

October 17, 1945

Mr. George Kuratomi
4602-B
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

Dear Mr. Kuratomi:

I want to express my deep appreciation for your cooperation with Miss Hankey. Will you keep me informed about your plans? If you are passing through Berkeley, I should like very much to have an opportunity to talk with you.

In the meantime, I wonder whether you could send me an accurate list of the block representatives of Daihyo Sha Kai and the members of the Negotiating Committee. I should like to have as clear an identification of these people as possible, that is, their first names in addition to their last and, if it is available, their block address in Tule Lake.

Very sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas
Director

October 21, 1945

Dear Dr. Thomas:

Thank you very much for your letter of October 17, which I have received last Friday.

As you know, with the liquidation of this camp by February 1, I have to be thinking very seriously about my relocation. I have as yet set no definite destination, however, being a Californian and in consideration of favorable climate I am inclined toward resettling somewhere in this state. Since the relocation office here is very sketchy in giving out a clear picture about job opportunities and housing situation on the outside, I wish to ask you for your special assistance for such information if you possibly have the time. Teaching Japanese or doing social research work are some of the things which I am interested. I have been working as the chief translator for the Reports Office here. There has been much to tell you about the present situation here in camp which I am sure will interest you immensely. The aftermath of resettlement will be certainly a big question as well as an interesting subject for study. I am already receiving some very amusing news from my friends who have relocated. I will indeed be more than glad to have the privilege of meeting you to talk over various occurrences here, especially since the departure of Miss Hankey.

I am sorry to inform you that it is impossible for me to supply you with the block addresses of each representatives, for the secretary had never kept such a record. I hope, nevertheless, the enclosed sheets will be of some service to your quest. For your further information there is no block 55.

Also please forward Miss Hankey's address to me as I have not heard from her since she left for Chicago sometime ago. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Very sincerely yours,

George Kuratomi
George Kuratomi
Block 4602 - B
Newell, California

October 24, 1945

Mr. George Kuratomi
4602-B
Newell, California

Dear Mr. Kuratomi:

Thank you very much for your letter of October 21 and for sending me the accurate list of block representatives and Negotiating Committee members.

I am afraid that I cannot give you very adequate advice about housing and job opportunities from this distance. We are at present working on a manuscript on which your assistance would be most valuable. I wonder whether you would consider coming down here and working for us for two weeks beginning about November 8. We would be in a position to pay you \$5.00 a day and, of course, your living and traveling expenses. We will find a hotel room for you and will try to meet you at the train. If you are agreeable to this proposition, I wish you would bring along with you the various documents you have collected, not only on the early developments (Daihyo Sha Kai and so on), but anything you have picked up about the recent situation.

I am enclosing a form which I wish you would fill out, answering the questions marked "X" in pencil.

I must warn you that it is very important that your connection with this Study should not reach the ears of the project officials. As you know, it is against WRA regulations for an evacuee to accept employment on short-term leave. We had a most unfortunate experience with one of the workers connected with our Study when he was abruptly given a terminal leave while here for a few weeks. Therefore, in applying for your short-term leave, make it clear that you are coming out on business of your own with the intention of looking for relocation opportunities.

I certainly hope you will be able to accept this offer, for I look forward to meeting you and having an opportunity to continue the cooperative relationship which was begun with Miss Hankey. In reply to your question about Miss Hankey, her address is: 1442 E. 71st Place, Chicago 19, Illinois.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

Enclosure

October 26, 1945

Dr. Dorothy S. Thomas
207 Giannini Hall
Berkeley 4, California

Dear Dr. Thomas:

Thank you for your very kind letter of October 24. I was just thinking of going out to find a suitable occupation and housing. By staying here one will never be able to accomplish much, and the closing date for this camp is so very near.

I am returning the form filled out as directed in pencil with the exception of question no. 12. As stated in question no. 11, if my short trip to Japan in 1937 is not to be counted, then I have lived in California since my return to this country in 1930. Also if evacuation movement is to be calculated, then I did not return to California until September 30, 1943 from Jerome Center in Arkansas. I went today to the relocation office and arranged for short-term leave and the tentative date set at the moment is departure on November 5.

I will write again as soon as I receive a more definite notice. My sincere thanks to you for your generous suggestion and consideration. I am looking forward to this opportunity of meeting you.

Very sincerely yours,

George Kuratomi
George Kuratomi

Block 4602 - B
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

November 29, 1945

Dear Dr. Thomas:

Taking this belated opportunity, may I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your many favors. Words fail to express how grateful I am to you.

