

Nice, January 9th, 1946

Billy darling,

I apologize for the delay that I took in writing you, it is because I was a little tired. First of all, I have to thank you for the key ring and the bracelet which I liked very much and which gave me great pleasure, it will always be, for me, a beautiful reminder of you. I received your cute Christmas card, I thank you very much for your best wishes. For me, life here is still the same except that I will debut in a couple days at the Municipal Casino.¹ I saw Miss Andrée Julien and Tom again, this will maybe marry this month. Tom is not very happy because he has not yet gotten a letter from you. I hope that as of now, you have found your normal life again near your family and that you are very happy.² I wish that all of your family is in good health and that your brothers will return very soon so that you may all be reunited. But Billy darling, I leave you for today because it is time to go to my singing lesson. Mother, Aunty, Uncle and Charley join me in sending you all of our best regards. Waiting for some good news from you, please receive a cargo of kisses.

JANY

¹Casino Municipal de Cannes hosted different types of entertainment commissioned by the municipal council of Cannes. It was inaugurated in 1907 and destroyed in 1979. The Casino was closed for the majority of the war until it was reopened mid-1945.

²“The close of the war and his eventual discharge from the armed services in November of 1945 closed an important chapter in his life, but whose effects determined many of the factors that shaped his life from the age of 25 and on. From Camp Grant, Illinois where he was discharged, Bill stepped back into civilian life. His father and mother who had been released from Camp Topaz the summer before were now working as domestics for a wealthy family in Chicago. Billy himself felt extremely insecure about returning to civil life, he did not know what his three years of service had meant to this country or what life would hold for him outside of an army uniform. He returned to Berkely onto to sell off his car and a small parcel of land which his father still owns. When Bill returned to his hometown in November of 1945, he found the reception so war and touching that he decided to stay. He had many doubts coming back out to the West because he did not know how he would be viewed by whites or other Japanese Americans in his community.”