

March 22, 1939

Hi Wak:

I got your letter today. Boy! its good to hear from you. I can fully appreciate the saying, "as good as a letter from home". You know I was looking at your letters and how the ink wasn't coming out just right. Just about the time I thought that I ought to write back and tell you that I'd buy you a fountain pen, you wrote that I'd did something to yours.

I glad to hear that some of the pictures are all right. I've given Nick the sequence of the Camellias. I'll fix it up sometime when I get back. You know those pictures had me worried. They cost quite a bit. I'm not on very good terms with Sakurai so I don't take any pictures when he is around. He isn't around very often. This Saturday I'm going to take some movie to finish up the roll. Its going to be on the Fair Grounds here. Maybe Sakurai is peeved at me because he didn't get any of the films. I told him he could have some that I could duplicate. Has Misumi said anything about it? I'll write to him later myself.

Sorry I didn't leave word about Johnny Aso. ~~sup~~ He is supposed to have \$10⁰⁰. Five Dollars a day. I hope they didn't deduct my day and a half. I wasn't there anyhow. Please don't send the money yet. I mean my back pay. I have my budget limited to what my salary is and what I have left over. If that additional sum comes now, I may buy some books. They are good books on Architectural but I shouldn't get them now. I really can't see any reason for not getting them but well this stuff will tempt me later anyhow. By the way, How much is it ??? You see I just want to know if worse comes to worse what I have in a way of transportation home. I think I can get jobs around there tho. Did I tell you I asked Sakurai for a raise. The dirty little coat said that he didn't send for me, when I told him that the amount he was giving me wasn't enough to pay all expense plus transportation home. He kept on repeating that.

I got sore and I told him that didn't he tell me that he would send even a telegram to me if he found that he could hire other than Union people. I told him I have been working for ~~him~~ in the garden for two days without any complaint. Besides since he had already taught me for 3 months I thought my value should be more than just ordinary labor or even union labor which is 9 dollars a day. (They call themselves excavators — just plain pick and shovel man to you) Besides I'm the only one at the garden ^{all the time} who can understand English. I manage to get \$7.00 a day. I want at least \$7.50. But the doggone part is that I'm working for Mr. Myaida and I have to pay part of it for worker's compensation and social security. In other words he takes a dollar out of it. Leaves me only 6 dollars. \$22.50 for room \$30.00 for Board = \$52.50 a month. or in one week (7 days) about \$12.50 for room and board. I earn \$36.00 which leaves me 23.50. I spend for laundry and incidentals about \$3.50 if not more. Leaves me \$20.00 a week. Sakurai said that he would keep me until the garden is finished. He just sort of added that on. I hope he doesn't forget. I'll have 5 or 6 weeks of work if we don't have any rain or snow. I can understand why some of the fellows went to work even when it was raining and why they just took it easy. By the way I have to be real careful. Only the four of us are working yet. and I have to be careful that I don't do too much. They rather order you around. We are going to have more help soon.

I know I can't understand Japanese very well and can talk with a great deal of effort. When Mr. Myaida isn't around I do the interpreting. Old Sakurai got impatient once and said "He couldn't understand me in a sarcastic way." If he makes another crack like that I'm going to tell him I was hired by Mr. Myaida as a gardener and not an interpreter. If he wants a good interpretation pay me more. Besides

My Japanese is better than his English. His English has picked up quite a bit. But he still can't understand any me conversing rather rapidly. He gets excited and ask me, "Mani agouteru no". He interrupts right along and bothers considerably. I was talking with an American about what Sakurai did to me. He come back with "lots of Japanese are that way (the ones that come recently from Japan). As soon as they have no use for you they treat you pretty bad. So Dirty track. Don't worry. I won't blow up on him until I shop around for some work I'd really like to do. I've been asking about schools too. I haven't written to any yet. I'll write real soon. I write at least one letter every night just to get a habit. I bought a small drafting board and T square & triangle. a real portable one. I draw a little almost every night and read a little too. I am enjoying myself very much. The people here aren't bad at all. I know the subways better. I like them. They cost only a nickel. This nickel goes a long ways too.

You know I had a hard time figuring out who you meant by "Del". Gosh! I just had to think and think. It wasn't until I read your letter over the third time that I caught on. You mean "Frank" at least that's what I am accustomed to call him. Of course I didn't know what pet name he gave ^{to} you. If he calls you up again, tell him I may be down again when the cherries are in bloom if the gardeners all go down too.

