

June 25, 1944

Dear Papa,

There is so much to say, that I don't know where to begin. It is almost two weeks since I left Rohwer and I haven't written to you yet, and I feel rather ashamed, but it is so hard to "ochitsuku" here at the hostel. There really isn't any place to sit down quietly and write letters except in Mama's room. Our room is on the third floor, the attic, really, and it is terribly hot up there these days. The weather here is similar to Rohwer except that it doesn't seem to get quite as hot, although we've had some pretty sultry hot days here, too. One thing, it is nice to sit on the porch or take walks in the evenings, one thing you can't do in Rohwer on account of the bugs, mosquitoes, etc. There are very few if any mosquitoes here, so at least that much is better than Rohwer.

The Muraokas and of course the Endos are still here at the hostel because Housing is almost next to impossible to find. We are a little better off than the Muraokas, because they are trying to get War housing for us. As far as the Housing projects are concerned there is no prejudice, but the people living in them are a different proposition, so the Committee is working on them now to determine the reaction, to our being admitted into the Project. I hope that there will be some action this week because I am getting tired of this Hostel life which is only a continuation of camp life.

Aiji started working yesterday, and is on the night shift. He stays at the YMCA in Dayton with Nobu. He is working on the bindery, and gets 80¢ an hour, but works 10 hours or so, so will get time and a half for overtime, so he should make \$ 60.00 a week. He worked yesterday, Sunday, and got double, so he made \$ 16.00 in one day yesterday, I think. We hope that this job will be permanent, and though, he may not become rich working at the job, and it is steady, so we may settle down here.

Toddy is enjoying life here, it seems, and is fascinated by the street cars and busses. The street cars pass by a half block away, so I have to watch him to see that he isn't out there. He has learned, I think, that it is wrong to go out in the street. He has gained weight. The milk is delicious here and we all enjoy drinking it. He gets bananas to eat, at 12¢ a pound, which isn't too bad. He is improving in his table manners, and actions. I hope to be able to get him in our own home soon, and really train him. I have been invited to place him in a day nursery, but I must be working to place him there, so am still waiting to see how the housing situation turns out in Dayton. In a way, I think going to day nursery may do him some good. Mother seems to think so too;

Jimmie started working two days after he came and earns \$ 50.00 a week which is good for Cincinatti. He is trying to get a room at the Y but hasn't succeeded as yet. We are hoping to hear from Mary this week about Ha-bo.

Grace is working hard, and so is Shiro, Mother works hard too, but seems to fit in here, and the ~~the~~ job is ideally suited to here. One thing you may be interested is that here she must do everything at a certain time. She has to have supper ready at 6:30 P.M., Lunch at 12:30 P. M. and breakfast at 7:30 A.M. so she can't be working on other things like she used to do in camp. No more, "Ima sugu sumu kara" business.

Cincinnati is an old town, and the sentiment seems to be good here. Of course, there are places that will not rent to Japanese, but the stores and eating places do not discriminate.

The main problem here is Housing. It seems to be so in every city at the present time. It is due to shortage rather than discrimination. That is one thing the Japanese in camp must understand. There is a housing shortage, and in most instances, if houses and apartments were available, there would be no discrimination because we are Japanese. The WRA should not encourage family groups to leave camp, without they being assured of a place to live. The Hostel is filled to capacity now, because housing is not available. The Muraokas, Kawais, and Okitas, have been here a month or longer now. There are the Okuras from Rohwer now, too, as well as the Endos who are looking for places to stay. I think the best policy by far, would be for the head of the family to relocate first, then call his family out after he has found housing and work. Muraokas pay, \$ 21.00 a week now at the hostel, because Shiro is working and must pay \$ 1.50 per day, while Mrs. Muraoka pays \$ 1.00 and Tonko \$ .50. Adult families, and single people have an easier time finding places to stay, but most apartments do not want little children, so the Muraokas really have a problem, with two children to think about. What do you think the WRA could do about it, if anything? You might talk it over with Miss Van. I have heard that the WRA will act as guarantor is the event you wish to purchase a house, and need the down payment. They will negotiate with the bank and etc. However, most of us, are not sure yet whether we wish to settle down in this area or not. Of course, Aiji thinks that we will be able to settle down here, so we will think about buying a house later on, after about six months, perhaps.

How is Rohwer these days? Have things settled down? Who has moved into our unit? Do you have any additional roommates? I hope by the time I write to you next time, we will all be in Dayton. Take good care of yourself. Did you find someone to do your washing?

Love,

*Yuri*