

Sunday night
December 18, 1955

Dear Tommie,

It's almost Christmas already. I can just imagine how busy you must all be right now. I hope you and Heidi can have a good rest after such a busy season and I guess you will be glad that this hectic year is about over and hope next year will bring all of us more pleasant and happy experiences.

Thank you very much for writing about jobs in Japan. Will is very interested and will write to the civil service office. We can't get any information here for jobs in Japan since that is a different theater. It is too bad that he has signed a contract which commits him to stay here for another year but he can start investigating possibilities for his next job when this one ends.

Thank you for sending the things I asked for. Tell me what I owe you for them - I still have a checking account in Berkeley and I can always send a check. I hope they get here in time for Christmas. Have you ~~yet~~ received the box I mailed you? I hope they get there in time. I mailed it before Nov. 15th. I bought several other things for all of you but I'm going to take them back with our baggage when we go home. We still want to do some traveling on the Continent and know that there will be lots of nice things to get everyone there, especially in Sweden and Denmark.

It is getting colder everyday and we are expecting a very heavy frost or snow in a day or so. We are managing to stay warm by wearing our sweaters and warm clothes and keeping all the heaters on. Tonight I made a pseudo-Chinese dinner using brussel sprout greens and pork and another dish of frozen shrimp, tomatoes, celery and onions. I buy rice in small boxes at the commissary. It was surprisingly good, if I do say so, and perhaps the fact that we haven't had the authentic version for so long may have something to do with it. We have already talked about what we want to do first.

thing when we get back to San Francisco. One of the first will be to go to China Town for a good dinner.

Dec 20 '55

Didn't finish the letter the other night, something interrupted. Hope you had a nice Christmas. We will be home next Christmas. I guess "home" is not the right word since we don't really have a place to go back to but I will always feel that the Bay Area is our home. I got a note from my ex-boss in Berkeley - The one I worked for for six years. He said he was planning to get married (finally) to a French girl we know, also a scientist. He wants me to work for him again when we get back. I'm not sure that I will work in a lab again but it's good to know that he wants me and that there's always a job if I want it. It will depend so much on Will and what he will do. As you know, we want a family more than anything else and I've been going to the doctor here, a very good one at the base. He is young and says he is interested in the subject. I have an appointment on Jan 2nd for a BMR and biopsy to see if anything is wrong. He has already seen Will too so we are at least doing all we can. It's rather a nuisance to take rectal temperatures every morning but it will certainly be worth it. The doctor so far sounds very encouraging and I hope he will bring us luck. I heard about him via the grapevine - a girl who has been married 2 or 3 years finally got a baby after going to see him. It would be too bad if something is wrong that can't be remedied but I think it's best to find out now and plan accordingly. We are pretty lucky to be stationed in London at a big base. It is headquarters for Third Air Force. There's a big hospital and everything is free.

If you have any free time after Christmas, please give The Touchidas a ring and go over to see them for us. I try

and write as often as I can to them but I have such a hard time with Japanese that I'm afraid I don't get at it often enough. It would be a big treat for them if you took

Norman and Pinkie along - they love children so much.

I wonder if you were able to find a pair of rubbers for me? (size 5 shoe). Shoes are also very hard to find here.

I went to about 15 different shops and they don't make my size. If worse comes to worse, I will have to send for some.

I brought a big supply but the sidewalks are pretty rough ^{always wet} here and shoes don't last like they do at home and we do much more walking here - you're probably thinking it's just like Japan. I guess it is in very many ways. It's a poor

country too and everyday it is. The newspapers are full of warnings about spending too much at home and not enough exporting to dollar countries. The people are on the whole very poor and live from day to day. They buy eggs, for instance, one at a time. Very few buy a dozen eggs or a pound of butter at one time. Milk is in pint bottles - never see a quart bottle.

Please send me Katsuhiko's address. I want to thank him for the appetizers. I will write in English, of course. Let us know how the Christmas business was. Did you feature anything new this year? If you have any new ads or brochures, be sure and send us a sample. Will seems very proud of your shop and shows your last year's colored brochure to all his friends both American & English.

Thank you for writing. We look forward to hearing from you always. Love to Henry, Pinkie and Norman.

Love,
Kathia