

Dist. 6, Barr. 33, Unit 4  
Avenue T  
Santa Anita Assembly Center  
Arcadia, California  
July 8, 1942

Dear Dr. Lowie,

This is just a short note to inform you that I am still located at Santa Anita. Due to a riot which occurred in the center on the day I was scheduled to leave for Arizona, all travel permits were automatically cancelled. I hope that by next week the excitement will have sufficiently subsided to enable the authorities to grant my release. Martial law was imposed on the center immediately after the riot Tuesday afternoon and only lifted last night so I could not communicate with you earlier. I have just been informed that the post office will open in a few hours so I am dashing off this note in the hope that it will reach you before you send any letters to Poston.

Now that the official news of the riot has been released to the press I presume I may present my side of the story with impunity. Early Tuesday morning I noticed a great deal of excitement in my area (District 6) and upon inquiry was informed that a corps of 200 policemen imported from the outside had begun a house to house search for contraband in the stable area and District 7 and would arrive in our neighborhood within a few hours. Those who had managed to escape from the raided areas informed us that not only articles which everyone knew to be prohibited in the center, e.g. knives, liquor, electric stoves, foods that required cooking, etc., but also such supposedly harmless objects as scissors, nail files, buckets, tubs, geta or wooden clogs, saws, chisels, files, electric razors, knitting needles, crochet hooks, and even cash were being confiscated. Curious to see exactly how much truth was incorporated in these assertions I casually strolled over to District 5 when it was undergoing investigation and was mildly shocked to note some policemen breaking into houses in the absence of their occupants. In such cases I noticed that all suitcases and boxes that were locked were hauled out and thrown into the pile of contraband. I further made certain that all of the articles alleged to have been taken from District 7 and the stable area (with the exception of cash) were actually included in the pile of contraband. While surveying the loot I met two of my friends who indignantly told me that not only their diaries and

manuscripts but books written in English had been seized by the police that morning. Among them were the Tolan reports and Tolstoy's works. Toward noon the air was tense with a feeling of resentment. Some muttered that the police had no right to confiscate cash, others that the police had no right to break into homes while their occupants were away at work inasmuch as no one had been notified that an inspection was to occur that day.

Suddenly about two-thirty or three in the afternoon I saw people running toward the Orange Mess Hall in our district and upon arrival discovered several policemen running for shelter into the building while hundreds followed hurling pebbles at them. Accounts as to how the riot started differ considerably but the most popular one is that a little boy attempted to cross the bridge separating District 6 from District 7 carrying a small bag and was stopped by guards who insisted on inspecting it. The little fellow challenged their right to stop him and when the police attempted to lay hands on him the crowd which had been inspecting the pile of contraband nearby broke loose and commenced to stone them. Within a few minutes several thousand gathered near the mess hall and the next instant I perceived two policemen with guns retreating before the surging crowd. I immediately rushed over to the main gate separating the Japanese section from the soldiers' quarters and discovered some twenty or thirty military police lined up on the other side of the fence. Behind them were truckloads of soldiers to prevent any form of violence by the mob. In the meantime the order to cease inspection had been given and all of the policemen fled to the police barracks for protection.

The beating of the Korean "F.B.I. informer" which was highlighted in the official news, occurred about an hour later in Government House while I was away at supper. I managed, however, to see his bruised body being carted to the center hospital for treatment. For several weeks I had heard threats of "beating up" all F.B.I. informers so I was not particularly surprised when the incident occurred. The victim was notorious in camp as a "Korean spy" and had made himself especially obnoxious to a certain group when he failed to resign from the police force when all other Japanese policemen did a few days previous to the riot. According to some of my policemen friends they resigned as a protest against the removal of Nisei lieutenants and captains while others maintained that they did not wish to take orders from the "Korean spy". The resentment of center residents at those who "tattle-tailed" on them had become rather acute in the last few weeks and all those suspected



of writing any sort of reports or were friendly with Caucasian officials in camp or with F.B.I. agents had been notified through devious means of their precarious situation. The beating of the "Korean spy" encouraged the disciplining of others suspected of "treachery" and various individuals on Tuesday night are reported to have had unwelcome visits. In some cases military police were stationed near their homes to protect them from the unruly elements.

