



January 3, 1945

Dear Tommie,

Thank you for your Christmas gift. It was nice of you to think of golf balls - they were the best presents I could have gotten. The compact is sure neat. Just the thing I've needed so long ever since the other one broke.

I went downtown today to look for Pinky's slippers. Shoes for her - hard soled shoes - are rationed so I can't get it unless you send a stamp. Slippers are very difficult to find but I think that if I go again and take more time, I'll be able to find some.

I got back last night to find my mail box so full that I had to tug and pull to get everything out. Most of the stuff were cards. I got your package, a pair of cute pj's from oji-san, and a frame for a picture from Ken, and was I disappointed when I didn't find my box from Helen here! After all, it's been two whole weeks, and I sent hers to her right away. I wrote to her last night because I was so mad.

Got a letter today saying Henry Teshima was here for the New Years, from Tok, and they called me up to take me out on the Eve, and I wasn't here. I had a good time in St. Louis though. Hiro, my dent student friend took me out Saturday night, and went bowling with him Sunday afternoon, and on New year's eve, George, the tall athlete, took me to two parties. They were both good. Both were at nice homes, and most of the kids were Caucasian students from Washington U. There were some Nisei but half of the fellows took Caucasian girls. Gyo Obata, the younger brother of Kim, was with a red head. Of course there was drinking, & smoking, but I had just as much fun with plain cokes, eating, and dancing. We left at 4:00 A.M., but they were still going strong. Another George who works for Lindegren also, took us home on a swell car. Slept until 10:00 the next morning. Remember Tommie, I never did go out on a new years eve before? It was the first time, and I sure got it in one big dose. It was a new experience for me, and at 23 too, sad isn't it?

Thanks to Anheuser Busch, I had a good night's rest on the Pullman in spite of the huge holiday crowd on the night of the 1st. The train had engine trouble early the next morning and we were 4 hours late to get into Chicago so I didn't see Warren though he said he'll be there and I wired him. Kiku was waiting for me however. So we went over to the gate where the Hiawatha leaves, and waited for it as we talked. She is the same as ever.

My seat mate on the train was a middle aged college prof., and teaches religion at a Lutheran college, and was so interested in our problems that he first treated me to pie and coffee, and later to dinner. Pretty nice, huh?

First time I travelled in style on someone else's expense. Got the check for travel expenses, and they'll send me my pay. The last week and a half totalled for me, nearly \$130.00. I worked on Sunday once and they gave me time and a half, which means I earned \$10.80 on that day. Not bad, huh? Only even at this scale (.90 per hour), it wouldn't be \$200. a month. He offered me \$175., plus time and a half for overtime, two weeks vacation with pay, occasional trips for meetings out of town, and a chance to work for a higher degree, but still I think I'd rather work elsewhere for someone else. He depends too much on me and my opinions, and thinks I'm an expert or something. I want to work for a man I can ask questions to and learn. Today I spoke to my advisor, and she too feels that I can get a job pretty easily, and suggested applying at the Western Regional Lab. of the U.S. Dept. of Agric. in Albany. I asked her how much I ought to get and she said at least \$200. Well, looks like these years in college weren't in vain, or at least let's hope not. Of course I don't want to work in a lab the rest of my life either. I realize how lucky I am to be able to work when necessity demands it. I don't feel as helpless as I used to, and I'm not afraid so much about insecurity.

I hope you two will go back to San Francisco. You can't run the laundry right away though, can you? You can get some job in the meantime. If I can get a good job out there, I'll go out too. I'm planning to apply as soon as I get my recommendations together. If you go back, when will you? Before or after June? That's a good idea - to have papa see the East before going back. He may never get another chance. Be sure to get reservations way ahead of time. I will graduate around the 15th of June.

Please write, and please answer any questions, and give me some details.

Martha

If we all work & do our share of house work and pay for our living expenses, I'm sure we can do it - you will probably find it a simple thing to get a roover, too, if you want that again.

Lomnie, dear, I'm glad to hear that maybe you will be getting another child; it is going to be very hard for you - perhaps this time I can help you. I hope I can, and I will if at all possible. Don't know

too much about those things, but I can learn. If  
fate is kind, I may be blessed sometime, and  
I would appreciate any help at that time (at  
the present, I need help in catching a man).

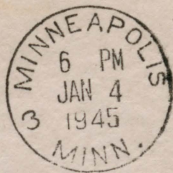
Let me know, be sure, when you find out definitely  
if it's true.

Minnou sent me a Christmas card. I didn't  
send one to him - didn't think he would either.

I'm tired so I'll go to bed now.

Love,  
Maucha

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11-5-D

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