

September 18, 1942

Mr. Chimata Sumida  
Dormitory No. 27  
Fort Missoula, Montana  
=====

Dearest Dad:

We've been waiting for your early return, and it is very disappointing to us that you have not returned before this. As it stands, the Ohamas left very disappointed as they were praying for your return before their departure for Colorado. We saw them off with tears, as they have been more than just friends, and it makes us feel badly as it will be a long time before we will see them again. The Itos are leaving tomorrow, and Emmy is very much upset for she figured that you would return as you said within two weeks. We held our farewell party for them at the Shimidzus last night, with Ojisan footing the bill (with his salary). We had some nice delicacies from the Outside, namely; Van de Camp cake, and Salami, pickles, etc., which were a treat.

We received information that we will be leaving the 6th of October for Arkansas, so we have just started packing a few odds and ends. The Takeis, Yasudas, Yoshidas, Kobayakawas, Shimidzus, (with the exception of Marie who is going to Gila by assignment by the U. S. Public Health and Lincoln who is frozen until the end), and the family will be leaving for the same place.

This Camp is getting smaller every day, and they have started closing part of the Camp, as [redacted] will be coming in very soon. In part of the camp they have started knocking out partitions in the barracks. The trains leave every morning from tomorrow onward, and it has been quite trying for all of us, who are being sent to different Camps, leaving our friends behind. That is life, so one must bear it without complaining, but sometimes you cannot help feeling that the [redacted] could [redacted] out some of [redacted] to our satisfaction.

Mrs. Suzuki and Elsie are still here, awaiting their instructions, but it seems the 2nd exchange vessel isn't sailing as yet. There are 42 people going to Japan from this Camp, and they are remaining here until they get their orders regardless of the fact that their section has moved to the Relocation Center. For all we know, they may be seeing us off. They had a Farewell Mah-jongg party for them two weeks ago.

We have been enjoying all the food you have sent us, for we are almost out of every thing as far as food is concerned. The sugar is a precious item, and you saved us from going without for we didn't have any. Green tea the same, as well as Japanese canned goods. Candy is another item we don't have in the Canteen, so your drops satisfied our "Sweet tooth" a little. Oh yes, thank you for the nice gifts, we have been using them right along, as we didn't bring any vase, or ash tray. There are so many things we didn't bring such as ohashi, chawans, tea cups or tea pot, that it isn't even funny, so the chop sticks you sent us a long time ago came in very handy. It seems so funny, that we can live with almost nothing, but every little bit seems to help.

No matter how much we try, it seems we cannot do without such things as Shoyu, and our friends seem to come to our rescue when we need it, but pretty soon there will be no Kikkoman Shoyu to be had, the same goes for Japanese canned pickles too. We have good vegetables and melons so even if the main dish isn't so palatable, we have that at least.

Coming back to the subject of your return, I wrote to the Officer in charge, and they notified me that your induction to this Center was being arranged by the W.C.C.A., and that you would be returning at the earliest possible moment. I have

RECEIVED  
BY: [redacted]  
U. S. I. & N. S.

been inquiring at the office here, but they have no information about you. When you do come in be sure to say that you are joining our family and that you wish to register with us. Tell them your Family Number is No. 12976 and your I. D. number is No. 4118, and you will be sure to go with us on the same train.

Mother has been knitting you a sweater in honor of your return, and she finished it the other day. We are all knitting to pass the time away, so that's our main diversion instead of Mah-jongg. Tets has just learned a little about Bridge and so he would like you to bring back the Bridge book we sent you.

This is being typed hurriedly in the hopes that if you should still be there that you will get it. We didn't write you earlier for we thought you would be back before this.

Everyone is in the best of spirits awaiting your return, so you had better hurry up and come back, as more people are leaving as each day goes by. Toddy, Alice and Aiji had their picture taken by Sister Martina of the Maryknoll church two Sundays ago, and it came out very nice. We didn't send it to you, for the well-known reason, but if you don't come back soon, we will have to, won't we?

This all goes to say, that we can't understand your not writing us since the 5th, although we know Emmy received one letter from you which came last week. Please wire us as soon as you receive your order, as we will then know that you are actually coming.

This is all for now, ----everyone sends their love and their hopes that you will not keep them waiting too long.

Affectionately,

*R. C. 70*

