

February 25, 1942

Dearest Dad:-

Your letters have been reaching us regularly and we are pleased to hear from you so often. Please continue writing to us as often as is convenient for you as we are very anxious about your well-being.

I started another letter before this but having failed to finish it, I shall re-attempt to write to you now. This is the first time in my life, I believe, that I am writing to you. I have never been away from home, and heretofore when you were away, I was too young to write to you. Now, I am rather at a loss as to where to begin.

I have been waiting until now because I wanted to tell you about the situation in the Wholesale Markets but as nothing is definite yet, I am unable to tell you much. However, I will tell you as much as I can. Many, many houses have closed down but a few have been able to successfully re-open under a new set-up. Niseis have been trying to take over the various houses but the big problem has been that no Nisei have had sufficient money to successfully manage the purchasing of the houses. It is impossible to borrow alien money by law and therefore the Issei cannot help in any way. There seem to be a few second-generation farmers who have a little capital and they are backing some of the houses.

H.K. Osawa Co. has been taken over by non-produce men; namely, Seichi Nobe, Joe Shinoda of San Lorenzo Nurseries, and Kay Sugahara. The new name of the company is the Osage Company. They are operating under a new license and are using the same personnel.

U.F.A. and Oka Produce are filing voluntary bankruptcy. Highland Fruit is now called the Citizens' Produce and are also operating but this company is very shaky as the farmers are not sending in much produce. Many farmers have not planted new crops because of the fear of evacuation. H. & F. Co. is now under the management of the Fukunagas, Kenji and Ichiro, and are doing fairly well. Southwest Berry has been turned over to the Nisei employees and I believe they are okay. Venice Celery is trying hard to re-open but they made a mistake of opening up without the okay of the Federal Reserve Bank and are therefore having a very difficult time getting matters straightened out.

As far as Sun Produce is concerned, the steps taken so far are numerous. They originally tried to sell the company to a few of the employees but they failed to raise enough funds. As the situation stands now, a small group is heading the company, that is seeing to it that it is carried on. They have formed a corporation now and all employees have been given a chance to buy shares in the new company. Their name will be Sun Produce, Incorporated, and will have several farmers backing them as well. I suppose Mr. Naruse and Mr. Ito are wondering how this new set-up will work. (First of all, they are cutting the company down to its former size and will be operating with just half of the building. All the improvements made on the Okuhira side will be turned over to the Market Company. *This is still indefinite.*)

Under the new set-up, Brush Arai, Clarence Arima of Union Paper Supply, and Ken Ito will be the managers with Mr. Tanabe and Henry Kuwahara as advisors. As it stands now, Brush is the General Manager; Clarence, the Office Manager; and Ken, the Floor Manager. All present employees with the exception of a very few have taken out shares and therefore the personnel will be almost the same with a few changes. However, there is to be a clause put in the agreement to the effect that any employee who is incapable of producing the work required will be discharged regardless of his holdings in the company. This means that all employees who are not benefiting the company will be automatically fired.

They have received an extension on their present license until the end of

this month so they have not been closed down at all yet. The application for the ~~new license~~ ^{new corp} under the new set-up was sent in yesterday to ~~the Federal Reserve Bank~~ ^{Parsons} but I do not know how long it will take before it is released. So I guess the company will be closed for a short period of time. Will you please extend this information about Sun Produce to Mr. Naruse and Mr. Ito as I guess they are pretty worried about it.

I hope this new arrangement will work out as it will mean a future for Ken in building up the new company to its present status. Ken's hard work for that company has finally come to something. He was elected by all employees to represent them and was also appointed by the former bosses to work after the company's interests. I guess it pays to be well-liked by your fellow employees and bosses. Tell Naruse-san and Ito-san that Ken is doing all in his power to keep the name of Sun Produce going. So much for the market situation. Oh yes, before I forget, Mr. Quinn is cooperating fully with the Niseis in trying to protect the interests of the Japanese in the Produce Industry. It is indeed too bad that you were not here to help in any capacity that you may have done good.

I am as yet employed at the California State Department of Motor Vehicles but I am expecting to be discharged any day now. I consider myself lucky to have been kept this long and therefore will not feel any worse if let off suddenly. There has been no discrimination in the Department and I have been getting along very well with everyone here. I have been working hard and doing my best to keep my job.

