

1 June 1948, Tuesday.

I was fairly busy in the office to start the new month out with. The rumor is that Loeb has refused to resign but she will ask for a transfer to a small hospital out of town. She seemed to be in a punishing mood today as she denied Millie the right to take one day off on annual leave tomorrow with the flimsy excuse that nobody could cover for her wards. I had offered to cover, but Loeb said that I am already covering for Wilson and I have three wards of my own. Millie had asked earlier in the day so that it could have been arranged, but Loeb deliberately set out to frustrate the request and gave preference to Wilson. Several people in the staff were willing to cover, but Loeb said that they were not being supervised by her so that it could not be approved. This is the first time since I have been there that a request for a one day annual leave has been denied. Millie was sore as hell because she had planned to go to Washington for the day to participate in the protest against the Mundt Bill and it was a very important matter to her. Loeb apparently is convinced that the staff has ganged up on her and she is taking measures to protect herself. She said to me that it was administrative policy that SSX slips be sent out on every case but personally she felt that a selective use should be made of it; however, it was her duty to tell me and it might be held against me when it came to evaluation time. It was such an ambiguous statement that it left me without any clear policy. If I ever have a run in with her, she probably will use this against me but I refuse to be threatened by her because I think I am doing a good job. I carried a case load of 38 last month and that is above average for the staff, I think, and certainly much more than is usually expected of a new worker of two months. I haven't had any direct conflicts with Loeb yet, just a few differences of opinion and I don't care to get involved in anything because Loeb may be leaving soon anyway.

Betty Schnap has invited us to a party at her place for next Friday evening. Yuriko would also like to go see Sono Osato in Ballet Ballads sometime this week

1 June 1948, Tuesday.

and she will try to get tickets. She said that Doris Avedon came to her private lesson today, and presented Yuriko with the Turkish silk material which Yuriko had mentioned she was going to get. She said that it was for no special occasion but she thought Yuriko deserved it for teaching her so well. It was \$4.00 per yard material. Yuriko thinks she will now buy me a pair of slacks since she will not have to buy the material she had planned on getting. She always thinks of my needs first before hers, the sweet thing. She will make a \$50 silk dress with the material which was presented to her. It's a good thing that Yuriko can sew expertly because clothing bills have been saved. She says she will make all the clothes for our baby. We still can't think of a name. We may get our civil service wage raise after all. It would certainly be wonderful if we could. Congress has to act upon it before it adjourns later this month so we shall know in a couple of weeks what is going to happen. The political parties have to fight it out first to see who is going to get the credit for the raise, and statements are being made now. The tax payers will, of course, put out the actual money. I think that a pay raise for civil service workers is far better than pouring it into further military expansion.

2 June 1948, Wednesday.

Yuriko served a delicious Italian meal, and I got so full that I went to lie down in the front room to rest. The last thing I remember is Yuriko saying something about washing dishes and then I went off to sleep until now. (10:00 pm.) Yuriko is washing dishes now as she slept, too. It was a beautiful rest as I was so tired when I came home. Yuriko didn't have to teach today so she went to the hospital to visit Clara and take her some fruit. She is so happy because it is now cherry season and this is her favorite fruit. She says that she is going to buy three pounds and eat them all by herself and then she will be satisfied for the year. She was just asking me whether I wanted her to present me with a boy or a girl, and I said that a girl would be okay. Yuriko thought this was peculiar because she believed that a man's ego called for a male descendant, but that could always come later, who knows? Yuriko has been very sweet lately and I am trying to figure out what she is up to. It can't be because she wants to buy something expensive. I don't think, as we did set a large amount aside in our monthly budget this month for clothes. Maybe she is going to have me buy those three pounds of cherries to present to her, I don't know. I never have to help with the dishes anymore except when I have a lot of time and she doesn't complain about that. Yuriko manages the entire household and does her dancing teaching at the same time she is working on the production of an offspring so she is leading a normal life.

Radio reports state that the "communist mob which descended on Washington today" in protest to the Mundt Bill is very reminiscent of how Communists took over European countries. It was about the stupidest interpretation I have heard yet. One of the commentators added that the "motley mob was led by Paul Robeson, Negro singer." I think this was the same technique used by Fascists to spread race and political hatred in order to divert people away from the real

2 June 1948, Wednesday.

issues. I never heard such slanted news reporting over the air in a long time.

I was so busy today in the office. Had to start planning with a blind man, who does not know yet that he will never regain his sight. Also had a public assistance case, a referral for a psychoneurotic to the clinic as his eye pressure is hysterical in origin, and several other interviews. In between, I spent about a half hour or more looking at the baseball game on the television set on the ward. The major portion of the day was spent in solving an emergency problem. It was not my case, but I was covering for Miss Wilson who went to the dentist. She had refused to see Mrs. Hinton yesterday and the poor woman was around the office six times. Miss Wilson was rather inconsiderate and she has a reputation for not having any feeling for patients, even though Loeb gives her excellent ratings. Anyway, it was an emergency because Mrs. Hinton had come to see her husband who is on the critical list, and the Pt's father, brother and sister in law were also here. The four of them came from a small town about 100 miles west of Pittsburg after neighbors took up a collection to send them. They had \$250 at the start of the week but had to take taxis everywhere because they don't know the town, and they were paying \$15 per night for hotel rooms. They were just about broke and Mrs. H. said that they had to take the train this afternoon. I suggested that they pool their money and leave Mrs. H. behind. Then the father said he had to stay; he is 72. After about four hours of discussion, I finally got Mrs. H. a single room in the Bronx and her father a place on a YMCA ward. But then, Mrs. H. decided that she could not leave her father alone so finally they asked me to get them rooms in the same hotel so I phoned for reservations, and it will cost them \$8.00 for the night. I told them to come back tomorrow and ask Miss Wilson for emergency funds and to work on other housing tomorrow.

3 June 1948, Thursday.

My goodness, the week is practically over already. I was so busy today with several cases: a couple of psychoneurotics, helping a girl plan discharge for her neurosyphilitic father, etc. I had about fifteen interviews in all by the time I had gone around to see the doctors about these cases. The doctors on my wards are much better and I get a few referrals but I still don't think that they are too interested in the patients as persons. My most difficult case today was trying to help Moore accept his blindness but he just can't accept it. He said that the doctor is only an instrument of god and he was counting on his faith to cure him. The doctor says that the optic nerves are atrophied so that there just isn't a chance. It must be terrible to go blind like that, and I doubt if the material plans I eventually help Moore to make will make him too much happier as he would prefer to have his eyes and nothing else. Another of the patients, Mr. Henricks, who laid in bed for 21 days after an operation for detached retina, was happier because he got his sight back. He wanted me to meet his brother in law, Dr. Shafter, who happened to be the minister from the Church Board that we wrote to originally in regard to Mrs. A.

Miss Loeb was away on sick leave today, and the process for her transfer has started. I think most of the workers have a bit of guilty feelings about the whole thing because it was so pathetic. If no other V.A. hospital wants her, then Loeb may be around for a long time yet. We got another new worker in today, Mrs. Mulligan, so that I move up the list as one of the old timers-- three new workers have come in after me. The work is supposed to slack down in the summer but I have certainly been busy so far this month. Since I carried over 28 cases and added four this month so far, I have a case load of 32 already. I feel that in a fair number of cases, I get a chance to do some casework. One 20 year old Negro boy I talked to today was getting discharged and he had syphilis so that he was in quite a turmoil about what he is going to tell his

3 June 1948, Thursday.

family. He was thinking of leaving home because his father is so moralistic, but I convinced him that he did not have to tell and that we were not going to inform him. The only reason why we wanted to know about his contact is to get the girl to a Board of Health station for treatment so that she will not contact other men. Weeks was very noble, however, and he refused to give the girl's name and address so there was nothing I could do about it.

Yuriko is sewing on her dress now. She fed me an enormous dinner again and we had some Jewish stuff on the side. She is getting to be a very fancy cook, I must say. I asked her if she planned to give our child any religious training, and she said that there would not be any formal church education but that our child could make a decision later on. That is okay with me. I asked her if she was going to teach Japanese to Baby and she said certainly yes and then she can carry on conversations without me understanding. I doubt if our child will learn too much Japanese, but I shall leave that up to Yuriko if she thinks she wants to do it. We haven't picked out a name yet, but we won't give it any Japanese name.

4 June 1948, Friday.

I guess I must be hitting a busy streak in the office as my caseload is progressing daily and I now have 34 cases. Not all of them need continued service, thank gosh. I had about 12 interviews today and helped several patients in the preparation of discharge plans. There was one real complicated case, a Puerto Rican who was sent up here by plane for treatment. The man's wife came with him and neither speak English. The man was very anxious because he did not know what was happening to his wife, and I gathered that she was in need of financial assistance. Unfortunately, I was not able to find anyone who could act as interpreter. Finally, the man did indicate that his wife had \$20 and she would be able to manage over the weekend so that I left it and that in the hopes that I can find an interpreter by then. Most of the cases I had today were on the GU ward and they were fairly routine but they took up a lot of time. Since the typists cannot get our recording up here in good style, I typed out some of my cases this afternoon rather than do it by dictaphone.

