

Saturday April 5, 1958

Dearest Henri,

Well, looks like we have a lot of excitement here, doesn't it? I'm enclosing this morning's clipping. I don't know what the sensational papers say, like the Call or the Examiner since I haven't seen them, but due to the unseasonal rain and landslides and the uncovering of the rich Hopps people who live in Belevedere in a 2 bedroom 50,000 dollar home built by Jack Hillmer or someone...being in a bad insurance racket, and all, the news was crowded to the back pages, but it will get around 'fast' as V says it will.

V says T is beyond his kind of help, that he told him to go himself to a criminal lawyer, that V doesn't think T needs the kind of help V can give; him anyway, so V 'can't do anything'. Called me today to say that T has almost no equity in the newly formed Kusano Travel Bureau Inc. and that shares not have been proportioned out to him yet, and tho T thinks he has some money coming to him after the accounting of the Obata tour that went out two weeks ago, he is wrong, because Mr. McPherson president of Airborne, whom Vic contacted this morning, says it isn't so. McP says he'll 'do right by him' but that he is going on the noon plane to LA for the weekend and won't be back until Monday, so T may have to sit in jail until then. He did say he could furnish the bail, but said so thinking it was 50 dollars or so, not knowing it is 7,500 in criminal cases such as this, and was taken aback and shocked when V told him how much. V called me back and told me frankly he didn't think there was anything concrete T owned aside from the physical inventory of the office to serve as collateral and it was up to me to make my own decisions under the circumstances. I told him in reply that it was a coincidence that one of the last things you and I talked about was the travel business, too bad about T and us and it didn't work out. But that with me from this point on it was a business deal, that the Katsura film even tho it cost him 2,000 for the north american franchise to show it, the market being too limited, it would be along way paying for itself and too much bother to handle, etc make it useless to me and as far as I am concerned, it is no collateral and I won't take it....besides, Kay Kyoto owns 5,000 of it, so you have to pay her off or split the take with her $\frac{1}{4}$. So V said well, guess he'll have to sit there over the weekend, then, until McPherson gets back to do something for him.

Well, it's the end for T then, for he'll get canned for sure. He was already for it due to the office hours he failed to keep and the poor work he put out for the Airborne people that last few months he was associated with them, and still is, but not for long.

I told V that with me it was a business proposition now, that I could set up a booth in my retail store and hire the know-how, but it was not worth more trouble to me, that someday if I get a bigger place I could sublet space to a tie-up and it could be Toshi Kataoka for all I cared. But that I have valuable potential customer lists in my own field which is worth money, and having tried it twice, that I know if I gave it my push and proper timing and presentation, it would work out

But that's that. The women's fashion editor of SF News has come back from J as guest of the JAL inaugural flight of the DC7C's and new daily flights, & writes and sketches daily now of her experiences. I'm writing her of her colas as a fan letter writer and will send her a calendar for her memorable year.

I sent you a Chingking food ad from Life Magazine issue of about March 21st showing the Serizawa or someone's calendar. This proves that calendars other than ours enjoy a good circulation and that it hinders our distribution. I am writing Chingking that we have some still; and they can buy it if they want from us for the coming year.

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I finally have my new business center set up in our room and a new length of cord on my phone so that it reaches my bed, the bell tone softened down and within reach if it rings. Did it myself with Norman by screwdriver and using a cord left by them by mistake that time they installed our phone when we first took over the house. Going to Arguello; we found the Ban family had an extension phone put in, and we disconnected it and brought it home, put it onto a box on the landing of the stairs, and it reaches the penthouse. 25 feet of extension, pale gray phone, transparent dial of plastic. Real neat.

That Carlie Richards whom I thought I had pawned off onto Wes O. came back to discuss with me a subletting of his place on Montgomery St for a tempura bar for the going home crowd of business people. Remember we used to dream about blowing out the smell and making the people take home in ori-bako? Something to dream about for your tea room with take-home tea pot, if the next shop is big enough.

Meantime, please go to the TORAYA yokan tea room in Tokyo Ginza no ura or wherever it is that makes Toshi Kataoka rave so much about its good taste in decor. Recently so many people tell me about ideas they have such as Geo Rockrise who came by the other day. You promised you would take pictures of it inside, remember? Some sushi-ya you go to may have nice entrances and the ryori-ya entrances with a little bit of water is good too. The way they have minimum up-keep miniature gardens with a little reed growing between rocks I like.

I am happily looking forward to the time I shall be in Japan this fall. I don't want to be away long, just a quick but very effective trip for the retail store and scouting for the wholesale. I'm making notes.

If you see the Genghis Khan nabe dome only, please get a few, no more than ten, and you can reorder. They cost us from Modern Food 3.75 dome only and we sell for 5.75 or 5.95 due to competition who used to carry, now we are only one in the area, until requests press them into inquiry and discover source. No more than ten pcx or we are overloaded. Sunset suggests substitutes of wire chicken mesh homemade you see.

