

Sunday June 25, 1939

Dear Wak:

Well how is the old kid? This is the longest time that I haven't written to you ~~except~~ the time that I was enjoying myself after finishing the work at the World's Fair in New York. Guess what happen. I got a letter from the secretary of Frank Lloyd Wright saying that there was a position open as an apprentice but before I got it I must be interviewed by Mr. Wright. I am going as soon as possible. Gosh what a break. I almost telegraphed you but I thought that I better write a letter to you instead. A telegram may frighten you. I can't say that He will accept me, but at least he is going to interview me which is quite a bit don't you think. I've told my bosses here already. I sort of hate to leave them just at this stage of the game.

You see Miss Cook took over her partnership in the firm only about a year ago. Since she has been here, the fellows are getting paid regular and everything but it still has not been developed as much as it should be. In other words it is not a well rounded out business as yet. I thought I would be able to stay through the summer and help out in a small way. I have been pretty lucky so far. I have been working with her in having different trees and plants in pots and boxes for interior decorating, just like Nich does for P. and B. She doesn't want to work through a florist but prefers to work with department store and use the plants for window display. There really is more money in that field too. We went to see a Mrs. Rosenfeld on Madison Ave, N.Y. who has a swanky shop to help us with a design of a container. She was pretty enthusiastic about it too, because there wasn't any kind of plants so far that she really like to decorate her shop with even. We went to see a Dana O'Claire, display manager of Lord and Taylors Shop on Fifth Ave. He liked the idea enough to make a date to come out to Albertson this coming Friday to look at the trees. She knew him when they were going to an art school together. We haven't any trees yet in any size in boxes. We really haven't any trees in box at all for the window display. Shogo just made some water color sketches of the plants. Mr. O'Claire said that he really had to look at the plants first. So you see. we have to be pretty busy this week in getting the plants ready for him. I think we can either rent or sell these plants even though he wouldn't use them. There are no nursery around here, who puts plants in boxes like we do in California. There are a lot of fields open to that sort of plants which have character. Mr. O'Claire gave us a couple of passes for the display men's convention that is going on at the Fair grounds this week. It is a good thing that Shogo and my ideas of good looking trees agree. Boy OH Boy if they didn't. I probably go ahead with my idea anyway.

He sort of gets my goat. He went to see a man who was putting up a rock garden last week. The man said that he had some man on the job already but he could come back and see how it was progressing and give his opinion on the rock laying. He wouldn't go back in the middle of the week because there was a thunder shower in the afternoon and everything was a little wet. He gave some excuses this and that. Well we went back today to see the garden. In the first place the rocks they were using are volcanic rocks.

And he was using them for the brooks. I told the man that it was not natural and did not give the feeling of water rushing down the bed. Also I showed him some bad placement of rocks and what would look more natural in that spot. He didn't like the idea of moving all the rocks after the man had been working on them all week. The man, a Mr. Rouble who apparently had plenty of money, I told him that the rocks were so light that a couple of men could move them put in a half day. Told him also that since the garden is going to be permanent it would be worth while to do just that. Mr. Rouble told us that the rock man in charge is so sort of old and may not like the change of ideas. I told him I would see him about it. Mr. Rouble likes the idea we presented well enough to tell us to come tomorrow morning and pretend that we came for the first time and that we were selling some real good rocks for the stream. He would be willing to be talked into the sale of them. (the rocks, I mean) I told him that we ought to get rid of all the volcanic rocks along the stream anyway and use them entirely on the hillside. Shogo tells him that we may be able to use them a few of them along the stream. On the way home he tells me that he would like to get rid of the whole darn rock that they were using. I told him, 'Why didn't you tell Mr. Rouble that instead of saying what he said.' I told Shogo that I told Mr. Rouble what I thought of his rock garden and although he didn't like the idea of changing at first, he wanted to change it later. Mr. Rouble even complimented me as a good business man. Talking about compliments, did I tell you what happen at a jew designers place where we went to visit. Well the designer called me a good salesman. Do I sound conceited to you? Well If I do you just say what you think. I even went and got a spray job from the Japan Garden when he couldn't get anywheres an it. I wish he would keep his mouth shut when we go out looking for a job. He talks of things irrelevant to the subject and goes way off on an artistic point of view which doesn't interest the man or e vevn me.

Monday June 26, 1939

We went out to eat supper at the McLane's. He is the Photographer whose wife is the sister of Miss Cook. She can really cook too. This monday evening at eleven o'clock. I went this morning to see Mr. Ruble or Rubel on the garden job. Well the rock man was a hard man to talk to. I couldn't get along much with him, but I got a couple of good points in that Mr. Rubel appreciated. I tried to be tactful etc with the rock man but hw was in a bad mood and in the end he even said that he didn't care if he didn't see me agin. Well I went back to see Mr. Rubel tonight with Shogo and Miss Cook. I apologized for making a mess of the affair. I got to talk to him some more though. Well the up shot of the whole thing is that the foreman and I went back to make an estimate on the job and we landed the thing at not a whole lot of profit. It was just for labor and some additional rocks necessary. Well it comes up to \$250. He has some additional work that we may get into if this work is satisfactory. Shogo made a different price on it. This price does not include plant material. This week is going to be a pretty busy week for me. We dug three 7 ft. pines for boxes today. Darn the luck. I hit big rocks on two of them. Well they came out fairly well though.

the interview

About the job at Frank Lloyd Wright, I asked if it was possible to delay for a couple of weeks. I guess it was all right to ask. I gave them the reason why too.

Tonight the man next door to the Garden Clinic who runs the gas station and candy stand and treats all the fellows like his son around here - came to see me and told me that a man wanted to sell a Ford just like Kair has for \$20. Well I went to see the thing. Its almost identical shape as Kairs too. I bought it. I think that I will travel to Wisconsin on that thing. I will have to pay \$6 for license but even at that I think that it is going to be better than a train ride. It will be more convenient. I will be able to see a lot of things. Tell the family about my coming trip to Wisconsin in the near future. It seems as though I will have to be in the Kitchen two weeks out of three. That is the way they run the apprenticeship. I think I am going to enjoy it if he accepts me.

I put a few cut leaf maple into boxes today too. They are going to look pretty nice in a swanky container.

The Garden Clinic is more or less sponsoring a Mrs. Oshikawa. She came from Japan to teach flower arrangement. She knows our dear Aunt. You must ask Auntie if she knows her the next time that you see her. She is going back to Japan pretty soon. This flowering arrangement exhibit is going to take place on July 6. Right now Miss Cook is busy with lining up the different members of the garden clubs to come to the exhibit. Shogo is making some sketches on the rock garden for Mr. Rubel. He made a price of \$500 including plant materials and a lot of other things. He doesn't know the price that Gordon and I made on it. Gordon is the Foreman. When the dawn comes Oh Boy.

Tell Kair when you see him next of my purchase.

Tell Nich I will write to him on these people's way of balling plants.

I did some today and they came out very well.

Wish me luck in all my enterprises

I sold the Japanese people a spray job that was sort of hanging fire for quite a while. It amazes me every time I sell the Japanese something.

Saturday Night I went out with one of the fellows working here.

We went to the fair grounds to see the Hot Mikado with Bill

Robinson. It was very good. You must see that if it ever gets out to the coast. The colored people have very fine voices.

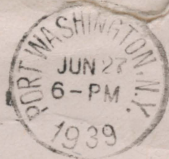
I will write more about that later.

I shall write anon.

Kan

PS. I am hungry now. I may have a hot dog before I go to sleep. How is everything with you?

P. O. Box 262
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Nursery

VIA AIR MAIL