

Chicago 37, Ill
May 26, 1947

Dear Sally:

Your long letter which extended over ten weeks or so in writing was sure welcome. Su and I enjoyed it ~~xxx~~ tremendously. I wish you would write your other letters (I mean hereafter) the same way. More information in that letter of yours than you can shake a stick at. Su went up to Kizi's graduation with her boy friend a nice tall skinny boy from Paterson N.J. whose name is Albert Biderman who seems to think that the sun rises if not sets on that little kid. However it ain't any thingx serious so its alright, at least as yet. Though I am getting a little tired of having him compared with Abe though they do share some common characteristics. Ki and Su called mama on the phone long distance and reversed the charges fortunately because mama just went on and on. Evidently Mr. ~~Shibata~~ Shibata finally died of cancer of the kidney or some such internal organ about a week ago. The thing that impressed mama most was that he had a four hundred pound ~~kannoke~~ kannoke. Pa was one of the pall bearers. I don't know who the others could have been, there ain't very many more of those old fellows left, and if they are left they are so decrepid that its sad.

May 27

Well an insurance man just came in and left. I am glad that you guys are getting the house fixed up. Where are you going to put little old Kathy. You didn't have much to say about miki, but I suspect that she will be going to school come september. I think it is real cute of Anyo to say that he will fly an airplane when he ~~ix~~ gets bigger. The grandparents I guess are really feeling kinda peculiar about the grandchildren they ain't hardly seen and mama hasn't seen any of them except in photgraphs. I am glad that Dick is in a business and a useful one it would be to me because I can't seem to get myself besitrred enough to send off packages. I did send some Spam or something like Spam off some time ago and both Kenchan and Zenchan wrote me thanking me for them. Mama got letters from both of them and both are unemployed though Zenshiro's son in law, Sachiko's husband and one of Z's boys are working in a Salt mine ~~xxxxxxx~~ in Chiba ken so they get some dough that way. I don't know what kind of things go well, because I haven't sent off packages, nor gotten responses so I was wondering if Dick knew what he had most demand for and if he wants sugar coupons we have them. I'd like to send off a package everyother week, which would be a package a month to both Zenshiro and Kenchan, but I'd also like to send some to Kaku too, but I don't have his address, but I shall get it off to Dick as soon as I get it from Abe. So could you consult with Dick about this and if he does real good I might even send off more....heh heh. Have him bill me, my checks are all good. Abe is going to phone tonight so I shall get him to write me Kaku's address in a later letter.

My love to the
kids

I best
wishes for a
successful business
to Dick &
you

Mama also told Ki and Su on the phone that Zenchan and Kenji were thinking they would go into shoobai, what kind they didn't say. I think you should write to mama about this package business because she told the kids on the phone that she thinks she should send packages but she ain't smart about such things. And then if she does send orders to Dick it would mean that the relatives could maybe have a couple packages a month a piece which might be of some help to them. The things on the list seem such uninteresting things and it seems ashamed that people should be in need of such elementary stuff. However I suspect that that is what life is like in war torn countries.

Around here there is absolutely nothing new. I put in a backyard garden and things finally seem to be coming up. It has been a lousy spring just like in New Rochelle. Because it is damp I have had to spend all morning blowing my nose to get rid of sinus accumulations which is quite a bore. I hope that Kahn is better, he was probably having a combination of allergies and sinus and general wear and tear of a really bad winter and a creepy spring. Su goes to work at the ~~lib~~ library every day and is busily getting stuff read for a term paper. She gets pretty ~~ri~~ tired chasing around looking up stuff in the library everyday -- checking to see if such and such gift is a duplicate or not etc. etc. She likes her job though because the people are nice and funny and they think she is real cute and she works hard.

You are quite right about Doris getting hefty -- she is just as impossible as ever and you ought to have seen her oxford accenting around the department and at that fancy north-side apartment they stayed at. I notice that Paul gave a paper at the Central States meeting of the American Anthropological Ass. Meetings. Rumor has it that Beardsley is coming to Ann Arbor to teach beginning in the fall. I haven't done anywork on my thesis at all -- get too restless and its lonely at home by yourself. too many diversions anyway. Does mama ever write to you? Poor old Oetsune san must be getting simple in her old age. I don't really see how you can go over to see her. Why don't she and her Andy come and spend a week end. Incidentally ~~xi~~ I have just seen a new racket that is being pulled by people who live out in the country and to whose house people come weekending or visiting. The thing to do is to put them to work around the joint-- that is the understanding. they should come whenever they want to but they should help by helping clean the basment, helping to paint and other such things. You should see all the work that can be done -- one guy I know gets his guests even to bring the meat for the big meal on Sunday. It seems to me that that is the least that can be expected of people -- after all if Kahn works all week and you are busy with the children it is only on the week ends that you can get stuff done and the guests should pitch in and help or stay away. I don't mean that you should suggest these things in a belligerent fashion, but it only seems right and in good taste that people should be willing and happy to help around in a joint which is being slowly remodelled. Anyway most people need and enjoy and exercise involved and I mean it. Well I'll stop giving advise but think this week end business over. I really mean it as a smart solution to a lot of your troubles of getting things done. Well take care of yourself, the kids and Kahn and maybe i shall come for a visit and do a little pitching in myself.

love mary