

Washington University

St. Louis, Missouri

March 3rd. 1943

Dear Tommie,

This afternoon I had chemistry lab and when I got back to the dorm at 4:30, I found your Topaz Times and the enclosed letter. It was very interesting to me and I'm so glad you wrote. Today, the snow is still on the ground from yesterday's snow blizzard. It is very dry snow and it is like sand. One cannot make snowballs with this type. The sun was shining most of the day and you can imagine how blinding it gets. The electricity in the air is even worse in St. Louis than in Utah. Your clothes stick to you and the cracks that sound when you take off your coat is almost frightening. There is a thick rug along the long hallway downstairs and the electricity we build up when we slide along there is pretty strong because when we touch someone else, there is a loud snap, and the shock is pretty bad.

I am surprised that people, especially isseis, can get furlights, but I'm glad they can. I rather think that papa will enjoy it if he goes, but I don't know. I received three copies of the Topaz Times, with the letter. How often does it come out?

As for clothing, it is rather inconvenient to wear too much underclothing here. First, there is physical ed. we wear shorts and shirts which we bought. The shorts are like the regular shorts which people wear for tennis, etc. except that it has another layer with elastic legs underneath of the same material. This makes it impossible to wear anything bulky underneath. Anyway, we have to take everything off to take showers, and the more we wear, the more time we waste. Secondly, this place is unlike Topaz in that the weather outside is very cold but the rooms are uncomfortably warm and stuffy. I know that I may not get as many headaches if the people around here like fresh air. It is impossible to wear a coat inside the house. Everyone takes off their outer coats when they come into the classroom. I was surprised to see in every room a pile of hats, scarves, gloves and overcoats in the back row. Boys all wear the above named articles to school everyday, the very kind that we would expect to see at church on Sundays in San Francisco. They do dress well, but they call it 'casual' dress. I don't know what they wear when they really dress up. As for quilted vests, they are very popular here. Not very many girls wear cotton or wool stockings but many of them wear silk, nylon, or rayon. However, the majority of the girls wear short socks, and even with their beautiful fur coats. Peggy wears a brownish muskrat fur coat to school. On cold days, every other girl is wearing one. I bought a pair of non-run rayon mesh stockings. They are not very comfortable but look alright. Yes, I hear that we sometimes get snow even as late as May. After that, it gets unbearably hot and humid. I do need warm clothing too but it seems kind of extravagant to buy clothes when things are as they are. If I had known that this dorm was closing, I might have worked for room and board instead. It does cost so much to stay here. \$55.00/ semester for room. That is for about 15 weeks. food is \$105.00/ semester for breakfast and dinner, plus lunches which is on the average about 30¢/day. This would amount to over a dollar a day for meals. The food is alright but after-all we do pay quite a bit for it. I haven't decided what to do next semester yet. Probably work for room and board.

Peggy has been wonderful and I think it would be very nice to give her something. She is graduating this semester and at that time I will probably have to give her something. She is majoring in occupational therapy and that is healing by occupying the mind with various crafts, therefore she is rather clever with her hands, and I am sure that she will get a good job. Her father is a doctor in Santa Barbara and this profession will be very valuable in working with convalescent soldiers during and after the war. She is about a size 36, for she takes size 15 clothes.

I can't understand why Hayato Kihara would be going to Minn. Perhaps you mean Texas - that is where he wanted to go. I'm glad you are going to sewing school. You are very good in that sort of thing and you did need a little of that finishing touch to your sewing. I will try to go to the store this weekend and buy a few patterns to send you. There is a Mont. Wards here that I saw from the street car but I don't know if many people go there. Now that I am in a large city I would rather see, feel and try-on the things which I buy.

Alex wrote to me yesterday ^(for the first time) and says that he is studying very hard. He went to Chicago on a four day furlough and says he will not get another until July when he expects a 14 day furlough when he will visit Topaz. He wrote that Chicago or rather WRA has set 2000 evacuees as the saturation point. I don't know about St. Louis but I do know that there are few if any evacuated or relocated families here. Kiku wrote and said that Chicago disappointed her but I think any mid-west city is a disappointment to us who are from S.F. She is only an hour from Chicago. Masako Amemiya, Kiku and Alex all said that it would be a good idea to meet there sometime. Chicago is only four hours from here.

I have gone to the doctor several times during the past week and I feel better anyway. I will ask Kiyoshi Hikoyeda about my tooth before he leaves for Boston. I am not wearing my new glasses that I got from Topaz Hospital to see if it makes any difference. Now to tell you a little of what I've been doing. Sunday I went to the free concert at the municipal auditorium and enjoyed it a lot.

I went with three other Cauc. girls from the dorm. Monday, the World Student Service Fund drive started on this campus. It helps students in China, Europe and J.A. students in the US. Besides contributing to it, I helped make a poster and last night ten of us from the dorm went to the big ST. Louis U. vs. Washington basketball game to collect more money. After one girl made an announcement, during half time, we went through the isles and asked for donations. I think I was a pretty good advertisement by having an oriental face. Perhaps they thought I was Chinese but I was rather successful. We collected about \$26. last night and the dorm girls, about 130 girls contributed over \$140.00, which is over a dollar average. There were lots of nisei fellows at the game last night and I don't know what they thought of me but I don't much care.

