

Monday noon

Dear Family,

I'll start this before the afternoon session of our workshop begins. I was so busy getting settled over the weekend that I didn't get at my correspondence. And we have meetings all day and tonight. Life continues to be thrilling and more charming friendships are developing.

As I recall, I wrote you last Tuesday night. Even now I find it hard to reconstruct the week. Our meetings grew steadily more interesting and enlightening.

Monday was chiefly introductory welcoming speeches by key people and preliminary planning which went rather slowly.

Tuesday was still a bit slow, setting up proposed general aims and discussing the role of the school as a community agency and touring the project.

Wednesday we started to roll. We had the representatives of the community services and the Japanese activity leaders explain their programs. They have a splendid program of activities. In the afternoon we met as elementary and secondary groups to discuss common problems.

Wednesday night I started to make my bed spread but only had it pinned when a gang of the teachers assembled across the hall to tell fortunes and drink cokes. According to my palm I never settle down vocation but shift constantly - however I'm successful. Right now I'm finding opportunities quite satisfactory. Wednesday I also had a nice letter from Larry. He is definitely out of the army because of the varicose vein in his leg so he

4 can be sure of staying at Yuka at least for the year.
I suppose apt that will be ready for a better job.

Thursday's session was even more thrilling. Mr. Gibson of the regional office was here and was supposed to outline regional policies. But the young people were so upset by news of the passage of the Helman bill, ^(since proved for a purpose) that we began discussing what a policy on the matter and what we could do, etc. After morning intermission a couple of the boys brought in Jimmy Sakamoto, one of the founders of the JACL and a former editor of a Seattle paper. He explained what he knew of the bill, the machinery involved, what we could do, etc. He also gave us a lot of important information about the matter of dual citizenship.

It seems that up until 1923 the Japanese law required that parents abroad report births to the Jap. consuls for registry in Japanese records. If they failed they were liable for ~~penalties~~ on return to Japan. Since most parents expected some day to return at least to visit it seemed the simplest and most harmless course to comply. In order to renounce Japanese citizenship it is necessary to fill out many forms and go through much red tape stretching way back to the family's home town in Japan. It was a matter of years to accomplish. Thus many Japanese young people may have dual citizenship without knowing it if their parents neglected to tell them, and those who did never found it worth the effort to give it up. The JACL was negotiating through the State Dept. for a simpler method at the time of the outbreak of war. They say only about 20% of the Nisei (Am. born) have dual citizenships.

In the afternoon we got back to policies, having set up plans for investigating the legal status of the proposal to take away Japanese American's citizenship. We were having a very bad dust storm (worst since I came) so disbanded early. In the evening we went to choir rehearsal. Mrs. Kera is a wonderful leader and we learn a lot. Afterwards we stopped in the Japanese center - tournament we had seen Monday night - it has been touring the project with one night stands in the various blocks.

Friday Mr. Townsend, head of Community Services (superior officer of the inst. schools) led the group on plans for adult education. We had splendid participation by the Japanese on the ways of attacking and the various phases of the Issei (Is-say) - Japanese born - Nisei (Niss-say) American born problems.

In the evening I chatted and wrote.

Saturday morning we met in elementary and secondary groups to discuss our own problems. We have learned the schools can't open till after the 15th for lack of building and furniture. The high school people discussed plans for job registration counseling. We are especially fortunate in having all my data on college entrance requirements because the catalogs aren't available.

In the afternoon my packages came from California so I'm all here. I surveyed bedspread by hand while listening to the second half of the Notre

4/ Dame - Georgia Tech game.

In the evening we had our Educational group party. It was most successful. Mrs. Light's room went out and gathered cat tails from beside the canal and they had orange paper streamers and gallon tin cans of flowers brought from town. We had fine stunts and a ^{Japanese} dance by four gals and two string accompanists and a soloist. Can't say I appreciate Japanese singing yet but the dancing was charming. Also a gal 14 who has appeared as violin soloist with the Portland symphony - she needs a teacher but she's good. We ended up with social dancing and aft that John Essene (asst. supervisor of community enterprises) taught some 4 or 5 of us some polka and schottische (?) steps. He is a nice kid about my age or a little older but a brilliant business mind. I never expected that I would be dancing with Japanese people as naturally and unconcernedly! There are such fine young people here that we are still marveling at the way they have overcome all handicaps in Americanizing themselves. It was the first they had been out till midnight since evacuation - they had a cup of tea, some ^{treasuries} ^{and} ^{fruit} ^{cakes}, etc. They were pathetically pleased with the cakes and ^{treasuries} ^{and} ^{fruit} ^{cakes}, etc. It was civilization again.

