

Poston Project, Arizona
June 26, 1942

92

Dear Mrs. Whitney,

Princess' little "message" for Louise was the cutest thing ever. We all pictured just how it was done, - was she very cooperative? You do think of the cleverest things, Mrs. Whitney.

For a change, I can write and say we are not having a dust storm, and, too, it is only 92° inside. This is paradise, considering what we went thru' earlier in the week. These dust storms Mrs. Whitney are really sights I had never expected to see, but I've seen enough of them to last a life time. Oh how we do dread them.

We've been here, going on to our sixth week - how slowly time goes by! I've learned much, mostly disgusting habits (bad ones too) that the highly publicized clean Japanese women have - it's all back! Maybe in Japan it's so, but far be the case for them at Poston. It has reached the stage where men janitors have refused to clear our latrines, hence - starting Monday, the women in our block must take care of it. I only hope, this will teach them the seriousness of what we call sanitation. Surely five weeks time is long enough for some of the "farm family" people to get or grow accustomed to flush toilets, but

evidently not. It's not going to be a very pleasant job, but we'll have to suffer for their uncleanness too.

23 One school week ^{has} passed Mrs Whitney, but I feel it was a very satisfactory one. Our daily attendance was above 40 students, and some of the mothers wanted to know if school would be held on Saturday too. The mothers certainly appreciate the care their children are getting because when they are at home, they have nothing to do, or anything to play with, which means Mama's time is all taken up playing with their own - now they are able to do what they like from 8:30 to 11:00.

I have taught my kiddies to answer roll call - "Here teacher" - "Thank you" & "please". Most of them, before going home come up to me and say "good bye, & I'll see you to-morrow". It's a lot of fun, but it takes very much patience which I don't have, and will have to acquire.

To-day, one of the little boy's mother treated the entire group, including all the mothers who were present & the teachers to ice cream. How they enjoyed it. And, just last night, I was telling Dorothy we ought to bake a couple of cakes once a week for the children to eat with their milk, a change from the dry toast they are getting. I hope they'll give us permission to do just that - we are perfectly willing to do the baking, too. Having something to do, and plan for, certainly has helped me a great deal. Until

I started to teach, I had too many hours to think of all the unpleasant things of Camp life, now I know things will be very different. 94.

I see very little of the Nagasaki family as they live in block 3. It sounds rather strange to say that as block 3 is the next one to the east, but it's true. I understand, Mr Nagasaki only takes time out to go to the mess hall - showers & laundry as the pay is quite a problem to "senseless no-no difference, curious children. The poor dear, I can imagine how she feels.

The younger Yamaguchi is at Boston but the older one is still being held at New Mexico. Evidently there was nothing against the younger brother.

This - that I told you about the order to sign up if you wanted to go to Japan was the real order. Several hundred people signed up, mostly bachelors or men whose wives are in Japan. The first group left the next morning - (first in all) as the passage to Japan was completely filled. Most of the people who left then, had their application in since last January, so naturally they were given first choice. I imagine they are on their way now!

This morning over the radio, I heard the startling news about the train wreck, & the probable case of sabotage. (at Parker, Arizona). Then, this noon, our mess hall steward ask that no Japanese leave Camp grounds, not even for the river which is some 3 miles away as the internee would be suspected.

I am very anxious to hear the truth
about it all. Some said because of that,
we weren't able to have any fresh vegetable
for supper - but I wonder! One hears a
lot of funny stories any way.

Oh yes, I have been going thru' the
Miscel, and hope by Sunday I will
know the proper way to use it. I
shall let you know how it comes
out. Everyone thinks it is a beautiful
one Mrs. Whitney, and I agree whole
heartedly.

Your family must be much more
complete with George at home now. I'll
bet Precious annoys all of you to no
end - the little devil - I can imagine
how she carries on.

We are going to the ball game
to night, so I will close with
kindest regards to Mr. Whitney, George &
Praddo. I hope very much your
cold is better too.

I still can't get over the sweet
day we had to-day!

With love,
Hermie

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