

McMillan Hall
Washington University, St. Louis.
February 25th, 1943

Dear Papa, Tommie and the rest (if interested),

First, thanks a million ne-san for your letter. I just came back from lunch at the cafeteria, where I have my lunch everyday with a girl, Betty Chamberline, a freshman from the southern part of this state. She is in my German class, and although young, is very mature and best of all, is very understanding. Her grandfather owns one of the largest canning plants in the Ozarks, where she works in the summers. As I started out to say, I don't enjoy anything more than reading your letters. I look forward to them so. It's funny how people change, I don't enjoy dates, especially movie dates anymore. I had one last week-end but broke it, in spite of the fact that the girls tell me that one should never, never do that.

Today at 11:00 I had a conference in English. That's one thing about a small school. The teacher knows every student, calls us by name. I got my paper on "How the War Has Affected Me" back. She had "well done" on it but these themes were not graded. Tomorrow I have to hand in another one. Yesterday we had our German examinations returned. It was the first one I had at Washington. It was an A but I didn't get 100% so I must study harder for the next one. So, the school work is getting along quite as ^{well} good as it can.

Yesterday I got a new room-mate. Her name is Jane Poinsett. She is a freshman, and very young. At least, she isn't a Japanese. I think I can get along with her quite well. She has awful taste in clothes, and isn't at all pretty or anything, but what does that matter?

Will my worries never end? The army is taking over the two men's dormitories beginning today, and will take over McMillan Hall in June. That means that if I stay in St. Louis, I have to move elsewhere. I guess there will be someplace. Last night, Miss Hanke, the housekeeper (really a manager) came into my room and we talked for a long time. She didn't know that I was from a camp, and felt very sorry. She said that they will all find a place for me to stay in if I had any difficulties. She said I could find some job during the summer. Around Ten o'clock, she came in again and gave me the morning paper and the Readers' Digest to read. I glanced through it and read that article on the "110,000 New Boarders". I knew then why she lent me the magazine.

Thanks also for the letter which you forwarded to me. It was from Barbara Gunn. I also received letters recently from Tesh who is not getting along too well financially, it seems. He said also that I could have phoned him at least, when I passed through Lincoln. Fred Hoshiyama also wrote and seems to be getting along very well. He says that he goes on speaking engagements at least four times per week. He said for me to say hello to all of you for him, and for you to write. His address is Springfield College, Springfield, ~~XXXXXXX~~ Massachusetts.

It was shock to me to hear about the trouble there was in the camps. The boys who are here are also worried, but the ones who expect commissions feel that it may not be so bad. We feel so insecure here. We don't know when we will be kicked out, although I can't imagine why they should, yet, the army is taking over part of the school, and when they do, one never knows what will happen next.

Today I went to see the University physician to consult him about my frequent headaches and my wrist, which has gotten worse. He said that my headaches are probably due to nervousness and he gave me some pills. Just as I guessed, they're ^{of the new type} my favorite pills, phenobarbital. He said also that it was eezema and put some salve on it told me to go back in couple of days.

Did I tell you that I received my ration card? I wanted to send you coffee and sugar but the regulations of the dorm is to hand in the books for them to get our food. Today or Tomorrow, Peggy and I will go to the school and get our #2 cards. What about you people, how does the new shoes and canned goods ration affect you?

I guess I said in the last letter that I will have lunch with Miss Astroth, the FOR member and with another nisei girl who is doing lab technician work for the St. Louis Sanitarium? I have not yet gone to the Congregational Church but intend to real soon for it had been about two weeks since you wrote to me, Tommie.

After seeing that zip-out coat, as I said before, I decided it would be best to buy it. It was \$28.46 including tax. They delivered it yesterday and I am very pleased with it. It needs no alterations at all. On account of this large purchase, I have only a little in cash. If it is alright with papa, I will start an account. The \$25.50 which was refunded from Paris Co. in Salt Lake for that navy suit was a great help. The school cashier ~~cash~~ cashes out-of-town checks for a nickle as long as we live at the dorm. That was why I was able to use papa's checks before.

(This part is for Ne-san) You said something about material you bought at the canteen, but I found no sample. With the changeable weather here, I think I will need spring clothing like dresses etc. along with my new overcoat. Please don't bother about any evening clothes because all campus activities have been changed to informal and sport. I think I would like that quilted light blue suit and also a dressmaker suit out of that soft green, part-wool material. I will look for a pattern and send it as soon as I get a chance to go to the stores. Part-wool suits are anywhere from \$15.- to \$30.- and they say that soon, we will have no more 100% wools. I saw pure silk remnants downtown but I didn't buy it because I thought I should save the money. They were very nice and very reasonable, too. I must also think about decorating our room, however, there is no sense in spending money on it when we know that we have to get out.

As I was writing the last papagraph Jane came in. I don't know her yet but I found out that she's from New York, is a pre-med, and is one of those book-worms. She's sorta queer in that she reads poetry

for her entertainment, belongs to the non-org club called IWA, which stands for Independent Women's Association, and goes three times a week to the Third Baptist Youth meetings. They meet on this campus at 12:00. She was an Aethiast before coming to college but now she isn't, all on account of these meetings. She invited me to go tomorrow with her and I accepted.

School and other things have kept me so busy that I haven't written to all the people I should have. I did however write to the Raabs. The Roberts never answered my Christmas letter nor the one I wrote before I left Topaz, so I guess there is no need to bother them.

I shall write again, and won't you write often, too? If you like, I will send the McCall's pattern magazine that I bought in Denver. It has lots of nice styles, especially the dresses.

By the way, has Dave Tatsuno and Toby Ogawa returned to Topaz? I heard that they were here, and Mas Yamada, Yo Matsumoto and I went to see them at their hotel, which incidently was a ritzy place. They weren't in at the time. If you see them (Dave) please say that I was sorry to have missed them. Did they get anything good here?

So long for now.

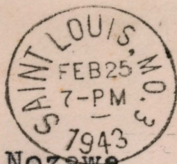
Just a minute, before I forget, please send me my red corduroy skirt, my beige slacks (rayon), and my brown wool faille skirt. Cleaning is very cheap here. I take it to a three for \$1.00 place and their job is very good. They return sweaters and things in suit boxes and coats and suits on a hanger. I can get that brown skirt cleaned with the top so they will come out the same color. Also, with your next letter please send the list of things I left behind. I will probably forget them and I have no list, except that of the material. Thanks a lot.

Keep healthy everyone, goodbye.

Masako

PS: Papa, is there anything I could send you from here? Please tell me what you want and I will be glad to do anything. If you want me to write in Japanese, please send me a dictionary. However I feel that I can say lots more in English. Can you understand what I write? I hope you don't mind all the things I write about but I thought it best to tell you everything since there is no one else I could tell things to.

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