

PACIFIC CITIZEN

BEASON BUILDING
SALT LAKE CITY 1, UTAH



Dec. 3

Dear Margaret:

It just occurred to me that the personal adventures of William E. Kent (7509 $\frac{1}{2}$ Sunset Blvd., Hollywood 46, Calif.) since he got interested in the Nisei might make an interesting article for Common Ground--that is, if he'll do it.

Carey McWilliams did an article on the Hollywood incident involving the American Legion recently for The Nation. The Hollywood incident (the uproar over the action of a World War II post in condemning Hood River and in inducting a Nisei member) was mainly William E. Kent. Kent was the Americanism chairman for the post. He and the post commander and other members resigned in protest to the high-handed actions of the Legion hierarchy. One result was that he was shadowed by members of the subversive section of the L.A. police dept as a result of his stand. Recently he has taken on the insurance companies of America (he is an insurance agent by profession) in a fight, which he is winning, to get the companies to take Nisei without surcharges and other restrictions.

Kent is a refugee from Naziism and came here from

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Germany some steps ahead of the Gestapo. Through service in the U.S. Army he became an American citizen. He was just going along, living a normal life and taking a prominent part in civic projects like the Hollywood Canteen when he was struck by the similarity between Hitler's pogroms and their anti-Nisei campaign in California. His life has not been the same since.

Kent was instrumental in placing a Japanese (alien) couple with Thomas Mann's family. He says that the story of the Manns and the evacuees is a great one--- but that's all I know about it. Maybe Kent may be able to get Thomas Mann to do an article about it for Common Ground. . . Anyway, its an idea and I thought I would send it along.

We're busy as ever. Haven't been able to get out of Utah, except one trip to Northern Arizona to see the Grand Canyon, since we were in New York in 1943. Since V-J Day and the end of gas rationing, we've discovered southern Utah, one of the most fantastic and colorful areas of this planet. You'll have to see it if you haven't. Here is America's last frontier and virtually unexploited because of its inaccessibility except in the cases of Bryce Canyon and Zion, both national parks.

The best to you and to Common Ground.