

April 16, 1943

Dear Pommie,

Ben Murota is leaving for his NYA job today at 1:30 p.m. and has kindly consented to deliver this letter to you at the home of Mrs. E. Tanner, 57 E. 2nd North, Provo. I hope that you are fortunate enough to be there by now for I have a feeling that you are not enjoying the work as much now since I am not helping you with the dishes and so forth.

Topaz is still in a state of excitement due to the "akasa incident. I believe that you heard all about it from Atsushi. Yesterday noon, it was announced at the Mess Hall by Mr. Yamauchi that all workers who were not working were to return to their jobs and resume work as usual until the Spanish Consulate representative arrived Saturday or Sunday. The committee of 15 and other big shots felt that sitting down and refusing to work would hamper their negotiations more than facilitate in the negotiations with the military and the WRA authorities. This morning I saw a lot of men milling the coal pile, not budging at all. Evidently they were quite reluctant in obeying the committee of 15. However they dispersed and I think they went back to work around 9:30 a.m. But they didn't like it just the same.

From what I gathered, Wakasa was shot right off block 29 and 36 about 70 inches from the barbed-wire fence. Hewas hard of hearing, old, and quite a queer old duck. He also had a pet dog which ~~he~~ he took out for walks every day. Someone believes that he must have been after his pet when he was shot, though no one can prove it since the exhibit A is no more. Someone whispered to me that (maybe Atsushi) that maybe the MP who shot him was drunk. Another unofficial source said that the guard shot him through the chest (front) from about 400 feet away. The way the MP's called the Delta sheriff and so forth before notifying the community council (since we are supposed to have our own city government) and the way they tried to cover up the pool of blood etc. have made the residents very bitter and angry.

I could not secure a separate room for us because housing (Fujii, Mitoma, etc.) maintains that the Nozawas and the Takahashis are now occupying 2 rooms and they cannot give us another. A lame excuse, but a hard one to ignore. Besides they have a long waiting list, they say. So I talked to Helen and your father and got them to agree to live together in 11-6-F (our room) while we take 11-6-F. I think we shall have privacy. I do hope that Helen and your father will not get in each other's hair all the time. We'll see how things will work out. I'm building a screen for Helen to use just in case she gets visitors or just in case your father is sleeping so that she can screen him off from visitors' eyes.

Your father told me to tell you that he does not want to get the spoons for the mess hall for he heard that the WRA was to furnish them and so he did not have to. I'm glad that someone else told him that for I believe that if I attempted to tell him that he might have blown up.

I bought a Pacific citizen for last week and April 17th's Colliers which has an article on the cure of eyes by Aldous Huxley, as you know, the prize witness for Mrs Bates, the founder of the system of eye cure.

Ben Murota treated me to a movie last night (since I didn't have any money). We saw "THE RAINS CAME". It was not too good. I wasn't impressed. Actors were Tyrone Power, Myrna Loy and George Brent. I saw through the whole picture without my glasses. I saw them fairly clearly for we sat in front.

I saw Henry Takahashi at the historical section office talking to Evelyn this morning. He was surprised to see me back for he thought and also read that we had gone out. He is the head of the photography department sponsored by the co-op. He said he was looking for help so I offered my services and also my camera and enlarger (loan). I might be working as a photographer yet, darling. I shall try hard to get in the department for that means that we shall have our equipment here near us. I shall be the only person using the equipment and (like the barbers) shall be paid rental for them.

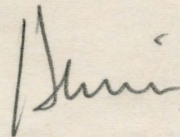
I do not think that we better accept the job offer from Kalamazoo. I'm not experienced in spotting and I do not want to leave this camp until you know when.

Am sending some letters that came for you. Also the Pacific Citizen which I bought today. I hope you don't forget to bring it back with you for I haven't read it yet.

I am not working at present.

I miss you. Please come back soon.

Love

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be "Dini".