

Dearest Mom... - - -

Nov.
22

Quite a bit has happened since our last correspondence.

For one thing, I'm no longer working. On doctor's order, I got a medical discharge from the Book-of-the-Month.

Am leisurely sitting at home, writing this note. Bill is beside me, studying. We just finished 'brunch'.

For quite some while, I hadn't been feeling well, so last week, I went to the B.O.M. medical and asked for a two week rest leave. (I did that, hoping I could still ~~finish~~ continue working till the end of the year... after this "rest-up." But... the doctor advised the personnel to release me at once. At first I was irked because I wanted to continue work. Y'see, if we work til Christmas, we get a bonus of 4 weeks pay.

But perhaps this was for the best. My body does feel tired... and staying at home is wonderful.

I did, however, get an extra week's pay. And on top of that, the girls in my dept. (Dictaphone Dept.) gave me a surprise farewell-baby shower. It was so unexpected... I couldn't help but cry. This was last Friday, (the last day I worked).

THEY GAVE ~~ME~~^{US} THREE BABY BLANKETS, 2 UNDER-SHIRTS, 2 JACKETS, 2 DIAPERS, 2 SWEATERS (BOTH HAND-KNITTED), CAP, BOOTIES, & 2 NIGHTGOWNS. IT'S NICE TO GET 'A START' LIKE THAT.

ANOTHER GIRL, MARGIE SORENSON (WHO LIVED IN THE SAME APT. AS US ON 84TH ST.) GAVE ~~ME~~^{US} A BIB & COUPLE OF OTHER ARTICLES.

YURI (JACOB) GAVE US SOME WARM 'NIGHTIES' AND SOMETHING LIKE DIAPER-PANTIES. SHE'S ALSO GOING TO LET ME USE ONE OF HER MATERNITY DRESSES.

I'M ALREADY USING MITSIE'S. SHE'S ~~GOING~~ LETTING ME USE HER "WRAP-AROUND" MATERNITY SKIRT. IT'S JUST WHAT I NEED RIGHT NOW. I'M HOPING TO BUY ONE NEXT WEEK. THE ONE I'M USING IS NAVY BLUE, SO I'LL GET A BROWN ONE FOR THE OTHER.

THEN, WITH YOUR NAVY BLUE DRESS THAT YOU SENT, I DON'T THINK I NEED ANYTHING ELSE FOR MYSELF.

BY THE WAY, WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN I CAN'T SQUEEZE INTO MY NIGHT-GOWNS? DO THEY HAVE MATERNITY GOWNS?

AND OH ABOUT THE BABY FUND YOU WROTE ABOUT . . . MY GOSH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO SO MUCH TROUBLE. PLEASE DON'T BUY ANYTHING UNLESS WE NEED IT. SEVERAL PEOPLE HAVE SAID WE COULD BORROW THEIR CRIB. WAIT! (ON SECOND THAT . . . I GUESS WE WILL NEED A ^{REGULAR} BABY-BED). WE CAN'T BORROW SOMEONE ELSE'S THAT LONG.

IF YOU COULD GET US THAT, THEN WE'LL SAVE
FOR A CARRIAGE. WE ALSO HAVE A BABIES FUND
WE STARTED SHORTLY AFTER WE GOT MARRIED.
ONE IS A PENNY^{PIECY} BANK. THE OTHER IS A
NICKLE-~~END~~^{ROUND}-OVER ~~GLASS~~ GLASS CONTAINER 
CALLED 'SAVE FOR THE KIDDIES.' IF WE EVER
GET IT FILLED, WE'LL HAVE \$300.00.

OMIGOSH! WE HAVEN'T EVEN THANKED
YOU FOR ALL THOSE CANNED GOODS. IT WAS
LIKE CHRISTMAS OPENING THEM. WE'VE
ALREADY USED MOST ALL OF IT. PLEASE
THANK CHIYO AND ART. THOSE FRUIT AND
VEGETABLE JUICES ARE JUST THE THINGS WE
NEED.

AND YES I DID GET YOUR BLUE DRESS
YOU SENT TO YURI. THAT'S THE ONE I LOVE
SO MUCH. IT'LL BE MORE FOR SUNDAY WEAR,
AS I'LL WEAR THE WRAP-AROUND SKIRTS
DURING THE WEEK. I'M GOING TO START
LOOKING FOR SOME CUTE BRIGHT-COLORED
SMOCKS TO WEAR ON TOP.

