

Poston Project, Arizona

May 25, 1942

17

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Whitney,

Since arriving at this camp yesterday, we are only able to recall how very good all the Whitney's have been to us. In words I am not able to express our gratitude, but some day I hope very much we shall be able to prove worthy of such kindness.

We arrived at this camp after seven long hours of riding, including four rest period stops from ten to thirty minutes long at Banning, Indio, Desert Center, and Parker. At Parker, we were quite amused to find the Indians waiting, & looking on as curious spectators. From Parker which is a very small town to Poston, it is a distance of 18 miles.

The ride I must confess changed the people from jovial passengers to a <sup>15</sup> bitter, resentful group (including ~~all~~ <sup>us</sup>) We wondered how such a God forsaken place could ever have been located, and could human beings possibly exist in such an environment. The road to camp is just a narrow dirt road, although it is under construction, and the dust whipping around made us think of a second Manzanar.

After getting off the bus, we were met by a group of young boys who carried our hand luggage and hustled us on to what was supposed to have been a registering room. There we were finger printed and made to sign papers to the effect that we would remain good loyal citizens. That finished, we were taken by Army trucks to our assigned barracks

3<sup>rd</sup> Our block is made up of the people who left in the same group as we did, hence most of the upland <sup>19</sup> people are close neighbors. In each block there are 14 buildings for sleeping quarters, one recreational room and a mess hall. Each building is divided into four cpts. except for two which are used for single people. Our particular barrack is 20 feet wide, & 25 feet long, we have one large door and 5 large windows. Since there is one room to the one side of us, and two to the other, we feel quite fortunate as the sun rarely is in our room. Between the rows of buildings we have bath houses for men and women, and a very large laundry room. The women's bath house is divided into four sections - the first a room with a long bench and sink with about 8 double faucets - for hot

H-  
and cold water (no hot as yet). In  
the next two sections they have  
the toilets with five in each p  
section. This pleases me a great deal  
as it all wont be too much of a  
public affair. To the left of the  
above described, they have a  
shower room, which seems to be  
quite nice, except for the lack of  
hot water as yet. The laundry  
room is really a very nicely  
fixed one - double tubs, and  
hot & cold faucets for each tub.  
On the center of this large room,  
they plan to set up ironing boards  
so all in all, laundering and  
ironing will be some what of a  
task looked upon as a pleasure  
to do.

Incidentally, the constructors of  
this center were very considerate as  
each building is double roof, a  
space of about 14 inches from the

(5)

first roof to the second being left open, and so far it has not gotten unbearably hot.

We sleep on single beds, and have hay filled mattresses. Eventually, I hope they work out to be comfortable.

The food here so far is nothing to write home about, but I suppose it will take a few days to get this flock organized, and we should be patient. As for all of us, we can manage some how, but it is really quite heart breaking to find things not suited for dad, but he certainly hasn't complained about the type of food we have had.

This camp being just under construction, dirt flies quite freely. The soil here when wet is quite a bit like clay, otherwise it is very fine dirt. By nightfall

(6)  
Our hair has the appearance of  
being retouched with gray paint.

Mrs Whitney, there are a few <sup>22</sup>  
things I wondered if I may ask  
you to get for us, please. Since  
the ground here is as I described,  
we are badly in need of boots.  
Could you please go to Kirby's  
in Pomona (next to the Owl Drug  
store) and buy us 4 pairs of  
Cowboy boots? Either in tan or  
brown will be all right. Dorothy  
wears a 3½ in boots, Virginia  
in dress shoe regularly wears  
3½ C - & Louise 3½ B - but the  
size of boots run differently so I  
am inclosing their foot print. In  
boots, I wear a size 13½ or  
a 3 B in dress shoes. Please do not  
put yourself out in making a  
special trip for them, as when  
ever you have time, <sup>will</sup> be perfectly  
all right with us. Oh yes, if

you would also have the leather left on the heel taken off and heavy rubber heels put on in <sup>23</sup> place of them, we would certainly appreciate it. The other thing we need are cups - any kind will do, - but I believe enameled ones would be much more practical any size - regardless of how large will be perfect. Thank you so much Mrs. Whitney.

How is Mr Whitney, and have you heard from Braddo? Please give our regards to him when next you write. We certainly appreciated George's coming to Riverside to help and his sending us on our way. Please thank him for us.

How is Precious getting along? I believe Louise feels much better about her now as she often says Precious is so lucky to be there

(8)

in Iceland.

This letter has gotten longer <sup>24</sup> than I expected it to be, so the rest of the news I will write about in the next letter.

Thank you all so much from the bottom of my heart for all you have done for us in the past.

I shall be anxiously awaiting to hear from you all soon. The family and Dad join in sending their thanks and regards to you all.

Lovingly,  
Dennis

We certainly are enjoying the Candy Mrs. Whitney. Thanks so much for it too.

Our address.

Block 4- Bldg 9- Apt C  
Poston Project, Arizona