

Hoak Hall

Mar. 8, 1943

How the hell are you, Kenji?

It's with great misgivings and doubts that I pick up the pen to write to you - the first decent letter I'm writing since I got here, and this is no bull. Apology isn't enough, I realize, but I felt that I had to write you, and so tonight, with a German lesson still bedw, I'm dashing off a line to you. I've been busier than the proverbial ant, and I'll quote statistics shortly to prove it. I can't believe that I've been here over a month already, and I left camp two months ago - it's been plenty long since I saw you last. But please believe me when I say that I haven't been neglecting my correspondence by hoarding around - which I haven't - and I hope to hell you forgive me.

First, thanks a lot for showing me around St. Louis. And please give my regards all way there - Kanda, Dorothy, Murdoch, Gladys, Margaret, Jiro Yama et al, for I haven't the time to write them. It's a hell of a spot I'm in - a 1,000 letters promised, & nothing to show for it.

Before I wander too far astray, I might as well start reciting the chain of events since I left you there in St. Louis that beautiful Sunday morning - Feb. 21, wasn't it? As I got closer & closer to Chicago, the weather got colder & colder. During the week there I almost froze to death -

Today in Oberlin, the mercury has been hovering around the 0 mark, and that "ain't" warm. A week in Chicago - took Ypsubo to a play at the Civic Opera (colder than hell) (cost me \$2.20 per seat), but I enjoyed it like hell. She seemed ~~at~~ very quiet - a petite number, I might say. Not a peep out of both of us about you - you seemed to be the forgotten number. ~~You~~ I stayed in Evanston - what a time that night. From the Loop, to where she stays, back to the DC, to the Loop & up to Evanston, & I crawled into bed at 3 - froze solid. I stayed right behind the Northwestern stadium.

I couldn't prove it, tho, when Haruo Kurosaki came up to Evanston to hear me the night I pulled in - knock me over with a toothpick!! And the other girls there seemed very much struck with her beauty - and who says she ain't? Had a couple of good sessions in the D House lounge with her, Mizu's dabao, ~~for~~ Kakauchi, also Gladys when she pulled in, a gal named Connie Endo from Head Cover & Delicate - the lone male was I! Also met Beatrice in the Loop - took Gladys into the Palmer House cafe for lunch, and I almost shrieked when I saw the prices. Sponged some money off of her to get here - a close shave, particularly since I bought a suit - with Gladys advising. I wanted to take Haruo out dancing, but the weather was too bad. Also saw Yoko Kawano - same as ever - and describe who, to quell all rumors, was working full time at the C.T.S. office, also Atsuko Yano at dinner that night. Some of the other Seattleites - Ruth Yoshimoto, Kayko Kurosaki, Mikiho Shiga - but no fellows.

Bill met me at the train, nine miles from here at Olympia.

and brought me in. The day was beautifully warm, but I haven't seen another since. I have seen more snow than ever before — enough to last me a lifetime.

Here I am at Noah — Bill's at the other end of the Hall ~~two~~ doors down — here he is bothering me again. Incidentally this is a "Jap" floor — Sammy oi from UCLA and our camp is my roommate — a couple of days ago Soichi Mukaie from UC + Mt. Mtn. came in to take the room between Bill + us. Plenty of bullying; taking jitters long lessons from Soichi, but no dates yet. Sat night Sammy went to a formal — what a "kamasome" man in Bill's tails, my scarf, Soichi's shoes — etc. There are about 17 missionaries here now — three graduated a couple of days after I came — Sue Haganaga, Harry's gal; Ichiko Mukaie, Bill's interest, & a third one with Matsuda, <sup>all</sup> from Hawaii. Also Harry's Moresaga got her degree from the U of Washington — Harry & Ichiko are working in Cleveland now. Besides the girl cornered off, there's little fancy caliber here — so I'll have to find some "hooles" — as if those cornered off were.

I've gone into Cleveland only once, with expenses paid, to speak, but Sammy & I are going in this Sat. to visit the WCA office there. Since arrival I've spoken a half dozen times — once for a chapel service with a fellow from Julelake, Dave Okada, & a Caucasian girl — again at a morning worship service (7:30 a.m.). Those two speeches took a good 20 hours to prepare, & I don't think the results were worth it. With Bill & a couple of Caucasian (angus) big shot(s) (clerical), were planning a conference of missionaries & interested Caucasians

on relocation, et al, to take place here about the second week end in May. Would any from St. Louis come if the plans go thru for such a meet - <sup>to</sup> bring riseis from as many colleges as possible plus "Y" members, any others interested & not necessarily students, with, we hope, some good leadership. A J trustee of the Fellowship of Reconciliation may be here - give me your thoughts on the matter. Much of the work will be undertaken by Caucasians - we have a group of about 30 (15 riseis & 15 C.) vitally interested in putting the program over - incidentally I read in the Julian Dispatch that Kague Kyon's got a release to Western College down south at Oxford, Ohio, & dropped her a card, but no answer yet.

Did you say something about an hour's homework in German being enough? Not at this school's a good two hours plus per night (5 days a week), & I'm getting only Cs. while traveling like an express train, & that's no hell. Also taking Soc. 2, Poli Sci 2, & Econ 10 - distributive option - keeps me plenty busy. This school's no crap -

Owens is a nice college town - plenty of "schwoonty" around here, and how the fellows partake. Bill wants me to give you his regards to interrupt the trend of thought. It's cold, but I'm looking forward to spring, moonlit nights, strolling out to the Ark - everything seems so damn surreal here in college. The starkness of camp life as contrasted with the luxury of college life - ~~camp life~~ - <sup>camp life</sup> - ~~deba~~ at the dorms leisurely partaken - what a life! Must close now - very abruptly - but until again - be good

Just,  
Kenji