

4-9-C
Paston, Arizona
October 1, 1942

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Dear Mrs. Whitney,

I had planned to enclose a letter with Louisa, but since I was rather busy, I decided to put off writing to you until this evening, although there really isn't too much to write about.

How are you getting along - & also Mr. Whitney? I am hoping very much Mr. Whitney will be strong enough to make a trip to Paston before the gas rationing comes up.

This week has been quite a full schedule for us as we are attending Teachers Training in the afternoons. However, starting next week, we are to have classes only twice a week. Our supervisor is a former Georgian who has spent 4 years in Japan. She talks in a typical Southern drawl which is just too cute for words - and she's very pleasant & charming too. So far, we've been having lectures & discussions on the educational principles of nursery school, child psychology, & guidance. It's very interesting too. The entire nursery school system is having a complete shake up since school is to start Oct. 4th, & classes have to be arranged accordingly. Up until now, we've been having children from 2½ to 6, but starting Monday, pre-school will take in children from 3- to 4½ only - & kindergarten from 4½ to 5 years - 9 months. On top of that, our school is to move to block #3 - we take in another ¾ (block) grade - blocks 2-3-4-13-14-15- & 16. Also, a good many of the Teachers are to be released, & some are to be kindergarten teachers - classes for this

age group will be held in the afternoons - which I don't think will prove any too successful as it's too warm in these barracks in the afternoons. Perhaps by the first of the week, I can tell you where I'm teaching - (that is if I'm not released too) - & more about classes. Well - to-day, I had my hands full. I had 15 children in my group and about 4 of them hardly speak any English at all. You can imagine how I made out - they probably thought I was quite ignorant. As a rule, if I have to speak Japanese to them, I try to repeat the same word in English as I feel they aren't too young to learn. Surprising too, how most of my kiddies have started to speak English - considering they knew very little of it 15 weeks ago. Yes, I've learned Japanese from them - also.

You know Mrs. Whitney, some of the silliest talk which at times sounds quite true, especially when ever one claims to "have seen" is going around camp. Stories of "seeing" things. Have you ever heard of what the Japanese call "Fire balls" - supposedly spirits floating rather & you? In a fact, long ago up north, I saw fire balls, but science explains such things, & I'm convinced it may be that a certain chemical probably rises off of dead cattle & horses which gives that light appearance. Then, several girls in our block & other blacks say that they've seen what appeared to be a man dressed in a white kimono by the latrines, & they thought nothing of it until they were almost up to it - & it disappeared. Japanese people, as a rule, have a tendency to be rather superstitious

but I wonder just what it's all about. When we first came here, several Indians told me some people that they wouldn't live here as it was haunted - & called the "Valley of Death" - hence, the Indians never consented living here.

To say the least, it doesn't make one feel any too comfortable, especially when we have quite a little ways to get to the latrines. ²⁶⁻ If it's a lot of crazy talk, it should be stopped - I don't think it's very good for the minds of children.

I shall have to close for to night. I am going over to block #5 to night to stay with my girl friend. Her two brothers left for out of state work, & since she is alone with her father, we decided I should go over & stay with her. Incidentally, her mother was one of the first to pass away at Boston.

My regards to Mr. Whitney & the boys. Dad sends his best to you all too.

With love,
Frederic