

Sunday morning

Dear Kan:

Noonday on the Sabbath and the house is all quiet except this pounding. We usually have breakfast at ten on Sun. and Yuri is back to sleep and now that I am thru washing I think I'll spent a few hours doing this before I take a nap or maybe if I can get Yuri interested, go out to see the Arnold Arboretum again. The last we went, the first week here, the magnolias and the early cherries were a sight but they tell me now that the large trees have their foliage and the lilacs and more cherries are out. I don't know just what we are going to do since we have an apt. loaned to us for the week on Beacon which is right by the Charles river. We went to see it the other night and it does look nice--a pent house with a little imagination. However the scene of the river is grand, the bridge and the outline of Cambridge and those numerous sailing boats on the river. It is all very nice but I have not come to the point of calling this Boston picturesque nor even quaint. It is a merely stubborn, or possibly more polite, snug or the much used adjective "conservative". We got this apt. in a rather queer way. One night Miss Blackwell called Yuri on the phone and asked her if we would like to use her apt. during this coming week since she will be away for a convention at Cleveland. We decided not to take it and went over to see her on Thurs. to tell her so but during that meeting, we both sensed that she would be very disappointed, in fact almost peeved if we refused. (I wonder if we had refused right at first she wouldn't feel so) So, we came home and found ourselves going back that night to her apt. to see it and be shown around. So, now we have this place and we may go to cook and I don't know about staying since it would involve linens, laundry and etc. We thought we would have our dinner there tonight but the cook announced a pretty good dinner here--lobsters cooked a la Chinese, so food may again change the idea of us, as it often does. I don't care much either place, since I tried timing myself Sat. aft to see how far much time it will take to walk home from work. Beacon St. is a very inconvenient place for direct transportation..in better days, it is a district of car owners. I found it takes around 20 min., a walk right around the esplanade. I have been working at the Massachusetts General Hospital for a week now.

Hep ! As I told Sally, I understand more fully your attitude toward the WRA since our experiences in Philadelphia and here. Mrs. Reynolds was everything but encouraging about a work for me aside from domestic and so I never consulted her much about myself. Anyway I told her, there was no use until Yuri found out more on her field since we did want to live in the same community. We both more or less avoided that office, went only when she called us to tell us to drop in. In the meantime, we got rested and as I said in my last letter that it looked to me that Yuri would consider remaining here, I started to do some investigating myself. Miss Donovan, assigned to handle our cases at the USES couldn't give me a lead right then but I talk with her on generalities to find out the labor situation and wages, standards etc. and asked if there were any firm or business or industries that I shouldn't definitely keep out off. "no she said so I felt clear about answering any ads I felt like. Both of these ladies sang the same song --of the possible trouble when working with people of the "lower class" what with the invasions planned for the coming months; the situation of employer wanting you but force to refuse or cancel the employment because of the workers objections. I agree

with Reynolds that domestic work does give one a chance to save money, the wages being very good plus no board and room and fare. This town's fare is absorbing--the highest of any place we've gone..ten cents and that doesn't take you anywheres because of the districts. She did have one in file, the only one I thought I would ever consider. A semi-domestic I guess of being aid to a French couple who are taking over a large house on a very recently settled estate to make it a home for rehabilitation purpose. It is all very vague as to program I think, the final auction on the estate was held only about two weeks ago. During the coming summer months, there were going to house French exchange students at the neighborhood colleges and work up some program of cultural assimilation and etc. Well, since there was no "red district" by USES and Reynolds had no offer, I answer an ad in the paper for technical workers, clerks and kitchen workers at the hospital. Altho I saw Reynolds the day before I decided to take this ad up. I didn't tell here because I was afraid she would say, "why, that is just fine, but let me call them up on the phone and ask if there is any objection or policy against my going". I had to go back to see the personnel director on Mon. morning since I went Sat. aft. but she got me the job after going to two depts. and they wanted me to come the next day, which I refused. Mrs. McCoy, the personnel director is a grand person. I felt so much at ease and asked her questions about living conditions and work etc., all questions I should have asked Miss Reynolds but didn't feel like it. I spoke of the uncertainty of the length of my stay, when she asked me if I intend to stay here permanently or what, because of wanting to stay with Yuri; and that lead to her asking if Yuri is coming to seek a job there too. I told her that she didn't intend to but if she thought that there was a possibility I certainly would tell her. Well, it all led to an appointment with the Social Service Dept. of the Hosp. and an introduction to an agency for her and Yuri will now take a job at an agency, a thing she was been refused constantly on the eastern coast because of her lack of M.A. It is a primarily a summer month job to take in S.S. students working for higher degrees in the field. It is at a dispensary right in town. It is grand, I think, because it will give her a chance to see if she like the work well enough here to warrant further investment and study and to see what the general public reaction will be--all with pay and limitation of time since it is a position opened for the summer months for students. However, there is a good possibility of her being retained after the months, if she preferred like. This job begins in June so she is caring on the home front in the meantime. We want to look for a place to live and keep house. Altho the room here is reasonably \$3.50 a wk, and very convenient for transportation either by sub. or leg, meals come to \$1.50 a day for both of us, not counting the breakfast and lunch. We figure we should be able to eat on less than \$10 a week for dinners only, if we have kitchen facility. We get our own breakfast with no charge, with our material, here and I find that I get excellent food at the Hospt. most inexpensively --25 cents gets me a full course lunch. We may get a chance to rent an apt. in Cambridge now taken by a nisei couple, a Berkelyan, who are thinking of going to Philadelphia at the end of the month. I would prefer a place in Boston and walking distant if possible; altho there are more niseis living there than in Boston. Cambridge is more Friends and Quaker district I find and being a college community more liberal. The location wouldn't make any difference, that is Cambridge wouldn't, since the elevated trains run direct to Boston and the Hosp. is the station right at the Boston end of the bridge, Charles Station.

