

R 3 27 Rec. 1/27/43

Dec. 22, 1942

Dearest Oji-san

It has been such a long time since I last heard from you. It may be that you are waiting to hear from us?

We've been waiting for you one whole year already.

It's almost unbelievable! During the past year so many things have happened, but we've missed you more than anything else. As I look into my five years diary, I see how different everything was 5 years ago. Last and this year has been the very worst. In fact, it's been so bad, that I even hate to look back at the things that have happened since last December. Christmas and New Years seem to get worse and worse, year after year. It's disgusting.

Often we wonder if we'll ever have a Christmas as the ones we used to have two or three years ago.

This year, Christmas will be vastly different. Here in camp, every mess Hall is competing against each other to see which dining Hall will be decorated the most attractive one. Each mess Hall was provided with a few decorations as well as a tree, but for the most part we have to use our own originality. Last night, I went to help with the decorations in our block mess hall, and it seems as though we deserve a prize. (The judges are all American) We sprayed the tree white and sprinkled it with

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snow flakes (artificial). The windows are decorated with huge stars and wreaths which are made ^{out} from wood shavings. It's really clever, since Mr. Toyoji is the decorative chairman of our block. You've known how artistic he is.

Anyway, a small part of the front of the room is painted with a huge picture of the three wise men looking up at the Guiding star, and above the counter, where we line up to get our food, is decorated with letters spelling "A Merry Christmas" and with 2 silver bells. Soon we'll be putting up cute angels on the posts. Everything is so nice, that I wish you could be here to see it.

Of course we're having a party on Christmas day, and Midori and Ayako are in the program. Kazumi maybe too. Oji-san, are you doing anything there for Xmas? I hope you'll be having a merry Christmas. Last Saturday, we received your Christmas package to us, and we were so surprised! My, that rock vase you made is really wonderful! Gosh those rocks are pretty and colorful, and those other things you carved! Mio-san began using that cigarette holder right away, and he was saying that it works fine. About that vase, are all those rocks from Missada? Oh, but we never knew you could do those things. So you can imagine our surprise when it came. You certainly must have worked hard on the vase. Every one of us, including the Fujii's want to thank you for them. Every one of them came

in perfect condition too. Just yesterday 21st, we received a Christmas card from Walter & Helen Hirozawa. We hadn't heard from them ever since that time they wrote to us when they had gone to Carey after their marriage. We had been wondering as to what had happened to them, and suddenly we hear from them yesterday. We were all very much surprised. Now they are living in Montana. Did I write you that high school had started? No? Well, this high school is a combination of the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades and is located in the center of the Camp, so its about a miles walk from our house, to school, and back. School started on Nov. 16, and we have 8 hrs of school in day except Saturday and Sunday. We don't even have vacations as we used to in Seattle; although school consists of 8 hrs from 8:30 in the morning til 5 in the noon, I ~~don't~~^{doubt} if any pupil has that many hours of study, since we all have some periods for just study or staying home. My schedule runs like this from 8:30 - 9:15 home meaning I could stay at home from 9:15 - 10:15 study, from 10:15 - 11:15 physical education, from 11:15 - 12 chorus. Then I go home for lunch, which is from 12 - 1:30 from 1:30 - 2:15 I have Biology which is very interesting. I like science very much and its one of my favorite subjects. From 2:15 - 3:15 study; from 3:15 - 5:00 history & English. By this time,

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every one get sleepy and the class is damn dull.

Practically all the teachers are Caucasians, and are very considerable.

Just now, Ka-cha, wake up from her afternoon nap and is in very bad humor ^{???}. I tried to persuade her to play with a sling and make things, but she insists she can't do it, when she is in good humor, she can make a bridge from string, all by herself. She is very proud of her accomplishment, and is willing to show it to anyone.

How is the weather downtown? Is it very cold? It's fairly cold here, and we are always having muddy roads. By the way, we had a white Thanksgiving, It snowed and snowed right on that day.

Since, it'll be getting colder from now on, please take good care of yourself.

Lovingly
Yoshiko

P.S. We have been knitting something for you, but think it will not reach you by Christmas.