

SkyMail

Thursday AM
En Route to Seattle

Dear Family,

At long last I seem to have enough time — and paper — to bring us up to date. You have been very understanding about my last days at Hunt and I appreciate it! Believe me, I could not have imagined such a seize.

It's hard to remember when I wrote last except for the scribble on the bus to Spokane. I guess I'd better go back to my weekend in Salt Lake City the last of September.

I returned from that to find that Jim Sakoda had come back to spend the rest of the duration of Hunt with Father Joe. Or at least that seems to have been the schedule. There were comings and goings so

much that Jim ^{was} ~~was~~ ^{confused} ~~confused~~.
Shortly after that Lloyd Schmor
and his family came through.
We spent two evenings dis-
cussing conditions in Seattle.
It was then that it began to be
obvious that something had
to be done.

Jobu Yasumura of the
Baptist Home Mission Society
came from NYC the following
Saturday to help till the close.
He is a wonderful person.

Saturday night I had dinner at
Fr Joe's. In fact, from then on
Evelyn and I had most of our
dinners there — and Elms too.

Sunday night we arrived
to find that Fr Joe, Jobu and
Evelyn had worked in the
afternoon preparing telegrams
to the Ym and Yw proposing
that Elms and I be sent to work
with returning Miss on the
West Coast for at least two months!
It was a complete and over-

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whelming surprise to both of us!
And then they spent the evening
with us mapping out our pro-
gram just as though it were
all settled!

I don't believe I can give you
more than an inkling of our
lives from then on. The big push
for relocation was on with
special cars leaving for the coast
about 3 times a week, then 2 times.

Between 150 and 200 evacuees
would be literally dumped in
Shoshone — no WRA representative
to take care of emergencies like errors
in tickets, lost baggage, etc. The
last groups were mostly old
bearded issei who had no
idea about traveling and couldn't
speak English. One got wise to what
was going on when he took some
friends to the train so he went
unofficially — 12 times.

As the time progressed, the
WPA relocation division
became more and more
ruthless and inhumane.
Those 12 trips were exhausting
experiences both physically and
emotionally! I know from
my one trip. He would go about
10 and get back between 4 and
7 depending on how late the
trains were. On 7 days he
would be hurrying around
checking on unbelievable
measures being used against
remaining evacuees. Water,
lights, bathing facilities, toilets,
mess halls closed before the
blocks were fully vacated! And
in some cases no advance
notice. Old people and
mothers with several small
children had to go 2 or 3 blocks
to toilets and meals!

Meanwhile I was working
as fast as I could to finish my
work by Nov. 1. Elmer had
decided to resign Oct. 25 - 2 days


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after the last carload left.

To go back - you may wonder why the trusts Shoshone affected me - Elmer, John, and Jim used to go and then we would get a report in the evenings. It had an after effect like battle fatigue - haunting - and when Elmer brought me home he would have to talk it all out and get it off his chest somewhat. It hurt them all the more because he was intimately acquainted with some of the families affected.

Well, as the weeks progressed, Father Joe decided that I should be in Seattle Sunday Nov. 3. He had been detailed there for 3 weeks or so before going to Chicago and he wanted ~~me~~ ^{us} to be there ~~if~~ before he left. That meant hurrying my work. By Friday before the 23rd he had decided I should leave with Elmer and Evelyn when

Elmer drove home on the 26th.
The bus strike meant the trip to
Salt Lake City ^(250 miles) would take nearly 24 hrs.
otherwise because of awkward
connections. So I proceeded
to work all day Sunday and
nights and days — and I
did it! I don't quite know how!

Monday Fr. Joe and Mrs. Higgins
had a luncheon date at Dr. Kalls
in Twin Falls so they took me
and my dog and rided in.
Then Wednesday Elmer took
my express in to Eden. I
do hope you havin't gone broke
paying for it, but it was so
much easier than making
a second trip each time to
find out costs. Please cash
one of my bonds to cover it.
The vet himself crated the dog
— his cantakes at the hospital
wouldn't do it for me! I had
them give her a bath — I hope she
wasn't too dirty.

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Monday night we had our farewell dinner and evening. Elmer and Jim and I had an unforgettable experience that evening — we went into some of the vacated barracks looking for copies of the last bulletin issued to residents. Most of the apartments were clean as a pin.

Well, somehow I finished everything and Friday we started for Salt Lake City — well no rights. I had all the people I would have minded leaving right with me.

Oh — I'm forgetting to mention that Tuesday after the last group left they held a "man hunt" for people who had remained. They were transferred to the hospital and shipped out the next day. There were some who hadn't been able to get Pullman reservations (old or sick people) who had to stay.

When the staff completed the sound up they began their celebration. Dutch lunch and beer in the mess hall from 4 till 7 and cocktails made from hospital supplies of whiskey in the mess hall. It was a morbid affair. Elmer and I went to town and Evelyn went to bed.

When I arrived in Salt Lake I began building myself up. I got some Wampole's tonic and took that and slept 12 hours every night. Evelyn stayed with me till Sunday noon when she left for Japan.

Friday we had quite a trip. "Betsey" was loaded with baggage. We were crossing our fingers because Elmer had had lots of tin trouble — but we only had 1 flat — half way there. Then just after that the generator quit "generating" and we couldn't stop — we just prayed we'd get there. We did — and hungry!

