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P. O. Box 663
Rocky Ford, Colorado



Miss Yuri Komoto
6 G 7-A
Granada Relocation Project
Granada, Colorado

Sept. 24, 1942



Will Rogers Memorial
Near Colo Springs

Dear Yuri,

Don't worry for a minute about what happened to me Monday. In a way, I was glad I didn't have to say goodbye to you, knowing that you had to stay there + I had to leave. I was so happy to see all of you

and yet, on the way home I had the queerest sensation of unfairness. Why did you have to stay there while I could leave? After all, what had the rest of you done to deserve that any more than I did? It just didn't make sense. I was so glad to see your dad, though. Somehow, I couldn't control myself when I saw him. He looks the same and seems to be the same in spite of all the hardship he has endured, and at his age, too. We stayed until 3 P.M. + Emi took me around in that terrific sand storm to see different people. We even went to see Harry Naha and his wife. But after I came home, I suddenly remembered that I didn't see Toke. Please tell her I meant to see her that day, too, but didn't know where she lived, and while chattering with Emi, the time flew by so fast that I didn't get a chance to ask anyone.

The Taguchi's (Japanese store here) went

to Granada again today. I told Lucy to say
hello to you for me, but she probably won't
get around to looking you up. I hope we
can get to see you again real soon.
I've been trying to find a rocking chair for
your Dad, but haven't been successful so
far. Is a second-hand one all right? We
may go to La Junta tomorrow & I'll try to
see what they have there.

That trip to camp was quite an
experience. I've been trying to decide what my
reaction would be to living that way indefinitely.
I understand the food is supposedly quite
good (not counting the beans we had that day). But
I wondered if the quantity was sufficient
for heavy eaters. Are you allowed seconds?

Just had a card from Keech. They were
on their way to Delta, Utah and she had
written from Nevada. She says Margaret has
gone to Tule Lake to be with Mr. Togasaki.
Gee! I wish she'd write, so that I'll know
just where she is. She sent me the last
edition of the Totalizer & also a whole stack
of Pacific Citizen's, but I don't know where she
is to thank her for them. Do you take the
Pacific Citizen? If not, I can save these for
you, 'cause we take it ourselves, too.

It was certainly good to see you and Wak
and your Dad and the rest of your family. Hope I can
see you again real soon. Love, Pak

N

July 21, 1942

Dear Guri,

Thanks so much for your letter, - glad to know that the ^{cookies} arrived o.k. Haven't heard from Tanforan yet & am wondering if maybe the two cans I sent there got lost in transit. Sorry I couldn't have sent more, but by the time I got thro baking those few, I almost felt like not seeing a cookie again. But before very long, hope I get another streak of ambition.

So, your group is coming to Colorado! Isn't that something! The relocation center is located about 80 miles south of here.

The people here in Rocky Ford are exceptionally nice. There are a lot of Japanese here now, but no one has been molested. The next town south - La Junta - is reputedly anti-Japanese, but we haven't noticed any difference. Denver is sort of anti-Japanese now, too because everyone flocked there at first. It's about 170 miles north of here. We went to our church picnic supper last week - the only Nips among a crowd of Americans - but we had a swell time. Were guests of Mr. & Mrs. Blotz, who are very prominent in this community. They're wonderful people. The postmaster and his wife are grand, too. They go to the same church. Also the chief of police & his wife. Do you

Kalo drove down there once about a month ago, but it was just a stretch of prairie land at that time. I presume things are being built by now. You asked about the weather - Well! It's hot, quite hot. But I don't think it's anything like Merced. The hottest we've had was about 94° - 96° in the shade and that was about July 5, 6, 7. Usually runs about 84° - 88° in the shade. However, the last two days we've had a storm & it's been rather cold. Today is the first day I felt I should wear a sweater to go to town. These rain and hail storms come on so suddenly & fiercely that it's frightening. And thunder & lightning! Golly, you should see it. But it doesn't last long; so it isn't so bad.

P.S. Sammie's address is: McMillan Hall
Washington Univ. - St. Louis, Mo.

know James Sugioka — he's from Hollister
& used to be active in J.A.C.S. Well,
he's a sort of preacher now, working
with the Church of the Brethren, trying
to get the Japanese to mingle more
with the Americans here in Colorado,
so that there wouldn't be that
word "unassimilable" used against
them. He's been over for dinner quite
a lot, & does he talk. I certainly
hope he knows what he's doing.
Someone from the Denver Y. is coming
tomorrow to discuss problems with
the young Nisei; so James was here
this afternoon to ask one of us to go.
Apparently there are a few American
groups that are championing our
cause.

Heard from Clara a few days ago.
They're still living in a hotel but expect
to move into a brand new 5 room bungalow
in about a week. No space, so goodbye Jotak

Sept. 3, 1942



Grand Lake

Dear Yui,

So glad to hear that you have arrived safely in Colorado. I thought of standing at the station on Thursday to see if by some streak of luck I'd see you, but of course I had no idea what time the train would be going by, or whether you came through Rocky Ford at all. Perhaps not.

I'm hoping that some time soon, we will be permitted to visit you, altho I hear that we most likely cannot. In a way, I guess it's better, 'cause I'd hate to see all of you cooped up like that.

