

Dearest Mom

10: P.M.
May
19

Your dress arrived this morning. It came with Pete's telegram.

Gosh, it was really a thrill; a kind of thrill I never felt at birthday time before. I guess, now that I'm married I'm getting to realize what family ties are. Remember how I never appreciated gifts before. Strange, how changed I feel inside of me.

Bill's Dad was just over. He brought over cake and ice-cream; cake that he decorated himself.

He's been awfully swell to me. He continually does things for us... and he does it in such a happy way... as if he gets something out of it himself.

Slowly, I'm getting to see, through Bill's Dad, the kind of dreams and hopes and joys parents ~~hold~~^{feel} in their experiences and association with their children. It's really touching.

I only wish 'Pop' were still alive. How differently I would act towards him now.... that I'm getting to see things. Our home-world was something so divided and apart from one another when we lived together. Each of our horizons were different. And I can recall how many times you

SAID, "YOU'LL REALIZE THINGS WHEN IT'S TOO LATE."

- Mom, IT'S TRUE. . . . BUT IF SUCH A THING AS REALIZATION ^{DOES HAPPEN} ~~IS SINCERE~~, ~~IT~~ NOTHING IS REALIZED TOO LATE, ^{IS IT} REGARDLESS OF WHEN IT HAPPENS? AT LEAST, IT'S REALIZED, Mom. SO PLEASE FORGIVE WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE.

AND ^{ALTHOUGH} ~~BECAUSE~~ WE ALL LIVED 'MENTALLY' APART, AT LEAST, THE OUTCOME IS A HAPPY ONE. WE'RE ALL SO VERY CLOSE NOW. AND DON'T YOU THINK WE'RE CLOSE NOW BECAUSE AT ONE TIME THERE WERE THOSE "GAPS"; ~~OR~~ GAPS OF MISUNDERSTANDING, ~~AND~~ IMMATURITY, AND FREEDOM TO GO ONE'S OWN WAY.

LIFE IS ^{AN ADVENTURE IN REALITY} ~~A SERIES OF LESSONS~~ THAT TAKES A LIFE-TIME OF EXPERIENCES TO LEARN ALL THAT IT HOLDS. WE CAN LEARN ONLY LESSON BY LESSON; NOT ALL AT ONCE.

SOMEHOW IT CAN'T BE "FORCED" INTO ^{US} ~~YOU~~. IT HAS TO ^{OR} ~~BE~~ 'SINK IN' THROUGH PERSONAL ACCEPTANCE, ^{OF TRUTH} AND ~~THAT~~ I'M SURE GOD ~~MAY~~ GIVES EACH INDIVIDUAL A CHANCE TO 'REALIZE' WHATEVER SHOULD BE REALIZED.

^U YES, IT'S ^{TOO} LATE TO TELL POP "THANKS"; OR GIVE HIM ATTENTION WE SHOULD HAVE GIVEN EARLIER; OR ^{PUT HIM INTO} ~~LET HIM JOIN~~ OUR ACTIVITIES TODAY, BUT . . . ACTUALLY HE'S MORE ALIVE TO ME NOW THAN HE'S EVER

BEEN.

Mom, you don't know how much I've
THOUGHT OF HIM SINCE GETTING MARRIED.

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I SEE 'POP'
~~ANIMATE UNCLE TOM~~ THROUGH BILL'S DAD... ^{(AS} ~~AND~~
THE FATHER THAT HE WAS THAT WE DIDN'T
QUITE KNOW; AND THEN AGAIN THROUGH
BILL AS THE HUSBAND THAT HE WAS TO
YOU AS A YOUNG MAN.

POP MUST HAVE ^{STRANGE, BUT BILL DOES} ~~BEEN~~ LIKE. ^{MAKE ME THINK OF WHAT} ~~REMINDED ME~~
~~OF POP.~~ AND AS BILL AND I LIVE
TOGETHER THROUGH THE YEARS, PERHAPS
I'LL GET TO UNDERSTAND AND LOVE 'POP'
MORE AND MORE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY SPARE PICTURES
COULD YOU SEND SOME OF HIM, AND THE
TWO OF YOU TOGETHER. ALSO SOME OF
THOSE PICS OF US KIDS WHEN WE WERE
IN GRAMMAR SCHOOL. AND REMEMBER
THE ONE IN MY NITON-GI WHEN I WAS
ABOUT 8? AND PETE AND I WHEN
WE WERE SO BLACK... (KINDERGARDEN
AGE?)... I'LL SEND THEM BACK...
BUT FOR SOME NOSTALGIC REASON, I
JUST WANTED TO GLIMPSE AT THEM AGAIN.

