

Box 1:1

Grille, Julia

Seattle, Washington

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December 28, 1941, Sunday
5706 East 60th Street
Seattle, Washington

Dear Frank:

When Alice called me up and told that they received a telegram from you — I felt a little hurt, that you remembered them, but not me on Christmas Day. I moved into ^{my} house Friday, December 19, and since that day I did not see Alice or Carl, as they have their own family circle and interests, and don't need a stranger around. Mrs. Hughes invited me for Christmas dinner, and I spent the afternoon with her and Mr. Hughes, trying to cheer up ^{old} man. Mr. Hughes, failing fast in health: does not hear well, hardly could walk, and worrying too much. But Mrs. Hughes, as usual, ^{her} own self, cheerful and gained some weight recently, looks healthy. They sold their big house and built a tiny one, in which they are living now. It stands behind their big house. Richard is married to a very pretty girl, Polly, ^{her} name, and they live next to their parents.

On the evening Christmas day I went to the Neales, as Mrs. Neale came back home from Bob's, where she stayed for a month, taking care of the baby and the young mother, and she invited me to come. I dug in my things to find some presents for the women and a baby of the family. I had a silver dollar/American/, so I cleaned it until it shone, wrapped into blue paper, wrote a card "from Frank and Julia", put ^{it} in an envelope and gave to the baby. For Mrs. Neale — I had a bottle of cologne I just bought for myself in Los Angeles, so I decided to give it to her, and for Bob's wife — I gave a pretty handkerchief/linen, one with a lace that Mrs. Shkurkin gave me three years ago, but I never used it/ and a pair of stockings, and for Georges wife — her name is Irene and she is very cute — I gave a piece of material enough to make a blouse. You see — they gave me also presents, so it is no good to come, after so many years of absence — with empty hands. We had a grand time, and Bob remembered that you promised him to collect stamps for him. Bob is very proud of his baby and much in love with his wife, who is very beautiful. They taught me to play a pinocle, a card game. I brought my books with pictures and the boys enjoyed them very much/

You would not recognize the hills around. The side ~~NEARBY~~ across Nana — is a big new city. No farms left there. Although — three farms down below — Yamagiwa's Ujii, Takasuki ^{are} still here. Down below — only those two houses that were built close to Hirata's stand, but nothing new. However — where were houses of Quarnstrom's and Hardows — the government built a row of the houses for the enlisted men., with a paved road. The big tree that was at the front of Alice's house — still stands and a few prune trees — but that's all what is left. You could not guess where were the Fred's and Joe's houses at all. By the way — (not to forget) — Maryland is married again and just had a baby born to her. Vivian — the second girl — somewhere in other state and has two babies. Joe Hardow — is very bad, lying in bed with paralysis. Mr. Buck is here and lets the rooms in his house. One day a couple — sailor and his wife, gave us — Tomiko and me — a ride down town, and as we talked — they told their ~~name~~ — something like Siegel, and that they are living at Buck's. Behind us — besides two houses that were not completed at our time — now they are ^{building} two more, and already built — next to Leitham's — two or three. Where was the shack we lived before — there is a fence from Air Station, extended almost to the Gilmore's house, which still stands, as the other houses farther on. I did not see Mrs. Irhig yet, but Miss Gilmore is not in Seattle. She lives with her relatives in the mountains. The Dutch are also with their ~~daughter~~ daughter, who is married. Their boys are in the Army. Well — that's about all I was told about neighborhood.

I received many Christmas cards from everybody — from Wenatchee, Los Angeles, Seattle, Vancouver, B.C., San Francisco. Irene is surprised that I am in Seattle. Her husband had pneumonia, but now is well. She herself is going to school, besides working as a janitress.

Bus from city is not passing our place, but coming up to View Ridge, down to Sand Point Way — ~~where~~ the shack was — and turning to the Air Station, where it stays for ten minutes, then — is passing our street. To take it — one must look for it at Union and Fourth, or Pike and Fourth, number of the bus — 23 "Sand Point". The high way is paved, it is true — but right in the middle — is a wide strip of the mud where anyone might be drown on the rainy day!..

