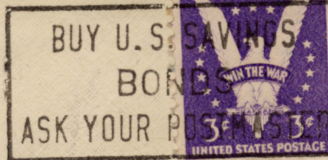


Apt. 307
4954 W. Pine Blvd
St. Louis, 8, Mo



Miss Yuri Domoto

6 F - 5C

Amache, Colorado

January 16

Dearst Yuri,

Here it is a Sunday aft and the weather is almost like Spring. Me? I'm here at the lab trying to tie up a few loose ends and organize for the week. It's not nice enough to be outside so I don't care very much that I'm cooped up here. You see, we rarely see a bright sunny day...with clear blue skies, beautiful soft clouds and the tingly air as we used to at home. St. Louis is usually covered with a blanket of smoke smog, or just plain dust. Right now the view outside is that of a hazy, smoky picture. Oh well with nothing but dirty, sooty, bare things, it makes no difference if we can see or not. Gosh, I sound depressed, don't I? It's probably due to a combination of nostalgia, fatigue, and just Sunday aft.

Going to carry on more about the dirt of St. Louis. I can't as yet get over the smutty existence we lead here...I mean smutty in the sense of dust. Our slips are actually black along the seams and our apartment is always covered with an inch of dust. We wash our hair about every 6 days and after two days our combs are black. As for wearing pastel shades...it's a luxury because of the hardships of cleaning. Honestly how can one "city" be so smoky and dusty. There are stories that 4 years ago before the anti-smoke ordinance came in busses and cars actually got lost 10'clock in the ayem. Things aren't that bad but with the coal shortage there is plenty of soft coal bootlegging I'm afraid...judging from the morning smoke. One day the papers claimed that we had fog, but being from the Bay Region, I contest the fact that that was genuine fog....it didn't have that lilting effect.

Well, don't let my above description of the St. Louis air discourage your relocation plans. I think that I didn't do St. Louis justice in my letters to friends for none of them aside from Kim and Masa came here. St. Louis is probably one of the nicest places for relocation. It is a so-called city (but I often wonder) and so there is enough of that impersonal atmosphere, but the people are provincial and not hysterical because of our being Japanese. In fact the people seem unusually kind. No relocatee seems to have any trouble finding houses in the nicest of places nor jobs. However, the WRA doesn't seem to be very discriminating about approved jobs. Some of the nurses who work at the St. Louis U hospital found out that they were getting less pay simply because they were Japanese. I think that the same thing applies to Masa and her job. Oh well there is probably another side to the story.

Always with love,

Sumner

Regards to everyone, please

Cal people are slowly drifting in. So far, besides us three, there are Alice and Stuart Nakano, Ted and Kay Ohashi, Mary and Mas Hara, Nobu Nishimoto, and the students. Oh yes, that Hironaka girl who married the Suito boy is here with Mrs. Suito. I believe the boys is working for some laundry. This is all that I know but I know that there must be plenty of others for the downtown stores are full of 'em. There are a lot of domestics and farmers from nearby places that come in, too. Issei people are beginning to come also. One of the girls from Univ. of Washington got her law degree last year and got a nice job here with one of the law firms. So her mother and father came out here a few months ago. All seems well with them although I know that she must be lonesome for all her other friends....but we can't have everything.

Did you see the article in the Cal Monthly by Yori Wada formerly of the Daily Cal? It's simple but very representative of the the feeling we have. I guess that it seems sentimental and slushy but he expresses his feelings very judiciously. Mrs. Kingman was here not long ago and she gave us a preview of that article. She also told us all about the Daily Cal youngsters telling the American Legion off because of their stand towards the nisei. As result of the University people's interest in us there is now a state investigation going on. Gosh those dirty politicians stop at nothing.

It's ever so good to have Masa and Kim here. I see them often and no one knows how wonderful it makes me feel to be able to let down my hair and really talk. In fact I don't know how I would have survived this Christmas season if it weren't for Masa. It wasn't all very cheerful as Kim had an operation on his shoulder, but Masa stayed with me all the while. She had just gotten over the flu so I didn't want her to overdo and get sick all over again. Besides, the hospital is only 6 blocks from our place. This week-end Kim was discharged so they were happily on their way home. He's doing nicely and should be oker than before in a short while.

Heard from Ayame. She is still at Ann Arbor and liking her work very much. Her entire family is now in Chicago where Hanaye is teaching at Univ. of Chicago....where Mary Fuji and her husband are in charge.

Gosh I'm just about exhausted trying to type this and at the same time trying to keep from making too many typographical errors. I hope that your relocation plans are coming along nicely and that we'll be seeing you out this way. In the meantime, please take good care of yourself and drop me one of you ever-swell letters.

Always with love,

Sammy

Regards to everyone, please.