Part of the day I ran around trying to get information on the Blue Cross Hospitalization plan, and I think that I will take it out. I also went to find out about reapplying for reinstatement of GI insurance as I found out that it was a good deal and that I would not have to make all of the back payments as I believed. Since I am going to a family man soon, I guess I should take out this insurance. I only have to make two back payments and then the insurance will start from now. If I take out a 20 year life policy, it means an actual savings because I will get the whole amount back at the end of the time plus interest, or I can take it out anytime. As long as I pay into it, I will be covered so a \$5000 insurance sounds like a very good deal. It will run about \$12.00 per month for premiums, but I could not get such a good rate in a private subject. Maybe I will reconvert some of my war bonds for this, I don't know.

4 June 1948, Friday.

While I was talking to Mr. Queen, the contact representative, he advised me to file for a claim for any illness I had in the army even if I only get a zero percent disability rating because in the years to come I will be covered. If I don't do it now, it may be difficult to establish cause in the years to come and it is a sort of insurance in a way. I never thought much about insurance, but approaching fatherhood must be the influence. Or else age!

Mildred came in to shoot the bull with me today, and she said that she is thinking of giving up social work to start a family. I urged her strongly to do this because I did not think she would be too happy having a career, and I said that she could let her husband support her. Mildred is just 24 and she is so idealistic, but a very nice personality. She gets very intense about "causes" and she doesn't care what happens to her job because she can always quit work. She said that she was going to sound Marty out about starting a family. The first thing she has to do is to find an apartment as she is still living with her parents. Mildred is a native New Yorker and has never been west of this state, so that she has some Chamber of Commerce ideas about California.

5 June 1948, Saturday.

I thought that I would sleep late, but on the dot at 7:00 I awoke and I couldn't get back to slumberland again even though I had only about four hours of sleep last night. We went to two parties and didn't get home until the late hours. The first party was at Emil and Betty Schnap's and there were about 15 people there, mostly doctors, social workers and a few people in the arts. Emil was the only doctor who did not have the germless look of a professional man, and he seemed to have a much warmer personality than the others who are residents at Presbyterian Hospital with him. The interesting thing was that the doctors thought the best economic opportunities were in the west and they plan to go there, while the artists had moved to the East because they thought that the center of culture for the universe was in NYC. Only about two of the group were native New Yorkers. The conversation was on light subjects and no politics was mentioned. Betty was a teacher in Puerto Rico for two years before she got into social work and she seems to come from a rather well off family as the apartment was nicely furnished with antiques and a magnificent collection of bound books in good taste. It is rather unusual for a doctor to have such a wide range of interests as Emil. They have a garden out in the back and when it got too noisy, some neighbor opened a window and threw a bottle down upon us but nobody was hit. Yuriko and I decided that it was about time for us to leave at this point as it was midnight. Yuriko fixed her hair in an upsweep, and she was quite the center of attraction at the party because she looked rather sophisticated. I still have to decide whether I like her hair up like that or not, but I guess it is fitting for certain occasions. We enjoyed ourselves at this party, but we had promised Clara and Charley that we would drop in at their party around midnight.

By the time we got there, there were only a few people left but everyone seemed to be feeling gay from the martinis which had been consumed. The girl

5 June 1948, Saturday.

who came out of camp with Yuriko about four years ago, Cathy, was there much to the mutual surprise of both. Cathy has been slowly climbing the ladder of success in the sales department of Bloomingdale's and she is a career girl even though she did sound very interested in wanting to get married. It seemed to be one of those cases where a bright girl just does not meet the right person yet. Clara looked the same as ever and she was celebrating the return home from the hospital. The baby will arrive today and Charley was drowning his sorrows. The poor baby will have an inferiority complex if he knew what things their proud parents said about him--such utter rejection! They are going to get a full time nurse for Johnathan and try to escape from the apartment as much as possible! Clara hardly knows how to cook and she has been feeding Charley mostly hamburgers since marriage so that she will have to learn so much to take care of junior. She said that she planned to return to work and they will have a nurse to look after the child. They bought a small crib and had the Hopi doll of fertility all bundled up in it for the guests to view. However, despite all their surface rejection, I think that they are pretty proud of what they produced even though they will not admit it. Yuriko noticed that they were much chummier than before and actually lovey-dovey and that is something we have not seen before since they usually act much more formally in public. In fact, they didn't even discuss serious world problems with the guests as the topic of conversation was Johnathan. Most of their friends hardly believe that Clara had a baby because they were not let in on the secret. They say that they are going to put the child in a museum if that nose does not stop growing. Even though it may mean some reorganization of their lives, I think that they will be glad that they had the child in time.

We are waiting to see what Clara and Charley's reaction to Yuriko being a member of the Wallace supporters is going to be since they are Socialists from way back. They do not know yet that Yuriko has agreed to let the Nisei for

5 June 1948, Saturday.

Wallace group use her name in its drive for support, but the Nisei press will have it shortly. Dyke wrote the article and Joe sent us a copy which appeared in the Hokubei Shimpō saying:

"Sono Osato and Yuriko Amemiya--top billing stars on stage, political progressives off stage--are among the latest who have joined the New York Nisei for Wallace Committee. The Wallace group acquired the glamour gloss when the two Japanese American gifts to the entertainment art world signed special pledge cards now being circulated in a membership drive. Miss Osato is currently starring in Broadway in "Ballet Ballads." Miss Amemiya, of course, is the West Coast girl who has won acclaim season after season as a supple member of Martha Graham's famed modern dance group. The pledge cards signed by the two stars bear a picture of Henry Wallace and, under the heading the inscription reads, 'Proud of the place Japanese Americans have earned in the life of America, I join with Henry A. Wallace in his fight for peace and for a return to the Roosevelt program--for an uncompromising effort to end racial discrimination and want and to preserve our civil liberties.'" Miss Osato is also one of the original members of the National Wallace for President Committee."

The last time I saw Dyke he said that about 200 Nisei members joined up so far in NYC and he thought that was a very good sign of increasing progressive thinking by Nisei but that too great a number were still too politically conservative and cautious because of the strong desire to identify with only those on top. I didn't join the group because of my civil service job, and because I still have some doubts about the effectiveness of trying to solidify a political point of view along racial lines. I have no objections if others feel that it is necessary, so I guess I am a little more tolerant about Nisei groups in the past few years. The main reason is that Yuriko and I are not effected too much by any tendencies towards Nisei segregation since we rarely

5 June 1948, Saturday.

see them in our particular social circle. I suppose that if I felt I were being forced and hemmed into a segregated pattern, I would resist every tendency aggressively and take a position that it was not in the direction of real integration.

Yuriko passed Bette on the street yesterday, but my sister did not say anything about getting married. Yuriko told her we were having a baby and gave Bette our phone number. I guess Bette will look us up in time and we will not issue any more invitations because it is up to her. She is still doing the same job at the Rand School.

I haven't done much today, except a few pieces of laundry. As soon as Yuriko comes home from teaching her class we will go and do the weekend shopping and later clean the house. Rose and David cannot come for dinner this evening as planned because their girl got ill. We may go to a movie this evening or maybe putter around here, depending upon what mood we are in.

6 June 1948, Sunday.

We had a rather busy day today when we had expected to just lay around and read the papers. About noon just as we were having waffle breakfast, Kenny phoned and said that Jimmy Sakoda was in town and he wondered if we would care to go on a ride with them. Since it was such a nice day, it was perfect and we were glad to accept. They came over about 1:00 and we started right out. Jimmy drove us out to Jones Beach up on Long Island. The last time I went up there with Yuriko she was an un-kissed bride! We sat around on the beach as the water was still cold and ate a nice lunch and talked. When it got windy, we started back leisurely and came home the long way via Rockaway Beach and through the tiny islands on East Long Island. We picked up a watermelon on the way, and Yuriko invited them all to dinner. We had ample food in the house so that everyone had plenty.

Jimmy is just preparing to go back to California. He said that he got a scholarship for the term at Harvard, but he will not return to Cal. and try to finish his Ph.D. by the end of the year. He was not sure what he would be doing after that, but thought that he would prefer to go into research rather than teaching. He did not know where he would be working but thought that he might have a chance on the Coast. If not, he may look elsewhere. His wife is flying out here next week just to make the driving trip back to the coast with him. Things were not like that in the student days back in Berkeley when we were all single and practically starving. It's been six years and most of the Nisei Cal Group that I knew are married now. I guess most people make adjustments in time, and the war years have been survived rather well by the Nisei group when measured in terms of social adjustments, but I suppose that is relative because the choices for the group in the prewar days were rather limited. It seems such a long time ago!

Kimi seemed to be a bit peeved when she said rather bitterly that she was

6 June 1948, Sunday.

not intending to have any children because Kenny doesn't want any. It must be a sore spot with her. Kenny gives economic security as the reason, and I doubt if he is ever going to feel secure. He talks now of remaining in his job for another year for the experience even though it seemed from his comments that he didn't particularly care for the work. He sees his next step as trying to become a supervisor. He should make an adequate one according to the present standards in the field because he is getting pretty dogmatic about what wonders social work performs even though he admits that he does not actually use all those concepts he learned in school in his actual job situation. Kenny always preferred to play it safe in everything and I guess his marriage responsibilities have made him even more that way. I don't know why he can't enjoy the day to day living instead of worrying so much about his economic future. I guess he has finally been permeated with the American drive to get ahead so he wants to be a supervisor. I'm afraid that he will be hard on any workers he ever has under him because the more insecure one is, the greater the tendency to "punish" others who might threaten in any way. Kimi has apparently been after him to start living and have a family, but she has never been able to convince him that it is just as well that they take a chance. Kenny hopes to go back to California, and the roots of this desire seems to be family and the desire to be in a Nisei society where he might get more recognition than being a lonely soul in this large city. Warren is beginning to think that Kenny lacks principles, but maybe he is the smart one for falling into the "get ahead" psychology--come what may. I urged him to get into V.A. if he is looking for more money, but he really does not know what he wants to do--except to stay in social work. That is a problem with everyone, I suppose.