From four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon to Friday evening martial law prevailed in camp and communication with the outside world was suspended. Soldiers on trucks with mounted guns patrolled the barracks to maintain order although the excitement had more or less subsided by Wednesday morning. On Friday a corps of 200 Army officers and military police made a resurvey of the raided areas to ascertain the truth of the allegations in Tuesday's riot. As a result of the army inspection an order was issued by Col. Karl R. Bendetsen assuring the people that all non-contraband seized by the police on Tuesday would be returned to the respective owners and that a list of contraband would be posted before inspection would be resumed.

I received a letter from Robert Spencer Tuesday morning (which I hope to answer today) requesting me to get a visitor's permit for him on August 15. I do not know whether the ban on visitors will be lifted by that time or not but as I expect to leave within a few days for Poston I am afraid I cannot comply with his request. Furthermore, only very special visitors are allowed within the camp, others being restricted to a thirty-minute chat in the visitors' house across a very wide table under the constant supervision of the Arcadia police. Under the circumstances even if visitors are permitted here by August 15th I see no advantage in Spencer making a trip from Berkeley solely to interview me. Everything that I calculated would pass the censor I have already mailed to you; other reports will have to remain in a nebulous stage until later. At present my chief worry is whether I can take out my field notes without too much trouble. Several disconcerting rumors of confiscation of all manuscripts and diaries before leaving Santa Anita have reached my attention but so far I have been unable to ascertain their truth. I do know, however, that these were taken from some of my friends in Tuesday's raid.

If Spencer is to be located at Gila and I manage to get to Poston, we may be able to get together occasionally for the exchange of ideas. I do hope,

however, that his racial background will not unduly hinder his research. The Japanese in Santa Anita, at least, are becoming extremely "group conscious" and rather suspicious of any Caucasian who appears to be interested in them. Caucasians in camp generally fall into one of two categories: administrative officials or F.B.I. agents in masquerade. Conditions at Santa Anita may be highly exaggerated in comparison with other assembly centers or relocation areas so my generalizations may not apply to others. Santa Anita seems to be the "bad boy" of assembly centers -- at least we don't hear of strikes, "secret meetings", and riots in other areas. In fact, we are getting on the nerves of the Army and latest reports claim that 10,000 of us will be shipped within a few weeks to Lamar, Colorado, in place of the evacuees now located at the Pomona Assembly Center.

Unless something unexpected turns up I shall send you the section on political organization and attitudes within a few days. Until further notice please send all letters to Santa Anita. )K

Sincerely yours,

*Tamie Tsuchiyama*



TL 8983

Block 31, 11-B  
Poston, Arizona  
August 24, 1942

Dear Dr. Lowie,

I had intended to write you immediately after arrival in Poston, Arizona, on August 11 but the circumstances were such that I was compelled to wait a week or two before I could inform you of my status here. I came to Poston with the definite understanding that I would work as anthropologist for the Bureau of Sociological Research and that I could continue your research here. Upon arrival I was informed by Dr. Leighton that there was a W.R.A. regulation that no one in a relocation center could obtain income from the outside and he intimated that in all probability I would be compelled to give up your research. However, he as well as Mr. Gelvin, the assistant center director, were in favor of my continuing your research and wrote immediately to Mr. Wade Head, the director of Poston, who was then in San Francisco for a W.R.A. conference to find out whether it was permissible for me to hold two jobs at one time and be compensated for both. Mr. Head telephoned Dr. Leighton last Thursday that the outcome seemed favorable. He returned from San Francisco last night but so far I have received no definite answer as to whether I may continue your work here or not.

Dr. Leighton is very much concerned with my problem because he realizes that if I had known that I could not work for you in Poston I would not have accepted the job in the Bureau of Sociological Research. I regret immensely now that I had not stuck with the interesting Los Angeles group in Santa Anita and followed them from the pre-evacuation to relocation center stage as I had originally planned. I have been trying to ascertain the reason for my coming to Poston for the last few days and the only plausible answer I can find is that I was thoroughly disgusted with the restrictions placed on all research in Santa Anita and was ready to fall into any scheme that appeared to offer greater freedom.

