

4-9-C

Poston, Arizona

Dec. 25 '42

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Dear Mrs. Whitney,

Our first Christmas spent away from all our friends turned out much happier than I had ever expected it to - thanks to all our friends - especially all the Whitneys. So many nice gifts came to us - & messages of cheer & hope. I really don't think you can find such sincere friends as one finds in the American people - at least, this is the way we all feel.

Some how or other - we're so far away from - could I call it "civilization" - yet this Christmas has meant more to me than any other Christmas. Probably because I attended Midnight Mass last night, & the atmosphere was so peaceful & touching, I was deeply inspired. Tiny tots - boys who generally are so boisterous & rowdy & older Irish men & women all went up to the altar & received Holy Communion - that alone filled my eyes with tears. I can see now why the younger girls & boys who attend Catholic services seem so different. If it does something to me when I'm (still) not a member, it must have a great effect on them. Louise, Dorothy & I all went to Elma's & stayed until almost 11 P.M. Men walked over to the services. We were going to remain & ask Father Clement to bless our Rosaries, but he had to take some people back to

Camp 2 & 3 - & seemed so needed, we decided to wait until Sunday. I haven't been able to "Catch" Father to ^{to him} speak about instructions, but I suppose after this holiday rest, he'll have much more time on his hands, & it'll be much easier to find him at the Chapel. I'm afraid Father Clement has been working too hard - fixing a Chapel in Camps 1-2-3 & Parker too. He seemed so tired & worn out, yet he is always so pleasant & cheerful. It takes much more than mere courage to work among Japanese people Mrs. Whitney. It's more than admiration I hold for all the Mary Knoll Sisters. Services lasted till about 1:15 & then we meandered home. We had a light rainfall & the howling wind for companions, the road was slick (since the ground is almost like clay here) & walking home in high heels was almost like a balancing act. By the time we got home - & cleaned up, it was almost 2:30 A.M. - which meant - breakfast was messed this a.m.

We had a grand dinner at 1 P.M. to-day. Louise undoubtedly has told you just what all we did have - but I am actually amazed to see such nice navels - bananas & apples in Camp here. Besides that, we also had fruit cake - & a small bag of raisins, & candies (which the boy in our block who left Camp to work send in to the block - Cookies, a couple of dates - & paper wrapped

toffee. Then at 2:30 p.m. - they had a Xmas program & all children under 15 years of age received gifts which the Church Federation & private parties sent in to camp. There isn't ³⁷⁴ supposed to be a forgotten child in any of the three Camps in Boston, & by the looks of all the packages which arrived in the Y.W.C.A. Club room, I think they had more than the needed 8,000 packages.

I think Mr. Whitney would have loved seeing the expression on little Laynes face when he saw those 2 shiny silver dollars. Alma was so grateful she almost looked as if she were going to cry. Laynes first words were - "Oh boy!" - then he recalled all the hospital visit - the four "dollars" and Mr. Whitney being sick. My - that child has a memory - & is as smart & bright as any child 4 or 5 years old. This is his little old Aunties conceit & pride that comes out of her now & then - but he really is an adorable little fella - altho' at times, rather "rattish".

How is Mr. Whitney now? Have you heard from Braddo lately? Imagine George being home for the holiday has added much to your - & Mr. Whitney's Christmas day. I hope & pray that George will not have to go to Africa. I pray each night for all of you. I know you have so much to do - & so very much on your mind, yet you find time - & have found it for seven full months to bring us happiness - &

hopes for the future. I am grateful - really.
375 After the Manzanar riot, all mail - except
business letters were held up. Now - mail is
going through - & several days ago, I've received
a letter from her girl friend who had seen the
inside truth about the riot. It seems as if the
former Japanese American Citizens League president
& his fellow co-workers sent a resolution to
the President & to the Army Headquarters in
Washington D.C. asking them to reclassify all
Japanese boys of draft age - fix them on the
real basis they should be on (instead of 4-C
& then call the boys to serve Uncle Sam,
all this took place without consulting the
boys who are most concerned in this
matter - the J.A.C.L. former heads are in
their late thirties - hence would not be
affected if the Army did try to reclassify
the boys. All this led to the recent beating
of the J.A.C.L. head & to the riot up there.
The girl who wrote to Sue said the
people at Manzanar thought they should
at least have had ^{warning} told of the plans
& etc because they felt they would love
to join up with the Army if their parents
brothers - sisters & relatives were free people
too - & could return to their original
home towns, otherwise they objected to
this voluntary enlisting. Of course, there
is a lot of argument pro & con on this
subject. It's only disgusting that the people
can't settle such matters in civilized ways -
instead of acting like animals.

I don't know just how you feel about it all, but I write to a good many Japanese American boys who are in service, & I feel really sorry for them. Most of the boys have been away from home for over a year, because a good many of the ³¹⁶ relocation camps are in the military zone, they are not able to visit their folks unless of illness or death in their families. Other wise, if granted furloughs, they have no place in particular to go. About a week ago, I received a letter from a boy in Texas, & I believe his maale had hit bottom - so to speak. He volunteered for service when war broke out - & to this day, he says he doesn't regret it as the U.S. is the only country he knows. But - he says, we shoot about a free government - free people - a fight for democracy, & then, they break down all the principles we're fighting for. He said it just didn't make sense - no how. I gathered furlough time must be just around the corner, but because he's a yellow American, he can't visit his own aged folks, because they're in a military zone. So much -!

I have started to read "The Song of Bernadette" - only three chapters however. I think it is beautifully written. I've been so busy the past three days, I haven't had time to read as I'd like to - & then each night, I read & study

the catechisms - or else read the new Testament
This particular time, I feel, shouldn't be
given up for anything else, altho' the
temptation is great.

377 Last but not least - this is something I
hope we shan't have to do too often -
Dad wanted me to ask you - when you
have time - if you could draw \$50 from
our funds send it to us. We're behind
about 2 months in wages & 3 months
clothing allotment - hence, we've practically
hit the bottom of our funds we brought
in. Any time you have time Mrs. Whitney -
please.

The kids think I'm writing a novel of some
sort - & I think it's about time I stopped
too. Thanks again for the gifts you
sent in. My regards to Mr. Whitney -
Braddo & George. Please tell Mrs. Dougherty
I enjoyed her note so much - & will
write to her soon.

With much love,
Dumico.

Wonders of wonder - we had the coldest
dustless windy day to-day - thanks to
the rain we had last night. Is it cold
in Upland - how about Mt Baldy? Is
there any snow?