Charley and Clara seem to be doing a lot of drinking these days. He phoned and said that they were still at it. They want us to come over and cook for their nurse before she leaves them alone with the baby.

7 June 1948, Monday.

I was groggy from the active weekend by the time I got to work this morning. I had hoped that things would not be too busy in the office but things began to pop and I had a couple of emergencies. I worked all morning on the case of the Puerto Rican who was shipped up here with his 19 year old wife. He feared that she would fall into a white slavery group because it seems that so many young Puerto Rican girls are trapped in this. I tried to get in the Red Cross to handle the financial, but it wanted a lot more information. One of the patients acted as my interpreter and it was not too satisfactory so that the thing dragged and dragged. Finally, I phoned the grocery store near where the wife was staying and the man there went to tell the wife to come tomorrow and she said that the wife was fine. It is still going to be a problem tomorrow because I have to help the wife make some plans for what she is going to do while here. My plans with her has to be limited because the doctor is not sure what he is going to do with the patient. The patient was sent up here because he could not get X-ray treatments there for his eyes, but the doctor said that he could not do much and he may have to send him back on the next plane. I was only able to help make some tentative plans for another day, and tomorrow I'll have to work on it again. I can't blame the patient for being so upset because he doesn't know what is going on and everything is confusing him so much.

I also tried to help an old man whose jaw is eaten away by cancer, and it was so hard to talk to him because he can only move his tongue when he talks. He said that some skin will be grafted from his side and a jaw rebuilt by plastic surgery just as soon as his stomach operation heals up. He had quite a bit of his insides and his genitals cut out. The patient wanted me to get his son out of the Navy in order to take care of Pt's wife because she is so broken up about the loss of one son during the war in France. I don't know if the boy can get a discharge since he signed up for 4 years, but I shall inquire tomorrow. Since

7 June 1948, Monday.

I am getting so many new cases this month, I'll probably have to give restricted service to many of the clients as there just isn't the time to go into much more than the immediate problems. I have several other cases I have to work out with the Patients and I just didn't have time to get around to it today. Loeb is back, and she doesn't look as ill as she did last week. I went in and talked to her for a few minutes in order to cheer her up because there is no sense in everybody avoiding her. She is having enough problems as it is and I feel so sorry for her. That mess was one in which social workers certainly did not do a very good job and it was mishandled from the top right on down. When a person is inadequate as Loeb seems to be, there is no sense in being punitive and crucifying her. I still have a hunch that the matter is not going to be cleared up by the end of the summer. Rhoda is getting anxious because she is supposed to become supervisor, but she didn't want Ed to let it leak out yet since it only made things more difficult for her with Miss Loeb hating her the way she does. Miss Milligan, the new worker, has been given to Rhoda for supervision and this was just like a slap in the face to Loeb.

Yuriko went to the doctor today and she said that everything was coming along fine. She is almost in her sixth month, and she weighs 104 now. It still doesn't seem like she is pregnant. Right now she is reading magazines, and I think that I shall do likewise for the rest of the evening.

9 June 1948, Wednesday.

It's mid-week only and I feel very tired already. I only had five hours of sleep last night due to the heat, but it is cool and rainy today so I think I shall snooze well tonight. I had terrific emergency cases yesterday which tied me up for hours. In the morning, I had to calm down a boy who just learned that he has TB and inform the wife, and then make some plan for public assistance for the family. The boy was so afraid of the mask as a symbol of death that I didn't wear one when I talked to him. The rest of the day, I was busy with the Surita case, the Puerto Rican who was flown here the other day. His wife came to the hospital, a passive and rather attractive 19 year old girl, and she said through the interpreter that she had to sleep three in a bed with the other couple so her husband naturally got excited and didn't want her to go back there. For the rest of the day, I was phoning all over the city trying to get temporary shelter, but as soon as they heard it was a Puerto Rican involved they wouldn't help. Some people seem to think that Puerto Ricans are a little less than human and used to suffering. Even the Red Cross wouldn't come in on the case although it was clearly their responsibility since the chapter down there had been in on the early planning. I tried religious organizations but they couldn't help. When five o'clock came I was stuck in the office, so I made a hotel reservation. The girl had no money, no purse, nothing. She was tired, confused, and bewildered and she couldn't find her way alone since she never has been out of her small town in Puerto Rico before. Her husband thought that \$30 would carry her through a month, not knowing that the scale of values was much higher up here. I got her registered in the hotel, and the manager was a bit suspicious of my motives I think. The girl clung to my hands like a child because she was afraid I would run away and leave her stranded in the city. I had to show her up to her room, tell her how to use the bathroom, and tell her to lock her door--all this by sign language! Then

9 June 1948, Wednesday.

she was too afraid to go out to eat so I took her to a Spanish restaurant and her face just glowed when she heard the language. By this time, I guess she felt she could trust me even though her husband had given stern warning for her not to even talk to anyone--he excluded me as he had told me previously "I trust. You good man. Other men no good. She no know. You take care." Since I had such a trust in me, naturally I felt responsible and professional, plus the fact that I was anxious to get home. She told me to call her Minerva instead of Mrs. In the restaurant, she just used a big spoon and people stared at her because she tore the meat with her fingers. I just pretended that nothing was happening, and I gave the people who stared dirty looks. When she got through, I showed her where she could get breakfast, bought her a Spanish newspaper and some candy, gave her my name and number in case of an emergency and took her back to the hotel, but I didn't have to take her upstairs again. I gave her some money. Since she had nothing, I had to spend \$7.50 of my money, which I hope I will get refunded. Today, I phoned Red Cross again, and they finally got the cable back from Puerto Rico confirming that the chapter down there had initiated plans so they reluctantly took over. The new worker sounded very exasperated when I talked to her at the end of the day as she didn't like to go to so much trouble for the girl, and she left Mrs. S. there for another day. Tomorrow a P.R. minister will try to get her into a more protective setting through friends. The Red Cross is talking about sending her back to P.R. without too much consideration of how the husband-patient and Mrs. S. might react, and I am trying to hold them off on that. I think that the Red Cross just does not wish to be bothered with the responsibility, but it isn't going to help the patient any. This one case has taken a lot of my time, but I managed to catch up by working hard today--except for my dictation which is getting behind. I talked with mostly cancer and G-U cases today, and this did

9 June 1948, Wednesday.

not require emergency measures. The blind man, Moore, is more accepting of his blindness and he said today that he might be interested in learning braille so I got the blind instructor in on it. It has taken Moore a while to get used to his limitations. We talked most of the time about baseball and he gave me all the latest dope. My caseload now has gone over 40 and this is the busiest I have ever been. I'm still waiting for those slack summer months the others have been talking about! Even though I am extremely busy, I enjoy the work because at least it has many stimulating aspects, despite the pitiful situation of some of the patients. I get a feeling of satisfaction out of helping them in their plans, and I don't bother probing too deep about whether they had unresolvable attachments to their mother. It is only in a few cases that I feel it is necessary to get more social data to understand the dynamics of the personality structure. I think that by doing things, I am gaining the respect of other personnel on the wards, and I do know that my handling of the Surita case was a matter of vital interest to many of the people in other offices as it had many elements of the sob story to it; but at least it helped to spread the reputation of social service.

When I got home yesterday, I found Emiko and her friend Mary here. They took a leave of absence from their jobs on an impulse, and they say that they are going to vacation or work. Their plans are fluid, and they say they came out here in an adventurous spirit. However, I think that I detect something more than that, but they were not talking. They both seemed to be depressed about something, maybe an unfortunate love affair or something like that which they are trying to escape. Or it may be simply an escape from their nursing, although they emphasized several times how much they loved nursing. Emiko says she does not know if she will go back in a week, but it seems that she came out here fully prepared as she has all of her belongings with her. I guess we will

9 June 1948, Wednesday.

find out in due time what it is all about. This evening they are having dinner with one of Mary's friends. Her parents live in Chicago, she seems to be a rather quiet, mildly attractive in a subdued way, didn't say much so I couldn't get too much of an impression. She started nursing school with Emiko several years ago. Emiko was working at Sinai as assistant supervisor and I think she is disappointed that she has not received the promised promotion to supervisor. We don't even know Mary's last name yet. Probably something common like Smith or Jones. From some of the literature Emiko had, I gathered that she has been active in a Nurses for Wallace movement.