COULD YOU ALSO SEND THAT LARGE
PICTURE OF ANNO AND JOYCE THAT'S
SITTING ON THE RADIO. I'LL SEND THAT
BACK TOO.

AND NOW BACK TO THE DRESS. I
LIKE IT VERY MUCH. AT FIRST, I FELT
I COULDN'T WEAR IT BECAUSE I'M SO FLAT-
BREASTED AND I HAD NEVER TRIED TO
WEAR GRAY.

BUT WHEN BILL SAID HE LIKED IT, AND
IT SO HAPPENS TO MATCH HIS GRAY PIN-
STRIPED SUIT, I COULDN'T HELP BUT LIKE IT
TOO.

THE NEXT TIME WE GO OUT, I'LL
BE SURE AND WEAR IT.

WHICH REMINDS ME, BILL CERTAINLY
FELL IN LOVE WITH THAT BATH-ROBE
YOU SENT HIM. HE REALLY APPRECIATED
IT. GOSH, IT LOOKS WONDERFUL ON HIM.
IT 'EXCITES' ME JUST TO SEE HIM IN
IT.

THE PACKAGE FROM MRS. LAU WAS
A BEAUTIFUL RED AND WHITE PRINT. I WANT
TO MAKE BILL A KANAKA-SHIRT AND MYSELF,
A DIRNDLE SKIRT. ^{SO} IF YOU HAVE A SHIRT
PATTERN, ^{WOULD} ~~WILL~~ YOU SEND IT OVER?

AND OH YES, I ALMOST FORGOT...
REMEMBER THE HELMETS BILL SENT ME? HE
WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE GERMAN ONE
(THE BETTER OF THE TWO) TO GIVE TO
HIS VERY GOOD FRIEND, "OUR" UNCLE HARRY.
(MR. HARRY YANO).

And Mom, he would like for you
to use the other helmets as plant
holders to hang from the porch.
Ask Petr to bore some holes. He'll
understand.

Oh! One more thing . . . remem-
ber all those Crusader G.I. ^{ROSTER} ~~FILE~~ NOTE-
BOOKS? (442; MIS; Misc. APO's; Hosp.;
ETC., ETC. . . . ALSO MAINLAND CITY-BY-CITY
(~~CHRONOLOGICALLY FILED~~)
BLACK NOTE BOOK) ??? Could you send
them all? That is, if you don't need
them: . . .

And whatever happened to the
LAST CRUSADER MONEY? How was it
USED? Was just curious.

Another favor:

Could you send the OIL-PAINTING
that Ben sent from Italy? Remember,
the one we opened when we first
came back to Pedro?

Oh! Oh! Oh! Just got a letter
from Art. Chayo and he may visit us

BEFORE THEY HEAD BACK TO THE WEST
COAST.

RINCO and ROTH ARE NOW IN
WASHINGTON D.C. TOURING AROUND.

EDDIE HASHIMOTO (C. 4) GOT
MARRIED.

THE UCHIS ARE OUT HERE IN
N.Y. ALSO CHIZ NAKAI. AND BILL
SAYS THERE'S A MRS. YAMAGUCHI TOO.

MOST CLOSE NOW. BILL IS ALREADY
IN BED.

So good-nite, mom!
and thank; again and again,
Love, Mary

P.S. Gosh, BILL TREATS ME SO WONDER-
FULLY, I JUST FEEL ASHAMED AT THE
WAY I OFTEN ACT. (YOU KNOW HOW I GET
WHEN I'M NOT FEELING WELL OR THINGS
DON'T GO OFF JUST SO). CHEE, I'VE JUST
GOT TO HAVE ON TO MYSELF. HE'S SO WONDER-
FUL! HE'S ONE IN A LIFE-TIME!! YOU JUST CAN'T
IMAGINE WHAT HAPPINESS HE'S GIVEN ME.