

March 22, 1984

Dear George and Marguerite,

The copy of your "Service with the War Relocation Authority" came right in the midst of my preparation for my last work shop at my own church in March. Ever since I consented to help teach the study course "The World's Uprooted" for our United Methodist Women last summer, my life has been rather hectic. I guess I was asked to do this because of my own evacuation and relocation experience. And so your story came in time to give it added dimension to that chapter. Thank you so much for getting your story recorded. It could not have been timed so well for me.

I am sorry it has taken me so long to acknowledge your kindness. Ruth Okada called me long distance right away and I had asked her to relay the message that I would be late in acknowledging because of the situation and I hope she did. I have read and reread it over several times giving me insight as to what I have felt right along - that the evacuation and relocation of our experience in spite of the injustice part of it - proceeded as well and smoothly because of people like you. There are many Nisei who feel that they have done it on their own but without all the help from many friends and unsung heroes across the land, we could not be where we are today. Just hope we can express our gratitude in some tangible way by helping others along the way. Today, there are over 25 million refugees who are homeless with no place to go through no fault of their own. There are many who are but the Nisei as a whole need to move on.

Perhaps others have pointed out a few corrections by now. Here are a few that I have noticed:

Page 20 - Iwao Instead of Iwoa
" First United Methodist Church instead of Grace Methodist Church
Page 30 - "GO FOR BROKE " instead of "GONE FOR BROKE"
Pages 25, 34, 42, 47 and 48
- Issei instead of Essei

Although he is not in the picture of the Hunt choir, Henry Gosho was a member of the choir in camp. I have a copy of one of his letter written from the front a year later, telling what singing in that choir meant to him.

I am so glad what you wrote on pages 33 and 34. For one, who experienced it during that time, I know it to be so true. I simply turn red when I reread the letter Fred Chin wrote to you back in 1979. It is simply inconceivable for someone who was not even there to write what he did.

Your being back with War Relocation Authority to help with the closing of the camp was part I did not know. I was very happy to learn about it. I know those were very difficult times and it took very wide handling to get everyone out to close the camps as scheduled.

When I was in Japan last May, I met Rev. and Mrs. Nao Kodaira in Tateyama. He was the Presbyterian pastor in Seattle and was in our camp. He told me that he and his wife stayed in camp until the end because he felt someone was needed to be there to help administer to those left behind. He has written of his experience in camp but unfortunately it is written in Japanese. I have a copy and have been trying to get it translated.

I am glad to read also that you attended the 40th anniversary of the "Hunt High" in July 1983. When the committee was planning for the event, they wrote to me to ask where they could contact you and I was happy I could tell them.

Are you planning to get this published? I would like to know because I want to get more copies. I know how expensive it is to get things printed these days. Please let me know.

There is so much to write but this is all for now. I was sorry not to be home when you were out this way last spring. I hope you will head out this way again. I slip down to Winona Lake to see Mother Rodeheaver who is now 92. Everytime I drive down to Rainbow Point and pass by the Carmichael and Shera collages, it brings back many happy memories of the past. Mother Rodeheaver is one of the few who remains from that period.

I do not know when I will head out to Seattle but if I do, you will be among the first to visit. In the meantime, I am so happy you have this written and thank you so much for sending me a copy right at this particular time.

So much for now but I shall be in touch.

With love,

Max