I suspect that Emiko is disturbed about not being married: she is almost 24 and she says that she just hasn't met any Nisei who measures up to her standards, and a med student who was interested in her is too afraid of getting his money cut off from his parents if he marries an "Oriental.!" Her romance with the Minnesota man, Bob, seems to be indifferent. I suggested that they try to get a nurse job on a boat going out of NYC if they wanted adventure, and they seemed to be enthusiastic about that as they said they would go inquire today at the Nursing Bureau. If they can make a little money, they will stay out here for six months as they cannot practice longer than that without a state license. I guess Emiko feels she needs to get away from Chicago for a while as she has been bearing down hard in the past few years with her education. It gives her great satisfaction to prove that the psychometric test she failed at Cook Country Hospital has been proved wrong and that she does have an aptitude for nursing. She got some pretty high ratings in the State Board and in nursing placements. I think that one of the things which bothers Emiko is that she feels she is stuck with family responsibility, and it bothers her because it appears that the prewar and Chicago cohesiveness of the Kikuchi family is disintegrating. I told that it was just a matter of growing up. Emiko objects to my invitation

9 June 1948, Wednesday.

to Miyako to come out here to study art on the basis that Mom will get too lonesome, and that Tom will be stuck. My intention was to let Miyako think about it, and it might be better for her to get away from mom who depends so much on her now as it will be much harder later on. But the Chicago part of the Kikuchi clan objects too much so I guess I might as well drop the idea. I haven't participated in any family planning since I went into the army so I don't feel in any position to barge in now. Naturally, Emiko, as the sole unmarried Kikuchi adult, feels more strongly about maintaining family solidarity. She still has a bit of hidden hostility about Bette getting married, but it is pretty much worn off by now and she hopes that Bette will be able to make out well. However, she wonders if Bette might not get a nervous breakdown if Gene gets any more neurotic.

I was very surprised to hear that Jack now has T.B. which is pretty well arrested, or on the verge of it. He has been in the SF country hospital for the past couple of months, and Delores works there on weekends. It pretty much terminates his ambitions to become a doctor as he will be hospitalized for another year, and it would be six more years before he could finish his training. I don't know what he will do now, but he is pretty stubborn. However, he may realistically decide that he should go into something else, possibly dentistry or a related field. His morale seems good in the cheerful letter he wrote to Emiko recently. He said that Willy Taki works on a boat going to the Orient out of S.F. and Mariko has many plans on what her brother-in-law should bring back. She put in a long order and demanded that he pick up the stuff on the next trip. Same old Mariko!

Emiko says Mariko is still the same as ever. She is still talking about having a baby, maybe next year. The letter I wrote about us apparently was not

9 June 1948, Wednesday.

understood and that's why I got no letters of congratulations. Mariko thinks there is a plot not to tell her anything, but even Emiko didn't know till she got out here yesterday as she didn't understand the letter either. Miyako knew but she forgot to tell the others. Emiko says she doesn't talk to Mariko much anymore so that she hardly knows what is going on.

With the depleted family, Mom has taken in boarders and nothing could dissuade her as this has been her object for several years but she was always voted down before. Mom is determined to be independent, and Emiko says that she manages fairly well. Emiko gives her something each month as she makes \$200 at the hospital and her room and board only cost \$30. It seems that Alice is having her troubles in Detroit, and Emiko says the marriage is not going along too well because Mark is unhappy about something but she does not know the details, probably the strain of trying to make ends meet. Emiko got a letter from Bette the other day verifying marriage to Gene, and Bette gave her address. Emiko talked to her via phone, and Bette seems to be managing. Gene does not work now, he is getting some sort of V.A. treatments for his shoulders and probably psychiatric treatment. He writes poetry, but nothing published yet. His parents are out here; they all live in one room furnished rooms in same building on 47th, and they eat out. Gene probably gets 52-20 and service connected pension as they could not live on what Bette makes. They may move out to Long Island with the parents. Gene's mother seems to have a terrific attachment on him as she followed him out here, and she plans that they all live together.

10 June 1948, Thursday.

Still busy on the Surita case. The Red Cross phoned and said all arrangements were made to have the girl go to a family to live, but in late afternoon I was notified that a hitch had developed and another emergency situation developed. I had to tell the husband and he got all excited so I contacted his wife at the hotel. She was scared to hell because the hotel told her to move. I phoned right back and the Red Cross said that it would authorize another night's stay so I had to phone back the hotel and let them know. Then the girl said she had not eaten all day long because it seems that she was afraid to leave the hotel for fear of getting lost. I had to get a meal authorized and the hotel said it would deliver it to her room. It was a hell of a mess all around, but the Red Cross moved very slowly. It will transfer it to the downtown chapter tomorrow. I have been trying to hold them off on sending the girl back to Puerto Rico on the basis that it will be too emotionally disturbing to her husband, and more expensive in the long run. The husband is so upset that he is not responding too well to medical treatment and I can hardly blame him. The nurses can't understand why he doesn't like the food, the country or anything up here. The poor man just clings to me and keeps saying that I am the only one he can trust.

Another complicated case is Welsh as he has deep personality disturbances, and he is so sensitive that he thinks he is being discriminated against in the ward. Most of the Negro boys get along fine down there and it seems to be pretty democratic, but Welsh is B.W. Indian and keenly conscious that he doesn't want to be identified so that he has created quite a stir down there. I discussed all these problems with him this morning and tried to give him some interpretation on my basis of things I knew. The charge nurse down there phoned me up just to tell me about how much the patients have told her I helped them and she seemed to be very pleased with my activities down there, so I felt that

10 June 1948, Thursday.

I had made progress in the skin ward and built up the service. I feel very confident of my work, and when Loeb tries to threaten me in any way, I just tell her that I think I am very competent on the job. I am not bashful in telling her that because I think I am doing a good job. Loeb hasn't been critical and I think that she recognizes that I am doing my job so she hasn't got in my hair at all. I think that I am getting to like my job much better now that I can see results. When Mildred and some of the others try to talk seriously of casework, I say that I give services such as tell the Puerto Rican girl in the hotel that she should wash her dainties in the wash bowl until she can get her clothes. Mildred likes all the joking around because she says that things in the office get so gloomy. I keep telling her that she should have a child and retire.

---

I feel very tired this evening as I haven't been getting much sleep. This evening I went shopping with Yuriko and she is thinking of making me a summer jacket. She has bought enough materials for her maternity clothes, and she will start on this soon. Her waist measurement went from 23" to 28" and she says I done it to her. Baby is about 5" long now according to her. Yuriko still works and she never has any complaints to make so I guess being active is psychologically good. She has been cooking excellent meals in the past two days since we have had guests.

The girls were out on a date last night, and they wandered about the town with friends. This evening they went shopping. They were out most of the day finding out about jobs to go to Europe on ships, and generally seeing the town. Emiko said she phoned Bette, who told her that she has been having a hard time making ends meet. They were paying \$26 for a furnished room per week, but now they will pay \$16 and the parents will move in with them. They have been eating

10 June 1948, Thursday.

all of their meals out. Gene has to get some sort of an operation on his shoulder yet. Bette did not tell Emiko anything more about going to England so that may just be another pipe dream. It seems that since marriage, they have had to face more of the realities of living and not indulge in such romantic dreams as formerly. Since Bette is having a hard time financially, I guess I won't ask her to pay me back her loans.

Mary McNear is the girl's full name. She is sort of quiet right now but Emiko says she is more lively in the hospital. I guess she feels a bit strange yet. She has been pretty energetic on the job hunting business, while Emiko is still not definite as she considers this a vacation and if nothing turns up she will eventually drift back to Chicago. Emiko said that she was in the hotel lobby last night with her date and a strange man came up and put a note in her hand. It said that if she were interested in doing some photographic modelling to call his office, but Emiko thinks it was a masher. The business address was on 52nd and looked respectable. Emiko says she may phone later on just to see what opportunities might turn up when Yuriko told her that it pays \$10 per hour if it is a legitimate offer, and such things do happen in NYC but a girl has to be extremely cautious of wolves too. All those girls are doing this evening (they are home now) is try on clothes and fix their hair. I'm glad that Yuriko does not fuss around so much and waste her time in this way. The girls like to dress up because they have been wearing nurses uniforms so much of the time.

11 June 1948, Friday.

I was so tired by the time I got home this evening that I just flopped, but after dinner I was able to revive. My energy at the office runs down at the end of the week, and I still had the Surita case on my hands. In the week since I first came into contact with the case, not much progress has been made and the girl is still in the hotel. It is mostly due to the bungling of the Red Cross chapter and I have about decided that I will never donate to this organization again. It fooled around all week, and late this afternoon the case became an emergency again. The Bronx Red Cross transferred the case to the Manhattan one and the only arrangement which could be worked out was that the girl should stay in the hotel for the weekend. The Red Cross is very irritated because this is such a complicated problem. The girl has been sitting in the room all day and afraid to go out even for her meals. I told the Red Cross that she might have a breakdown if something were not done soon. They proposed to send the girl back to Puerto Rico, but I did not think that was so wise in view of the Pt's serious condition. He is now isolated for observation of TB, and when I talked to him he was so upset because he said that his wife was having her menstrual period and had no clothes or anything. I had to tell this to the Red Cross worker and they finally decided that they would take some clothes to her. They could not provide transportation for the girl to visit Pt. on Sunday, but I finally arranged with the hospital Red Cross to have her picked up in the canteen car. We don't have anymore money in Contributed Funds so that we can't pay any of the bills and for a while it appeared that I would not get my \$8.00 back, but Ed got it through the chaplain. The Red Cross is so afraid to spend a little money on the girl just because she is from Puerto Rico and it is such a ridiculous attitude to take.

