



January 15, 1945

Dearest Tommie,

Thank you for your letter of the 9th. It sure takes a long time for the mail, doesn't it?

As I wrote before, I do hope you two will decide to return to San Francisco before the arrival of the new baby. However, if you decide to stay in Topaz until the fall, I suppose I can go back with papa and wait. I sure hate leaving here just to go to camp and sit around because I'm pretty sure that Ken won't be shipped for a couple of months, and I'd like to stay around if possible. Really, I don't know what our friendship will turn into, because we haven't known each other too long, and we've never discussed things seriously yet. I have to admit, that I don't know too much about his family except that they have an awful lot of relatives. His mother was born in Japan, but most of his aunts are American born, and I know that he is related to that family who lived way out in San Francisco near Twin Peaks - the family who lived in the house at Tanforan and everyone was mad about because they rated a real house while we had to live in stables. Remember? Well, I just know that they are an old family, but I don't know how well off they are. His dad doesn't work now, but used to be a photographer. He has a brother about a year younger, and that's all. He plans to be a doctor if he ever gets a chance. He isn't a three point man like Harvey, nor is he a walking dictionary like Warren. But, he has a lot more on the ball than some of my other friends like Hiro and George down in St. Louis. Those two and others including Tom Hiura are ok to date once in a while, but would hate to marry them. They will probably be able to give me everything I want with money, but that isn't everything. They don't read much, and know very little about what goes on in the world. I'm not saying that Ken is intellectual, but he is very much aware of things, and reads enough to be interesting to talk to. He seems a lot more adult than my other friend though he's no older than they are. He'll be 24 next month - just six months older than I am. He writes to me quite often from Alabama, but they aren't very intimate or anything. If anything comes of it, I'll be sure to let you know so don't worry.

I sure hope there will be other nisei in San Francisco. It will become mighty lonely without some young people. Minneapolis is an ideal hunting ground for Nisei girls with the University and the Army both. Loretta High, the girl I go around with, and another girl, Virginia Koorn, are going out to California too, after they graduate this year. Loretta wants to go out in April. They are lots of fun, and I would like you to meet them. Maybe they can stay over on weekends sometimes - they

plan to work in Berkeley.

I am already excited about cooking at home again. I will do the housework until you are able to get ~~at~~ around again. There will be plenty of things for all of us to do for awhile, especially papa since he is the only mechanic in the family. I am sure that we can make a go of it financially if we all do our share. After hearing that Spring comes in May here, I would give anything to go back to California right now.

Graduation exercises is on Thursday March 22nd, 8:00 P.M. I hope papa decides to come. Talk it over and find out if he wants to see the east before returning to Topaz, and also how long he would like to stay in each place. I think we can stay in Chicago a few days as we can look up friends as well as sightseeing the city. On the way back, we can stay in Denver for a few days as we may not go there again. I will pack my stuff, but where can I have the WRA send it? To Topaz, or to San Francisco? That's about two months away, so we had better start making more concrete plans.

I got a check for \$64.80 which I earned in St. Louis, but I'm not sending it to papa because my bank account is at the new low of \$54.21, and if I don't keep it, I won't even be able to pay my room and board bill. I suppose I will want some new clothes when I graduate for it will be an important day for me. Since it is a mid-year graduation, there won't be all the parties and proms like there will be in June, but I'm glad there will be a cap and gown ceremony.

Glad to hear that papa will wait at least until March. He wrote that he will wait, and will write to ojisan too. He said however, that if there is someone suitable, he still wants to get married because he will be "in the way" since you will have a family and I too ought to be getting married before it's too late. Well, if you got married at 26, I guess I still have two more years for the man hunt. I hate the idea of getting married to a soldier, but as they say, they are just civilians in uniform.

Heard from Jimmy Sugihara the other day, and he sounded peeved because Warren and I don't get together more often. Although I did see Warren often in Camp, I never spent any time with him alone, and he mentioned something like that in his last letter too. He also said, when we were together in Chicago, that when a fellow is living out, and leading the sort of existence he is, he is quite vulnerable, whatever he means. No doubt he will get places in his field. Does he write to you people often?

Your advice on what to order when one is with a drinking bunch is good. I ordered lemonade once at a hotel night club, and it was the strongest, sourest thing I ever tasted. It was pure lemonjuice. From then on, I resolved not to order lemonade at a place like that. That's another point. Ken neither smokes nor drinks and I don't think he ever will. He says he takes beer if offered, but doesn't like it. He is more of the church type, but far from a holy-holy type. He has lots of Caucasian friends he knew from Berkeley days, and keeps in touch with them even now. He's not perfect by all means, but is as good as the rest if not better in lots of ways. I will try and get more out of him when he comes back, as to his family, his attitude, his other girl friends, etc. He did tell me that he went with four or five girls before going into the army.

Well, it's time for lunch so I'll close. It's a warm day today - 25 above. Love to all,

March 1



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