

April 3, 1939

Hi Wak:

Say you son of a gun! You know I came home from work Saturday and realized for the first time that it was April Fools day. I would have been easy meat for a guy like Henry Kuwamoto. I didn't have any idea about the date. I realized I missed a golden opportunity to fool the Japanese gardeners. I felt a little sad in wasting the day. When I first opened your greetings, I saw the colored card and thought there must be some mistake or something. I still couldn't figure it out. The package with almost \$2.00 worth of stamps had come and I had previously opened the package. I thought the thing "I had coming" was the package. Say I almost fell over into the bath tub when I saw that thing pop up with April Fool! written on it. You see I read my letters while I'm sitting on the throne making the bath. Gosh! I got a big kick out of it.

You know on the subway, everyone reads or dozes. Well, I don't do either. I just think and look around and let my thoughts wander. Many is the time I caught myself smiling foolishly, thinking back on the letters etc. that you have sent me. I get a great enjoyment out of writing letters now. I smile all over when I'm writing. It's but it looks funny.

I got a letter from the philosopher Misumi. He calls me Horatio — not of the bridge but of Algier. He says, "What I wouldn't give to be with you over there, out in the garbage dump there, flushing I think they call it." The guy is going to get a hot letter back at him. He has the nerve to go on and tell me to wear my red flannels with galoshes and beware of city slickers. He was also telling me about the Follies at the Treasure Island. He really didn't think much of the Fair except the Japanese Garden. He thinks it is really beautiful. This one in New York

is going to be a wow! too. I think I'm going to like this one better. We have a whole lot of men working now. There are 8 or 9 of them besides the four of us. I just tell them what to do now, with some of my own interpretation. I'm a humbug. I translate when the Jap. Gardener's way suit me otherwise I use my own discretion. It isn't quite that bad, but I do use a free translation system. It is efficient though. I do work too for that matter.

You know the package that was sent to me! Well thanks a million for the candy Hershey Kisses. When I opened up the box I skipped everything I opened until I came to the bag. I was really looking for something sweet like that. Made me happy in not being disappointed. I just knew there must be something sweet in the package. It's funny about the craving for sweets. Just for some thanks for going through all the trouble to send the package. I'll make good use of it.

I didn't go to Washington to see the Cherries. It was raining here Saturday evening and the weather was lousy. The gardener's changed their mind, Mr. Myrick changed it for them. He says it wasn't time enough to see in one day. I was going on a train by myself anyhow. But it started to rain so I cancelled it. Gee! When you go anyplace by yourself it is easy to do anything. I was going anyhow but to see the cherries even if they weren't going. But I changed my mind just like that when it started to rain Saturday. I saw "Grand Illusion. Very fine picture. The talking is mostly in French and German but the translation appears on the screen. The people clapped when it was over. I saw this in Flushing. I may go see one or two theatres in N.Y. but they are expensive and I'll just go to see what they are like, more or less.

Yesterday, Sunday, instead of Washington, I went to see more of New York. First I went into the public library. It's right by the Fifth Ave station on the Subway. It is a huge affair. The dept. of Architecture and Art is a good size library in itself. There are many other parts too. Next I went to the Empire State Bldg. Do you know how much they charge to go up? The bldg is plenty high but the charge was too. \$1.10 was the ticket. Sailors, Soldiers, & Marines in uniform 55¢.

You go up 1000 ft a minute. You get off on the 80th floor to transfer to another elevator which takes you to the Bar & salon part, all glassed in with a walk all around. It was plenty windy around the walk. I met a man from Oakland up there, just imagine. He ~~came~~ ^{is going} to Baltimore for a chemist's conference. He belongs in Ch. Shell Co. at Emeryville. There is another elevator from this floor to the observation tower which is 102 stories high. It's something like the Coit Tower of S.F. I looked over the edge of the parapet on the salon floor but did not get dizzy or scared looking down. Seemed tame. I would have bought some souvenirs but I figured \$1.10 was too much for one place all at once. I took a lot of pictures instead. I'll send some to you as souvenirs.

