

P.O.Box #542
Reedley, Calif
April 16, 1942

Dear Kan,

Received your letter yesterday, thank you very much for it. It was indeed a surprise to hear from you for I was going to write you and find out where you were and what your plans were. I will first of all let you know how I happen to be out here.

My wife and I had left Berkeley on March 17, to help her mother pack and to see what their ideas were on moving, one of the American partners on the ranch used to live in this area, that is around Reedley, so he told us not to look around here as he had intentions of looking around here and finding a home. We had all intentions of looking around for a new home not only for her folks but my mother too.

Also I wanted to get in on some of this construction work that was going on in Owens Valley, so I contacted the contractor on that job and he said that he wanted men like me but he had his hands tied in that he was not allowed to hire any Japanese, because the Japanese at the camps would get jealous, they won't be able to see why they couldn't get a better job and better pay if I was working there and getting standard pay. So that question was settled, on top of that I found out that the \$21 less \$15 rate was to prevail at the camps and one could not leave the camps, so as far as finding employment there was concerned it will be my last choice.

In the meantime we heard about the new curfew regulations so we started back and found out that it would be impossible for us to arrive Berkeley by 6AM, that's when the curfew regulations were going into effect, so we stopped at LA and tried the FBI, army, etc., but nobody would give us a pass. Then on top of that we heard about the evacuation freezing regulation going into effect the next night. I had heard something about the new ruling, if one had an established address outside zone 1 the army would issue passes.

Anyway we ~~decided~~ started driving back towards Berkeley, we phoned up both folks and nobody knew what to do. We arrived in Fresno at 4 AM and it was impossible to make Berkeley by 6AM, and if we were outside ~~on~~ the unrestricted area we would be free to look around so we took that chance and left the restricted area. So we have been here ever since. My wife's folks came up here and at present we are staying with them on a farm near here.

At the same time I am hunting for a place for my mother and brother to stay in. It looks as if one must buy a place to get a decent house for most of the better ones for rent are not available to Japanese, also other vacancies are all taken up by Japanese.

With the great influx of Japanese here for awhile I was afraid that there would be lots of discrimination, of course one has to expect quite a bit but the situation has been surprisingly quiet. Of course

the attitude varies with the different towns, however Reedley seems to have a more German descendent population, so on the whole people around here are pretty good.

However I don't know just how long all this will last, we may all have to go to camp sooner or later or we may all have to move east of the Sierras. But I guess it'd feel better to stay a free man as long as possible.

Have to sign off now. Kan. I was going to ask more about you but since you are in area 1, I don't suppose you can do very much. I suppose if you can make the right connections Wright would be the ~~best~~ best bet, for around here the only openings I can see will be farming.

If there is anything I can do for you let me know for at presnt I have lots of time. There are lots of Japanese around here, mostly from LA, Monterey, San Louis, Santa Barbara, few from Oakland, etc.

Best regards to Sally from Tokiko and I, hope you are both well. Be sure to write.

Oh yes, as for the refrigerator if it is a ~~box~~ household box you might as well leave it the way it is, most of them will be ok even if you leave them for a long time. Especially hermetics, there is very little chance of them going out of order even if left a long time. The start may be pretty heavy after a long shutdown period but if there are no leaks everything should be OK.

Your friend

Bridge

After 5 days, return to

R. Shima

P.O. Box #542

REEDLEY, CALIF.



Mr. Kaneji Domoto

P.O. Box #81

Livingston,

Calif.