

Saturday night
8-19-44

Dear Family,

Forgive my delay again - it's been a busy two weeks and looks like two more coming. As usual, I've had to make out a calendar to figure out what I've done with my time!

Two weeks ago tomorrow, which is approximately when I wrote last, I had dinner at Marguerite's. Bob was there too. It was delicious. Afterwards Jerry Light finally put the aerial (sp.?) on my radio (the bell wire Daddy gave me) and now I can get almost everything. We are in a miserable region for reception, especially in the daytime in summer.

At five I was invited to Father Joe's for supper with the Bishop (Reiferides - formerly of Japan). I found Tom Ogawa and Jim Sakoda there too. We had a very delightful chat. I can't imagine a more brilliant group of men.

Monday night seems to have been consumed in visiting the neighbors.

Tuesday night we congregated at the lights. Everybody and his brother dropped in. I stay down and visited with Jerry after the others left, it was a very satisfactory chat. I think he is quite well adjusted after all he's been through.

Wednesday evening Miss Jete took the Wileys to the train for their vacation. Since she had just returned from her vacation I took advantage of the chance to go along. It was a beautiful twilight ride.

Thursday evening she had business in town so I went with her again. However, that time she took two others along including Miss Batchelder (The new England nightmar) and it wasn't quite so pleasant.

Thursday afternoon Paul Hiyama arrived. He is a Mundoka boy who has been at Kalamazoo College for a year and a half and is sent here for a month to work for Student Relocation. We clicked on sight! He's charming, intelligent, and unassuming.

Friday morning I devoted to intro -

of luring him to A.P. Of course he made a hit. We stopped at Elmer's office about 11:30. It so happened that Elmer had brought Wally Takeguchi, one of his proteges, from the University when he returned Wednesday night. The four of us immediately involved ourselves in a discussion of music in colleges. We all had lunch together in the staff mess and walked back together. Paul's comment on leaving them was "I've always wanted to meet a man like him (Elmer)!" As a result of the points raised we decided to have a discussion meeting for returned college students the following Tuesday.

Friday evening there was an outdoor memorial service for Volunteers who lost their lives in Italy. Bob and I went. It was very impressive, although mostly Japanese.

Mrs. Wiley had offered me the use of her apartment to "play house" in and cook in while they were gone, so I suggested Saturday to Elmer that we might have a dinner party for Wally and Paul. He snapped up the idea and we planned for 9 Sunday evening. Mergie Mullins took me to

town to shop Saturday night. Sunday
I spent my free time at Wileys and
fought 3 stage fight — after all I
had hardly boiled water for 7 years!

It turned out a supreme success!

I had grapefruit juice and nut crackers,
tuna salad, potato chips, buttered carrots,
olives + radishes, bisquick biscuits,
chocolate cookie and whipped cream
ice box dessert and coffee. There were
Elmer, Wally, Wally's friend Howard from
the University and Heat Mountain, Eugene
Uyeki, Ken Kikuchi (one of Elmer's local
protoges who is leaving for N.Y. this week),
Bob, Marquente, and myself. Afterwards
we sat and talked till nearly eleven.
Elmer and Wally helped me with dishes.

Monday the wife chores at home.

Tuesday evening we had our
college get together. It was fairly successful.
Elmer led the discussion. We had 26
thr.

Wednesday I was ready to relay.
After a washing and bath I sat down and
finished Strange Fruit. It was good.

3/ Thursday was another interesting day. We've been having workshop all week each morning. At that session Father Tobias and Elmer spoke on the psychology and environment of this teaching situation. Although they differed somewhat in opinion they were both excellent and the teachers were highly enthusiastic.

Since Father Joe had returned rather unexpectedly from his tour of Wyoming, we went ahead with the evening at his house which had been planned. It was the young group - Tom Ogawa (Community clerk), Jim Sakoda, Eugene, Calvin, former student body president, two of the ASTP candidates, Sally Shimanaka of Buxa, three other girls, and Paul, and Elmer and myself. We started out discussing Paul's reactions to camp on his return and the problems implied. About half way through the evening a Dr. Carpenter came in. He is visiting the Project. He is a Presbyterian minister from Brooklyn who is connected with the hostel there and is also a big shot in the Cooperative

movement. He was chairman of the committee in charge of Kagawa when he was in the country. He has traveled all over the world, too. You can imagine it was a stimulating evening. We broke up about midnight.

Yesterday Miss Dite spoke at workshop. She was splendid! So good that is general demand among the teachers for her to give a series of discussions on "the personnel point of view".

Of course, with school opening, my office is practically swamped, but I was going stale and dreaded the opening two weeks without a breath to pull myself together first. So Jerry Fogarty (he is to become the principal, to my delight) urged to take the mornings as well as this afternoon (which was my compensatory P.M. off). I felt like a traitor, but I'll go back tomorrow at 10:30 and work most of the day with fewer interruptions and more energy. Elmer brought me in (he had promised to pick up some youngsters at the labor camp and take them back ~~to~~ school with all their belongings) and took me to dinner. He

4/ and I always have lots to discuss when we get together and I find him completely charming. He is a big help to me in lots of ways, too.

Will be I am in a delightful corner room at the Park Hotel. I've never stayed here before and like it much better than its "parent" the Regency. There are lots of trees and lawn around it, and it's quiet, although only 2 blocks from town. It used to be a maternity hospital!

Last night I rested for about an hour and a half, then saw The Uninvited. It's not as good as the book.

Today I've slept from midnight till 1 P.M. and from 5:30 till 6:30. I was lucky enough to call the beauty shop and get an appointment someone else had missed. I indulged myself to the extent of buying a nice gray flannel suit and white tailored blouse for school.

I expect the next two weeks to be hectic. Some time after that Mrs. etc and I plan a weekend in Salt Lake City and in October I want a week or 10 days in California. I shall feel much like going I'm sure. Our new Community Mgt. Chief is a

complete success. Even Mr. Klunkoff
is responding to pressure and taking
a liberal and progressive point of view!
The whole atmosphere is changing. Mr.
Huberman is vindicating "the angels"
(as we call ourselves privately!) very
forcefully!

As for teaching staff, on paper we
have all but two, but they won't be here,
many of them, for a couple of weeks.
Marguerite Ashew is leaving for
Great Falls, Mont. the 30th and Bob
plans to resign in October. And so will
pass an era! I think I'll be content to
stay this year, however.

More anon,

Love,

Allen

8/19/44

9/ learned the high school clerical staff had been cut from 7 to 3 by personnel in a general labor cut — so far as I know, without notifying us. There is hope of trading with the asst. teacher category to save us, however.

This afternoon I rode in with the rights and have done a little shopping. I meet Evelyn for dinner + show.

Tomorrow Bishop Riefsnyder will be here. I have dinner with Bob and Marquitta and supper at Father Joe's with the Bishop.

Next week promises to be full. Community govt. Wednesday and probably a get-together of young people. I'm also expecting Paul Hyman here for the month to work for Student Relocation. Tom Bodine will be here in about mid-September.

I'm reading Whittaker's Americas To the South at last. You gave

10/ it to me for Christmas 1943.
I'm enjoying it immensely.
Also I'm reading Strange
Fruit. It's good but not
"pleasant."

more anon,

Love,

Helen

P.S. Thank you for getting the
blanket for Frances. I'll
send a check when I get home
and check the price.