

Mc Millan Hall
Washington University
St, Louis, Missouri

Dear Tommie,

Thank you a million for your letter. It certainly takes a long time for mail to reach here. I hope by now you have received my letters from Denver, Burlington, Iowa, and from St. Louis. Do you read the letters that I write to papa? I hope so because they are to you as well.

I hope that this letter finds all of you well and happy. I know that you are not as lonely as I am for you. Last week I found myself feeling very low, but now I feel a little better. This school is run like the high school I went to and they give us homework and attendance is compulsory. One never cuts classes here without getting himself into serious trouble. My courses are all freshman except for chemistry, that is a soph course. The English comp. is pretty good and I'm sure I need the practice and training in writing. I haven't gotten my theme back on "How the War Has Affected Me". I will next week. My teacher is a woman and I can't stand her voice.

There are about 40 Japanese Am. here but I never see them. Somedays I don't see any all day. I never eat with the girls staying here because I don't particularly care for their company. I met a number of the nisei students yesterday afternoon when I went to a meeting that the fellows called. It was for the purpose of starting a group of us to compare and exchange notes. We started organizing yesterday. There were about 30 there, including med. and dent students such as Harvey, and Kiho Hikoyeda. The group was formed for the sole purpose of collecting and dispersing information for our benefit and for the people in the camps. It was divided into three committees with three persons to head the entire group. The three committees are: ~~Spea~~ Research Comm. which is to collect all available information such as camp news, JACL news, WRA news, and important articles from various periodicals, and other important information in order to keep us up to date as well as to keep supplying our other two committees with data. The second committee is the Speakers committee which will work in cooperation with the campus Y in sending out speakers to the various churches and interested groups who ask for or want speakers to talk on evacuation or other related topics. The third committee is the correspondence committee in which I belong. It's functions are to write to the various camp newspapers, clubs, JACL Pacific Citizen, Student Relocation etc., and give out information which we think the folks in the camps would like to know. These will include the attitude and reaction of the people in St. Louis, the reaction of the people to the talks given by us, and other observations we make, jobs we may come across, and the things we as students are doing as "ambassadors". These three committees will more or less tie in everything important and we all felt that it will be the best way to show our gratitude for the faith all of you have in us. Perhaps we will be better people to feel that this job is even more important than merely attending classes and trying to get the best grades only for ourselves. I was happy to ~~thin~~ learn that some of the niseis out here feel as I do. Don't you think that this is an excellent idea? We will never turn into a social club because first, our attitudes are ~~not~~

different from the former average collegiates. Then, there are only six or so girls to forty or more fellows and only two of us are "free lances". We will only meet when absolutely necessary and try to do most of the work through mail. We will try not to be obvious and will not identify ourselves as an organization, therefore it will have no name, no officers, and the membership will not be so in the usual sense but expect every nisei here in St. Louis, whether attending school or not, to cooperate and help with the work. We hope that as a result, the folks back there in the camps will broaden their scope concerning the 'outside' and turn their eyes toward the mid-west and east as their future homes.

Saturday and today I have gone shopping. Saturday for the first time Peggy, and Betty (her friend) and I went shopping down town. We first went to Scruggs, Vandervoort and Barney, one of the better stores. We looked for some time and I thought it was a rather good store. We also went to Stix-Baer and Fuller, which is not quite as nice as the first. I liked that store cause it was larger and had more variety. I also went to Klines and to Sonnenfields. Frankly, I was kinda disappointed in Klines. It isn't at all exclusive as I expected. I guess as a whole, this city is not as sophisticated as San Francisco. Famous-Barr the largest dep't store is like Emporium. It is much larger, one of the largest in the country. It was very crowded and the class of people shopping there was not as nice as in Vandervoorts. They say that St. Louis stores carry lots of small sizes. I noticed that lots of dep'ts carried sizes 10-20 instead of the usual 12-20. However, when I tried them on, I still take size 9, so I will have to go to the collegian shops. All the stores are selling spring clothing now and I find it hard to buy the winter clothes that I need so badly. In spite of the stores selling light weight clothes, the native girls tell me that there will be more cold weather ahead. I certainly dread that because last week-end when it was so cold, I felt like crying when I had to walk outside. This cold in St. Louis is very penetrating and we can't very well dress like you who are in camp. I saw a coat at Stix on Saturday which I liked very much. It was a blue covert with a zip-out ~~ly~~ chamise lining. It was a \$35 coat reduced to \$28. I didn't buy it because I thought I might find a brown one somewhere else. We went to about ten different places but didn't see any. They are not selling those any more. I asked the campus buyer who lives here to phone in and have it sent if it isn't sold out. Do you think that I shouldn't have? I know I need something warm like that and gee, it is practical. When the lining is out, it is good for spring and fall. The color is a medium blue, more like soldier blue, and the sleeves have the leather lining too. The cuffs of the lining are knit to keep out the wind. I think that I will never be able to find one less than \$28 because the light weight spring coats like my navy and light blue one are all \$29.95. Oh yes, the suit you drew for me was at Klines and at every suit department in almost every store we went to. I tried some on and they look ok except I don't exactly fit them at the bust. They are cute, though, and I saw a lot of the same type. The price was \$25 to \$29.95, depending on the material. I bought a wrist watch band so that I can use my watch. The doctor looked at my wrist when I had my physical last week and said that I should change the clasp. I have very acid skin. Remember when I wore gold rimmed glasses? I had to buy solid gold clasps which cost me a heck of a lot, \$7.50.

I get no news because I don't take the paper and I have no radio. Can't you send me my radio for me please? I sure need it. The kids in the room across the hall, the ones on both sides and all around here have one and it's really very disturbing not to be able

to hear the words and yet get the noise from them. What happened to the Topaz Times, don't they send papers out any more? Please give them a dollar or so if that's necessary because I would like to see them badly. If you were out here alone like I am, I know that you too would like to read the camp news. I notice that the other nisei girls here get their camp papers from their family. Of course I can borrow theirs but I wouldn't be interested in their camps.

I wanted to write about a great many more things but I have to quit now because it is almost 8:30 and I have lots of studying to do.

This is Peggy's typewriter which I borrowed to type papa a letter.

Best regards to Henri and Helen. I hope that all is well between you and papa, please for my sake as well, keep harmony with him, he has no one else now you know. Thanks Tom. I miss all of you terribly and am wishing constantly that we can get together again real soon, of course in St. Louis. (I heard yesterday that Famous-Barr Dep't store will soon employ Japanese in their stock room) Living here isn't bad. Cost isn't as high as people fear, and the folks are lots nicer and friendlier than in California. I feel no prejudice in school and not much outside, even less than the per-war days in S.F. Chicago, they say is just as good if not better. It's \$12.50 round trip to Chicago from here. If I had that much to spare I think it worth while to go and take a look.

It is 8:30 now so I'll say goodbye for now. Please write to me, and don't disappoint me.

Martha

Martha

P.S. maybe you can give the Topaz Times about 25¢ or 50¢ to begin with because maybe our campus nisei group as a whole can exchange our information for the Times as soon as we get organized & write the Times a letter about it. OK?

So don't mention about our idea until we write to them as a group - I don't want them to think that I'm doing this for selfish reasons or anything.

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