I'm anxious to send you a

copy. It seems as though I'd done  
more than that, but I can't  
imagine what.

Saturday I went to town  
with Mrs Major, Sharpe, and  
Evelyn. I bought blue silk  
poplin for a two piece dress or  
suit. I hope to have it for my



"vacation". Had a really good dinner — steak and shoe string potatoes (meager portions of both), coffee, and pumpkin pie with a double portion of soft ice cream. The latter is a special delight if you've never had any.

We had a beautiful ride home about 9. The air was clear and we could see mountains we've never seen before — to the north. They must have been nearly as far as Boise!

Yesterday I went up to 32 for church at 8:30. Walked home, had breakfast, planned my Sunday school program and got over there at 10:45. I was slightly disconcerted to find the Japanese rector who has been in the hospital 5 months



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was my visitor. But we  
plowed through quite  
bravely. I was able to ask him  
to pronounce the "Absolution"  
and the two other teachers said  
I'd handled the situation OK.

I read the paper and  
clipped my accumulation  
of papers till lunch time.  
The rest of the time I worked  
on my senior list. Except  
for the time Mr. Numms, the  
assistant fire chief was  
here for supper. I'd invited  
him to share my avacado  
and cucumber purchased  
Saturday. He was very  
appreciative.

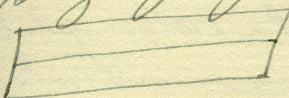


Tonight was the funeral.  
It was at 7:30. It started with  
taking the picture outside.  
The choir (jissie), Scouts, family,  
and teachers plus the cadet  
and almost all the flowers.  
That is a WRA regulation - it  
is proof of "decent burial" and  
is sent to relatives in Japan  
in normal times.

The Scouts acted as pallbearers.  
First they sounded taps. Then  
the scriptures were read in  
English and a prayer in English.  
I'm forgetting to say that  
as we entered there was a table  
to receive gifts - it is customary  
to give money in a special  
gift envelope but I suppose  
the A.P.'s didn't. At that time  
we were handed programs  
(mimeographed)  
printed sideways on legal



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size paper. The upper half  
 was program and  
the lower, words of hymns.  
All in Japanese and covered  
the page! (You'll see why!)

After the English part the  
scriptures and prayers were  
repeated in Japanese. Then a  
hymn. Then the boy's life was  
recited by a little fellow his  
age (11). Then followed speeches  
of condolence by: <sup>boy</sup> representative  
of the church, representative of  
block, representatives of young  
people's organization, boys of his  
block, school class, cub pack.  
Then a hymn and a funeral



sermon, hymn by choir  
and benediction. But  
that wasn't all. They had  
a fellow come up and read  
of wires and notes of condolence  
received - some the complete  
message! Then a representative  
of the family expressed thanks.  
It was 9 then. And they started  
going up to see the body and  
bow out (literally). They bow to  
the body and then to each of three  
rows of family. Well, there must  
have been hundreds - the hall  
20x100 was full and as many  
must have stood outside because  
the line moved fairly rapidly  
and took over a half hour to file  
past!



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The funeral had been delayed  
so that a brother and sister could  
come from colleges in Nebraska  
and Indiana and a grand-  
father came up under guard from  
the internment camp in New  
Mexico.

My job continues most  
congenial. I think people are  
quite satisfied. It takes me  
into wider contacts and I have  
a far reaching overview of the  
project. I go to staff meetings  
regularly now and am  
repeatedly impressed with  
the almost nobility of Mr.  
Stafford. He certainly inspires confidence!



I've had nice letters from  
several students and friends  
nlocated this week plus one  
from Elisabeth Prother and  
a card from Mary Buelow Hale.

I must answer soon

But now it's bed time!

Love,

Helen