MITSU'S ALSO GOING TO TEACH ME HOW
TO SEW. SHE MAKES MOST ALL HER CLOTHES.
YURI TOO. YURI DOES A LOT OF KNITTING TOO.

SINCE I STARTED ON MY FIFTH
MONTH, I'VE STARTED TO SHOW SOME.
I FELT AWFULLY GOOD FOR THE PAST SEVERAL
WEEKS (OUTSIDE OF MY COLD) BUT YESTER-
DAY I STARTED FEELING NAUSEATED AGAIN.

IT'S SORT OF A DIFFERENT KIND OF NAUSEA
THO. I FEEL TIRED AND WEAK ALL OVER.
MY BACK SORT OF ACHES TOO. AND ONCE
IN A WHILE, THE BONES NEAR MY VAGINA
GIVES PAIN. THOSE ARE ALL NORMAL PRENATAL
IRRITATIONS, SO THERE'S NO WORRY. I'M HOPING
THESE ARE ALL SYMPTOMS JUST BEFORE
FEELING "LIFE." I HAVEN'T FELT THAT SENSATION
YET.

* * * * *

BEFORE I FORGET, AM ENCLOSING A
NOTE YAYOI ASKED ME TO FORWARD TO YOU.
HER SISTER GAVE BIRTH A COUPLE OF MONTHS
AGO.

OH! EMI (MOMONO) KADA JUST WROTE
AND SAID SHE WAS EXPECTING TOO. SHE'S
EXPECTING ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF MAY.
ALSO JUST HEARD THAT KATSUO (HAYASHI)
YOKOTA GAVE BIRTH LAST MONTH.

YURI'S SISTER (WHO LIVES ON THE
NEXT STREET) IS EXPECTING AGAIN.

THAT'S ALL WE TALK ABOUT NOW.

AM ALSO DOING A LOT OF READING ON PRE-
NATAL AND BABY CARE. AND FROM NEXT
WEEK, I'LL START GOING TO THE CLINIC'S
"MOTHERS CLUB." IT'S EVERY TUESDAY FOR
ONE HOUR.

OH — ABOUT DIAPERS. YOU PROBABLY
WONDERED WHAT I WOULD DO WITH THIS
TERRIFIC DIAPER SHORTAGE. ALL THE MOTHERS
IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD ARE TAKING DIAPER
SERVICE. IT'S NOT TOO EXPENSIVE AND IT'S A

BIG TIME-SAVER.

GOSH, I BETTER CHANGE THE SUBJECT.
I'LL TURN BACK TO YOUR LETTER. ABOUT
THAT BANQUET FOR THE VEIS. IT MUST HAVE
BEEN A HUGE AFFAIR WITH 1200 PEOPLE
ATTENDING.

I DON'T THINK THERE'S EVER BEEN A
BANQUET THAT LARGE GIVEN IN NEW YORK.
EVEN DIMON'S MEYER'S DINNER... DIDN'T HAVE
300 PEOPLE.

YES, WE WERE SORRY AND SURPRISED
TO HEAR MR. FINCH WASN'T THERE. WE JUST
HOPE HIS MOTHER IS ALL RIGHT NOW. HE
ALWAYS WORRIES ABOUT HIS PARENTS. HE
VISITED US A MONTH AND A HALF AGO.

HE BOUGHT A HOUSE IN LOS ANGELES
JUST TO HOUSE SOME NISEIS AND ISSEIS.
IT'S ON SAN PEDRO STREET, AROUND 25TH,
I THINK. (OR DID HE SAY 11TH). GOSH, I
FORGOT. WHERE IS ART'S STORE? MAYBE
I'M GETTING THE TWO CONFUSED, BUT IT'S
NEAR EACH OTHER.

PAUSE

BILL JUST LEFT FOR SCHOOL. HE HAS
JUST ONE CLASS ON FRIDAYS... MATH CLASS.
TALKING ABOUT BILL AND SCHOOL, GOSH MOM,
HE'S DOING TERRIFICALLY WELL. HE JUST
HAD HIS MID-TERM EXAMS. HE HASN'T FOUND
OUT WHAT HE ~~GET~~ DID IN MATH^{and history} BUT HIS OTHER

GRADES ARE: JOURNALISM - A, ENGLISH B,
ADVERTISING - B.