Yesterday I spent the morning moving into my new room. I was supposed to move to the other dorm but there was a vacant room here and the kids persuaded me to stay. I was much flattered because I join the group here - they really appreciate the situation better having come first and had more contacts with the people.

In the afternoon I napped, reorganized my belongings and washed my hair. In the evening I went to the communion service of the Federated young peoples church. They had about 50 in the choir ^(I was in it too) and it sounded very well. The congregation was about 375. It seemed so strange to

10:30 PM

It's big out to pick sugar beets just for a taste of freedom even though it's hell to work in

of all the boys in business suits! They held the service
in a mess hall with a monks cloth curtain at the
rear of the communion table. Churches in Twin Falls
had lent the services and sent flowers.

Aft church Mrs Jensen (guidance) and I went
for a walk around the "block" (about 1 1/2 miles over to
the other section and back) and talked guidance problems
and his farm. He's getting lonely for his wife and
children but the quarters aren't ready to bring them here.

Dr Hanna came today. We had a marvelous
(at least to me — some of the teachers are prone
to criticize indiscriminately because conferences
are them) session. Very helpful.

Thought we had a meeting of the total project staff.
Because the education staff's stenographers were both
ill Miss Sharp (the Japanese missionary who looks
very much like Grandma Thomas) and I took shorthand
notes to get (between us) as nearly verbatim record
as possible — I think we got it. The meeting was
only fair.

I got home to find my package today — I was
thrilled! I really feel at home now! Thank you so
much — it was too hot to try the sweater this afternoon
but I'm sure it fits. We have cool mornings ^{and nights} and
warm days.

I'm afraid I haven't done justice to answering
letters. And I just realized that I probably never acknow-
ledged the one you sent my first day. I got it at lunch
and was very much pleased. You can see the job
has proved even better than I expected.

In answer to mother's offer of fresh clothes, thank
you, but there are 2 reasons for saying "no, not now". First
I'm having all I can do to keep my present wardrobe under
cover from dust. It is still presentable and new to
these people and I feel well dressed — in fact a lot of
my things are too good to expose yet. If you can imagine

living now or less constantly under conditions something like replastering a house - you'll see that you inevitably end up dusty. And the dust eats clothing almost like moths. My stockings have taken the worst beating. I get so much dust in my shoes that I grind holes in the feet of the stockings. I would appreciate some size 9 1/2 stockings - probably mesh would hold up against snags best.

Yes, I can find good use for paper from Uncle Joe! We're rather far from stationery supply.

I'm returning Tom's letter and some other things by regular mail. I'm afraid I'll never do this place justice. All I can say is that I'm impervious to the inconvenience and thrilled with the vision of the leaders. I have so many charming Japanese friends too. If only the outside world could appreciate what fine citizens these people are - taking this treatment so gracefully and with such good spirit setting out to make the most of what is left of their lives. There are a few who are very bitter with good cause - if that is possible - perhaps I should say "understandably."

But to go to a communion service such as last night's is a real inspiration!

I have so many letters to write and time flies so fast! Next weekend we have planned a camping trip up in Stanley Basin - 50 miles or so beyond Sun Valley (Ketchum and Haley).

Thank you again for my box! I feel really set up and every thing is so nice! They say you usually anticipate your first check for 6 weeks and then they come regularly. I hope to be solvent by the end of 4 weeks now.

Tomorrow we're supposed to be able to eat at the administrative mess next door instead of 3/4 mile down hill. We hope to trade rice for vegetables - our diet has played havoc with several teachers - or else they have the intestinal flu which is going round. I'm keeping my fingers crossed but think I must have a charmed constitution.
Love, Helen