

Block 37-12-7
Hunt Branch
Twin Falls, Idaho
March 8, 1943

Dear Mr. Koyama,

I haven't written you for quite a long time but today I notice my father received a letter from you so I decided that I should write too.

Last night we had a little snow and the night before too but disgustingly enough it is all melting. The weather today is just like Oregon - full of rain mud and water.

We have had only a week of cold weather with a strong wind. All the little girls went

ski pants to school but I saw very few high school girls in slacks. Many wore anklets even then. Some wore knee length hose but few wore really long ones. I suppose they are so used to getting along bare-legged that a few degrees colder weather doesn't matter. I have never seen Eva in long stockings.

Last night Miss Koyama and I went to the regular Sunday night record concert. It was held in a dining hall and there were at least 200 people mostly nisei there. The program consisted of the orchestral scenario from "Showboat" which included Mrs Koyama's favorite "Old Man River." Then in honor

3
of all the boys volunteering for
the army, the records by the
all-army cast of "This is the Army"
were played. I enjoyed them very
much.

I wish you could see all the
boys who are going in the army;
I think you would know a great
many. As you probably know
a number of them have
interned fathers.

A couple women have
around asking us to take a
stitch in a "senmin-bari" which
is supposed to keep bullets from
the wearer. For an Americanized
touch they had "Good Luck"
written on them which thousands
stitches were to outline. I don't
believe in it as I read that

4
hundreds of dead Japanese soldiers
in China had them on their bodies.
But of course I never refuse as it
makes the parents feel better but
I bet the boys don't wear them
as the French knots really must
feel pretty lumpy. One Seattle
woman told me her husband was
interned but her boy enlisted anyway.

Shin came in for just
one day recently. You know
he was in for a week before.
We didn't do much as the
night before he had met Roy
in Twin Falls and they had
talked all night instead of
sleeping. He is thinner and
better looking. Before he was
187 pounds stripped, now he
is 184 with ~~no~~ work clothes on

He is in Colorado way up in
 the mountains; I heard two
 broadcasts from there on the radio.
 He used to work in the post
 exchange but now he drives a
 truck. He hopes to be transferred
 soon to another camp where he
 may get in a combatant unit.

Marie came in Sunday for
 her first visit since before
 Christmas. She is doing housework
 now and finds herself very busy.
 She brought a lot of things home
 and mama told her to save her
 money. I finished a skirt for
 her while she was here.

Roy is working for a big
 farm not too far from here.
 He seems to enjoy the work
 but doesn't like the dark sun-
 tan he has from the outdoor work.

As for me I am busy sewing
as I cannot find work. I am planning
to go ~~out~~ outside again this spring
as the longer one stays here the
worse it is for ~~some~~ you. I do not
mean it is a hard life but in
here you are cut off from real
life - the sooner I go out and really
work at something useful the
better it is. I think it is shameful
for one to stay in camp indefinitely
while everywhere outside there is
an acute shortage of labor.

Mamma is busy working every
day in the kitchen - 10:30^{am} to 6:30^{pm}.

It is rather hard a number of
people say she has grown thinner.
But as for me I can't notice much
difference; she is still pretty round
with no waistline to speak of.

As our minister said "Where are all the political friends of the Japanese? Hardly one is now working for us whereas all the churches are actively working in our behalf - to get education, jobs and friends."

Buddhism is a dying religion for the nisei. As long as nisei are Buddhists, they will be looked on as alien and different. Once the nisei are gone I think very few American - educated nisei will keep on being Buddhist. Then of course the Japanese being scattered will help to kill Buddhism, because wherever only a few Japanese live, they tend to join the local Christian Churches.

Since I came in here I began to realize how different nisei can be. Of course there are two great divisions - the kiberi - nisei and us American reared ones. The two seldom mix

Papa is working too as clean up
man here; it is not too hard for
him. He goes to English night
Classes several times a week.
Then he reads the English paper
very carefully, also the Japanese one,
and the paper published here.
Then once a week he goes to hymn
singing.