This is my present job. I am in the Record Dept. under the Statistical Dept. which is Miss Stewart a highly nervous, but intelligent person who has been there for twenty years and who has quite a reputation there as a little difficult person to work with, especially a new worker because of her high tension and impatience which leads to sarcastic rebukes. Mrs. McCoy warned me a little on that by telling me that she has been there for twenty years and that she is somewhat nervous because of the fear that she has that she will become a mental patient like her sister. That didn't scare me much until yesterday, which was her half day off. Honestly the way she barked all morning disturbed me a little that I was certainly relieved when she left and I didn't care what difficult situation came up during the aft. it was better than having her around all day. I feel sorry for the people who come in to ask for their papers, at times. I really don't know what to say to them when invariably they say to me, when she leaves the room, "what a boss, or what a tough one!" I know I should built her up but its pretty hard when you feel likewise and possibly show it too. The work itself is something similar to what I have been doing. I take care of the discharges and admission and break them up to statistical break downs as to age, sex, etc. and make master copies and run them off the electric duplicator for the different depts. (that is the admission information of every patient and the admitted diagnosis) Aside from coping with Miss Stewart, the only worry is the medical terms written in such undecipherably manner... and that has to be right especially on the certificates of death and illness. It was grand to have the Asst. head of the Record Dept. with me for about a 4 days, and the head of the Records is grand. I had to laugh, when she sent me a new Medical Dictionary, after I told her that it worried me. The first few days, I didn't try to talk with people but during the last few days more people have asked me how I liked my work. I think they have been trying other girls from downstairs to help her but they all seemed to ask for replacal. I have had to learn pretty fast about the streets of Mass. There is one Supt. who has the hardest writing to read that I think I would be lost without the telephone book behind me and the medical dictionary side of me. After yesterday morn. I thought, other workers on the floor are wondering how long I'M going to stay there. It has become quite apparent that other Record Dept. workers refuse to work for or with her. One thing it is trying is that she is a perfectionist and can't see why people make mistakes and doesn't hesitate to tell them so. I wonder what she will do when she makes one. I know I wouldn't point it out to her yet, I may just before I leave. When I found one of her errors, I debated whether to go tell her, or rather ask her about it, but I let it go and let her find it out herself. But otherwise, the work has no monotony which I feared I would have to accept, that is like typing all day, or filing all day. That would drive me nuts. This way, I do typing, mimeographing, some accounting and figuring, interviewing and working with people in the other offices to whom I could talk with. Miss Stewart and I are the only ones in the Clerk Office and so you see, I would like others about. Don't worry, though. What trouble I am having is what all workers go thru in the period of orientation. After I get so that I could question the Supt. of the wards and the Dr. too about the diagnosis as if I know more about it than they do, like she does, I would be all set. I think they have to laugh when they hear my somewhat meek voice from the Clerk Office when they have become so accustomed to hear her sharp voice. One thing, I will quit before I get to talk like that. Often during the past days, I wondered if I was like that during the past years but didn't realize it. Well, if I didn't, I know what it is like now and gosh, I feel sorry for you kids at home. Well, that is the past.

Yesterday, after my full day, I came home and found a very nice letter from Sally which made me forget everything but to wonder if you have found a place so that they could come out. He told me about Aso and Mrs. Narumi's departure, which I know Sally will miss. I think she had the right idea of asking Yuki if she would consider coming with her. I couldn't think of anyone more suitable and likeable for the trip. I do hope things work out alright so that Yuki can join her husband and Sally, you. Of course, she told you about Miki wandering off to the laundry with her slippers and shirt in search of her mother upon wakenig from nap. I could just see KIII with that expression of forlorn on his face crying to beat the band, standing in his crib. Gosh, I would have to miss watching him learn to walk like I did Miki. Its swell of Hansen to give them the pullman and I hope she gets it. I found out that with \$10 I can go to N.Y. on the bus if I have a place to stay so golly, I do hope you find something. From what Sally says, I guess your job is getting to look quite permanent.

Well, until next,

Wade

I forgot to tell you, that after I worked there awhile, I had Yuri tell Reynolds that I am working, and the funny thing is, Mass. Genral Hospital was one of the palces definitely against having niseis at first but I guess they have released that order since they tell me others are working there. I haven't seen them though; but no nurses is the latest. a Dr. Yanagizawa was there last year because I saw it in one of the records.