I am not making any alibis, but here is what happened upon my return to camp. A woman in my block passed away that very afternoon, which meant my spending extra time. The people I hoped on receiving information had left camp while I was away. Because of imminent relocation plans for others, I had to get after them immediately. The morning I returned to camp 426 left for Japan, but I missed them by mere 30 minutes. Tomorrow afternoon a little over 300 people are leaving for Hawaii, the first contingent from this center. On December 7 (now the date has been changed to December 16) 3,000 more are repatriating from Seattle. As the copies of recent "Newell Star" which I sent to Dick will disclose, the Justice officials in charge of this camp seem to be discouraging people to repatriate. From the people who were interviewed by these officials, I have heard that every step is being taken to impress the repatriates that they needn't go back to Japan even had one renounced his American citizenship. But strangely enough none of the renunciants has been cleared as yet for relocation. The policy of the Justice Department is one of great mystery.

But stranger still is the (should I say counter-behavior?) of the repatriates. Well, here is the actual story.

On Saturday November 24 an announcement was made in the mess hall that the next application for repatriation will be accepted from 1 p.m. November 26. Believe it or not, the line began to form about 5 a.m. on November 26. So many people gathered, in fact, that an officer in charge of the registration opened the door and started the registration from 11 a.m. A panicky scene was enacted, everyone trying to beat others to get first chance. This kind of story spreads fast, and as a consequence there were some 35 people already waiting in line the following morning from 3 a.m. Sounds fantastic? Well, Andy Sugimoto of food investigation fame, and, incidently a friend of Dick, was one of the heroes! The weather here is really cold now, and it must have been around 15 degrees when Andy went there.

So goes the story of Tule Lake.

The relocation office, on the other hand, is maneuvering to induce everyone to relocate by resorting to its best strategy, namely, "get out now and receive your financial grant." Whither, evacuees? This is the \$64 question now.

My wife was called in for an interview yesterday. The doctor told her only about a week ago that hers will be around Jan. 4. She told the interviewer smilingly by saying,

"I am giving you a fair warning. I intend to stay and have my baby in camp unless the WRA. is willing to give me sufficient financial aid."

I don't know how far she will get, but it will be, nevertheless, very interesting to watch. In the meantime I hope I can accomplish my mission. I also found out from my wife that the WRA. is contemplating on closing this camp by the 15th of Jan.

Again may I thank you for everything you have done for me. My very best of regards to Dr. Thomas and Dick.

Very sincerely,

George Kuratomi

December 6, 1945

Dear George,

Recatome
I can't tell you how grateful we are to you for all the help you gave us while you were in Berkeley. Dick and I have undertaken extensive revisions of the manuscript, and recognize our indebtedness to you at many points. Also, it was a pleasure to make your acquaintance, and we hope that resettlement brings you to this area permanently.

One thing I need fairly soon, to proceed with the revision, is the number of coop members on or about October 30th, 1943, i.e. just after the main segregation movement was completed. As you may remember, I have figures for September 30 and for November 30, but I badly need that intermediate figure.

Another thing I should like to have soon, if convenient, is your write-up of registration at Jerome. You understand that I want nothing elaborate there; just hit the main issues and conflicts.

Thanks for the various notes etc. you have been sending Dick.

I will be interested to know of the outcome of your wife's new conflict with WRA. More power to her. Give her my regards.

WI sends his greetings.

Sincerely yours,

December 10, 1945

GEORGE KURATOMI
Block 4602-B
TULE LAKE CENTER
NEWELL CALIFORNIA

PLAN TO VISIT YOU AND WOULD ARRIVE TUESDAY EIGHTEENTH

IF CONVENIENT. ADVISE FOR OR AGAINST. REPLY COLLECT

ADDRESSED TO MARY WILSON.

DICK

Evacuation + Resettlement Study

2:15

December 11, 1945

Dear Dr. Thomas:

Thank you very much for three letters from your study all disguised in fine style. Enclosed please find my re-account of the registration at Jerome. If you had expected me to write up until the time of my segregation to Tule from Jerome, kindly let me know.

I suppose you have read about Mr. Tom Satoshi Yoshiyama from Uraga in Dec. 10 S. F. Examiner? By the way be sure to tell Dick to come well prepared with clothes. If I may suggest, a little hot-water will go well here. No inspection of any sort at the gate any more. He need not show the content of his luggage at all. Of course, I know you can very easily understand the rest.

The repatriation will not take place until Dec. 26 or 28. These poor people may never be embarking. It is said 4,500 will be going on the next ship.... that is if the ship leaves the port!

Please tell Dick that I am anxiously waiting for his arrival here. Regards to you all.

Very sincerely,

George
Kurotomi

Enclosure

Kureatomi
December 12, 1945

Dear George:

Four of your letters (postmarked Klamath Falls) arrived this morning, one addressed to Dr. Thomas and three addressed to Dick.

Dick would like to know two things: (1) the bus schedule from Klamath Falls to the project, and (2) the place of departure of the busses in Klamath Falls.