You are lucky that the weather is getting a bit cooler now, altho I guess you are used to hot weather after being at Merced. Do you know when Emie will be coming? I heard from her the same time you last wrote from Merced, but at that time, she didn't know just when she would be coming. I also wrote the WRA. to inquire about a civil service job as dietitian, but it seems they are not employing any Japanese from the outside for the administrative staff in any of the camps — they suggested that I could have the job at Granada if on the same basis as the rest of the evacuees. In a way, I'd like to do it, just to get into harness again and to see all

of you again. But then too, it seems rather silly for me to choose to go to camp when I really don't have to. And the people here are so nice to us, too. Last Friday nite, Mr. & Mrs. Blotz invited my sister Kalo & her husband (did I tell you she was married on Aug. 8th?) and I for dinner. The Postmaster & his wife and a railroad man from L.A. were also there. We played bridge after dinner & was I mortified! You know what kind of a game I play! So since then, we decided to bump up on bridge & have been playing every night. In fact yesterday & the day before, we actually played all day, too! Just took time out for lunch & supper, that's all. Isn't that awful?

Went to Denver about two weeks^{ago} and visited with Clara for three days. It was grand to see her again and talk over old times. She has an adorable ^(brand new) house in a very nice residential district & bought new furniture, drapes, etc. And her kitchen is just wonderful, too - small, but very compact. And her baby! Gee! She's grown so much, and is she smart! She understands everything and is really adorable!

Today is Watermelon Day here at Rocky Ford & all stores are closed. It's supposed to be quite a celebration, but we're not very enthused. Mom & Pop took Gene & some neighbor kids to see the rodeo, but the rest of us are just sitting at home and writing or knitting. I'd like to send you some castanets before the season's over if it's O.K. for us to send things. Will you let me know if we can? Do write soon and let me know how your new home is?
Love, Tak

Sept. 14, 1942



Apache Peak

Dear Yuri,

It was so good to hear from you again. I'm glad that you are getting settled in your new "home", and near enough for us to go and visit you once in a while.

I'm certain that we will be going to see you very soon, Dave. I just met Mr. Walt Rodell from there last Friday, and he said we could visit our friends there. Mr. Blotz brought him over to meet us — he seems very nice. He said he had met you and would tell you that. He said me. He happens to be related in some way to the Blotz's, so that's how we got to meet him.

Am so glad you enjoyed the melons. No, Dad didn't grow them. We don't have a farm at all this year — just living near town and not doing much of anything. I've been hearing that some of the Langford group are going to Grenada, too. Do you suppose any of the Danner group would be included? I haven't heard from either Margaret or Keel for a week or

two, so I still don't know where they are going.

Dr. Gillum of U.C. wrote me air mail last week Friday asking if I wanted to take the job as administrative dietitian at the Tule Lake Hospital. It seems that they asked her for an experienced dietitian; so right away she picked on me for the job. However, I don't think she knows that they're not employing Japanese-Americans from the outside for jobs inside the centers. I made application anyway, just for fun. She certainly is swell, though — always on the lookout for me. I'd certainly like to get back into harness soon, though. This loafing around has made me so lazy that I'm afraid work won't appeal to me anymore. The folks are going to sort onions every day — at 45¢ an hr. — not so bad, is it? But I don't go — just stay home and cook.

Clara's address is 1395 So. Milwaukee St. Denver, Colorado. I told you I visited her, didn't I? Just had a letter from her today. She said Ari Inouye & his wife & his sister and family (Dr & Mrs. Lee Watanabe of San Jose) were going on a picnic with them Sunday. There are quite a few kids out at Denver whom we know. Golly, I wish you could get out sometime soon. If you



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can get a job outside, can you get a release?

Heard from Sammy the other day, too. She seems to be much happier now - guess she's getting over the initial homesickness.

Please let me know when would be the best time to visit you. Do you have any special day off? Kelo and her husband (whose name, by the way, is Jim Ota) want to go, too since Jim's parents are there, too - also his brothers. I'd like to wait until Eniko gets there and visit both of you the same day, 'cause 90 miles is quite a trip, especially now when gas rationing is so close at hand. If you can think of anything special you'd like to have me bring, please let me know - if it's within my power to get it, I will. Please don't hesitate, 'cause after all I ought to do something when I'm free to go wherever I want to. Ask your dad if there's anything I can get for him - I remember peanuts and those dark candies, some kind of drops, weren't they? - but that's all I can

P.S. My "hello" and best regards to Uncle, your Dad, Kaw + Sally, Toich + Alice and Flo children. Dad Toke and her family with you, too? Where is your oldest sister + family?

think of. They will permit us to bring food, won't they? Keesa said at Taofora they could receive only canned goods + dried fruits, no perishable foods — what's the situation there?

Don is enrolling at Univ. of Colorado this semester. He's been working there for a month "slinging hash", but when school starts, he can't work anymore 'cause all Calif. students are supposed to be able to go through school without working — the jobs are reserved for Colorado students. To is married (didn't I tell you?) — she's at Rockford, Illinois, Camp Grant — her husband, George Umezawa of San Diego. She was married before Kels was. Golly! I can hardly keep track of these new brother-in-laws of mine.

How are Harry Naha, Buddy Iwata and that bunch? Are any of them planning to try for releases? Say, if you know of anyone who wants to do housework, Mrs. Blatz is just dying to have someone. Mr. Nodell said it would be possible to release girls who wanted to work. Also, there are oodles of jobs on the farms right now. Dad is having a heck of a time trying to get just one more man to complete his sorting crew. Labor is that scarce. & at 45¢ an hr, too! Write soon.
Love, Tak