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That night Evelyn and I had dinner and saw "Rhapsody in Blue" — excellent. The movie was small and all the seats were like wing backed upholstered chairs — wonderful.

Saturday we slept till 10. Then Elmer took me to get a check cashed and to make a call on a couple of Huntites. In the afternoon Evelyn and I shopped and had our hair done at a nice beauty shop.

In the evening we had dinner at the Tajiris. Harry is editor of the Pacific Citizen. His wife Guyo is also very brilliant and does a lot on the paper.

Sunday I got up in time to see Evelyn off. As we walked into the Hotel Utah coffee shop for breakfast I ran into one of my former students whom I had

thought was in Michigan!

After seeing her off, I went back to bed from 1 till 5! When I called up Mrs Smith to inquire for her, she was alone and invited me for a Sunday ~~to~~ supper bite with her.

She lets me come in and be like family and help so I went. Grace Marie (Elmer's sister) came in soon after I did. We had a very cozy time. Elmer came in later. We sat and talked and had more coffee and she brought me home about midnight.

Monday I slept till noon, bought a hat and raincoat and my ticket and went home to sleep some more till time to go to Tajiri's for dinner — They invited me back! In the evening Elmer and another boy from Kent came over. We listened to records and talked till late again!

Tuesday I was having breakfast about 2:30 at Wahlgrens when someone

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sat down beside me and said
"Kleen!" — It was Barbara
Brighams! She had moved to
Salt Lake only 10 days before!
She looked wonderful! She
was on her way for a job interview
at the capitol, so I walked up
with her. We made a luncheon
date for the next noon.

Afterwards I went to Smith's for
dinner. Mrs S. had moved
up Grace Marie's birthday dinner
from Sunday. so I could be there.
She also invited Wanda —
the friend I had met before.
We had a delightful time. After —
wards Wanda and Grace went
to Wanda's house and the four
of us just sat and listened to radio
music — I really enjoyed it.

About 10 we had just gotten out
cards for pinocchio when
Eunice recalled that the nice
Halloween dance at the YW

had been changed so he called
to check and found it was on.
So we dashed over. We met
some lovely new people and
also some Huntites. It was
delightful.

Wednesday morning I
packed up and checked out. Then
I met Barbara and husband
for lunch. We shopped together
a bit, then I met Elms at the
IAC L Office (Larry Tajiri's) at
2 to go to the University. He (Elms)
was addressing a seminar
and wanted me along. I enjoyed
myself tremendously. He is cer-
tainly a favorite on the campus
faculty and students alike
were very cordial.

I had a nice farewell visit
with Mrs Smith on the phone. She
is certainly a sweet little lady.

Then Elms had a Japanese
dinner on, so he took me to Barbara's.
I saw his new home and
pictures of three other places.
We had a delightful visit
and then I met Elms downtown

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at 9. We saw a show and then
I caught my 11:15 train. Salt
Lake City is a place of happy
experiences for me!

I am to be "advance guard"
in Seattle and Elmer arrives
Sunday. According to wires
from Dr. Joe, who is engineering
the plan, all is going fine.
I'll get details when I arrive.
I am to stay with:

Mr and Mrs. Iwao Matsushita
1919 Jackson St.
Seattle, Wash.

You may forward stuff
there until I know otherwise.
The job may involve considerable
travel on the West coast - even
down into California - certainly
Seattle + Portland and their surround-
ing areas.

Generally speaking, my
work will include helping the
nisei develop social outlets,

interpreting warner life to school people and helping organized agencies to adapt their programs to rarer needs. There will be a lot of sheer pleasure in contacting Whites and seeing how they are getting along.

I'll delay answering questions from your accumulated letters so that I can get this off to you from Boise.

One thing, though, Elmer isn't going to be able to make it East for Christmas, so don't worry about fixing extra rooms. He has been invited to do a special assignment in Los Angeles in January. You'll be sure to meet him early in February because he must be there for Columbia's second semester.

I'll be in NY till June too - in planning on second semester at the New School for Social Research. I will probably have to give

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in the city because the courses
are in late afternoons and
night. Also, I'll probably
have to work part time.

As for Christmas presents,
I've had to discard ~~my~~ ^{for} ~~lost~~
and ~~the~~ Daddy's help (I trust he
still has that "friend") or
getting a discount will be
appreciated.

I'm afraid my new displays
will need adjusting - especially
after the trip - but you should
get good use out of my
radio. I had the Iron Fall Music
shop ship it for me. Hope it
arrives OK.

I sent two large envelopes
of data registered to myself
yesterday. Please don't forward
them. I'll do research on them
later.

I was delighted to hear about
the dog. She understands
"Stay there" when you have
to leave her behind at home.
She knows "lie down" and
"quiet." She knows "jumps"
"dinner" and "drink".

I am sure you can buy
the dog foods at chain grocery
stores. She will lie down
and be quiet while you eat.
I used to put the old bathrobe
in my chair and she understood
"Get up in the chair".

I do hope her companionship
makes up for the bother! Her
sentimental value is
uncalculable to me.

I never got any films to take
her picture. Hope you can. If
you do please send a snapshot
because all the kids inquire
for her - they did in Salt Lake!
Give her a special pat for me!

Love,

Kileen