

July 12, 1965

Dear Tami:

Sorry I didn't have time to write sooner. Thank you very, very much for all the wonderful food! The melon was just delicious, we ate half right away and it was so good, it was still cold. I boiled the artichokes right away and Suzuki and I ate one each that night since we hadn't had dinner yet. It was certainly wonderful, what a treat. Henri said the customs didn't open it at all. He wondered why it was so heavy. The wieners were good too, we had hot dogs the next day with potato chips, I haven't eaten such good wieners for a long time. Suzuki doesn't like the Japanese ones because he says they taste fishy.

Henri seemed quite exhausted after the trip and probably the busy month with opening the new store. He did take care of ordering the things he had to and they went to see several makers during the 5 days in Tokyo, and then Suzuki and Henri left for Nagoya, Osaka and Moji Saturday night. They planned to go to Moji on Monday (today) and go to Kobe, Osaka, Nagoya on the way back and should be back by Friday or Saturday, maybe Friday night, 16th. It isn't so hot in Tokyo, but rainy and muggy, but they say Kansai is quite hot so they will probably be back as soon as possible. Henri says he wants to go back to SF as soon as possible. Henri didn't have the time to see Watanabe Riki san yet, but he probably will when he comes back from Kansai.

We hear Echi san came back yesterday night, and was probably in San Francisco last week. She changed her plans, apparently. Henri will probably see her this week.

I hear you are having problems with the other stores in the Square. I hope the sales are still good there. Henri says he asked a real estate firm for a space in New York to open a store there. Henri was wondering if you forgot to send the yen through Deak. Well, we happened to have just enough yen on hand for their trip to Kansai and Kyushu so it was ok. The banks were closed when they left Saturday.

Wednesday night ~~we~~ or was it Thursday night, we ate at the Mingei place in the basement of the food center where you and I had sansai ryori and he seemed to enjoy it, at least at that place they don't gyp you.

Sorry the documents took so long for us to mail this time, but Yokohama is behind in issuing the documents now. I guess exports are heavy this time of year and we couldn't get the measurement list for days. Due to the rain the boats were delayed and Yasushima Maru and Hiyebaru Maru left only one ~~xxxxx~~ day apart.

We went to see the stained glass maker last week with Henri and Henri says the lamp shade I mentioned in an earlier letter with small pieces and scalloped edge is promising, but the price is high and Henri felt the price might come down if we didn't act like we want it very badly. What made him think that was, the man Mr. Matsumoto, said the 13" and 17" was the same price, about \$42.00 and if cathedral glass is used instead of the marbly kind, it would be less than \$30.00. These are hadaka nedan so we want the price lower.

Henri usually goes to Moji on Sundays but this time they thought it best to go Monday when the lawyer and courthouse is open. Julia's school ended Saturday also.

We took your letter to Don's place the night it arrived (Sat. July 3rd) and a girl was there (Miss Mori?) who was Yoko's roommate. Two other men arrived soon after we got there so I didn't get to talk to the girl much. The next day or a couple of days later, Don called and explained that the girl left last Wednesday for California since her boyfriend didn't seem interested in marrying her. Don was rather exasperated with her because she borrowed money from Don's real estate man to pay for the deposit on their apartment and left without paying it back. He didn't think much of the fellow either, whom Henri says is Pinkie's friend. Don ~~is~~ disapproved the arrangement and he said he was embarrassed to explain to the real estate man that they weren't married but wanted to rent an apartment. I guess neither the man nor the girl can speak much Japanese so Don was the interpreter.

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Suzuki says he can swear she isn't of Japanese descent. He says she looks Korean. Well, it really doesn't make much difference. Apparently she was here for 3-4 months.

Re: Motoyoshi lost package, we really don't know how, but we sent you the original B/L for the shipment we sent you so we hope you get it ok. There were three originals, 3 copies each, that is, there was a B/L per carton, and you need three (one each) different originals to get the packages. There must be some reason for them to be on separate B/L's. Boat was "Yamawaka Maru" of Yamashita Line.

If Motoyoshi sent the right B/L, there should have been no problem. We put your name and address on the boxes so it shouldn't get post. Did you get them yet? They should have arrived by the time this reaches you since the boat was delayed and should arrive about July 15th. Let us know when you get them. We took them to Yokohama soon after you left, but our broker said he couldn't put it on a "K" line and the next Yamashita line boat was end of the month, so we had no choice. Anyway, it was faster than parcel post and much cheaper, as far as freight. Be sure to take your list of the contents, when going to pick up the 3 packages.

Is Norman back now? I guess he must have had a wonderful time. Hope you didn't have too many days alone in that big house. I have to be alone for a week and since I can't leave it even for air because of the phone calls I have to take, it isn't too pleasant.

Re: Aprons, we shipped the last of them, 20 dz. which were corrected so that's that. We are putting in a claim for the delayed shipment etc. We also don't intend to order anything more from Yajima. They are too dumb, slow, tricky, etc., etc., and blankety blank. We are exasperated with them. We learned a lot, however, so we aren't too badly off, but it seems you have to be very careful about any maker in that type business. It must be the same the world over, garment business is very tough.

I borrowed a book from Don, by his friend Rudofsky, "Kimono Face" and it is quite interesting. Don says it's full of errors and I guess there are many, ~~xxx~~ and I could add another several hundred pages to it, but on the whole, it's alright but I have a feeling many similar books have been written before. I wonder if a Nisei ever wrote one? I think a hakujin gets a slightly different angle than we Nisei because we are sort of in between. I am more critical at times, but can often understand the actions of the Japanese from the Japanese point of view. There are many prints reproduced in the book, to illustrate the various subjects taken up. After living here several years among the Japanese, I have come to the conclusion that the psychology of the Japanese is far more complex than that of the West. It is hard to adapt without the basic training. Although the facade of Japan seems to have become westernized, it is still steeped in tradition and probably won't change for a long time to come. The casual tourist will never even sense it because the Japanese try not to show it. I'm not saying anything is wrong with keeping tradition, but it is certainly hard when doing business. It explains, however, why other shippers like Hinomoto and Motoyoshi call us here about their problems even if they know we don't know anything about it. So you over there will have to understand that Japanese all need a go-between when they have problems. They are so used to it in everyday life, if they must answer something direct, they are suffering terribly. I often wonder why Miss Echi doesn't write in Japanese since your letters to them are in Japanese, but perhaps it's because it makes it less painful and more impersonal for her.

Enough for today on trying to understand the Japanese since, as I said before, I can write several hundred pages.

Thank you again for all the wonderful food. I froze the tortillas and one package of sausages so they won't spoil in this bad weather. If you ever send wieners again, they needn't be such good ones, the least expensive ones would still be a treat for us. I noticed the Swift's regular franks (meat and cereal), skinless pkg. of about 10 or 12 is about \$1.50 here. I think they are about 49¢ or so there. The Japanese ones with real meat is \$1.50 for the similar mixture and \$2.00/lb. for Lohmeyers' and the cheaper ones are probably whale meat so that explains the fishy flavor.

I hear Pinky is in Berkeley. Is Kanai san still in SF?

Mr. Sakuma, the Mashiko potter's son, who is also a potter (I hear he is very fat) is supposed to be in Berkeley or Oakland teaching for 3 months or something and might drop