



Miss Yuri Domoto

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Granada Relocation Project

Amache, Colorado

December 10, 1942

Hello Yuri:

It was certainly a pleasant surprise to find your letter waiting for me after my month tour of the various relocation center--Rohwer, Jerome, Poston, Gila Rivers, etc. It has been so long since I last wrote you that I don't remember if I had written about that trip. In short, it was for the purpose of recruiting qualified nisseis in the centers by voluntary consent to attend the Savage language school. Except for Poston (we were there to witness the incident) the response was fairly good. In Gila Rivers excellent. When leaving Savage for this tour, I had a definite picture of what life in the Relocation Center might be. I was disappointed. In fact, all the graduates of the school who received the surprise furloughs are going to be surprised. Probably, by the time you have received this letter Yuri, you'll have met many of the soldiers from Savage. (Tule Lake, Manzanar, Poston, and Gila Rivers are restricted to us---that's why I'm in New York instead of Tule Lake)

My conscience kind of bothered me to take this furlough after I had visited the various centers.....but the trip was anything but pleasure. Sure learned a lot. The morale, the average meal, the living conditions, the facilities, (we regard the dictionary as a bible in Savage.....in camp it's the copies of "Sears" & "Monkeys".) Learned also how far the \$16 can go. But I know your not interested in that or in other news about camp life since your one of the "inmates".

Read a short paragraph in the Pacific Citizens about the Civil Service ruling that you and a few others would not

be given "Leave of Absence"...would like to hear more about it. (If it means opening an old wound, forget it.)

Remember you wrote that Bessie Matsuoka was surprised to find the improvement in the speaking ability of the graduate of this school? Well, a good many parents will experience the same....with all the graduates going back on furloughs (except for the four coastal centers). Not only will they be surprised to see authentic Japanese flowing out but also in their reading and writing ability. I think, that the average Japanese family will be surprised to find from the students that "Espionage" (spelling?) is not taught at the school. During my tour that seemed to be the popular notion. Especially at Poston....still I can see their side too. Our group just left Manzanar when they had their incident. Only hope that the two "uprising" will not retard the primary object of the WRA...which is according to Dr. Meyer, the WRA head from Wash.,DC, the complete relocation of all the families in the ten centers. Heard him speak in Poston....seemed to be a sincere fellow.

Spent Thanksgiving Day at Gila Rivers...they had baked ham with lots of fancy trimmings. During the day there was a parade....the Yamaguchi sisters from Pleasanton were the queen's attendants. In the evening they had a Harvest Dance with the new recruits from the camp being the guests of honor....the crowd was kind of peaved about not knowing who was going....was supposed to a military secret. But they'll find out when they find many of their leaders gone.

Had a hunch that New York was a little larger than Hayward. Realize it now. Have to take in a play off Broadway so I'll stop for the time being. (To be continued)  
Yoshito