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THE HOME OF DISTINCTIVE PLANTS

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TOICHI DOMOTO

26591 Sorensen Lane, Hayward, California

May 25, 1945.

Dear Kan,

I have been intending to write to you for some time, but have been just too busy and procrastinating to do so. I came back to hayward on the 10th of April by myself, as Pete wired me to return as soon as possible as he was going to be inducted. Upon returning he did not get a call, and with V. E. Day and still no call we had hopes that he would be deferred, but he had to go. He left for Camp Beale Wednesday morning. A fellow had been scheduled to come to act as a sort of "front man" for me but he turned the offer down at the last minute. Mr. Carden and Charlie Sorensen are both helping me to find some one. Al Trager has sold his store and is now working for Macabee in his contracting work. He has lost his Bay window and looks very well. He has long hours to put in and travels to Palo Alto every day.

I haven't seen many of the nurserymen, except those that have come out. Jack MacDonald of the California Nursery, who is now with Kraft Tile asked to be remembered to you.

The Shibatas are back and operating their Nursery. He brought back some ten men with him from Illinois and camp to work for him as the others mostly filipinos refused to work for him. The Mexicans and the other filp were still there the last time I talked with Shimi. Mits Nakashima was back also, but I understand he has his place leased for the duration to Zappatini for some 1200 dollars a month.

Mr. Shibuya is very discouraged at the condition of his place. He has lost every bit of his former fine stock of pompons.

There are some of the others also in Richmond area who have returned but I don't know who they are yet.

The short fellow who used to raise chickens down in Tennyson I believe is back as I am sure it was he I saw last Saturday in town.

I have not been out much, as a matter of fact only once to San Francisco and that on business. Transportation and eating places are so crowded that it is too much like work rather than a pleasure to go over there, furthermore most of the wellwishers seem to advise staying out of crowds.

Schaffler has sold his service station and moved. Joe Garcia is dead. He sold his place and was working for



Caterpillar tractor when he died.

Tino is working for Rototiller. Al Alameda has been helping me here for the past few days while his group are on strike at the lumber mill where his is working as a carpenter.

Little Joe Souza has joined the Merchant Marines and has been to the Pacific areas over three times already and is due to sail out again in a few days.

The weather was very mild and nice until the day before Mothers Day and then we had rain and cloudy days ever since. Today is the first day that the sun has been out for the full time.

I marked nearly 6,000 tree peony seedlings since I came back. Would have marked more but the season was over before I could get over all of them. There were some very good ones. Many superior to the ones we had imported from Japan. Shall try to propagate the better ones this season. The original stock plants have mostly died. The patch near the office is now mostly all Moutans now.

The big water tank leaked so bad this last fall that Pete had to have it shut off. I had Mac Farlane the roofer look at it and they tried a coating of hot tar, a layer of cloth and two more coats of tar. So far it is holding very good. It seems that our previous efforts were not successful because the wood was wet, and the fact that we did not use it hot enough over the entire surface. Also had the roof over the salesroom fixed as it also was leaking something terrible.

I have gone by Fujis and Yoshiokas place twice, but have not gone in. They were planting carnations outside the last time I went by at Yoshiokas. Houses seem to be in fair condition. They were back early this spring to look over their place according to gossip.

My intentions were to go back after a short stay here to finish my season at Shhramms, but now with the way things are I do not know whether this is going to be possible. Alice and the kids are still in Crystal Lake. Father in law is working there now.

Enclosed is a form for the life insurance co. Please sign your names ~~in ink~~ and also have the names of the children written in pencil on the back so that the agent here can fill out the forms to have the correct beneficiaries. This will bring the policies up to date as they were left the same as when we evacuated. Air mail it back as soon as possible.

Will close as I'll have to go up to the mail box before the mail man comes by. If there is anything you want from here let me know.

*Em*

*Toichi*



The double and single gerberas are in bloom now.  
I understand that a Mr. Van Bourgondien of  
Babylon N. Y. has the best greenhouse gerberas.

If you can purchase a couple dozen of his  
best flowers and ship them by air express  
or air mail to me so that I can compare  
them with ours I'll be ever so much obliged.

Thanks. If too much out of your way  
don't bother.

Torch



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