

February 15, 1942

Dearest Dad,

Through the kindness of Father Lavery of the Maryknoll Church, we are sending you this letter, (and a small package containing a few necessities for Taka and yourself. *Was sent by parcel post, instead*)

We trust this finds you in the best of health, and having a good time, so to speak, as we know you are the kind of person who adapts himself to his circumstances no matter if they are good or bad. We know you are behaving yourself and making the best of everything, so we do not worry, and we know you are not concerned for our welfare as we are grown-up and capable of taking care of ourselves.

We wish to apologize to you for not preparing you for your trip to Montana. As it was so sudden, we couldn't get things together, and so you must have suffered from the cold weather. At the moment you must also be undergoing a lot of discomfort due to the change in climate, and the unsuitability of your clothes to it. We are still awaiting your letter telling us just exactly what you require in the way of necessities and other articles which are allowed, such as golf clubs, radio, newspapers, game boards and what goes with them, playing cards, stationery, and etc. We will try to send them to you immediately upon receipt of your letter, so please do not think about the cost of things, that is not necessary, as we can still find money lying around to spend upon you, to make your stay in Montana as comfortable as we can.

You are probably having a few talks with Taka-chan, as to how the store is getting on. We have finished liquidating, and it looks like we will pay off all of the creditors as well as some of those personal loans. We are just about through, and so we will be closing up in a few days. We have Taka-chan's tools and equipment intact, and have made a workshop next to the garage at home so everything is out of the way for the present. We are sorry we had to close the store after you worked all these years to what it is now. It is a pity, but that is fate. There is always a tomorrow, and we can build the "House of Sumida" up again to greater heights sometime in the future, and I hope it will come about soon. Someday we will all be together, you will have Marshall and Tets to help you this time, so it will be a lot easier. After the store is all cleared up, we will have lots of time on our hands, and so we will all go job-hunting as we will be living on a shoe-string, and will have to go out and hustle. Mama's very energetic, and she is her usual self, so don't worry. She's gotten herself a job, and will start working after the job is finished at the store. As soon as she has leisure time, she said she would write to you, but she wants me to tell you that she's working hard, and that everything is under control. As soon as the State Board of Equalization gives us a clearance on our books at the store regarding the payment of sales taxes, we will be writing the end to the store -at 325 E. First Street, and I know First Street will be that much quieter and gloomy looking with another empty store lining the street.

We are all cheerful at home, and we are holding our chins up high...as we have plenty of pride, and nothing gets us down. We know the United States Government is fair and just, and so with that confidence in our hearts we have every reason to believe you and Taka-chan will be back very soon. You were given a clearance in Los Angeles, and as there is a lot of governmental procedure it is a slow process. Please be patient, and

await your turn, as you must remember there are so many cases to be heard.

Los Angeles is having funny weather again. It is frosty in the mornings, and pitch dark around 6:00 A.M. war time, yet. We hug the fire constantly and stay up long hours talking, knitting, and playing Mah-Jongg occasionally, as we always say it's really 11 o'clock when the clock says 12 Midnite.

Your grandson will be seven weeks old tomorrow, and he is getting bigger and stronger every day. Everyone says he looks like a Sumida, and so we are doubly proud. Mama always says it's too bad you had to go away when you did, for he is very cute, and he manages to keep us amused by his cute antics. We have lots of fun playing with Toddy, and we always fight as to who gets to hold him, so he is rather spoiled at times. We surely wish you could see him, but as that is a physical impossibility, the next best thing is to send you a picture. We will do that as soon as we can have one taken. Toddy got a brand new boy cousin on Valentine's Day, the 14th, as Ada gave birth to a husky boy, and so Art was passing cigars around like a proud father. They are kind of disappointed as it wasn't a girl, but the folks around here have been getting girls, so Art can brag a little more than the rest.

Father Lavery is very kind to us, and has inquired about Taka-chan and you on a number of occasions. He has told us he will try to see you, and so if you have any messages or letters for us please send them via him. We will be anxiously awaiting his return, to have first hand news, so if he manages to see you please extend to him your thanks for his trouble.

Mrs. Takei send her warmest regards as do the others, so from us we send to all of our friends interned there a cheery hello and regards, too.

This is all for now..... be good, and keep your physical body up to par.....

Love from all of us, which means love from

Mama, Alice, Aiji, Emmy, Toshio, Marshall, Tets, Yohko, Toddy, and myself,

*Graer*

P.S. I wrote this representing the whole family. Tell Taka-chan we will look after his family to the best of our abilities. Wasa, Nozawas, and the others are too, so he does not need to worry.

