

11-5-A Relocation Branch
McTehee, Arkansas
May 14, 1944

Dear Mrs. Sumida,

It was a great pleasure to receive your letter, a very interesting and informative one. I enjoyed reading it. I was glad for you and every relocatee there to learn that the community is most friendly towards the Japanese. It is my hope that present friendship and understanding be maintained - or even furthered - in future.

I was indeed surprised to learn the great number of Japanese now living in and near Cincinnati. No doubt there had been just a handful number of Japanese in your locality before this war. Evacuation was really a tragic experience for us Japanese; but many Japanese are finding out new things and facts about America and its peoples. They are learning that not all Americans are prejudiced against the Japanese; there are people, in spite of this war, who look at things not with war hysteria and racial prejudices.

Most of us Japanese had experienced too many unpleasant incidents in California. Still we want to return there after this war. After all, however, we may find better places to live in states and communities unknown to us until now. In this regard I consider those relocating now as pioneers for the rest of the Japanese still in centers. For those who ^{plan to} stay in this country after this war, this is an opportune time to see and learn about America, I think.

Conditions in the Center have remained practically the same. The only important event may be the departure of the segregation train several days ago. The train was scheduled to have reached Tule Lake yesterday afternoon. Another train is to leave here on the 17th. (I missed the first train for I was in the hospital for several days because ^{of} a cold. I am up now and have almost completely recovered. This is why I have not been able to answer your letter earlier.) Many persons who had not expected to be segregated are included this time, I hear.

Boys are being called by the Army

fast now. On the 17th about 35 boys will report for active service. On the 22nd the fourth group of boys will take physical examinations. On the 23rd high school boys deferred until now because of their study will be called. I am expecting my call any day now because boys with numbers close to mine are getting notices. The Army seems to be ready to take in Japanese boys.

In a month, as you probably know, about 2500 persons will begin coming here from Jerome. Many people are moving units in this center now because from to-morrow all vacant units will be reserved for the Densonians. Because of its location, for the reason that it is the closest to Shelby, Alabama, Florida and other training camps, this Center had the most applicants to be transferred to, I have heard. No one knows exactly who is coming here, though.

The auditorium is almost completed. In the middle of June a grand program is to be held. To-night, as the first public affair, baccalaureate service for the high graduating class will be held. The building looks really nice. Inside, there are eight

large murals painted by high school students. The murals depict the life of Japanese since 'Pearl Harbor' through relocation. I marvel over the talent of the young artists.

At present I have to wait and see how the draft 'business' is settled for me. If I don't have to 'join', my plan is to go out to brush up my study a little. Every visitor to this center whom I have met says that the Center looks 'dead'. We residents realize it ourselves, but not everybody is in a position to go out. Anybody who can go out should do so, I think.

Well, I think I have written enough for once. I shall write again. In the meantime, I hope to hear ^{from} you, in English, if possible. I am sure your former classmates want to hear from you in English as well as I. Please send my best regards if there is anyone I know. Wishing you the best of health and luck, I am,

Yours sincerely,
Muneco Sakane