---

Yuriko was feeling a bit downcast this evening so I took her to a show,

11 June 1948, Friday.

and we took Mary along since Emiko had a date to go to nightclubs with her friend. After we went to bed, Yuriko said that she was worried about her mother as Emma phoned to say that Mrs. A. was getting a bit difficult. She wants to go to work, but has unrealistic ideas about it and tries to get her way by threatening. She said that she would go and work in a nursery, and buy a tent to live in. Emma does not know what to do because they are going away from the city for the summer and they are willing to take Mrs. A. but they don't want her to be unhappy. Yuriko said that her mother told her that she wanted to be repatriated to Japan right away because she would feel better there, and that might be the best plan. Mrs. A. also thought that she might like to go to Chicago and work, but I doubt if that would be too good a plan. I suggested to Yuriko not to discourage her mother in anything because that would only make her stubborn. There is not much time before the Matsumoto's go to the country and I doubt if any plan can be worked out before fall. It seems that a large part of the trouble is that Mrs. A.'s wishes to dominate Emma, and Emma will not take that. In addition, Emma is very fussy about her house and she always comments when anything is broken or scratched and Mrs. A. feels that she is getting blamed because she is so sensitive about these things.

On top of all this, Mrs. A. is having some conflict with the 8 year old, Teddy, as he is inclined to be a bit fresh and Mrs. A. feels that he insults her. There just does not seem to be a solution to this dilemma because Mrs. A. will be unhappy with anyone she goes to live with, and it is impossible for us to have her here since it would be much too difficult due to Mrs. A.'s tendency to want to dominate everyone about her. She wants Yuriko to buy many things without realizing that it might be too expensive and often impractical. We still have not heard from Douglas, and we need that money he owes Mrs. A. so that she will be able to go back to Japan. I don't want any crises to develop about

11 June 1948, Friday.

the time Yuriko is having her baby as it will only upset her so I am trying to keep her from getting too involved in this situation. Yuriko feels a responsibility for her mother which is natural enough, but Mrs. A. still does more than be dependent; she wants to control Yuriko's life. I doubt very much whether Mrs. A. will ever be able to accept Yuriko's marriage to me so that we still are not going to tell her about starting a family. I suppose that what Mrs. A. would like is for Yuriko to leave me and start an apartment with Mrs. A., and her mother has not been able to accept emotionally that this is an impossible plan. We haven't made any direct moves about sending her to Japan in the hopes that she would like the Matsumoto's enough and make her adjustments with them until they were prepared to return to Japan next year. Now it seems that this will not be possible, and we might ask Toru if he knows of any missionaries who are going to Japan soon, and who might be willing to escort Mrs. A. back. It must cost about \$1000 or more for transportation, unless we can work out some repatriation plan with the government.

---

12 June 1948, Saturday.

12 June 1948  
63 Hoyt Street.  
Brooklyn 2

Dear Douglas:

With the recent developments in Chiyo's situation, it now is getting more urgent that we make the final settlement of the cleaning shop business. It has been over six months since you bought her half share, and Chiyo is getting rather impatient that no payments have been made and she has asked us to get a lawyer for her because she needs the money very much at this time. We have attempted to dissuade her from taking this action thus far in view of our conversation of a few weeks ago when you mentioned that you thought you could work out a satisfactory solution in a matter of time.

I hope that you have been able to work out some plan at this point because we realize how unpleasant the entire situation would be if it came to court action. I don't know how much longer we will be able to delay Chiyo from getting a lawyer, but we would like to hear from you soon to find out what sort of financial payments you will be able to pay at this time. Chiyo has discussed her problem with Rev. Matsumoto and he is thinking of getting a lawyer so that it may soon get out of our hands. We want very much to avoid further unpleasantness, and I believe that we have been fair in delaying the final payments for so many months. But it is getting to be an extremely difficult problem now and we hope that you will be able to inform us very soon about the payment of the \$1500 for the half interest of the shop which you took over last October.

The reason for Chiyo's urgency is that she would like to return to Japan as soon as possible so that she can start a new life, and she is very unhappy about remaining in the New York area any longer than necessary. I will be able to help her make this arrangement for leaving in another month or so, but the plan is handicapped by the lack of money. I think that you will agree with us that a return to Japan might be the best answer for Chiyo and you can understand her desire for doing this. It is mainly for this reason that Chiyo now wishes to receive payment as the \$1500 will cover her transportation costs and leave a bit left over for her initial adjustments when she gets there.

I hope that you will be able to inform Yuriko very shortly about making this payment. Once Chiyo is in Japan, you will be fully free to live your own life and forget about all what happened in the past, and she will be able to do likewise. Chiyo does not bear you any ill feelings and I know that you feel likewise, and there is no sense in having a court case if it can be settled otherwise in the next few weeks. Can we hear from you soon? Our phone number is Ulster 5-6572.

Very truly yours,

Charles Kikuchi

12 June 1948, Saturday.

I have an in-grown toenail which is quite painful so that I haven't done much today except go shopping. Yuriko went to teach a class, then attend a company meeting, and then go to see Ethel so that she won't be back until about six. Paul phoned to tell us that the doctor told Ethel she has a touch of pleurisy so she is very upset about that since it might lead into TB, and it means that she will have to take things very easy from now on. I doubt if she will be able to do too much dancing for quite a while, unless the pleurisy quickly heals. Shirley also phoned to say that she has a pulled leg muscle and can't dance for several months. The doctor wants to operate on her kneecap, but Shirley is too afraid of that so instead she pays \$10 for a half hour of Yogi lessons in the effort to get her mind to control her body and retrain those muscles which are short. She asked me if I thought that was a good idea, but I didn't encourage her. She is going to have to pay about \$40 a month for Yogi for a whole year or more. As she described the process, the mind is allowed to form imaginary pictures and this somehow influences parts of the body. She must be nuts!

Emiko and Mary are out job hunting today. They went yesterday too, but they were not too encouraged. However, both of them have decided to stay permanently in NYC since they won't have to take another state board examination. But they are undecided just exactly what they want. Emiko is more interested in salary since she wants to send money home to mom and she knows that the living costs are high out here. She will do general duty nursing. Mary is more anxious to do psychiatric nursing or public health nursing, but that will take more time for her to get something worked out. I told them that they would stay here until they made their work plans. If they are here in the fall, they might be able to help us with the baby since they have had training in this. It is one of Mary's specialities. Mary is interested in

12 June 1948, Saturday.

being in Manhattan as she wants to do a great deal of sightseeing, but Emiko feels that if better jobs are available they should try a Brooklyn hospital since transportation is so much faster than in Chicago. They were still trying to decide this point when I left for the store.

It now seems that the real reason why both of them came to NYC was precipitated by boy troubles. In addition to that, they did not wish to get stuck in Chicago and they thought it might be more exciting out here. Mary seems to be pretty confident of herself and she has taken the leadership in the job hunting plans and I gather that they both want to work in the same hospital. Mary said that another reason why she came out here was because she was pretty much tied down at home and she wanted to be on her own. Her father is an alcoholic according to Emiko so that the family is not too well off. However, Mary does not have any family responsibilities so that she feels she should try and get the type of nursing she wants, even if it takes longer, rather than take the first job which comes along. Because they did not get too hopeful a picture in a few places they went to yesterday, I suppose that they are getting a bit anxious right now.

Emiko said that Bette hasn't seemed too willing to get together and so Emiko has decided that she certainly is not going to press the matter. She feels that it might be because Gene wants to be sure that Bette stays away from family influence. I told Emiko that it will take Bette a while to get adjusted and the best thing to do would be to let her alone until she made a more definite move now that Emiko has already taken the initiative to contact her.

13 June 1948, Sunday.

Last night we just remained at home and had a leisurely time for a change and it was very nice. Yuriko is now about six months pregnant and the baby will kick her from within if she tires herself out too much. Mary wanted to see Times Square at night so Emiko went with her and they got caught in the thundershower, so they had to come home early. The Broadway lights fascinate them but they will soon get used to it and not think of NYC in terms of Times Square. Emiko was tired because she had been out on a date quite late the night before--she was with some relation to the president of NBC or something. They seem to be enjoying themselves so far, and they have been hunting for a job at the same time. They have found out that nurses are needed out here so they are more choosy now. They went to one hospital here in Brooklyn and they got a pretty good job offer.

This morning, Yuriko and I got up early and we took a bath and then I did some laundry while Yuriko prepared the breakfast for our sleeping guests. In mid-afternoon, we went over to Clara's and prepared the dinner for all of us--including the nurse and her seaman son who is in port for a week. He is looking for a date so we told him to get a friend and phone up Mary and Emiko. They went out this afternoon and we haven't seen them since. Yuriko wanted to fix some costume so we didn't stay too late. Clara and Charley seem to be getting used to the baby, and they are trying to make some plans to go on a vacation next month if they can get a nurse. Charley is willing to pay \$35 a week for somebody to work for them and he is having a hard time. He feels that Clara wants to go back to work and he does not wish to deprive her of this. When he asked what plans we had made, I couldn't answer him definitely yet. He hasn't been able to find a house to buy yet. I would want Yuriko to go back to her dancing, but it will take time to make some sort of arrangement. We are economically not in as good a position as Charley

13 June 1948, Sunday.

and Clara so that it will be a bit harder. He plans to put his nurse on his factory payroll so that he will be able to make income tax deductions, but we can't do anything like that, and, further Yuriko won't make the income which Clara is capable of--unless she gets into some Broadway show. We figure that we can make some arrangements when the time comes.