My, he is so Christian you
would never know him. You know
before he used to be more or less
inclined to Buddhism although
he never belonged or went there.
Well he is completely Christian now.
A lot of Nisei have become Christian,
every Nisei too. Since evacuation, every
one realizes more and more that
Christianity has more to offer, a more
real meaning in this changing world.

not because we real nisei don't want
to, but because a lot of kibe are
pretty satisfied with themselves the
way they are. Whenever you find
a kibe who wants to Americanize
himself, you find the nisei more
than willing to make friends.
Even among the American educated

nisei I find a lot of differences.
Generally speaking, the Oregonians
are much less Japanese than those
from Seattle.

is because our Japanese community
was smaller, so not all our life was
in it. In Seattle I suppose the
children went to high school or grade
school almost entirely surrounded by
other nisei. A lot more of them
talk & read good Japanese, and some
who have never been to Japan even
have an accent.

Portlanders are much quieter
and what nisei call "sappori"

both nice and nice. Some Seattle
people here say there is much more
cooperation and less bickering among us.

I wish you could see William now;
he is quite a "young man" now.

I suppose you know he is president
of his freshman class and the Sunday
School class too. The other day the

Boy Scout drums & bugle corps
played & marched. It was quite a
stirring event. He is very busy

now with school, boy scout &
church work. Besides he is so good
washing his own corduroy pants
and all the sheets. Very few boys

do that kind of work. He even mops
the floor. In a way your being
away will make him self-reliant and
very considerate of his family.

Corie is growing very pretty - you
should see her hair - she puts it up
in hair pin curls every night. She had
her birthday party at our place and I
never saw such an attractive group of
young girls.

I think of all the children she is
 most like you; she is so good hearted.
 You should see her scrubbing clothes;
 because she goes to school she usually
 does it at night. Her mother says
 she uses bars and bars of soap, but
 then she is so young to be doing that
 kind of work. I don't suppose her
 letters to you tell very much -
 she is like Marie rather reluctant
 to express herself on paper.

Kiyo is still the baby. Eva & William
 have responsibilities and are more
 mature than their age, but Kiyo
 is still pretty young. She is usually
 with her mother and for one reason
 or another does not seem to make
 friends as easily as the rest. In some
 way she has a colder temperament.
 She still loves pork noodles; last
 night after the concert ~~we~~ she
 kept reminding me that we had
 promised her some afterwards.

So she stopped in at our place and
had two helpings.

Sometimes I wonder what would
happen to your children if they went
to internment camp. Would they become

"Japanese" and different? Wouldn't

they miss the occasional chances
here to go outside and meet Caucasians?

William wants to go outside and
work during beet season - he might
not have such chances if he joined you.

Somehow I hope you can get a
rehearing - of all the people I know
your life is most like an open book.

Then maybe you could come here
and do dentistry here - it takes two
months before one can get an appointment.
I see by the papers that there is
a desperate shortage of workers outside

too. Life outside of camp won't be
easy - it will be full of hard work
and troubles too perhaps, but after
all it will be a real normal life.

I do not think mama & papa
will go out. After all papa is pretty

old, and mama's health is not so good.
Since we were evacuated it has been
better but I do not believe either of
them are able to do farm work.

Roy worries about them and says
he will support them after the war.
He works so hard for his money and is
so good hearted it is soon all gone.
He sends a great many things
home and is always worrying about
whether we lack anything. We are
lucky to have both Mama and Roy
so close to home.

I meet so many nice who
talk of you. I go around with

Teruko Nagae - do you remember her?
Tamiko and Hisa Asaki remember you
kindly also. Did I tell you of Henry Stami
whose teeth you were fixing? Well he
doesn't have them in yet.

I hear you are golfing now.
I remember ^{how} you always practiced at
home even way late at night after
work. Well I suppose you don't have to
get up & fix your own coffee in the
morning. Sunday so you can go early

It makes me laugh when
they are now impatient the family
wasn't you wouldn't come home
till late in the afternoon and they
wanted to come to our place.

Do you remember the rug we always
used for lunching in the woods?
We have it here and use it on our floor.
It is pretty threadbare but it is warm.

Your walking sticks are very attractive,
better than the sagebrush ones made
here. Mama thinks hers very pretty,
but she laughed & said she did not
need it yet, but Mr. K. laughed at her
and said, "well, daddy sent me one too!"

Your tray for William was so well
made papa borrowed it to show his
friends how good it was. He took his
reading glass along too so they could
fully appreciate the fine work on
the little turtle.

I hope you can read this, I am
using papa's old dip-pen as I lent a
friend my fountain pen. This is a
lot of paper but I sprate sprawl all over,
so Roy always asks me didn't I ever hear
of a paper shortage.

Don't bother answering as you aren't
allowed many letters - Mrs. K. often shows me
your letters.
your friend
Lois