

14 Nov. 45

Dear Bill,

How's my pet this very beautiful day? No doubt you are basking in the beautiful Italian sunshine while this young lady plugs away at her desk. Just because I'm writing to you doesn't mean I don't do any work at all - I manage to find something to do. Our division is just beginning operations so business is very slow in my special department. My boss says that we'll be busy very soon - at least I hope so. This kind of "work" is enough to drive me batty - not that I'm perfectly sane at present.

I am well over my "mumps" (after an examination the doctor said it wasn't the mumps. Only a cold in my gland. But confidently I don't think he knows his bees. Those were mumps as large & puffed as they possibly could be. He said I was too old for the mumps, but Daisy & Harry got it after 20 so it isn't impossible. Maybe the Ugedis are a little slow in things, but we're not entirely ignoramouses.

Today will be my first pay day here.

but I'll probably get paid for one day since I started on a Friday & they hold back 2 weeks' pay. After deducting for bond, income tax & social security, I'll probably owe the government. I don't see the profit, do you? Well, that's life and someday when I get to be a millionaire -----

Isn't it terrific that none of us girls will be in Chicago when you get back. For that matter I haven't heard from Lemi since she left St. Paul so I have no idea where she can be reached. She can't do that sort of thing. I certainly miss her letters since she writes the cutest notes - & I do mean notes. Since it's almost impossible for us to go to Chicago how about you coming West? After all, after touring all Europe it's about time you saw a little of America & bring Aya with you if you can persuade her. You & Aya can stay at our place - and it's not the best place, but we can make you feel at home. You know

you're always welcome at our place so all you have to do now (after you get back, of course) is buy a ticket to Stockton.

Have you Sumi's address by any chance? If so, could you send it to me? Maybe by next year I'll know where in the world she is.

I'm anxiously waiting for spring to see all the trees in bloom. It's been a long long time since I saw a blossomed orchard & I sure miss it. In a month or so we'll have to start our vegetable garden. I still feel reluctant to pay 27¢ a head for celery & 17¢ a head for lettuce, etc. My dad nearly keeled over when I told him the prices. It's really highway robbery & even in Chicago the prices weren't that high.

A Boock family in Lodi have a stock of ^{\$}Takekoto that they're trying to sell at ^{\$}1.50 a can. I'd be ashamed to sell it at that price - no matter how scarce it is.

Prices are zooming all the time - sometimes I wonder if there is such a thing as price

ceiling.

In my office I have a noiseless Remington & it's so noiseless I can hear my brain rattling. Did you ever use one of these before? They're built for speed, all right, but the touch is so light, I keep forgetting & still tap as heavy as ever. You know how heavy a Underwood is. I have a phone on my desk too, but business is so slow it never rings. Also two empty file baskets. Boy, what an efficient secretary I am. If you plan to start a business & need a secretary just let me know.

Well, Fare thee well, my dear for I must leave thee. Be good & hope you come back soon.

Always,
Janice