Best wishes from all here.

Sincerely yours,

JAN. 12, 1946

Dear Dr. Thomas:

I AM SORRY TO ADMIT THAT I LEFT SO SUDDENLY WITHOUT NOTIFYING YOU. SINGER AND I DID PRETTY GOOD CANCELING DEPARTURE DATE ON SEVEN DIFFERENT OCCASIONS. WE WERE TO LEAVE 4:10 P.M. ON JANUARY 10 FROM THE GATE, SO WE STAYED UNTIL 4:05 AT OUR APT. DESPITE THE REGULATION AGAINST SUCH PRACTICES, WRA. CAR DID COME TO PICK US UP. SINCE THE WRA. WOULD NOT PERMIT ME TO ACCOMPANY MY WIFE TO PHILADELPHIA (TOTAL COST OF PULLMAN \$18.60!!), SHE AND I BECAME SEPARATED AT PASCO, WASHINGTON OF WHICH WRA. WAS TOTALLY UNAWARE. BECAUSE OF HEAVY TRAFFIC THE CARS WERE DIVIDED INTO TWO TRAINS. SINGER WENT ON ONE TRAIN AND I ON THE OTHER. NO SOONER ~~THAN~~ OUR SEPARATION WAS DISCOVERED THAN A TELEGRAM CAME INFORMING ME TO DETRAIN AT MISSOULA, MONTANA. MY SECTION OF THE TRAIN DID NOT ARRIVE AT MISSOULA ALMOST TWO HOURS AFTER HERS. WHEN I ALIGHTED HERE I FOUND OUT THAT MY WIFE WAS AT ST. PATRICK HOSPITAL. OF COURSE NOTHING SERIOUS AND I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE CONCERNED OVER US. WE ARE NOT MARINES BUT WE CAN KEEP SITUATION WELL UNDER CONTROL.

FRANKLY I LIKE TO SEE WRA. WORRY A LITTLE. CONFIDENTIALLY, WE'LL JUST KID ALONG THE REST OF THE WAY. PEOPLE ARE ALL NICE ALONG THE WAY, ESPECIALLY SERVICEMEN AND I AM GLAD IT IS SO FOR AMERICA'S SAKE. ONE NAVY DOCTOR WAS KIND ENOUGH TO DETOUR HIS DESTINATION IN ORDER TO HELP MY WIFE TAKEN OFF THE TRAIN. BECAUSE MY WIFE WAS TAKEN OFF THE TRAIN BY DOCTOR'S ADVICE WE MAY HAVE DIFFICULTY TAKING A LONG TRIP. WE MAY HAVE TO REST AT CHICAGO ONCE MORE, BUT IT WILL HAVE TO BE WRA'S WORRY. PLEASE DO NOT WORRY, WE WILL MAKE PHILADELPHIA OK.

GETTING BACK TO CAMP REHEARINGS ARE BEING CONDUCTED AT THE RATE OF ABOUT 150 PER DAY, WHICH WILL MEAN THAT IT WILL BE ALMOST ONE MONTH BEFORE IT WILL BE OVER. QUESTIONS ASKED ALL DIFFER DEPENDING ON THE HEARING OFFICER. RENUNCIANTS ARE ALL RELIEVED ONCE MORE FEELING THAT THEIR RELEASES FROM CAMP IMMINENT. THE DAY AFTER THE START OF REHEARING (JAN. 8) WRA. THROUGH THE BLCR. MGRS. REQUESTED EACH CENTER RESIDENTS TO SUBMIT ~~THEIR~~ THIS PARTICULAR PROBLEMS FOR RELOCATION SUCH AS AMOUNT OF LUMBER NEEDED FOR CRATING, ILLNESS CASES AND PULLMAN RESERVATIONS FOR INFIRMS. NOW THE PEOPLE WHO MUST RETURN TO JAPAN ARE STARTING TO WORRY LEST THEY MAY NEVER BE PERMITTED TO DO SO. MRS. MATSUDA IS STILL THERE BUT SHE SAYS SHE IS GOING BACK ON NEXT BOAT. REV. TSUHA IS STILL HOLDING OUT ALONE AT TERMINAL ISLAND REFUSING TO BE REMOVED TO JAPAN. HIS PARENTS-IN-LAW AND SISTER-IN-LAW (MRS. IGE) ARE STILL THERE ALSO, SO SAID MRS. MATSUDA. INCIDENTLY IGE LEFT FOR JAPAN ON THE FIRST TRIP.

I BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE ADVISABLE IF SOMEONE WENT TO TULLE AND KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE DOINGS AND GOINGS ON THERE. WILL WRITE TO YOU AGAIN SOON BUT I DON'T BELIEVE WRA. WILL KNOW WHERE WE ARE UNTIL I SHOW UP AT OUR DESTINATION. REGARDS TO ALL.

