

Wednesday
6-13-45

Dear Family,

I'm writing on "company" time because otherwise I'm not sure when you'd hear from me. This past week I've been doing things between sneezes. My hay fever (sheepgrass?) has hit me harder this year than before. I'm not as badly off as Mr. Dick was, but I can certainly feel for him. My greatest relief comes from getting out of all air currents and just keeping quiet. The birthday dark glasses have been a god-send!

For the most part my office routine seems like a vacation since I don't have to carry 3 classes in addition! For a couple of days they gave me more help than I could use at the time (teachers about to go off duty and through with their own work) and I found that to be a subtle form of plane driving. For two days I wrote rough copies of transcripts fast enough so the two commercial teachers could type and proof read them!

Graduation week wasn't half bad. In fact, it went more smoothly and with less effort than when I was just guidance counselor.

If I didn't hold classes Monday and Tuesday because seniors were excused and that left too few in my groups. I had my grades all done ahead of schedule and was able to help my two student speakers.

Senior grades were supposed to be in Wednesday morning so I could spend Wednesday and Thursday figuring class averages, but they went. So Thursday morning I rehearsed the seniors and ~~one~~ in the afternoon I shopped for adrus and shoes to wear to graduation. I came back and worked from 6:45 till 11:10 and finished the class ranks on 102 students.

Friday I gave out grades, supervised graduation rehearsal all afternoon and rehearsed my speakers.

The exercises went off the best I ever held here. Father Shoji's wife, who had arranged flowers for the Emperor, was in charge of flowers for the auditorium — the P.T.A. had contributed for them. It was beautiful. The graduates behaved beautifully and the music by the G.O. Chorus was excellent. Mrs. Stafford's son had been reported killed at Okinawa the week before, so his speech was sad — excellent, especially after his son's death. Mrs. Townsend spoke well, too. Then my two students

3/ were outstandingly good. Their speeches
are in this week's Paragon - I'll try to
get one for you.

Afterwards there was a dance for
graduates at which Elmer and I were
drafted to stay till cleaning was over.

Saturday I slept all day. There was
a staff meeting from 10 to 12 and I had
the afternoon off. I washed and mended.
In the evening Elmer and I went to a
dance in block 15. It was very pleasant.

Sunday Tak and Elmer and I had
our day in town postponed since April.
I thought I'd get back at 7:30, but we stayed till
the last bus. It was delightful - more
enjoyable than any Sunday since the days
we used to spend in the Sawtooths. We
just had a fried chicken dinner. Then we
saw Main Street after dark. That was
quite good. Then we walked up the
street and into the other decent movie
house and saw Billy Rose's Diamond
Horseshoe. That was very good. Then we
went back to the restaurant for more
good food. By then it was after 8 and
we went for a walk into the "country"
part of town. We took the 10:30 bus home
tired but happy.

Monday night Elmer and I were
invited to a farewell party for Calvin

4) nunomija who is a very bound.
It was a congenial group - Calvin
and John Matsushima my ex-
pupils, Jim Sakoda back from
Berkeley, Yoshie Osaba also an ex
pupil, now Father Joe's secretary,
Kimi Tambara, newspaper editor,
and Elmer and I.
Tuesday night I went to bed right
after supper.

Wednesday night we had a get-together
for the youngsters to talk with Jim.
Again, a very congenial time.

Thursday night Elmer and I
were patrons at the Sun Age Cantina
party. It turned out to be a very good time.

Friday I went to prison for my
laundry and planned a full evening
after my return - but two of our juvenile
delinquents (just released from probation)
were on the bus. They said they were hungry
because they hadn't had supper so I brought
them home for coffee and rolls. I
didn't really think they'd accept but they
did. And they stayed till 9:30! I was
glad they did, we had an interesting chat -
but it threw me off schedule!

Saturday my hay fever really hit
me! I could hardly wiggle. Fortunately,

3) Marguerite word she wouldn't be
here till Sunday. I went to bed at 6,
I exhausted!

Sunday Marguerite arrived about 10:30.
I cut Church and Sunday School because
I was still sneezing, but we were able to
sit and chat most of the day. She
found lots of changes. Harpie had left
Thursday and Evelyn Tuesday so
it was lonelier than ever.

Monday Marguerite saw former
pupils and told a acquaintance. In
the evening we went to town for chicken
dinner and saw Without Love. It's
excellent. We could have seen it twice
with pleasure.

Yesterday we were house cleaning in
the fire and I got a whiff of dust. In
addition to the wind outside, it was
too much. I came home at 10:30
and stayed till this noon! I sneezed till
I was weak.

Marguerite left at 11.

In the afternoon Jack stepped in
to bring me my shoes which he had
picked up for me in town, and presented
me with a bottle of imported port wine!
He stayed for a glass and a chat.

