

Poston Project, Arizona
June 14, 1942

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Dear Mrs. Whitney

We were all deeply touched when the packages were delivered Saturday. I can't express how we feel, but saying thank you means much more than two short words. I know you'll understand, Mrs. Whitney.

To-day, all five, ^{of us} attended.

Mass. We were all very much impressed at the ceremony, and the rituals Father Lavery went through. Some how Mrs. Whitney, we all felt so very ignorant, but as time passes, I suppose we'll know what to do.

There weren't to many people attending, and in a way, I believe Father Lavery must have been disappointed, however, in places where the families are mainly made up of "farm people", there are very few Catholics. Most of those attending mass were people who came in from the Boye Heights area.

There were two very nice sisters who came to the services too, and from them, we learned they were from Monrovia (possibly from the sanatorium there). They certainly are anxiously awaiting the signal when they'll be permitted to come to Poston. Assisting Father Lavery at the altar was a young Japanese-American boy

who showed all markings of a very devout Catholic. He must be well trained as he responded in Latin to a great many of the readings. I only wait for the day when I will know as much!

66 We were all pleased to have Father Lavery remember us. He came over to speak to us, and seemed quite happy to see us at Mass as it is quite some distance from block 4 to 32. Regardless of not knowing what was taking place, it gives you a grand feeling to be there.

I was certainly happy to hear about George's commission. Mr. Whitney, and you must be very proud of George and Braddo, and they both certainly have the very best of wishes from all of us. Please relay our congratulations to Lt. George Whitney!

To-day is typical of a song recently written by a San Bernardino boy who lives in Block 4. He is quite a natural musician, and to the tune of "Deep in the Heart of Texas" he has written a song - in parts

"The dust flies thick, out in the sticks, deep in the heart of Poston

They say it's swell, but it's as hot a hell, deep in the heart of Poston -
& etc

Last night, Mrs Whitney it was 90° at 10:30 P.M., and then the mornings are quite chilly. I still can't understand the set up! According to charts

We have an annual rainfall of about 3 inches here. I see where we'll have a dreg, cold winter. Kabe shoji was telling us, charts show it drops to 22-25° here during winter 67 months, but we may have an unusual winter this year, who knows.

Virginia is starting a survey beginning Monday (June 15th), a house to house canvass to see how many pre-school age children there are in 7 blocks, or in the quadrangle, and then I suppose arrangement will be made to open up another nursery school. She taught (part time) three mornings last week, but it looks very much as if she'll be put in as a supervisor under Doctor Powell, who is at the head of the educational division.

I have a call card to go to the employment office Monday, for an interview, but as yet, I'm quite undecided to know what it will be about. I did want to assist Virginia, but I'm against this idea of having one member of the family pull the rest through the same line of work, (as there are many cases like that). If from the office they ask I assist her, I certainly will, otherwise I'll stay "out" until something else turns up.

I've, Dorothy & I signed up for a course in Nurses Aid; there is a very definite shortage of nurses here, and by enrolling in that course, eventually when the hospital is

Completed, we undoubtedly will have an opportunity to advance along that line. I've made up my mind, I might as well learn something while here. The call may be for that, as Sue got one too.

Starting Monday, I'm planning to attend night school, twice a week. They will be more or less lectures about and on Boston - employment, history, soil & etc. I think they will be interesting, too.

How is the colored lady making out Mrs. Whitney? I am hoping very much that soon everything will work out smoothly for you. I can imagine how very busy you are, and I know Penny is a lot of bother too. She is really a spoiled baby. She is very demanding at times, isn't she?

Virginia and I are the only members of this household who are up. The rest are taking their daily naps. Goodness, this weather makes you terribly lazy and drowsy, I can't blame them a bit. Another two hours, and it will be meal time again.

You should see how very nice our room looks with the colorful print bed covers you sent us. Everyone comments on how nicely our apartment is fixed. Glad's suite, made private by the drapes you gave us, and the bed covers do much in the way

of dressing up our room.

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We were planning to go to the Colorado River to-day (fishing) but it's such a hot day, we gave the idea up! It's about 5 miles from here, and all who have gone fishing say they have very good luck - mainly Carp, and Cat fish. Did Louie tell you about Due's luck? She went fishing with Dad & Dorothy earlier in the week, and much to her amazement she caught a 11 1/2 inch Carp. Dorothy said Due was scared to death - I can picture what took place! The average size fish is about 3 inches long in the near by stream, so Due's catch has put many of the boys into shame.

My letters grow much to long, don't they; and I always have so much to tell you? For this time, I shall close with dad and the girls joining in sending their regards, and thank you for all the cables.

Please give our regards to Geary and Braddo too.

With love,
Fleming