

May 13, 1945

Dear Tommie,

Just got home from Aiko's place. She asked me over today for the afternoon + supper. Asako Satai came too + the three of us talked for quite some time after eating. Aiko's apartment is near the downtown section. It's just one room, and she has a small kitchen and own bathroom. It isn't much of a place but nicer than those New York or Chicago places. She is alone there now but says I can stay with her + share it if I like. That's awfully nice of her. She made tempura for us and we had rice, frozen peas, and cottage cheese + pine-apple salad and jilly doughnuts for dessert with tea. I thought that was quite nice since she only earns about \$100. to \$110.- a month and after deducting taxes etc. doesn't have any too much left. I hope I'll be earning more than that. Well, I know I ought to get somewhere between \$150 to 200.- even to start out.

Last night I went to a dance at the Fort with the secretary of the dorm. She goes regularly and so she took me with her. We went from the St. Paul. Y. W. C. A. There were two buses full of girls and I was the only Nisei girl. I had a pretty good time, but nothing exciting or anything. It's hard to get to know people at dances because you get interrupted in the middle of an interesting conversation, or else the fellow doesn't say a word and you don't even find out what his name is.

To add: The apartment is walking distance to the sleeping center, + there's a park across the block away. It is furnished with stove, refrigerator + has bathroom. Also there is a washing machine. To be used on certain days by the tenants by getting in so much money so you can own land there.

Friday night the nice on campus had a meeting and it was sort of a cabinet meeting for a larger one to be held Monday night on forming a committee to urge nice students to join extra curricular activities. Well, I tried that last fall + it didn't do much ~~good~~ because nice just don't want to join clubs on campus + no amount of urging will do any good. Those who want to, well regardless of others anyway, I feel it is all wasted effort. But if it's just an excuse to meet each other + get to know each other, it's alright as long as they don't pretend to have another purpose in mind. After all, it's only natural that they want to get to know each other - especially when there are nearly 150 students here.

Next Saturday night I'm going to a dance at school with a grad student in bacteriology, a fellow from ^{St. Louis} + a good friend of the Stanos. I met him when he stopped over at the Ryugo's once in St. Louis. He's very small, short, but seems like a nice fellow.

Last Saturday night I went to a show with Jack Kuechi, who takes up chem. engineering here at school. My, but it's different to go out with civilians as compared with soldiers. Soldiers seem to have a different outlook. They know that

they won't be here long so "what the heck" attitude. Civilians are thinking of a longer term. The 'civics' don't like it here because the soldiers get the preference in everything.

May 14 — A.M.

Asako Sakai was telling us yesterday that her family was back in San Francisco ~~and~~ — got there only a few days ago. She said from what she hears San Francisco Japanese town is so full of negroes that it isn't safe to walk around there after dark. No one seems to know what to do about their folks who insist on going back to the West Coast where the feeling isn't very receptive. After living in the mid-west, it is hard to make ourselves want to go back to California. I've talked to every Nisei person I've met in the last year and not one person thinks there is any future in California for us and they all feel that we should settle in the mid-west or east.

P.M.

Didn't get to finish this this morning so I am doing that now. I received your card this morning. I guess it is just as well that papa is going back to San Francisco because he always wanted to go. Let's hope it will be as he wants it there.

Tomorrow I'm going for an interview to Archer-Daniel-Midland Co. where my prof is going to be working. They need assistants + my prof wants me to go. It may be a pretty good job. It will be a new lab and starting from

the very beginning - which is easier because
~~then~~ there is no predecessor and also it is a
job that a veteran can't come back to + take away.
They will want the workers right away - that's
the whole catch to the job. I'll tell you what
happens but it's really a ^{good} chance of + a rare
opportunity to be able to work under someone
you already know + like.
The whole thing is a problem isn't
it?