I was invited over Monday evenings to Mr. Myrside's place. He worked as an architect here to and in Florida. He does some wonderful designing. He showed me the blue prints to one of the Hotels in Florida that he help design. He did many others one too. Very good. His technique is excellent. I asked him why he was doing landscape instead of architecture. He like architecture better even though there is more work on paper which he likes. He told me the depression got him out of architecture and now he has become established

in Landscape he hates to give it up. He likes Gardens very much now too. He had taught at the Agriculture college of Tokyo so he knows plant pretty well as well as geology etc. He said he didn't make as much now as he did during the good time in architecture but he felt more secure in having established his own business. He felt that if worse comes to worse he still can get a job with an architect as a draftsman. He says that his architectural and engineering training helps him with his landscape very much. I feel that I can make better money or make security with my own business too. But the more I think about it the more definite and persevering I am with architecture. I think I'll be pretty poor. Hope I will be happy. They say that the poor is always happy. Well I must have been born poor or happy or both. This is all said in an optimistic way. I don't feel down and out at all.

Day! We get a lot to eat here good thing. A full breakfast. 3 sandwiches with good things in between and a fruit for lunch. Supper is very very good. a meat and all the rest of it. You can't get it for less than 75¢ at a restaurant. Last night was pork with a lot of fat. Something like corned beef but this was good — plenty good. Tonight we had lamb. A thick one with bacon and string bean etc. There is always soup and dessert. I'm going to get fat. They taste food tastes so good.

A young Holland carpenter eats with the German couple and me. He works in the fair grounds too.

I'm going to learn how to speak a little more German. I'm learning something now.

The days go pretty fast in spots. He takes just as much time out. Sometime to get rid of me the gardener tell me to go put the kettle on the stove. I just as well go damn! them! On Saturday evenings I think I'll go on a Subway to the different districts and just walk around. I had a taste of the Greenwich section last Saturday. I bought my board there. I jewed the guy down alright

I didn't do it just for fun. I wanted to have the better board but I knew I shouldn't buy it but I knew I'd always be sorry if I didn't buy the better one. Will we come to a good bargain. I saw some men selling roasted chestnuts on the side walks. I may go around there or go to Harlem. Lucky I don't have ~~much~~ weakness ^{for spending money} except books etc.

Although I think a dollar a day taken out of my wages for compensation + social security is too much, Mr. Miyada has been treating me very well. He isn't a hard business man. More of an artist and talker. If he had Nick's business manner he could get further.

He's being taken for a ride by Sakurai too. He is "osewa"ing Sakurai. Tell Papa he was right.

Old man Sakurai saved from 2 to 3 thousand dollars on the San Francisco Fair. He is going to use it here. I wonder how much he is going to save here.

He must have some cut in the balance that is left. Well I for one can't respect him even tho he talks so well. I know him for a liar + "zureau" "yatsen" Kind of small for a man with his position. Just think saving all that money and then asking kid and the rest to donate the last day and a half wage. I think that is pretty low.

I wonder how I can express my views without hurting too many people.

Does Papa know of a "Kusabara" a bamboo of dwarf habit with broad leaves. Mr. Miyada was asking about it. He wants to get some for groundcover, because it is so very hardy. They use a lot of pachysandra here. Mr. Miyada took Saito, Ishida, and I around last Sunday to the wealthy section of L.I. We went to Barbara Hutten's estate. Most of the plants were covered with sacks. They certainly have plenty of magnolias. They haven't started to bloom yet.

Neither has the cherries and they do have plenty of weeping ones in big sizes. Mr. Miyada said he had heard of Pa while he was in Japan teaching with Mr. Tamura and the rest.

Tell Yuri that I keep my calendar up to date.
I don't take any newspaper so I can't keep track
of date and don't know what's going on in the world.
About your letter. I was in Charlestown and
I wrote to the P.O. Postmaster to forward my letters to
New York. When I called on the New York
General delivery I just had a package that I had sent
to myself but no letters. I'll ask him to send
it to Flushing.

I had a pear to eat for lunch today. It was
sehr gute. Yahi! Yahi!

Well my fountain pen is dry
good bye.

Kan

P.S. There is just a little more ink left.
I hope everyone is all right at home and
Nick is having a good conchita sale. Although
he is very busy I guess he has good sales.

Oh! Yes. if it isn't too much bother
can you send me the pictures of the gardens
Nick exhibited at the different flower shows
I want to show them to Mr. Myoiden.

Tell Uncle Heller for me I hope
he can make it to the house on Saturdays
without any feeling of sneaking away. Tell
him to come to New York.

You know I have to write to the Wayside
gardens for catalogs. Saito Goto, Ishida

well good bye
This fountain pen is running really dry.

P.S. Looking like things
writing better than before