I received a letter from Miss Astroth, the FOR member, asking me to lunch with her Saturday with another J.A. girl I mentioned who is a lab technician. I will go, and I hope we will have a nice time. I am applying for employment at the employment office of the school, not expecting a placement but just taking a chance. I think that if there is an opportunity to work in a lab of some sort, full time, it might be a wise thing. What do you think? I shall be sure to send you the want ads, too.

cont.: 3/4/43

I'm continuing this letter today because last night I went to the library with Mary Scott, who lives a few doors down the hall. I tried to do the chemistry problems for today there. After we got back, two of the girls in my lab section came to my room to try and solve it together. We were at it until about 11:30. We finally did them and by the time I got to bed, it was well past 12:30. I get up at seven, usually and have breakfast from 7:30 to 8:00 so I have to rush to my 8:00 classes every morning. I never did have much appetite at breakfast but I try and eat as much as I can. Fruit or fruit juice, bacon, scrambled or poached eggs, (soft boiled if desired) toast, doughnuts, or coffee cake, cereal, coffee, milk, cocoa, or tea, are usually on the menu. At lunch I have salad and a sandwich with milk or something else, but as balanced as I know how. My hours are very crowded in the mornings because this school has all their classes in the mornings and labs in the afternoons. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, I have class straight through from 8:00 to 12:00 and on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, I have chem lab in the afternoon until about 4:00. So you can see that my Wednesdays are the busiest. On Tuesdays I have an 8:00, 9:00, and on Thursdays I have an 8, 9, and 10:00 classes. Today is Thursday so I was through at 11:00.

I told you that a week ago I got a new room-mate. She is only 16 and she sure acts it. She wears horn rimmed glasses and no lipstick. I often hear girls in the dorm talking about her and saying how queer she is. She owns all sorts of junk, from petrified crabs and corals to office pencil sharpeners. When she has gone out, lots of girls come in to look at the collection which is now quite well known here. As I mentioned before, my room is very large - about 26-27 feet long by 14-15 ft. wide. She occupies two beds, two desks, two chairs and roughly, 3/4 of the room. Another thing, she loves to pace the floor. I told her bluntly not to while I was in the room, which isn't often anymore. I go to the library to study, and when I'm here, I go to Peggy's room or to see the girls down the hall. This June Poinsett, the room-mate, loves to talk and goes on and on about everything, and talks real fast. She never makes her bed and she throws her things all over the place. I wanted to ask a girl up here yesterday at noon, but I couldn't very well with the place looking the way it did. Well, it won't be so long, and I have spoken to the woman in charge of the rooms and she will let me know when there is a vacancy in a single room. I know that the maid appreciated my end of the room and she likes it because I don't have very many nick-nacks.

By the way I just thought of it. Please send me the light blue shorts and my beige slacks (rayon) and the other things I asked about. The light blue shorts are new and are in the black, large square suit case. Some girls play badminton at night in the gym of this dorm and it will be nice to wear.

The girls are all buying those Mexican woven hurachas. They are being sold at Klines for \$1.98. I think I will wait until warmer weather comes and they will make more non-rationed shoes. I left my brown mocasson shoes there, the ones I wore to golf. Most girls wear them to school and I would like to have them here if you could send it with my other things.

If you can get some cute material at the canteen, I would like a dirndle skirt. If you buy three lengths, it doesn't come out even, but will make a pretty full skirt. Cotton is best, percale.

on top of closet in a box - either a change box or make-up box - most likely the change box

cont: 3/4/43

They are so useful.

Peggy would like a Pekenese, and I think I better give one to Betty Kelly. She is very nice and is Peggy's best friend. Monday, 280 reserves of Washington U. were called to enter the army on the 15th of this month. They are being called from every college and this is no exception. In their place, hundreds of soldiers in the air corps are coming here for training.

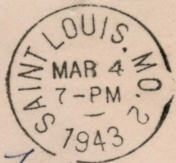
I hope the radio comes real soon. It will be a good friend and companion.

I will say goodbye now and will write again soon. Please keep sending me letters. Thank you.

Martha

I told you that a week ago I got a new room-mate. She is only 16 and she sure acts it. She wears horn rimmed glasses and no lipstick. I often hear girls in the dorm talking about her and saying how queer she is. She owns all sorts of junk, from detailed creps and corals to office pencil sharpeners. When she has gone out, lots of girls come in to look at the collection which is now quite well known here. As I mentioned before, my room is very large - about 28-27 feet long by 14-15 ft. wide. She occupies two beds, two desks, two chairs and roughly 3/4 of the room. Another thing she loves to pace the floor. I told her bluntly not to while I was in the room, which isn't often anymore. I go to the library to study, and when I'm here, I go to Peggy's room or to see the girls down the hall. This June Poinsett, the room-mate loves to talk and goes on and on about everything, and talks real fast. She never makes her bed and she throws her things all over the place. I wanted to ask a girl up here yesterday at noon, but I couldn't very well with the piece looking the way it did. Well, it won't be so long, and I have spoken to the woman in charge of the rooms and she will let me know when there is a vacancy in a single room. I know that the maid appreciated my end of the room and she likes it because I don't have very many nick-nacks. By the way I just thought of it. Please send me the light blue shorts and my beige slacks (rayon) and the other things I asked about. The light blue shorts are new and are in the black, large square suit case. Some girls play badminton at night in the gym of this dorm and it will be nice to wear. The girls are all buying those Mexican woven moccasins. They are being sold at Klines for \$1.98. I think I will wait until warmer weather comes and they will make more non-ratoned shoes. I left my brown moccasin shoes there, the ones I wore to golf. Most girls wear them to school and I would like to have them here if you could send it with my other things. If you can get some cute material at the center, I would like a dangle skirt. If you buy three lengths, it doesn't come out even, but will make a pretty full skirt. Cotton is best, percale.

McMillan Hall
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Mrs. I. Takahashi

11-6-F

Tropic, Utah