I was talking to Emiko and Mary earlier today about philosophy of life, and they seemed to have received a fairly liberal education at Mt. Sinai along with their nurses training. Emiko is a bit confused yet on what she really thinks because there are so many inconsistent things in our society, but she has the right attitude. Mary is less emotional in discussion and she makes her points quite well. She is still a bit quiet, but seems to be a nice girl. She has enjoyed NYC very much so far and is always dragging Emiko out just to see the sights. NYC does have a terrific attraction for most people, and the two girls are a part of the steady stream of newcomers who come here daily and gradually get absorbed into the helter skelter of this city. I doubt if they will want to leave it very much after they make their adjustments.

We put on our phonograph for the first time in about two years and played the record I made for Yuriko just after we met, and also our theme song, "Always."

14 June 1948, Monday.

Yuriko had a strenuous day today as she taught three classes for the June course. Sasha complained to Martha that Yuriko was moving around too much so Martha said that there would be a demonstrator. Yuriko said that it was the first day for the course so that she had to put out a social effort, and she was pleased that the class clapped for her when the lesson was over. She will be very busy this week as Mickey has come back from Hollywood and wants to renew lessons once more. I just have to leave it up to Yuriko to use her best judgment as there is no use in telling her not to do anything as she would just do it anyway. She knows her own limitations, and that is what she will have to go by.

The girls are in the front room listening to dumb records, including some Japanese and Chinese ones. Later on, Mary's boyfriend is supposed to drop over. They went down to a nursing bureau today and got a better lineup on job possibilities. They have decided that perhaps they should work in different hospitals in order to get what they want in the way of training. Emiko thinks she might consider the job in Brooklyn as it has a good pediatrics ward, and the job pays \$215 plus room and board. Mary may go into Bellvue to get psychiatric nursing even though the pay may be smaller. She left twenty dollars for her first week here, but we told her that she was a guest, and that she could give us \$5.00 for food this week if she wanted to. She said that she came to NYC prepared to pay her way. It was a nice gesture anyway. Emiko said she bawled Mary out for writing the note and trying to give us money without telling her. So we told Emiko that she could pay us \$5.00 too in order to avoid any feelings of not being on the same basis! I told Emiko that after she works for a while she can buy me a television set, but I don't think that went over as well.

It seemed like such a long day at the office. I was busy, again on the Surita case and the Red Cross doesn't seem to be making much progress. The

14 June 1948, Monday.

wife may have to go back to Puerto Rico since the Red Cross will not enter into any prolonged financial plans, and the V.A. definitely will not do anything about it. The blind patient, Moore, seems to be coming along nicely as he expressed interest in Braille and he is learning how to read the alphabet from touch now. Up to this time, he has refused to consider that maybe he might not see again and he was just sitting in the ward. He is a very nice fellow and everybody on the ward likes him a lot. One thing about the eye difficulties is that the patients are not so concerned about each other's color of skin. But I would not advocate that everybody lose their sight in order to create tolerance in the country. The thing goes much deeper than that, and it is one of those things which has to be fought constantly. It is surprising how much democracy can be seen among the patients and that is hopeful.

15 June 1948, Tuesday.

Another busy day in the office made the day go by so quickly; I had about twenty assorted interviews in all. My caseload has a variety of problems presented, and I feel that so much can be done in giving some sort of environmental assistance. I suppose that it helps the patients when I take the time to listen to all of their problems and try to find some way in which they can work these situations out to a satisfactory solution, but it certainly does take a lot of time. All three of my wards are fairly active and there is some satisfaction in feeling that I have been able to give services to patients who might not have been helped. As my caseload is going over 50, I have to find some way from keeping things stationary for the balance of the month as I have plenty to do. It is better that way because it keeps me active and I enjoy that. I don't have too much time for recording. It is the age old problem of quality versus quantity, and I doubt if that ever will be resolved. The workers are all functioning well without supervision, and it hasn't made any difference at all.

-----

Last night, Emiko took us to see a movie, "Torment." Mary went on another date with Seymour and there seems to be quite a mutual interest developing as they have been seeing a lot of each other. They went to a stadium concert under the stars. This morning, Mary went out with him again, and this evening he is taking her to a play. Mary doesn't know yet how much interested she is in him yet because she is still getting over her last boyfriend in Chicago. She said that it might be too much of a conflict since Seymour's family was orthodox Jewish, and it might be too much of a religious difference. But she must be interested as they sat out in front and discussed intermarriage last night. Emiko's friend is not in town right now, but her boyfriend is coming this weekend.

15 June 1948, Tuesday.

They decided to go to different hospitals to work, but they are not too happy about the decision. Emiko went to Doctor's Hospital in Brooklyn and got a very nice job offer at \$200 per month, plus room and board. She said that the hospital was in a beautiful residential district and she likes it very much, but there are not too many young nurses out there. Mary went to Bellevue and got a civil service job offer for the psychiatric ward at about the same salary and this is what she wants, but she doesn't like the district too much. So they decided that they would try the Kings County Hospital tomorrow as Emiko has convinced Mary that it is not too far from Manhattan and it would be much more pleasant, and they can be together. Both may go into psychiatric wards if possible as Emiko thought she would like to get experience in that too. They will go out and see what is offered because they have plenty of time to look for work and we have told them not to be pressed and take anything. With the great shortage of nurses, they won't have any trouble at all in finding work. They decided that they would vacation until the first of next month in that case, but nail down a job as soon as possible and spend the rest of the month sightseeing. They will be able to do this since we are only going to charge them \$5.00 per week for staying here. Mary wanted to pay us \$20 per week but we wouldn't hear of that. As long as they assist Yuriko and do not cause extra work, I don't mind, and it will help them if they can keep their expenses down. They have been actively looking for work everyday, and they are pretty confident because of their nursing diploma. Emiko is very glad that she went through with it, and quite proud of her profession.

16 June 1948, Wednesday.

I was on intake today, and it was extremely busy so that the day just flew by. I had psychopaths, medical cases, overanxious mothers of patients, homeless men, relief referrals, personality problem cases, etc. I believe that it was one of the busiest intake days the office has had in recent months, and it was just my luck to be the one who got it. I really have to control my caseload for the rest of the month, or I just won't be able to handle the work. My dictation is way behind now, and I will try to catch up as soon as I get a breathing space. However, I seem to thrive when I am busy and I now feel that I am earning my salary. The pay rest is still pending in Congress and if that goes through this week, I shall be very happy. When I come home, I'm just in the mood to relax and forget the office work. It is a good thing that we are on civil service because we could be working 24 hours a day. I don't know why my wards got so busy as the other workers haven't received the rush of cases I have in the past few weeks. It is getting so that I get many more referrals from the doctors so that at least they are aware that I am around to help the patients with social problems.

---

Yuriko is a bit worried because Emma phoned again and said that Mrs. A. was still a bit upset. Yuriko is going up tomorrow to see what it is all about. Mrs. A. wants to go to Japan, and Emma said that her lawyer would see what could be done if Yuriko could bring the passport and other papers. It may be a matter of trying to pacify Mrs. A. until Fall because there just isn't time left in the two weeks left before Emma goes upstate to join her husband. Since Toru has been away, Mrs. A. seems to have been trying to force things with Emma and that makes it quite difficult. Yuriko has a keen feeling for these things, but it is a bit hard for her to assume any more responsibility in this matter. She will go up and try to work out temporary solution. Mrs. A. also is thinking

16 June 1948, Wednesday.

of going to Chicago, but I don't know if that will solve anything because it will be the same problem after a while and Yuriko certainly can't be running out there all the time. I doubt if a new setting in this country is going to help much, as that seems to have been the difficulty for years and Mrs. A. just does not seem able to adjust to this country because of her language and cultural handicaps. She just can't forget the higher social status she had in Japan, and that is a real problem for her. Maybe it is best to start on working on the Japan plans as that might make her happier. It is pretty clear that she never will be able to make good adjustments as long as she remains in this country, and it is a tragedy which has greater meaning than her individual problem since so many Issei have had to suffer personality assaults in this country over the years.

Yuriko is making a dress for her mother this evening. Emiko went uptown to see Bette, and Mary is out on a date again with Seymour. We told her that since we are her guardians, we have to know what Seymour's intentions are. She says that it is his problem since he is the one who has the greatest personal problem about any question of intermarriage. Seymour is going out of town after the end of this week so I guess he is trying to make a romantic conquest in a brief period of time. Mary says that she guesses it would be a problem for her too if they got serious about one another because her family is anti-semitic. The girls both landed a job at Kings County Hospital and they will start July 1st. They will get \$215 per month or better, minus \$55 for room and board so they are happy.

17 June 1948, Thursday.

Another busy day in the office. Kazamek came in and he performed a violin concert in my office for a half hour to demonstrate his ability. He is a 66 year old man who toured for years in Germany and he was stuck there at the outbreak of the war. When he was finally repatriated to this country a year or so ago, he didn't know anybody and he found that his musical ability was not appreciated. Twenty-eight years ago he left his wife in favor of his violin and now in the twilight of life he finds very little solace in the choice he made. I have been trying to assist in some sort of plan so that he might be useful and I have vocational advisement in on it now so that something may be worked out for the old man. I had several new cases, one of them a very disturbed Negro who was fearful that he would be locked up for the rest of his life if he saw a psychiatrist and I had to do a lot of interpretation for him. This week certainly went by fast for me, and the work keeps me busy all day long.