Sincerely,
George

Jan. 17, 1946

Dear Dr. Thomas:

After a hectic although enjoyable trip across the continent, the family arrived safe intact at Union Philadelphia station on Jan. 16 about 2:00 p.m. Two ladies from the WPA office here met us and brought us to this hotel.

As I mentioned, I met Miss Hankey at the Union Station in Chicago and spent half a day with her. Through her I met Mr. Grodzins, who is a Cal. graduate from what I heard. Did not like Chicago at all. Life is not only too fast but people too smart. Grim and noise, bitter wind and slippery walks were enough for me. The people all seemed too busy & think about nobler pursuits of life, of course, it will be absurd to judge such matters only from the outward glance. Miss Hankey is happy enough in her studies, I'm sure, but that seems to be the only thing holding her interest.

Philadelphia is much quieter and is slightly cleaner than Chi. There will be no place like California. The climate and sunshine have more to do about uplifting one's morale than any other single factor of nature.

I'm going to the WKA office tomorrow. Hope to find something interesting. I was told yesterday that most of the people working here had at one time or another ~~to work~~ applied for field office duties in one of the centers, especially Jule Lake but to no avail. I was also told that as soon as anyone is "released" from camp, his case becomes the responsibility of the district office to which he reports. I suppose Mr. Best is very much relieved in having me out of his hands. But they say bad penny always returns.

changing the subject I wish to call your attention on page 2 line 13 to page 3 line 7 --- "Chapter VI, Intimidation" ~~and~~ that segregation and Jule Lake for the segregants were not known at all to the evacuees during the time of registration. If I'm not mistaken Lubans weren't informed of this fact until the time of "pre-segregation".

I'm regretful that, since everything was done in the spur of the moment, ~~that~~ everything is very much confused and disorganized. Give me just a little more time and I'll be all right.

I believe I'll be here at the Philadelphia
Hotel, 3228 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia 4, Penn.
for awhile.

Please give my regards to Mrs. Wilson, Dick,
Jimmy and sister. Of course everything goes well
with W. L. Tell him that I'll make myself
"Easterized". Will be writing again.

Very sincerely yours,
George F. Kearsom

P.S.

Honey is very much "domesticated". At least
since her days at Yale. After all she is a
"co-ed."

Order

May 16, 1946

Dear Dr. Thomas:

Please excuse my long silence. Many things happened since my coming to Philly, but fortunately for me they all turned out in my favor with the exception of Calvin, my son. He had to have an operation after three weeks of breathing Pa. air for naval hernia. The attending doctor attributes it to my wife's traveling at such a late stage. The operation turned out fine, but some Army-intern who performed the medication made some error and as a result Calvin is still in the hospital suffering from bad burns on both of his legs. Please do not worry, though, because I am sure he will be all right before long. He has been in the hospital for the last five weeks, and I hope to have him back within the next month or so.

I have moved to this secluded section of Pennsylvania to enter into potato-raising business. My duty in the main will be to sell the crop and do the general managing. I am sure I will like this work. I am very busy at the moment, but it rained today so tried to get a letter through to you. Please tell Mrs. Wilson, Dick, Jim, Hime and the others I said hello. Of course don't forget to give my best regards to W. I. I will write to you in more detail later. By the way there are many people in Philly who are very much interested in the forthcoming publication. I think I will make a pretty good salesman.

Very sincerely yours,

George

June 5, 1946

Dear George:

It was certainly good to hear from you, but we are all sorry to know that your son has had such bad luck. Please let us know soon about his progress.

Your job sounds interesting, and we feel sure that you will have a successful career.

We will send you a copy of the book as soon as it appears, but I am afraid that will be some months yet.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

Mr. George Kuratomi
R.D. #3
Coudersport, Pa.

Kurekomi

February 1, 1946

Dear George:

I have certainly been negligent in not answering your many communications. In the first place, thank you so much for sending the picture of Singer and the little girl and yourself. I certainly hope to have a chance to meet your charming family before too long. Perhaps I will be coming East sometime this summer, in which case we will have a big get-together.

The notes that you sent Dick were extremely useful, and we are indeed happy to have had your cooperation in the work that we are doing. The first volume is now really almost ready, and you can imagine what a relief it will be to us when we finally see it in print. Naturally, you will get one of the first copies, but I suppose it will be at least six months before that happy day arrives.

We were indeed disturbed about the troubles you had in leaving Tule Lake. I certainly hope that Singer has completely recovered and that you have found a pleasant place to live in Philadelphia.

Enclosed is a check as terminal payment for the work that you did for us. Please continue to keep us informed about what you are doing and how you are getting along. Everyone here sends regards.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

Enclosure:

Check #49968