Next I went to the Battery. That is the part of town like the Embarcadero in S.F. I can see the Statue of Liberty from the wharf. I didn't go because it was pretty late. I'll go some other time. I didn't take any pictures because I was all out of films. At the Battery I saw the aquarium. I think S.F.'s is a little better, and cleaner place too. Too much paper etc. I took the elevated into town, but stopped off in a rush because I saw Chinatown. I got off at Chatham square. The elevated runs over the "Bowling" street. It's dirty too. Lots of tattooing done here just like you

see in magazines sometimes. I was getting a big kick out of myself imagining having tatooing done on me. Crazy! There is a couple of streets, Dow St., Thich, and Matt Street. — exclusively Chinese. I went walking up and down both. It has a stronger color than S.F. Chinatown. They seem to be more anti-Japanese here. I wanted to eat something here but was a little scared by the looks and the placard in the windows. I went up to a policeman on another street and asked him if it was safe for a Japanese to eat in a Chinese restaurant. I told him where I come from etc. He advise me not to. I went up to a policeman as a precaution. If there were any dead Japanese found without identification, at least one cop saw me! Ha! Ha! Ha! Well I went across the street and got spaghetti instead. more friendly.

I spent 15¢ to see a show around there. It was called "Dark rapture". It isn't exactly what the title implies. It is a very fine picture. I enjoyed it very much altho the surroundings atmosphere was lousy. If you want to see pure dancing in rhythmic and beautiful unstudied rhythm see this picture. It has sound too, you see. It was marvelous the motions the dancers went through. It was pure innate dancing. maybe wild in spot but still everyone in step. Maybe different step type of step but in step. It was really very good.

Hot dogs with Sauerbrant is only a nickel here. I eat them up. Wow!

There are so many things to do in the evenings. I could go to M.Y. on a night to the public library and read or read here in Flushing or stay home & develop pictures. Somehow I don't feel like calling on friends etc. I don't drink, smoke, or like to play bridge very much. I want to do something.

Today the first trees came to the garden. One was a good size good looking pine tree. It comes all balled up. They had a little trouble unloading it and planted. The maple, red, large leaf, was easier. It is a good size tree too. Very beautiful branching. I'm going to take some pictures to send back. Gee in the shack Takurai talks of other higher up concern connected with the exhibit. Gosh! he talks small. Maybe they are that way in Japan, where there are a lot of opportunities and the boss keeps everyone in their places.

Makes me laugh! He talks suspiciously and slanderously of Myaido and Myaido does likewise. I better not go around any more talking against Takurai even though my feeling is such. It doesn't sound so good from the third party's point of view. Besides it doesn't do any bit of good.

The days and weeks go rapidly. Pretty soon we will be finished. I haven't had any answers to my inquiries from about 3 Universities around here. I'll be hearing from some of them pretty soon. I'm going to take a chance on all another place. I'll tell you about that one later.

I'm going to develop 6 more rolls of films tonight yet so I'm going to stop. I have six done already. They come out pretty good. Fine, in fact, except one roll. I wonder how those 6 will be. Then I'll be caught up. I'll have to print them next, which is a whole lot easier. Did Oshima send any pictures to you yet. I've asked him to develop and print some of the ones I took at S.F. I'll have to write him another letter soon. I'm going to write to Masumi as soon as I can - think of a darn good one for him. I won't have to do much thinking. I'll just start writing and then burn up the paper with my speed.

Tell Yuri, come to think about it. She has one of those things which you stick toothpicks into. Well, tell her better luck next time. I was going to get her slipper but I couldn't get together with you, (morning) I got all my films developed. I have a roll of Sam and her family. I'm going to send some home after I ~~send them~~ make her some. The negatives weren't so bad. Some of them are a little flat but otherwise they are all right.

Did you see the colored film on the cypress garden. It had a lot of water with cypress growing right out of it. It should look pretty nice. This next one will be on part of the garden. I take the movie camera every Saturday now. I don't take very much though.

Well, another thing, with so many "Hakugin" help, we work steady and all the way through without and rest period. Well it's better that way. Most of the rocks are all laid out. The trees are going in place now.

Well, I'm going to eat now

So long.

You don't need any red flannels there now do you?

Ken

Thanks for the extra clothing.

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