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Dear Kan,

Here's the article I was searching for. The clubs sound really friendly, active and alot of fun: Innsbruck, Austria in 1984? It sounds inspiring.

I don't know what's wrong with the cross-country skiers; they don't sound as lively as you alpine skiers. They must be like me: lazier.

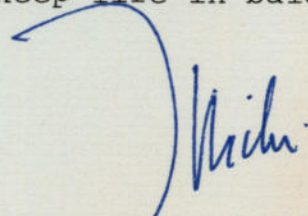
Shortly after you came by, Dr. Mieko Noro called and stopped in with her young son. She wanted to give me some expensive cosmetics in return for the blouse I had given her for writing a couple of letters in Japanese for me. The usual merry-go-round of giri we Japanese have to go through.

She hadn't received the copy of the letter I sent her last week from my cousin, Takeo, in Sendai. So she was kind to stay long enough to translate it on the spot. I should have tape recorded her. In any event, it seems we had in the family an English professor who taught Shelly, a grandmother who taught or read the Aesops fables to the children, a branch who have been woodcraft artisans for many generations, a grandfather who was a woolens manufacturer and lady's man, and a great grandfather who was retainer to Toyotomi Hideyoshi. Grandmother, disgusted with grandfather's womanizing and heavy drinking, converted to Christianity, became interested in the western world and encouraged mother to go to the United States after my father died.

I'm certainly glad even at this stage of my life to learn about my mother's side of the family. It's only a pity I didn't know years ago when I could have been more understanding toward my mother. I wonder what kind of saga my brother will write about our father's family!

After you left, I realized too late that I could have made an easy corned beef sandwich for you for I had boiled a corned brisket of beef while watching the last episode of WINDS OF WAR. Forgive me for being so thoughtless.

Thank you again, Kan, for your strong encouragement and moral support; faith like yours helps to keep life in balance.

Michi

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