

March 28th

Dear Kan:

We are in the midst of the ever changing spring (?) weather. The most awful wind and dust storm yesterdazy has changed into a light snow flurry- a nice quiet change- and Yuri went up the hill this morning (I guess she wants to get away from the Y people- not accessible you know) so I will get to the letter I promised you giving you news of Kaech. Notice how I strike "z" instead of "y". Shhhhh... This is a German made typewriter Yuri borrowed from Miss Peronne. Not bad..need a little cleaning.

The letter is from Edith W. Sharpless, 791 College Avenue, Haverford, Pa. It says, I saw so much of your sister, Mrs. Nakashima during the last 10 months that I was in Tokyo, that I was very anxious to see some of her family on this side. She of course could not give me anz addresses. Miss Rhoads found out some time ago that your father had died. I feel so sorrz for Mrs. Nakashima to have to get that sad news, but of course she must hear. Have you sent her a cable? After your father had grown old in this countrz, to think th t he had to die awaz from home and familz! I am so ashamed, and can onlz ask you to forgive--I was ging to saz "mz country", but it is your country too.

The other daz I heard bz telephone from Baltimore that you have a brother there. I hope to see him some time.

The Nakashimas came to mz house to live in November of last year. They came thru the introduction of mutual friends- the Inuis. They rented the whole house except 3 rooms upstairs which I continued to use. It was a great help to me, because I was alone there, and it was too big a house for one person to keep up. It was a help to them too, I think, because houses were verz hard to get in Tokyo. And thez were especiallz glad to have a house furnished in western way, because that is what thez were used to.

Let me tell you first of all that thez were all well when I left. The winter without a heated house was hard for them and thez had more or less colds during the cold time, but I think that this second winter will be easier.

Mr. Nakashima had some stomach trouble soon after he ~~h~~ landed and was in the hospital for a while. But this last summer he took to garden- ing. There was quite a little land around the house, and I think the exercise was good for him. At anz rate I heard no more about stomach pains. Your sister has grown a little stouter I think. It probablz comes from eating more rice. She is a verz busz person. It is impossible to get help now in Tokyo, so she has done all the cooking and cleaning and laundry and shopping. I reallz don't know how she manage it and I am afraid she was often verz tired, but she was always neat, and calm, and ready to help some one else. Indeed I do think she is a wonderful person. She has learned to do Jaanese cooking ~~attending~~ verz well, too. There was a nephew, who was attending Keio University who used to come in to see her often. And sometimes friend who had come back with them on the Exchange Boat came, and I could tell from the sound of laughing and talking how much she enjoyed seeing them. She had to represent the familz on all neighborhood anti-~~r~~ air-raid drills. She put on her husband's trousers then, and went out all the women wore something other than kimono.

Naoe San was a very helpful little daughter, running errands and taking care of the baby. How stupid of me, I have forgotten her name just for the minute. She was a little dear, and grew up a lot after she came to my house. She liked to come to my room, and sometimes I would see her little hand pushed in under my door, as a sign that she was there and would accept an invitation. Masahito's son too was a monkey little boy. He was first year at school, and Naoe San finished fifth year.

They were all so good to me. I enjoyed so much an occasional evening meal to which they invited me. I do not remember one unpleasant episode in all the time we were together.

They rented two of the downstairs rooms to two young girls (nisei) who were in business. They were pleasant companions, and made a little less cleaning for Mrs. Nakashima to do. I wish so much I could get word from them now and be sure they are all right. It was not an easy life and I think they often wished they could go back, and felt lonely, but they are brave, and they will come through all right I am sure.