BACK TO YOUR LETTER AGAIN, IT WAS WONDER-
FUL NEWS TO HEAR ABOUT PETE YAMAZAKI. ANY
GIRL GETTING PETE IS LUCKY. IS IT CERTAIN
THAT HIS BRIDE-TO-BE IS JOY TANAHASHI? THEY'LL
MAKE A NICE COUPLE. KEI (TANAHASHI) AND PETE
WERE GOOD FRIENDS IN COLLEGE... AND I'M
SURE, IF KEI COULD SPEAK FOR A FEW MINUTES,
HE WOULD HAPPILY APPROVE OF JOY'S CHOICE.

YOU REMEMBER LT. TANAHASHI, DON'T YOU?
HE VISITED US ONCE. HE IS VERY MUCH LIKE
PETE; VERY LIKEABLE BY EVERYONE.

LAST SATURDAY, SEVERAL OF THE ISLAND
442nd BOYS CAME OVER FOR SUPPER. SOME
DAY, THESE BOYS MIGHT VISIT YOU. IF THEY
COME JUST ONE OR TWO AT A TIME, I HOPE YOU
WOULD LET THEM STAY FOR A FEW DAYS.
ERNEST TSUJI WAS ONE. HE'S A MERCHANT
MARINE NOW. (AS YOU KNOW, HE AND MITSU
ARE SEPARATED. DON'T ASK HIM ANY PERSONAL
QUESTIONS. IT WOULD HELP HIM IF YOU COULD
JUST MAKE HIM FEEL AT HOME). HIS PAL,
SATORU KATO WAS WITH HIM. SATORU IS AN
AMPUTEE; LOST ONE LEG... FROM ABOVE
THE KNEE. HE'S ONE OF THE CRUSADER COR-
RESPONDENTS; WAS IN LAWSON GENERAL; A
VERY NICE FELLOW. ANOTHER WAS SAM
YAMASHIRO WHO KNOWS HARUO FUJII.
AND... IOWING AICAHOSHI, 100th INFANTRYMAN;
D.S.C. WINNER; A MODEST, LIKEABLE, QUIET
BUT FRIENDLY PERSON. THEY ALL WENT THROUGH

PLENTY OVERSEA. TSUJI, TOO, I GUESS YOU KNOW, WAS INJURED. HE'S GETTING ~~THE~~ A 50% DISABILITY PENSION. HE SENDS HIS HELLOS TO YOU AND THE JUNIOR CRUSADERS OF BLOCK 3.

By the way, Mom, DID YOU APPLY FOR YOUR NATURALIZATION PAPER? GOSH, WE HOPE YOU HAVE. IT'D BE WONDERFUL IF ALL THE ISSEIs DO THAT.

IT'S BEEN QUITE AN ISSUE OUT HERE. WHETHER IT'LL PASS CONGRESS OR NOT, IT WOULD LOOK GOOD IF THE RESPONSE BY THE ISSEI SHOWS INTEREST.

THE AUTO-MECHANIC WHOSE CARD YOU SENT I JUST CAN'T PLACE HIM, BUT DON'T TELL HIM THAT. PLEASE GIVE HIM OUR REGARDS. STUNNY, I CAN'T RECALL THAT NAME. HE MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN ME MIXED UP WITH MARY TAWAKA . . . ~~SURE~~ COZ' IF HE REMEMBERED ME, HE WOULD SURELY KNOW PETE. BUT AGAIN, HIS NAME DOES SOUND FAMILIAR.

How is Art and Chiyo's BUSINESS? IS IT PICKING UP MORE and MORE? WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR THEY EVEN WORK ON SUNDAY. CAN'T THEY EVER REST?

SOME DAY, IF JAPANESE BOATS START COMING IN AGAIN, YOU CAN TIE IT UP WITH SHIP-CHANDLERY BIZ, HUH? THAT WOULD HELP CHIYO and ART, WOULDN'T IT?

CAN YOU GET MINO and JEAN TABATA'S ADDRESS?
HAVE OFTEN WONDERED WHERE THEY WERE.
AND WOULD YOU PLEASE SEND KIMI OMOTANI'S
AGAIN. YOU SENT IT ONCE, BUT I FORGOT TO
COPY IT IN THE NOTE-BOOK.

SAY "HELLO" TOO, TO ANY OF OUR FRIENDS,
LIKE HARUO and KAY TAGAMI (Bill STAYED
IN THEIR BLOCK, ACROSS FROM KAY); SUMI
SEO, + ANY BLOCK 3 CRUSADERS. THEY RE-
MEMBER Bill.