Tuesday May 15, 1945

Dear Tommie,

I'm sorry this letter is in snatches. In
spite of fewer classes, I'm busy all the time and
never seem to be able to sit down long enough to
finish this letter. Tonight the food research
lab had supper in the lab and invited seven
other grad. students. It was really nice. ~~The~~
Meat, as you probably know, is very scarce
these days and most people never get to eat any
these days except wieners + cold cuts. Our
research is on roasts (other experimental station
work I do on vitamins) therefore we have
some meat left over each time. We did some
roast beef today so we had lots of ~~meat~~ beef
left over and used it for our dinner. We
used our lab glassware for our dishes and
decorated the table with equipment and
was very clever. We had a very nice time.

This afternoon I went to see the head
of research at Archer-Daniels-Midland Co.
and talked to him for 2½ hours. He was

very kind and explained the whole set-up and I found out that this Co. is the largest linseed oil producer in the country, & one of the top three producers of soy beans. So their research covers a good many fields. Their expanding research lab is probably a permanent thing and sounds like a wonderful opportunity. My professor is to be the head of the biochemical research lab and that would be where they will take me.

Base pay is \$140 - \$200. - per month - 40 hour week but they work ⁴⁸ hours now, being an essential industry, therefore, 30% or time and a half for the 8 hr. overtime means \$192. - \$260 is the pay for senior chemists.

That really isn't at all bad for a girl & especially around here where living cost isn't considered high. The fact that they would consider hiring a niece without any question is something in itself because ~~this~~ ^{it} may not be as easy in California. They are going to start moving into their new lab in a couple of weeks so they want to hire one soon if possible, & in July at the latest. That is the only catch. What I would like to do is to start working this fall, Sept. or October, but they may fill their staff by then because there will be more graduating in June, July and August. Since this is a big decision - that is, ^{in deciding whether to} ~~staying~~ a permanent job here in Minnesota or return to the coast

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to be with the family, I should think it over
some more and ask you and the rest of the
family their opinion on it. I wish all of you
would come out here to live where there is very
little prejudice because you have really nothing
to go back to in San Francisco except a house and
that is something that can easily be taken
care of by selling, leasing, renting etc. but
the thing I'm worried about is Henri's job
and your future. But this way he has a
good chance to get into almost anything he
wants to or has the ability in because there
isn't any prejudice or at least very little.
He may work in an office of some kind or
start a business e.g. cleaners (suits + dresses
are \$1.00 to clean here - always was - much
higher than St. Louis). Of course you will ~~to~~
want to go back to California and live there
for awhile to find out the general feeling, but
I'm pretty sure we'll feel pushed down and
not quite completely free even if the war ends,
but now that Japan is our only enemy, it
will be even worse. It's something to think
about because it means your future +
that of your children. They shouldn't have
to live through discrimination if it can be
avoided. But I urge you to go back to
California even if it's just to feel that
you've given a try. In case you find it uneasy
or find that Henri cannot get a decent
permanent position, you should decide to come
out this way. It may be next year or five years.

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from now, but don't ever feel that California is the only place to live. Climate alone doesn't make for a happy life. People count a lot too.

It seems right now that I ought to hang on to the application until fall when I will know just what to do. I want to help you very much and I know you want + need my aid, even though I don't know very much about babies + children. Then too, we ought to talk this thing over. We must be sensible and realistic, and plan for the future.

Please keep me informed as to Henrie's activities as well as papa's. I wish H. would write to me too. There is no excuse for his neglecting to write — absolutely none. He is terribly stubborn + selfish in a way, isn't he? A "rugged individualist", I guess. He is a swell guy, though and I've really learned to like him in the past few years in spite of the fact that he never ~~write~~ answers my letters.

It's mighty late so I'll close now. I must be sure to send this off so you'll receive it. Please forgive all the "going around in circles" that I've done, but the problem is all very confusing and you can see why. I wish we can have one evening together to talk it over — it may help. ~~Letters~~ Letters are so inadequate in discussing such a complex topic. Will be looking for your reply.
Love, Martha