

Nov. 22, 1939

Dear Wak;

Well, I could have written to you a whole lot earlier, but I wanted to get off a lot of other just trivial letters off first. I was expecting a letter like that for a long time. I was sort of disappointed in not having it come any quicker. Thank God, it has arrived. Seems like I am spoiled on that point. Other people come here and have disappointments etc. They seem to have some of the same trouble that I had at the beginning. I have talked to some of them---I mean the new-comers. They think of the fellows just, a about the same as I did. I have changed my opinion just a little--only because I know the fellows more and take them as such and not super people that I expected to find here. You are right when you said that I should have finished my architectural training at the university first. I could get a whole lot more out of being here in a shorter time than otherwise. It is funny how one grabs at the opportunity when one really isn't prepared to fully appreciate the benefits of the opportunity, - do you follow what I mean. I have been here enough though, so that I can best make the most out of it if I should want to go back to school for further training. It doesn't make much difference where you go to school. After being here they all seem sort of not-just-right (Wright) I think I have just a little of the theories of Mr. Wright. If I go back it would be to get more of the rendering and quite a bit of engineering. You see, when you design things in a different way, you have to compute the engineering fact differently too; which means that you have to be a good engineer too. Most states require something of that sort. What I really want to do is to go out on one of the jobs and work on a house that Mr. Wright has designed and really built it from the ground up. I will have to stay here a long time to do that..I think that Instead of going back to school of any sort, I would like to work for a contractor. Working for a contractor will give you more time and independence than staying here. I knew from the beginning when I came here that I would not stay here forever. It wasn't the life for me. What the devil do they think that I left the nursery for. Somehow I want to live my own life. Be my own boss--which is really impossible I guess but you can arrive at it to a higher degree by being at the head of a business or firm. I made up my mind when I felt really bad that I would at least stick it out a year. Now there is a general rumor that we will go to Arizona in a couple of weeks--which is hardly true. I am going to bring my machine along, Mr. Wright or no Mr. Wright. I am also coming home for the holid holidays. If he tells me that if I go home, I better stay home; I am going to do just that. I think though that I will try to get a job with a good contractor though, before I change my mind or try something different than Architecture. I have been busy last week and part of the week before fixing my room. I have one side partly finished. At least I have one drawer fixed that slides very smooth. I put all my laundered clothes in that one. There are going to be three or four more drawers. I enjoyed myself completely designing and making the things. As I constructed I changed the design. It is quite a fever when you get into the swing of building. I wonder how it is building houses? I'll bet it is grand. Maybe after a few small houses, I'd start thinking of larger things, who knows, what?

I get a chance to speak to Mr. Wright more now; since we are landscaping a great deal more. One of the fellows that we have on the crew likes to chop down trees. Once we had three pine trees in a single ball, the largest about 14 ft. high. We had it all balled up ready for the tractor to take it out of the hole, when this fellow c hopped down a rotten tree trunk on top of the pine, breaking the top off. Then the next day he drives into a gate when I told him to stop and he broke off another top of another pine tree. I don't feel sore any more at any of the blunders that they do; in fact I take it as a joke and laugh at it all. Gosh, though sometimes thinking it over by myself, I get plenty disgusted at the work that they are doing. We put the ball on a platform and let the tractor pull the plants to the truck. We haven't had much trouble loading any plants except one birch tree about 20 ft. high. The lumber we used for bracing was sort of rotten and altho we used 2 by 4 and 2 by 6 the nail pulled out and the lumber split because it was old lumber. We took a day getting the darn plant out on to the truck.. It may have been partly my fault in that I wanted to try an experiment in a new way,--It doesn't cost us anything here for that. Right now the tree is planted in a very conspicuous spot and is very pretty there. One day we dug up so many birches that we forgot where some of them were left. It wasn't until a week later that we found them. One is still missing. The birches here, and also the pines, do not have a deep rooting system. They stay right on the surface. We cut the root in a large circle a shovel depth deep and then roll the roots back. It is fast work. We don't know how the plants are going to do yet. We will find out this summer. Today we had a lady-- one of the new apprentices--helping us today. She read Mr. Wright's advertisement and thought it was swell place until she came.. She is definitely disappointed too. I don't think she is the only one though. She may change her mind after a while longer-- she has been here only three weeks.

I would like to finish my room up and see what Mr. Wright thinks of it. I went ahead to build the thing without any one's approval I think it is going to look all right. Maybe I will tear it down after a while like one of the fellows. This fellow has changed his room so many times that he has quite a reputation to the fact. Three fellows went to Arizona today. They went ahead to build a place for Mr. Wright in the camp.

It is getting colder here now. It seems funny but most of the fellows wake up at about the same time now. One of them shouts out, 'What time is it' and everybody starts to talk. You see, we are all awake about a quarter to seven (D.S.T.) but none of us want to get out of bed. Too cold. I had a letter from Mas Nomura yesterday; He told me that Nich came back. Tell him I will answer him soon ---. We are having Thanksgiving on the regular date here. Mr. Wright went to Kansas City to see about building a large church that was burnt down. As usual the fellows took the opportunity to do something for themselves that they have had not the time to do. We stuck to our bit of work though. Guess what, I am doing a bit of steam pipe fitting too now. I want more carpentry work, though.

My you certainly did yourself proud ^{in your height} that last letter. I am afraid that I will not attain such ^{length}

Thanks for the long letter. I consider it your masterpiece so far. Did I tell you that Marcus Weston and I were to go into the kitchen as helpers some weeks ago but that he was so necessary on the terrace and that I was suppose to work on the plants that Mr. Wright had both of us taken out. We have been out ever since. Marcus Weston is the son of the carpenter that Mr. Wright mentions in his auto-biography. We get along swell.

If you see Yuri, Tell her to be a little patient for a reply because I am planning to work some more on my room tomorrow night if nothing interferes. I will try to get more letters off. Did you know that Misumi's folks opened a new camera shop on California str. He just wrote me a letter to that effect. Gosh, he write pretty long letters too. I will have to answer him.

You know sometimes I wish I could go back to New York for work and other wise too. They don't discriminate against the Japanes at all. Well I told you that before. I had a fine time there wit with my work. You have to be aggressive though. I liked it.

Well. I better say until the next time.

soon

If you see anything about Yoshimi Shibata in any of the Japanese newspaper, you will know that I have they have printed something that I have sent in. Yoshimi writes to me pretty regularly. We kidd each other quite a bit. He tells me that Both prof. Chadwick and Laurie is at Ohio State.

How did Nich come out at L.A.

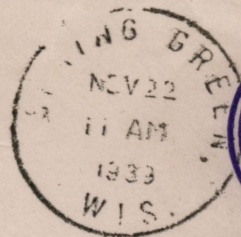
Well so long

Kan

After 5 days, return to

Taliesin

SPRING GREEN, WIS.



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