6/ Monday morning I got Kleinkopf's approval on my vacation. He had run away Friday and Saturday and Mr. Townsend had given only tentative approval Saturday. Mr. K. hesitated and haved till both Marguerite and I feared I wouldn't get it. Strange how indispensable I become whenever I ask for a vacation. Finally I commented that it was me to be indispensable but I wasn't indestructable! He said to go ahead. So I went over to relocation and planned my trip. I leave on July 6, or the night of the 5th. I take a scenic bus ride north to Spokane, stopping a day in Colton Wash. (near Lewiston, Ida.) to see Gladys Gilbertson Busch. Sunday morning at 7:30 I take the Great Northern RR to Minneapolis, passing through the southern part of Glacier National Park. Tuesday morning I arrive in Minneapolis and that night I go on to Chicago where I get the train to Boston. I'll spend Thursday night in Boston and come to Nantucket Friday the 13th! I plan to spend Monday the 23rd in New York and leave for Philadelphia the

7 morning of the 24th. That night I'll
go to Cleveland, spend Wednesday
there and that night go on to Chicago.
I'll be in Chicago all day Thursday and
at night I'll take the U.P. streamliner
to Ogden. I thought maybe Aunt Anna
could plan to come to Chicago for that
day.

The railroad out there says I'll have to
get my reservations coming back
in the East. So will Daddy please
get me the following:

July 24 Night train on Penna. RR. from
Philadelphia to Cleveland

July 25 Night train on Penna. RR.
from Cleveland to Chicago

July 26 Streamliner City of San Francisco
on Union Pacific Chicago
to Ogden.

If you can't get the streamliner
reservation will you try a plane reservation
from Chicago to Salt Lake City and
3rd choice either tourist or standard reservation
to Salt Lake City ^(or Ogden) on a regular train, any line.

Din's getting low on Kleenex. Will
you have another box sent on if possible?
It's practically non-existent out there.

I'll be seeing you all soon. Will
write again this weekend. Hope and plan.
Love, Helen

of I can't decide whether Poochie is a born match-
maker or whether Elmer is bawling her, but
she much prefers his office to mine now
and when she's missing she's almost
always there! The girls say she acts
lost and restless whenever Din is away
— she nearly burst with joy when I
returned from Boise. We all wonder
what will happen when I go East!

Her biggest accomplishment came
without being taught — and it's worked
twice that I've tried it. When I want her
to stay home or go home when Din is leaving
I tell her and she "wilts" and turns toward
the dorm!

She's quite a coward, though, when anything
new or strange comes up. She barks and
runs for cover.

In answer to your letters:

The meals are a shade better about
half the time lately.

Relocation is going on apace — about
160 a week, but we're still working on people who
want to go out. It will get harder, we expect.

I'm not sending old clothes home because
Mrs Pippus is able to give them to people who need
wardrobes for relocation. I feel that I know
they'll be used and enjoyed that way.

9/ Nantucket sounds good to me. I don't think I can be home much over 10 days this time, ~~plus~~ travel time. But I'll be coming East at Christmas time for a longer stay. Please let me know dates as soon as possible because reservations are taking 3 or 4 weeks now, they say.

I think it was Aunt Anna who asked what Elmer's other name is — it's Smith!

I'm enclosing the dope on two books I'd like to own. Will you have Bamberger's send them and I'll repay you.

I'm sending Daddy two frank envelopes I received — one under-postaged and the other unstamped. No payment required on either!

I think the church people might be interested in the booklet — From Camp to College.

Which reminds me — One of our boys has relocated to Newark. He is a charming 9th grader who has come up the hard way. His father has one son in the Japanese army and one in the U.S. army in the Philippines. I guess he never was a shining example to the boy and the frustration has led him to drink. There is a step-mother. Tok was on the way to being a juvenile delinquent but snapped out of it and is set to make something of himself. He had to overcome

10/ tremendous obstacles and parental opposition to relocate on his own. As a great favor to me will you call Mr. Ed Berman in the Newark WPA office and ask him when you can contact Tokunari Kawada, and then have him come to dinner or something. You can appreciate what it means to be 3000 miles from anyone you know!

Mr Berman and his wife both used to be here. She is Hawaiian, and charming. Perhaps you'd find it interesting to have Mr and Mrs and Tok come together. They'll all enjoy telling you about Hunt.

I can plant be away any time after July 1, so far as I can see now.

The week ahead is full of senior averages, senior speeches (discussing both the student and faculty choice speakers, and the vice president's farewell speech) and graduation marching. Today I have to go to town in the morning to have shoes fixed and buy a dress for graduation! Saturday night there is a dance to which Elmer and Don invited - we're looking forward to it. Also, Jim Sakoda is due here from Berkeley on a visit - meaning a reunion or two.

Love,

Phelan