I don't suppose you like Kurokawa the emaciated sissy of Million Co ex-TTCO acct man for Nanri, but bec. of his interest in the stage and women's wear, he is ideal for buying in Japan the small items of kimono that we can't supply to women working for the local eateries. J room on 2nd floor of St. Francis Hotel opened 1st of April with Mrs/ Chris Nagata in charge, one who was hostesses for Sakura Gardens and quit to take this job. Haven't been there, don't know what it's like. If on diner's will go some chance I get. Just phoned them, and it's on Western Hotels, and some others but not on Diner's, food is Western cuisine, girls are in kimonos, called Terrace Room. Japanese architecture, interior, has bar, luncheon, dinner.

Haven't had chance to hear from you regarding name of new firm, think anonymous one best, trade mark can still be TAMI so Monday I'll est. acct at Tokyo Bank, Ken Kato's letters req. LC thru them, surmising you told them to mention that, unless it is a coincidence. Jim says Ichikawa LC due soon, so we should start acct without delay.

Tomorrow is Easter but the rains are so dangerous I am not letting Pinkie go to Mt. Davidson with all those people the hill may cave in. Besides it looks like more rain. They can do homework, we'll take measurements around the place, rewire the extra phone so it will ring better, sew some curtains, etc.

I'll take home some Fairchild papers to read. Men's Wear Daily writes for renewal, but assume you aren't interested, right?

I like the bamboo fly swatter, the new one. at 65¢ dz cost we can't sell for 3.00 doz can we? Acc to my 5x method, whsl is 3.20 and allowing for loss due to worminess, makes it 3.60 doz, retailing at 30¢ pc. Get mfgtr's guarantee none will be wormy, tho secretly, the guarantee won't mean much, and you have to keep them at the same price. I also like the toy looks like french wire salad basket. Must say you are very much on the ball already. Haven't had other hshld items Ken K said he'd send.

Dr Sobieski said my adnoid growth not serious enuf to operate, now. Shrunk with treatment. Blew out eustachian tube, should hear better now, low frequency tones

three

No letter from you, and miss hearing ;from you very ;much. I get it from Mr. Ted Price who called me today, that Tokyo and Japan had the mildest winter of so many years. The Mormon missionary who speaks J who is with the immigration service.

The shop of John Fordon's Japanese Festival is of big proportions with the local paper ;putting out a special feature section for him ;and 15 shops participating in the production. Like Ziegfield, it is, with banners across Main St, Galena Blvd where is his shop, the movie theater putting on Japanese movies, etc and tying two carloads of artificial cherry blossoms on the trees for ;two blocks on both sides.

Mary Takahashi of Chicago is going there, the Consulate accepted, etc. We are helping all we can, don't know how much money we'll make, but will have his good will. Gave him 8 gross free PSL on which he will staple streamer, & is pleased bec. it can't be put away in the pocket or handbag and must be carried which is adv. to his shop and for the festival. He can't take the gold screens.

It is pouring all the time I'm writing this so whoever comes to the shop the two downstairs can amply take care of. Almost everyday Aki goes home with me. She's learning how to drive, costs 6.50 a lesson. Takes ten lessons, she says.

Just phoned Mr. Shibata on the phone, sys for me to hang on to the screens for they are getting scarcer, new ones painted to order of the Genji Monogatari or Heike Monogatari such as I have, would sell for 3xs what I paid, that I got a good buy, kha t he'll come over to take a look at it some day, that I can make a profit if I play the waiting game and sell them to the right buyer. The more I look at them, the more I appreciate all the work on them. I guess they must be 50-60 yrs old, Meiji, don't you think? I haven't crossed off gold screens from my list, but maybe I can ;make good deals with what I have by selling ;them and biding my time for the right buyer until I find something I may like better.

Tomorrow, Sunday, I'll take to Yutaka Handa by phone and ask if he'll come around to look at t he building to ;make it water tight and restore or repair present house with minimum of new materials, which is what ;the other hakujin thinks best. He'll unhinge windows and make them open easy, or strip them shut. He says most the windows are not rotted and will work out OK.

We are eating pineapple spareribs homemade, tonight, what are you having? We are watching the Bob Hope show he filmed in Russia at 9 pm. We sprayed the house for fleas last night, esp. N's room. Think I'll buy wallpaper from the Shizuoka contact you said this time you may go see. I'll send you swatch of what I want. I'll try estimating the rolls required. If too much trouble, will get from Anthor. Or get Bill Brewer up ;there if his prices are same, he'll give me more ;ideas for what to do with the fireplace wall, and he won't charge me for the trip up ;there. If he says we will, I won't let him come. I'll go see him with a calendar, saying I didn't have the time to do it earlier. I'm told by Gump's man, Harry Goff that they're all about the same in cost. The plainest is best, and off-white, with a natural look. They all change color when they're up a while, anyway, and get a little darker, as the paper behind them changes dark.

About getting Kurokawa to go get some stuff for the waitresses, you don't have to bec. if Fujita and his son come again, I'd rather get from them. Just phoned Kusano H tel, Bob Hirai told me Fujita's add, so will write them, as they are coming here by May or June for sure, since they have applied for passport and K was notified thusly.

So much for today, sending you Michiko Ito's add in case you want it some ;time to look her up.

With much love,

tami