

February 18, 1944

Dear Kats,

Your valentine greetings came today. Thanks for the nuts, I'm in a "nutty" mood now, and your greetings just fit nicely. I'm not saying the nuts are no good, I always like saltier things than sweet. Maybe that just fits my personality, I don't know.

I'm off again. Gosh, I don't know if it's the food we've been getting. The people in our block seem to be running and throwing up, and that may be the reason I'm feeling so lousy, although I'm not suffering physically. Too much food for thought, and not enough of the right kind in my stomach! The flu has left all of us below par, and so my resistance is low.

Oh yes, I must thank you for your informative letter. I'm glad to know you are getting along nicely. It sounds as though you've found what you were looking for, and for that reason alone, it is good that you went out. Center life is really disintergrating. It is dull, and everyone lives under tension. What with the lives of the nisei fellows about to undergo a dramatic change, I can't help but feel that the future which will take our loved ones away from us, will be upon us in no time. So many have received their notices of reclassification. These poor fellows that reached the age in Camp here, even those still attending school, are 1-A, and their folks are hoping that at least they will be given enough time to graduate. The exodus from Camp is gradual at this point still, but I know lots of the fellows are intending to go out for their last fling!

I have some news for you, so prepare yourself for a shock. Out of a clear blue sky, the kind of job Mama was waiting for, was offered her, and she accepted, the moment it was offered. Just last Saturday, the Brintons, a couple who run the hostel at Cincinnati visited the Center, and came for the purpose of seeking a person to help them run the hostel. Mama's job is to help them, and also act as a sort of house-mother to the people who stay there. Mama has not fulfilled her obligation as a mother, as Yo still has to finish her education. The high school here is not too good, and Mama has been wanting to relocate so that Yo can get her education outside.

Well, she's quitting Welfare department, the end of the month, and here is where I come in. She does not want to go alone, and I am delegated to accompany her to her destination to see that she is settled comfortably. Being a dutiful daughter, Kats, I have to go... she reports for work April 1st, and so we'll be leaving the latter part of next month.

This is so sudden, the family is all up in the air about it. The Sumida clan is really separating.....and with Tets and Marsh definitely slated to go.....our plans have gone hay-wire, and again, I'm back where I used to be. Everything seems to revolve around me, and being the only single person in the family able to carry on.....I have to assume this task. My feelings at this time is indescribable, and more than ever before, I'm a victim of conflicting emotions. Can you blame me?

I had another hearing last Monday. From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. with only time out for lunch. Gosh, was it tiring! The Civil service investigator, knows everything about me, having investigated in L. A. as well, and I don't know what more they wanted. At any rate, they wrote down and transcribed everything I said...in my own words....just like a court document, and I was quite perturbed. Oh well, Mary Yamasaki and Kimi Nemoto took theirs, and theirs lasted about $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours, but my six hours was the limit. If God showers his blessings on me, I may get my appointment to D. C. just about the time, Mama establishes herself in Cincy.....I am intending to go to D. C. for a spell, and see the Eastern part of this good country of ours. A change of scenery will certainly do me good.

I'm quitting C. A. the end of this month.....and it will be a relief. Gosh, after all of the beefing I did, you'll say it's about time. Well, I feel relieved already except

for the few things I have to straighten out before I leave. Yone quit this 15th, and so I'm alone once more.

She returned from Oklahoma City where she went to pick up her car with her brother. Bought her trousseau, and gee, such beautiful things. I wish I were getting married, and then I could deck myself from top to toe....after all these rags I've been wearing, getting a complete new outfit, would be swelligent. Her dad went to Colorado, about some farming land, and should be back any day now. It's kind of late, but maybe they could swing it, 'so the two brothers won't have to go to the Army.

Kimi Nemoto finally left a few days ago.....and it's rumored that she went to get married to Tsugi Kanagawa. Now, I don't know, except that they were pretty thick. She was going to Boston to take the Civil service job, but at the last moment she went to Kansas City where Tsugi is. That is why they are all talking!

Last week-end I saw the whole Stockton clan give a Japanese show. It was one of the best programs I have seen in the Center, and I enjoyed it so much. Mrs. Hasegawa and her troupe gave their last program in the Center, with the cast intact, as some of them are going to Tule Lake. It was an all girl cast, so I shouldn't have said clan. Barbara, Chisato Nishioka, Lily Kusama, and Mrs. Okura, were really good troupers. Lorayne was the only outsider, and she had a good role. She can act too, and she has improved lots.

As for your coming back, Kats, I will get down to business, and send it to you. I asked Kaz to write one too. My suggestion to you is this. You state that you can probably get deferred as an essential worker. Before you come back for a visit, please have your company secure that deferment for you, for it could be possible that you would get your reclassification while you are back....and then you are cooked. I suppose you will tell your employer you will be gone for a short while, so your job will be kept for you. I know how you feel, regarding the responsibility of finishing the assignment, and too, your desire to come back for awhile. Your seasonal leave will be up too, and won't that be a good reason? Of course, they can say you can get an extension, or have your leave changed to indefinite up there, but you have matters you have to attend to here, so you can say you must come back.

People have hinted around, saying I've been behaving myself, and so I'm waiting for you. In a way they are right.....but at the same time, Kats, you can appreciate the situation as presented to you a few paragraphs back. I can only say again....letters aren't sufficient.....and since you are not around, I cannot talk to you.... we are both free agents yet.....and because of this, I have had to make certain decisions which might not be in accordance with your way of thinking. That cannot be helped. I am not committing myself.....and the present is confronting me with so many problems, I cannot think about the distant future. The present conditions at home, are such, that it involves the future of my whole family, and I as a member of it...cannot shirk my responsibility, and until such a time, the family picture is set...I cannot think about myself first, Rayko no koto wa, dai ni no mondai desu kara ne.

In view of the circumstances, everything just has to ride as it is. I am making my plans accordingly, and so, I'll let the matter rest here.

I shall be looking forward to your return home. Thanks for your willingness to make any purchases for me....at this time, I can't think of any.

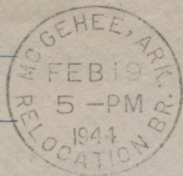
My thoughts as always, is of you.

Always,
Rayko

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

7-2-A

Relocation, Ark.



VIA AIR MAIL

Mr. Kats Nagai

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Chicago (40), Illinois