

Margaret McClain
Hughes Apts.
Payette, Idaho



Miss Yuriko Domoto
878 Alice St.
Hayward
California
P.O. Box 8,
Livingston

Hughes Apartments
Payette, Idaho
3-13-42

Dear Yuri -

I was glad to hear from you as I've thought of you so much lately. We hear so many reports, & actually know so little of what's going on. Just what does this evacuation from the bay area really mean?

If you are still working with Japanese families, you must come up against a great many heart breaking experiences.

It seems that we - a democratic nation - a "Christian" nation, if you please, can build ourselves on ideology of hate & destruction. It's sickening to those of us who are vainly battling out to swim against the tide.

Any student of the problems of human relations can see only bitter humor in the situation - Build - free - uplift - Kill - hunt - destroy - and they issue forth in the same breath, with no sense of the inherent conflict.

Yes, I'm a pacifist, first to last, and if I could justify hatred, it would be an all-out hatred of war.

As usual, life goes on in a groove here. The war has hardly touched us yet - except in the matter of tires & sugar.

You asked if there was a place for a social worker in Idaho. If you were not Japanese, Yari, you could get a job almost immediately - as Child Welfare Worker. We're desperately in need of new staff members - but we're not big enough yet to face equality - to recognize true qualifications - to disregard pettiness & prejudice.

If you should know a social worker in need of a job - you might pass the word along. She need not be as intelligent as you - nor as capable - providing she has an acceptable racial background.

Am I becoming cynical beyond all reason? I shouldn't write like this but I can't help feeling rather bitter about it. What talents are being wasted!

I hope you will forgive me, & if there is any chance of my seeing you please know that you are heartily welcome here for as long as you can stay.

Note the change of address. I have an apartment with another girl here who works at the court house - a really swell gal.

News flash! - I may get part time stenographic service, after 10, these 18 months.

Please write as soon as you have a chance.
With love - Margaret

Payette, Idaho
March 29th

Dear Yvoni -

I have been thinking of you so very much lately & wondering when or where you would be going. It is incredible to me that things like this could happen in "the land of the brave & home of the free." It was such a few short months ago that we sat & ate dinner with you - with no premonition that all this might happen.

I wish you would write - even just a few lines & tell me how things are going now. I know it must be terribly difficult for you - even more than we can appreciate.

What a slender thread is security! On the threshold of the greatest opportunity I have ever had, I pause to realize that it is not of my own making - it is only that the gods have smiled upon me.

Even my job has become easier.

I now have a part time stenographer
- & that's a tremendous help.

In only one way fate hasn't been kind.
A stiff reige of arthritis has left me
hobbling around like an old granny
with aching bones. I'm hoping that
warm weather will bring relief. Our
winter has been long & cold, & we're
always so glad when spring comes
anyway.

Yuri - I don't know what words of
hope one can offer - but there are
a great many years ahead. The next
few will be hard - surely the time will
come when peace & security will be
within your reach again. I know
you will have a great deal to
offer your people in this time of
trouble - and that will certainly
be social service of the highest
order.

Hoping to hear from you
soon.

With love,
Margaret