WE'VE DISCUSSED OFTEN ABOUT VISITING
YOU NEXT SUMMER... BUT SEVERAL PEOPLE
HAVE SAID THE BABY WOULD STILL BE TOO
YOUNG TO TRAVEL. WHAT DO YOU THINK? IT'll
BE 5 OR 6 MONTHS.

THEY SAY THE TRAIN IS TOO HARD ON
A BABY. BUT IF WE GO BY PLANE, THE
TICKETS ALONE WOULD COST US \$550.00
(^{\$275.00 PER} PERSON).

WE'RE WONDERING IF YOU CAN VISIT US
OUT HERE IF WE CAN'T MAKE IT OVER THERE.
THEN MAYBE THE FOLLOWING YEAR WE
CAN "MAKE" IT OVER THERE.

FROM NEXT WEEK, AM GOING TO START
LOOKING FOR WORK-AT-HOME, LIKE ADDRESSING
ENVELOPES, TYPING MANUSCRIPTS, OR DOING
SIMPLE SEWING, ~~BEAD WORK~~. EVERY
LITTLE CENT WILL HELP.

THE OTHER DAY I WENT TO JOE OYAMA'S STORE . . . ONE OF THE VERY FEW PLACES THAT SELLS JAPANESE FOOD-STUFF. I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE SO MANY, MANY THINGS I THOT THEY NEVER HAD OUT HERE. NORI, KAMPYO, DRIED FISH, MISO-SUKE IN TA-RU'S, ALL KINDS OF O-SEN-BE'S, and EVEN . . . OH-MIGOSH - . . . I FORGOT WHAT-YOU-CALED-FU . . . THAT WHATSYACALLIT YOU SENT . . . SWEET-STUFF . . . SHUCKS, I CANT THINK OF THE NAME, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

after that YO-KAN. *That's the word*

I GOT SOME MISO and MADE MISO-SHIRO. THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I TRIED IT. I ALSO GOT SOME CHINESE GREENS and COOKED IT WITH PORK.

THE NEXT TIME YOU WRITE, COULD YOU PUT DOWN SOME SIMPLE JAPANESE DISHES IN RECIPE FORM. ESPECIALLY O-TSU-YU. OH! AND HOW DO I FIX O-KA-RA? FOR THE FIRST TIME, I SAW IT BEFORE IT'S COOKED. I DIDNT KNOW IT EVEN LOOKED LIKE THAT.

ALSO - PLEASE TELL ME HOW YOU USED TO MAKE THOSE APPLE-TURN-OUTER LIKE STUFF? TO MAKE A PIE  I DONT KNOW HOW TO MAKE A PIE YET. DO YOU JUST PUT SLICES OF ^{RAW} APPLE and PUT IT INSIDE THE DOUGH . . . OR DOES THE APPLE HAVE TO BE COOKED A LITTLE FIRST? HOW MUCH SUGAR?

And.... how do you do an APRICOT PIE?
Do you use DRIED APRICOTS OR WHAT?

PLEASE ALSO TELL US JOYCE and
DARLENE'S AGE. WHAT KIND OF THINGS
WOULD THEY ENJOY FOR CHRISTMAS?

CHET, I'VE BEEN RAMBLING ON and ON.
Pam will be coming home soon. We're
suppose to go to GUNT and MARIAN'S FOR
SUPPER. LAST WEEK WE ALL WENT TO
YORI and BONER AND HAD A WONDERFUL
SPAGHETTI DINNER.

I BETTER GET READY.

TELL EVERYBODY "HELLO" FROM US.
We'll BOTH BE WRITING TO PETE SOON.

Love, Mary

WE JUST RECEIVED A BABY GIFT FROM
EVELYN (JUGUM) NELSON. REMEMBER HER?
THE GIRL WITH THE BEAUTIFUL VOICE, SWEET,
ALWAYS JOYFUL GIRL. LIVED RIGHT NEAR US,
AND ALSO NEAR LUCIE. SHE SENT A
CAP and BOOTIE SET, REAL CUTE THINGS.
WISH YOU WOULD WRITE A THANK-YOU NOTE TOO.
SHE ASKS OF YOU OFTEN. SHE'S A MOTHER
NOW, HAD HER BABY ABOUT 3 MONTHS AGO.

Mrs. EARL NELSON
2318 ACTON STREET
BERKELEY, 2, CALIF.