Fourth of July

Dear Yuka + Toshio -

A Happy Fourth to you! I imagine that you're celebrating at opposite ends of the world - but nevertheless, like Christmas + Halloween, the day doesn't pass without some thoughts of the holiday + the traditions that go along with it. We'll having hot dogs + potato salad for dinner - + then we're going to watch the fireworks shot off at Dodger Stadium from the balcony at Little Tokyo Towers (L.T.T.).

Homer + I + Emi are in L.A. now with Grandma Yoke. A needle biopsy proved ~~to~~ ~~show~~ that her pancreas ~~was~~ is cancerous. She isn't in pain yet, but she's lost her appetite + is very thin + weakened. However, she's still very alert + taking the hopelessness of her condition with much courage + strength. We just wish that there was some promise for a hope for recovery. Her doctor, also a personal friend, believes that she can manage alone at L.T.T. for about another month + then be admitted to a nursing home. But we feel that someone should be with her for at least part of ~~the~~ each day. She would really like to remain where she is - but we feel that an impossibility, so rather than going directly to a nursing home, she has opted to come to Portland where Homer + I can take care of her. When her condition worsens to the stage

where home care becomes too difficult to manage — perhaps it won't matter to her where she is + then we can transfer her to a care center. What a tragic ending for someone who's been so active throughout her life + overcome so many adversities.

Homer goes back to Portland on Sat. but Emi + I will remain to get G'ma ready to leave for Portland next week. After G'ma's vacated her apt. then Emi + Bill, + possibly Meris, will clear out the apt. of her belongings. Of course, we'll bring some of her "dai ji no mono." to Portland too, so that she'll have a little bit of her home with her.

It'll be lonely for her in Oregon because she doesn't have friends there. She used to always visit with Mrs. Minamito, but she's gone now. But her grandchildren + great grandchildren will be within visiting distance + she's looking forward to that very much. Will keep you posted.

I didn't realize that Danny's birth was a complete surprise to you. Surely, I must've been in touch with you since the kids returned from Greece (their Greece baby the Hayman's tease). But actually, it was a surprise for us too because he came a month early! Barb had just opened her 2nd Gymboree site that day (no wonder) + then went into

labor that night. The family's doing well. Danny was born when Homer + I were going to take a week off to visit parts of Oregon (east + South) — so we went to Seattle instead to keep out.

Mari is in Seattle now also. She's been taking classes at U. of W. off + on — she's toying with the idea of going into veterinary Medicine + so is taking some background Science + Math courses. Right now, however, she's quite busy with her art work + having just recently moved in with Karen Yoshitomi — they + 2 others shared a house — she's not attending School. If she proceeds with her change in Careers — She'll be my age before she finishes school. She has no plans for marriage — Karen is unmarried also — + figure that they're going to have to take care of themselves. They're having a great time — they go camping, skiing, wind surfing, fishing, etc.

Kip + family are well. Kids are growing tall + are noisy + active. They like to play catch type games with G'pa + G'ma because they can't run us. Homer is still "genki" but I find that I can't run much

anymore. "Yare - yare."

Homer & I are doing fine. For every pound Homer loses, I pick up - so at this rate, will be the same weight pretty soon.

Hope all of you are well. Must be having a busy summer with everyone scattering in different directions. Has it been warm there?

We had a heat wave - 2 days of upper 90° weather in Portland about 3 weeks ago — only to come to L.A. where their heat wave is over 100°. And we haven't had a break yet & I've been here almost a week.

I've got to wake up Homer now & we must get going. We have to pick up some flowers (think will find any on the Fourth?) and take G'ma to the cemetery to say "Goodbye" to everyone there.

Please keep well — & give my love to all.

Miyuki

Thank you for all the gifts from Japan! All packages were received & very much appreciated

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