There was much excitement here in Los Angeles this morning--an air-raid supposedly off the coast of Radondo, Venice, and Long Beach was reported with a group of planes attempting to reach strategic points. However, the anti-aircraft fire kept them away so that no bombs were dropped and no casualties were suffered outside of a few black-out accidents. They have not as yet stated whether or not the planes were Japanese so we do not know who they were. By tonight's paper I see that the raid was reported to have been a false alarm. Traffic was tied up for hours and so I was late getting to work this morning but everyone else was late, too so it did not matter very much.

The war is getting closer and closer to home and we are all wondering what will happen next. The family is still together and we are all doing our utmost to keep in good health and good spirit. The papers are saying that we will soon be evacuated but nothing definite has been done yet. I was hoping that this will not come to pass and sincerely believe that they will not move the citizens. But you cannot blame the public or the government for feeling the way they do. If it does occur, we will all cooperate with the authorities and do our best to help make the evacuation possible. We will probably be safer if they send us to the Middle West if the war zone moves to the California Coast. But it will certainly be difficult to adjust ourselves to a new regime. We will be just like the Pioneers in the olden days. Whatever the Government decides, I am sure that the Japanese Community will cooperate fully.

Our future is very uncertain so as far as I can see, there is no use planning anything to far ahead because it probably will not come out right any way. I am not going to repeat anything about the family because I know that Grace has already written to you several times. But I would like to ask your advice about my future as far as I know. Perhaps I should not be selfish at a time like this but I want your opinion as my father as to what I should do. My job will be over in a few days and I don't know what I shall do but I shall definitely go out and look for some kind of job. There is a slim chance of my getting back into Sun Produce, Inc. but that will take some time yet. With the new people in charge there, I may be able to get my old job back or perhaps, be ~~able~~ able to get the cashier's job there. But that, of course, is indefinite.

If the new set-up goes through okay, Kenny will be getting a salary of over \$200 a month and so we hope to be able to get married soon. I want more than anything in the world to be married as soon as possible and I am wondering if it will be all

right with you. As ~~for~~ the future is so uncertain I feel that Ken and I should get as much happiness by being together as is possible in times like these. If we wait too long we may never be able to get married. We have been going together now for one year and a half and I am positive beyond any doubt that he is the right one for me. I know that I may have to suffer the rest of my life and that I shall never be well-to-do but nevertheless, I know that I can go through any amount of suffering for him. I feel that being with him the rest of my life is the only like for me. So I want to ask you if it will be all right with you if we get married after we make all proper arrangements with both families. Of course, Ken will write you and ask you when the time comes but I don't want to have any doubts now as to your feelings so I am asking you now. Mama thinks it will be okay.

I promise that I will help the family by doing my part even after my marriage and I will take care of Yohko if necessary. I have promised mama that I will help to pay all the personal debts and the store debts with whatever I will be able to make from now. Aiji is starting to work for Seichi Nobe beginning today so he will be getting income enough to support Yuri and Toddy. I hope that Grace will be able to get some kind of job soon but for the time being she is collecting her unemployment insurance and will be able to do so for some time. Marshall is going to work some place. He has had an offer from Sasajima-san and we are strongly advising him to take it. The salary isn't large but is ample to pay the monthly car payments and his personal expenses.

As soon as the store liquidation is completely finished, we will make definite plans as to the financial standing of the family. We will all cooperate and keep up all necessary payments and so I am sure that we will be able to manage somehow. This new experience is going to do us a lot of good for it will really teach us how to suffer without complaining. If we live through this crisis, I am sure we can stand anything.

Our family will stick together no matter what happens and ^{may} God be with us and keep us together regardless of what the authorities decide to do. If families can stay together, I am sure that the Japanese community will not object too strongly against evacuation. One by one they are interning many of our friends and soon, I imagine, they will take all aliens. But if the order comes through to evacuate citizens and aliens alike, I hope that our family can at least be kept intact. Mama is already prepared to go and so is Toshio-san. We are all wondering who will be next.

This letter is indeed very long but I had so much to say that I just had to say it. I hope that you will send me an answer soon----I shall be waiting. Mama is writing, too. We are also sending you a large bundle of necessities by Railway Express. The larger part of the package is wearing apparel: socks, shirts, boots, pants, golf shoes, underwear, etc. I am enclosing a detailed list.

Everyone sends their love and hopes that you will keep in good health and good cheer. Do not worry too much about us for we are all capable of taking care of ourselves now. Mama is proving as always that she is the most capable and wonderful mother that there is possible. Please give my regards to Taka-chan and to Ito-san and Naruse-san if by any chance you see them. Kenny sends his best regards to you, too.

I hope you were able to understand everything in this letter and hope that you will answer me very, very soon.

Lovingly your daughter,

Emmy