And now, how about you? Can't you get out of camp? So many Japanese Americans have come to Philadelphia lately. Those whom I have met seem happily placed. Don't you want to come? I will try to help you find something to do, if you want. Tell me what kind of things you want to do--what is your specialty? (Then she closes her nice letter)

Tok received your letter yesterday. She is much better now, up on Sunday. I laughed at her since she got up exactly a week convalescent as the doctor prescribed. I guess she was run down physically and the cold and her terrible cough helped her none. I think the week in the hospital gave her a good rest--but as usual, she is back on the go again. Min will probably leave tomorrow and he is concerned about the farm deal since many of the farm hand boys who went with him are drafted and if Sam is reclassified and called it leaves Min alone with little Colorado farming. Horace Hamada and Sada Ozawa left this morning for Cleveland and New York. Mr. Cujow left Monday for a WRA job in New York and yesterday Oba-san and Kishi-san moved into his room. I'm afraid that Tok had little to say about it this time. As in most things, there are advantages as well as disadvantages. Say have you heard from Niich since you left here? I guess he is busy--but who isn't. Oh, well! I suppose you have heard from Dick--of his temporary job with the wire company. Of course the top news here with us is about K. Matsuhiro's engagement to the youngest sister of Misae Watanabe. The other is Kate Watanabe to Rev. Kuzuhara, both of 10-H.

Sorry this will have to be closed. Miki has other things in mind. She is growing up..just now she is sitting beside me with her typewriter in the most serious manner. The other day, she got hold of the iron, I honestly ^{believe} she was the happiest girl, chatting away as she ironed the piece of material. She and K3 are getting to play quite well, Kaneko standing anything as long as he gets sister's attention. Can you picture your son with 4 teeth. What a boy! His diphtheria shot and small pox ~~strath~~ ^{strath} did not affect him to a great extent. Oh, remember the young couple living next to the Hironakas--they were back in the block a few days ago and it seems that they have returned not only because of the ill-health of the mother, as stated but upon the recommendation of the WRA for Tule Lake, according to Yuir's inside news vine. Shiro Abe who went to his Physical has been rejected, as

you probably have heard already. When you go to a Library during the next weeks, keep a watch for the April Fortune magazine for it has been announced that Mine Okubo and a former journalist of the vernacular newspaper have been commissioned by that publisher to ~~right~~ write and draw on the Japanese and Japanese-Americans today.

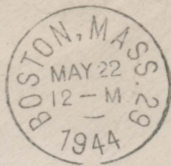
Miki is my hair-dresser just now, so I guess we will continue a little more. I heard from Pete last week and he says that business is good and that cut-flower is moving. Evidently the trade did not drop as much as he thought it would. Say, here is a rumor that Dr. Yamada told me the Sunday Tok was hospitalized. He asked me Toichi had started a store or a business. I asked him why. Tales have been reaching him that a Domoto had opened a business, so I asked him where. He didn't know. I thought it could possibly be Mo. but I learned from Sally that he is doing something else now and I don't think it could be Taki. Just a rumor. I had a letter from Keech about a month ago, telling me that Tommie is working at the University with the ASTP where she met Lily Minami Endo whose husband is teaching Japanese there under the program. I was very glad to hear that Tazy was working with some Social agency. Keech sounds as though she has a full house, what with her mother-in-law and her brother-in-law living and visiting during the weekend. Eva Suzuki who used to work down in the same office as I did and left for New York is back again. During our visit, I found out that just before she left for Amache, her room-mate at the Institute was Ritsuko Nakashima. I intend to write to her and tell her about the letter Miss Sharpless wrote me. She might be interested. Your daughter has a red ribbon in my hair now, lipstick on my lips, and has already given me a manicure. Yuki Matsuo stops by occasionally and tells of her husband's letters. It seems that they are staying at a church as a guest of the pastor and they feel obligated to attend church sometimes. As I hear more and more of the work the Church is doing on the outside for us, I keep remembering how father used to surprise us with his familiarity with hymns and his explanation of that knowledge being that when it is your bread and board, it is surprising how quickly one learns to sing such songs. Many of us will renew our church going or become acquainted with the habit for the first time. It does look like history does repeat itself and now, many of the younger ones will realize some of the hardship of their fathers and I hope appreciate their accomplishments. I shall stop before I start into philosophizing too much. That may become too much a habit for me ..all of which is not good. And if I don't stop now, you will see a half ~~plaid~~ ^{bald} sister since your daughter is still combing my hair.

Well, I hope your and our courage and patience hold out and that Good Luck comes along our way soon..real soon.

Until next,

Wak, and Miki - Hello-daddy!

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