-----

The girls went to the Statue of Liberty today to sightsee, and this evening Seymour and his friend are taking them to a dance. Mary is not sure yet if she is in love with him, but she sits out in front late at night to discuss philosophy so that it must be puppy love at least. She has already forgotten the fellow in Chicago who made her so unhappy that she decided to come out here. Such fickle women! I told her that we were her guardians and she had to eat more and gain weight or else she could not go out so much so she ate two helpings tonight for a change. She says that one thing which she is not sure about is that she has a Scotch background from a small town in Southern Illinois while Seymour has an orthodox East Side Jewish background, and she wonders if that might not be a barrier if they fell in love. Seymour seems to be very much stuck on her, but he isn't as mature as Mary at this point.

Emiko visited Bette last night, and she said that Bette was pretty vague

17 June 1948, Thursday.

so they didn't talk about personal things at all. Gene's parents are living with them and they act like they were a contemporary couple. It sounded as if Gene's mother must have some sort of unresolved feelings about her son. However, Bette is relatively happy at this point so that is the important thing. Emiko said that she didn't know why Bette seems to avoid us, whether it is a feeling of shame or what. I guess that she is just getting adjusted to marriage, and it has not been as easy as they thought. Bette hasn't said anything more about going to England so that may be out.

Yuriko went up to visit her mother at Larchmont today, and she discussed the situation with Emma. Emma was concerned because Mrs. A. seems to be unhappy, and she is also forgetful yet. Mrs. A. told her that she put a lot of money in Yuriko's education so that I had nothing to say about it. She would like Yuriko to pay for her room and board up there so she can be more of a guest. This was the first time that Emma realized that Mrs. A. had such feelings about me. Yuriko told her mother that she was pregnant. Mrs. A. wondered about how the child would be looked after, but Yuriko talked fast and told her that Mrs. A. did not need to feel that she had to sacrifice herself and come and live with us to look after the child. Mrs. A. is still thinking about going to Chicago, but she would like to go to Japan. The tentative plan was that she would go to the country with the Matsumotos for the summer months and we would work on the Japan plans as soon as Douglas paid the money. From what Yuriko said, it sounded as if Mrs. A. may be making renewed efforts to separate us, and that is such a problem. Mrs. A. is just an unhappy person who feels the need to dominate others and I think that she will continue to have the same difficulties if she goes to Japan. Yuriko encouraged her mother to make her own decisions since Mrs. A. only blames us if things go wrong. We feel sorry and concerned for her because she is still emotionally ill but it makes it very difficult when she puts pressure

17 June 1948, Thursday.

upon Yuriko. We will just have to see what can be worked out this summer. It is fortunate that Emma is understanding because a crises might have come a lot sooner otherwise. I hope that Mrs. A. will not start thinking that she will have to sacrifice herself and come and look after our child. She asked Yuriko all about my character today and apparently she is still not satisfied that I am a good enough match for Yuriko. It seems that one of the reasons why she has so much conflict with Teddy is that he does not understand Japanese and refuses to be dominated by her. Although Mrs. A's real desire right now is to go back to Japan, we can't rush that right away because for financial and other reasons. She should be out of the hospital for at least six months before leaving the state and we hope that she will be able to control her emotions and not have another breakdown. Mrs. A. would like to force issues with Yuriko, but that is because she is getting old and she is frightened and still ill. But she reacts by trying to control others around her and that is not a comfortable situation either. Emma has a strong personality so that she has not let matters get out of hand, but she is worried about what to do.

18 June 1948, Friday.

I worked on getting my office records up to date all day like fury and was thoroughly tired by the time I got home. One of the patients was upset because his wife and five children had no income and he brought his interpreter to ask me to help push the matter with D.W. In the course of asking him what the home setup was, he said that he shared a two-bedroom apartment with another family and he had to pay about twice the rent for this privilege. There are only two beds in the house so when I asked him where he slept, he said, "in my nightgown." He didn't think it strange that three or four sleep in a bed.

Thelma, our office secretary is getting married in a couple of weeks and she was troubled because her mother had not told her any of the facts of life so she came in to talk to me about it and get advice about what to do. I sent her down to the Sanger Clinic. Thelma said that in Jewish families, the girls just are not told about sex very much, which was surprising to me.

---

Yuriko was rather tired after dinner because she had taught several classes today. She said that she told the class to do the exercises correctly because it would frustrate her junior if she had to keep on demonstrating all the time. Some friend of hers is going to give us some baby stuff.

Mary went out on a picnic with Seymour, rushed home and just managed to change clothes in preparation for going out with Charley and Eddie and Emiko. We got a ride as far as Ethel's with them, and there was a problem of who would be matched up with who. Emiko finally got paired off with Charley, and when they got home she said that they had a very good time. However, she did not like it when Mary said that Eddie had asked her for another date tomorrow because Emiko felt that she was doing a kind deed and she got the worst of it! Yuriko says that it pays to be married and have your man around all the time. The girls, however, are enjoying their sightseeing here and they are trying to

18 June 1948, Friday.

crowd everything in during the time they are on vacation. Last night they went to Village clubs and afterwards Charley drove them around to see the city at night in a car. This was the first time that they have traveled around by any other method than subway. Mary's mother wrote her, "Hurry up and get a job and don't crowd those good people." The girls are no burden on us as they give \$5.00 week food money each and they don't have to be urged to clean house and things like that. I am quite comfortable with three females around to do all the work and I haven't found it necessary to dip my hands in dish water this month! Emiko said that Mary likes us very much and she said that besides Gandhi and Christ being great men, Charlie can be added! The girls think that Yuriko and I get along perfectly so it certainly must be a marriage of complete harmony. Emiko doesn't believe that I haven't had an argument with Yuriko yet.

This evening we were at Ethel's surprise birthday present party, about 15 of us--including Martha Graham--and we had a nice time. Ethel is still in bed by doctor's orders and she is very worried because she still does not know how serious the pleurisy may get. She did not expect all the people for the surprise party. When it came to the cake and blowing candles out, she said hopefully, "You know what I am going to guess." She didn't blow them all out at one shot so Yuriko put on the finishing touch, but Ethel's face registered her disappointment as it was pretty obvious that she was wishing that she did not get TB and because of her present uncertainty she was willing to believe the candle blowing out superstition. Paul worked very hard about the place and he was a good host. Ethel would be in a very difficult situation now if she did not have Paul around since she never earned enough to have anything left over for doctor bills and prolonged illness.

Bob and Duggy and a few others among the party group decided that we will try to go up to Connecticut for over the 4th if we can get that house opened up.

18 June 1948, Friday.

There is no reason why the house could not be used since they are going to pay the rent on it for the full season. It would be nice if we could get up there, but we are not counting upon it too strongly. In the event that this plan does not turn out, I guess we will remain in the city. I shall have a long stretch over the summer without a vacation and the 4th holiday will be my last breathing spell before the hot weather work gets underway.

Yuriko is getting a bit plumper, but her pregnancy is still not too noticeable. As long as she does not overuse her energy this summer, there is no reason why the Connecticut summer should not turn out to be very restful. Yuriko is still finding it a bit hard to limit herself because she has been so active for many years. Her excellent physical condition undoubtedly contributes to her fairly easy pregnancy this far.

19 June 1948, Saturday.

It is only 10:00 P.M. but I feel exhausted. We had a humid evening yesterday so that I did not sleep too well. In fact, I awoke at 6:00 a.m. after only a few hours of sleep and I just could not get back to slumberland again. So I got up and started puttering around at 7:30, made Yuriko's breakfast at 8:00 and saw her off to her class, then took a rest for an hour without sleeping, finally finished the morning by going to get a haircut. The girls slept all morning long. After we ate, the three of us went shopping for the weekend and bought a lot of stuff, and then while Yuriko and Emiko cooked dinner, I went shopping for a Father's day present with Mary. We bought a hat with a propeller on top for Charley's present and Mary wore the thing down the main street here in Brooklyn. I was unshaven so that people looked at us all the way home.

This evening, Mary and Emiko did not have dates so that they went off to a movie together. They have a social program all mapped out for them tomorrow. Yuriko and I are going on a picnic with Rhoda and Lamar tomorrow if it does not rain. We haven't done a thing all evening except relax. Yuriko cooked a delicious meal and even Mary stuffed herself. I still feel the effects of the full meal. Yuriko is now in the front room digesting her food and reading the newspapers. I had hoped that she would be in bed by now but she hasn't made a move. I'm very tired because I did not get the sleep this morning I had planned so I think I shall retire now. When I do get a chance to sleep in the mornings, I wake up at ungodly early hours and can't get back to sleep, but when I have to go to work, I feel so sleepy! Tomorrow, we can't sleep too late as we have to go have a Swedish breakfast at Rhoda's at noon and it takes an hour to reach her place from here.

20 June 1948, Sunday.

It turned out to be a nice clear day so we went hiking up in Inwood Park with Lamar and Rhoda, and then had dinner with them. Yuriko still has a lot of energy and she walked quite a bit, about five miles or more. We were in a nice wooded section of the natural forest park way on the tip of Manhattan and it was pleasant to get away from the hustle bustle of city life. Rhoda is still in the show and she expects it to go on for some time yet. She has not made any plans beyond this. Lamar lost his position with the New Stages group so that he is out of a job now and he doesn't know what he will do this summer. He is pretty disgusted with NYC since he feels that he hasn't gotten too far in the two years he has been out here and he is again talking of leaving for points west. Rhoda would very much like to get married but he doesn't think too much of the idea as he just doesn't want to assume any more responsibilities. They are living up in the Bronx now, but looking for another place since Rhoda's mother is coming out this way for a visit and she would be shocked if she found out that daughter was living without benefit of clergy with a man. Lamar probably would be more willing to get married if he were more economically settled, and he just doesn't want to take a chance and try to make a go of it together right now. Rhoda is all too willing to do this but she does not have the final say.