House is ready for you, Frank. When are you coming? Please write, don't send the telegrams. You can't tell much in a telegram, and I still don't know anything about you. I don't like Seattle, as you know, and agreed to come here only for your sake. If you are not going to be near by - no use for me to live here and get sick - and it is just what is happening with me. I feel depressed, my heart is jumping, and no food for me here. The vegetables are scared and very expensive, not like in Los Angeles. Well - I am just expecting you to come and we talk things over.

I am keeping fire going day and night, and am living only in one room the living room. Yesterday I bought material - (3.60) - and made a cover on the davenport ~~which was sandy~~ which is full of holes and very dirty. As I wrote you - I had two rooms and two closets calstained - (14.42) and the brother of Tomiko helped me to clean the house. He did a splendid job with woodwork, and did not want to take the money - but I made him ^{take it} gave him two dollars. Tomiko is working in Windermere, housework and cooking, and her brother, Kemi, - you remember a little lad on the ~~my~~ bicycle whom you called "Catchup" & he is a farmer now, and grown up. Lily has a ~~small~~ small daughter, and George - has his own grocery store down town. I did not see them, Tomiko told me all the news.

Well, sorry to tell, but I am broke. I don't like to take the money from the saving book, so I shall appreciate very much if you could send me about 50 dollars, as I wish to go to dentist and have all my teeth inspected and repaired. I need it badly, as for three years or more - I did not see dentist at all/ except you ~~remember~~ remember the one who spoiled my teeth in front/. The dentist who put in two gold filling in my front teeth is so good, that I believe I better go to him. I don't think I need any more gold inlaid, but only plain cement fillings in all other teeth. Besides - soon I must buy again the stove oil, pay for the telephone and electricity. The tenants did not pay the water bill and the water meter - it is over seven dollars - and the Water Department sent the bill to me. I must pay or they will shut the water. Oh, I am so disgusted with that woman who lived in our house! She sent me such a nasty letter, timing so that I will receive it on Christmas Eve. I was so lonesome and sick and cried when that letter arrived. And you did not remember me at all during the holidays.

Outside I can't do anything - it is work for you. The apple trees need pruning badly: the branches of the one in the front of the house ^{pushing} in the window - so long. Also - necessary to cut the dry grass and the chrysantemums, so the lots could be plowed. I talked with Tomiko about plowing already.

Did you go to the tailor about your suit? Better do, as the suits are coming up in price, and the one we ordered - is a good material in any case. Also - have a good hat and a coat, before you are coming to North. You had about 60 dollars when you left Los Angeles, and for this month you told me you are going to receive 140, so if you send me / I hope/ 50 dollars - you still have enough for the suit and the hat to buy outside, and have the topcoat from the quartermaster, as you thought.

I haven't any dishes in the house, except a few old ones that you brought, and only one spoon, one ~~old~~ fork, and one knife - table one, two small for fruit, one old teacup/regulation one/. My tea set and few dishes still at Alice's, as the three boxes left are too heavy for us, women, to carry, and Carl is not strong. But I think that next Friday I have Kemi to come up with me in his truck and get the things. I think to pay him a dollar. However - we have not any silverware. When you are here - we will go together and buy what we both like.

Today I have five dollars left in my pocket. I try to spend very little on my food, but (so much house took) and transportation is also expensive here. I wrote you in previous letter how I spent the money. True, I bought few presents for the folks I went to - as the cakes and candy, but good quality. Yesterday I went to see Mr. and Mrs. Shkurkin. They were very glad to see me, but Mr. Shkurkin was little jealous that I went before to see Mrs. Root and Mrs. ~~Root~~ ^{Root}, not them. I explained that if they had telephone - I could get in touch with them more easily. Mr. Shkurkin likes very much my writings in the Russian newspaper and told me the best compliment I could expect from him - that I write not like a woman, but a real reporter, and that I write so entertaining about things that seems nothing at all. He was very pleasant and really glad to see me. Mrs. Shkurkin looks very healthy, but grew fat. They all asked about you and anxious to see you here. Well, I better end my letter. I am and hope and please write me at once. Your wife