The girls got their day a bit mixed up. Mary went out to Long Island with Eddie in the morning, and she forgot to leave a note saying that Seymour had phoned to say that the double date for the evening was not exactly certain. While she was gone, another friend of Emiko's phoned for a date but she turned it down thinking that the double date was set. Then Mary didn't get home until about 8:00 and the two boys showed up so that Emiko thought she would be stuck with both. She was all set to bawl Mary out, but Mary asked her what part she was mad about and this made Emiko laugh so they finally got all settled

20 June 1948, Sunday.

and went out together. Such boy troubles they get involved in! They haven't said much about their boyfriends who broke their hearts in Chicago so I guess they have gotten over that during the few weeks they have been so busy here. They are making the most of their vacation prior to going back to work.

21 June 1948, Monday.

Congress got under the deadline last night and it passed our pay increase after all. But it will only be temporary for a year, while the postal get a \$450 permanent increase. We get \$330 increase and that will help very much. I now get \$3730 per year and that is good for a first job. The only trouble is that the cost of living is still shooting up and the purchasing power of the dollar is reduced each passing day. Meat is over a dollar a pound again, and other prices have gone up accordingly. Since Yuriko is still working we manage to meet our budget, and we probably will be able to pay all of our doctor bills by October without going in the hole, which is real good. I don't want Yuriko to teach so much in the June course, but she says that she is taking it easy and after this week things will slow down. Since I got the increase, Yuriko raised my monthly allowance \$5.00 and that will compensate for the greater subway fare which goes into effect the first of the month. So I bought Yuriko a pair of special made leather sandals which Bob will make for \$8.50 so that she will have it for Connecticut. She is going to buy me slacks for Father's Day. It seems that when we get any extra money, we spend it on each other so that it works out quite nicely. Yuriko manages the budget so efficiently these days that I never have to bother about it, and she arranges all of the bill payments and everything.

Mary went out on another date with Eddie and he is the current new flame. Emiko is still waiting for her other boyfriend to come into town so they compete a lot with each other. Eddie was here for a while and it seems that he is real interested in Mary as he was telling me that he may leave the merchant marines because it is so hard to get married and all of his friends have passed him up. He owns a plot of ground on Long Island and he wants to build a house on it some day. We suspect that he didn't ship out

21 June 1948, Monday.

for the three months Orient tour this week because he wants to see more of Mary. Hmmm!! We should go into the match making business .

Yuriko made delicious egg and shrimp sandwiches for my lunch, and I expected to have a juicy bite this noon when I opened the wrapping, but instead a boloney sandwich peeked out at me. Emiko got hungry last night and ate the good sandwich and replaced it with the other!

I worked on my recording at the office most of the day. However, I had a few cases to work on: DW cases, telling a Pt. that he was leaving when he is still emotionally ill, personal problems. I have a fairly large caseload now so that I stayed away from the ward most of the day in order to catch up with my records. I was a bit bothered when the medical doctor could not agree with me that a Pt. was emotionally ill and that his head pains were very real to him. The doctor said that the man was just faking because he was a Negro and he was going to throw him out. There wasn't a thing I could do about that as the doctor has the final say. It is rather unfortunate that the medical doctors do not understand more of the emotional aspects of illness. Not all of my doctors are that way, but it is generally true for the genital-urinary ward. The doctors only see the patients in terms of interesting operations and not as complete human beings with emotions.

We got a new supervisor in the office today, Miss Butts. She is the one who has been expected for months. Nothing about Loeb yet.

22 June 1948, Tuesday.

We got rain all day for the second day of summer, but it was nice and cool. I was very busy in the office and my cases are still coming in regularly. I am beginning to think that I have too good a job in building up ward referrals, but so far I have managed to keep up almost level to the work, except in recording. I think I shall keep away from the wards all day tomorrow again. Most of the new cases I worked upon today was in family financial problems and V.D. referrals and I have to finish up some of this tomorrow.

Yuriko worked hard today and didn't get home until about eight. She says that she has been using her voice more for teaching, but now she has a sore throat. She now weighs about 105 pounds. She is more tired than usual these days, but still has plenty of energy. The baby seems to be developing nicely inside of her, and it kicks every once in a while. It has been mentally healthier for her to keep on being active, and she is well aware of her own strength during pregnancy so that I do not have to say too much, except an occasional reminder not to exert herself too much.

Douglas is still giving us trouble. Now he does not want to pay \$1500, but thinks that he might be able to borrow \$1250 to repay. He says an immediate sale of the shop will bring about \$2000. He completely forgets that he has already bought the half interest about six months ago and talks in terms of it being a matter of still selling the shop. Since he is such a psychopath, there isn't much use in arguing the matter. We shall settle for the \$1250 but probably will still have time collecting it as he undoubtedly will have other stalling tactics to bring up. We should use the lawyer we have been offered to sue him, but I guess we will be stupid and give him another month.

The girls did not do much today because of the rain, but they were busy fixing clothes and cleaning house. Mary is taking Seymour out on a date this

22 June 1948, Tuesday.

evening since he spent most of his money on her already. She sat in the park until 3:00 a.m. with Eddie and now is trying to make up her mind who she likes the best.

The Republicans are having the nominating convention tonight and I was listening to some of it a while ago. The platform I heard so far did not indicate any real statesmanship, just a lot of empty platitudes. Political experts say that a Republican is certain to be our next president and that is not such a happy thought.

22 June, 1948, Tuesday.

63 Hoyt Street  
Brooklyn 2, NY  
June 22, 1948

Dear Douglas:

As far as the amount of the settlement for the shop sale is concerned, we have no desire to dispute about the amount; and if you feel that \$1250 represents the fairest payment to Chiyo, that is agreeable to us.

The only other problem is fixing a reasonable period of time. From Chiyo's point of view, it means a difference of going to Japan in the near future or waiting indefinitely. I think that I will be able to arrange passage for her about September, with the possibility of an earlier date. However, we cannot put any reservations in without an assurance that the full ticket can be paid for prior to the sailing date.

At the same time, we realize that you have been working on making some arrangements to get the money together for final settlement. Would another four to six weeks be feasible to you?

Yuriko went up to see her mother yesterday, and it was agreed with Chiyo that she should not have the lawyer enter into this situation until you have had this additional time since it was pointed out to Chiyo that this is a private matter, and she understands this clearly now. Naturally she is anxious to return to Japan, and that is the main reason why she would like a settlement as soon as possible. It has been a year now since this plan was first brought up, and I know that you can realize that it is only the financial problem at this time which delays its completion.

I hope that a satisfactory conclusion can be arranged within this period of additional time.

Very truly yours,

Charles Kikuchi

23 June 1948, Wednesday.

Another busy day is getting to be an old refrain, but that is the office situation for me. I had four new cases. One patient just found out he had syphilis and I was supposed to get name and source of contact for the Bd. of Health, but when the man began to list all of his recent contacts I had to use an extra sheet of paper. He had a couple of illegitimate children, several mistresses, two former wives, and a lot of pickups. The Bd. of Health will have one hell of a time tracing all those people down! I don't have the time to get too much into personality studies with the patients since I have a little too much work now and the load is much above average. It's about 70 cases for this month, and I only wanted half that number, but I can't do anything about it since we have uncontrolled intake in the wards and the Patients cannot regulate their problems.

I did take some time out this afternoon to watch the Republican convention on the television set. I haven't met anyone yet who is excited about the Republican nominations; they would rather look at the baseball games. The newspapers are playing it up as the voice of the people, but I just don't get that feeling at all. Maybe things are different in this state. All this Republican talk about a peace offensive as a major party platform just does not add up when I think of the draft, huge military expenditures, cold war, attacks on labor and civil liberties, etc., which was largely put over by the Republican Congress--with an assist from the Democrats. This year I don't think I could possibly vote for the lesser of two evils, and will have to "waste" my vote on the new party.

Yuriko was busy again today so that the girls did the shopping and cooking. Emiko has to be humored along because she gets a suffering hero complex when she is not verbally appreciated. The girls have done their share of work, but they still have plenty of time to relax and enjoy their

23 June 1948, Wednesday.

vacations. They stay up until 3:00 or later every night writing letters or something and sleep until noon. This evening, they are out on dates. Mary went out with Eddie, and Emiko with a Larry who just came back from Phila. They didn't go out together this time. Mary gets a lot of teasing from us about her heart flutters, and right now Eddie has a slight edge on the field of candidates.

Yuriko got a letter addressed to "Miss Yuriko, Famous Dancer," from a Viscount Kyogoku in Japan. It was just addressed to the theater, and the funny thing was that she received the letter even without a home address. The guy used to be an overseas correspondent in Europe and America for a Japanese newspaper, and recently he has been a Japanese correspondent for musical magazines. He said that he has been a member of the House of Peers, official for newspapers and director of broadcasting. He would like to publish Yuriko's activities in Japanese magazines. Yuriko says she will tell him of the baby first!