Dr. Thomas sent me a letter on August 14 stating that she wrote to Dr. Leighton offering to release me if he felt that my responsibilities were too great and that he accepted the offer. From it I infer that I am no longer connected with your project. However, I feel that my work in Santa Anita was rather inadequate primarily due to the hostile attitude toward all research by the administration. Therefore to atone for it I propose to send you fortnightly or monthly reports from Poston gratis -- i.e. if you still wish to hear from me. Dr. Leighton sees no difficulty in my performing two jobs at one time since the research will be along similar lines. Besides we have a large number of secretaries to take charge of the clerical side of the work. Furthermore Poston is an



unique community in that it is the only relocation center (if I am not mistaken) under the jurisdiction of the Indian Commission. People here, I surmise, enjoy greater freedom than in any of the relocation centers under the direct management of the W.R.A. The population of Poston is primarily drawn from the rural areas of California and Arizona -- Imperial Valley, Salinas, Coachella Valley, Orange County, Bakersfield, etc. -- and a few hundred from the Boyle Heights area (Japanese section) of Los Angeles, so it would be extremely interesting to ascertain the degree of americanization of these rural areas which are generally reputed to be rather old worldish. Under a sympathetic and "benevolent" type of administration as we have here I would hazard the guess that the Japanese in Poston will be able to duplicate to a greater extent than anywhere else their pre-evacuation mode of life.

I shall attempt to send you the rest of the notes on Santa Anita by the end of this week. I had intended to mail you the section on politics and attitudes as soon as I reached Poston, where I had been assured there was no censorship of mail, but upon arrival I discovered that many of my notes had been confiscated during the baggage inspection by the police. Before an evacuee leaves for a relocation center his baggage is taken to police headquarters four hours before departure and thoroughly inspected for contraband, and the victim has no knowledge of what has been confiscated until he reaches his destination. I managed to carry out my diary in my purse so from it I have been able to reconstruct as accurately as possible the life at Santa Anita. My intentions in sending you a report by the 15th were good but having been accustomed to a temperature of 50 to 85 degrees at Santa Anita, the sudden change to 125 degrees in the Arizona desert in addition to a regularly recurring dust storm was too much for me and it has taken me about ten days to feel alive again. Dr. Leighton and Dr. Spicer, the head of the sociology section of the Bureau (from the University of Arizona), tell me however that in another five or six weeks the weather will become tolerable again and that we will feel like working.

Sincerely yours,

*Tamie Tsuchiyama*

Block 31, 11 B  
Poston, Arizona  
Aug. 26, 1942

Dear Dr. Lowie,

I have just been informed by Dr. Leighton that Mr. Wade Head, center manager, has approved my request to continue your research at Poston while working as anthropologist for the Bureau of Sociological Research. Under the present plan I shall be paid \$19.00 a month for my work with the Bureau and may receive the usual compensation from you. The only difference from Santa Anita is that I have been requested by Dr. Leighton to make a carbon copy of all reports sent to you for the Bureau.

I would appreciate very much if you will consult Dr. Thomas as soon as she returns from her vacation and let me know whether you would like to have me continue your research under these conditions. Dr. Leighton has kindly offered to write a letter to Dr. Thomas to clarify the situation.

Sincerely yours,

*Tamie Tsuchiyama*



COPY

Tamie Tsuchiyama

Block 31, 11 B  
Poston, Arizona  
Sept. 17, 1942

Dear Dr. Thomas:

I was very happy to learn from you and Dr. Lowie that I have been reinstated and that I may start sending you reports from Poston. The remaining sections on Santa Anita are almost completed and should be in your hands within a few days.

We have been extremely busy the past few weeks interviewing prospective research assistants for the Bureau. At present we have about eleven or twelve undergraduates and college graduates working for us in the three camps. Kenny Murase and Bob Sakai, both good friends of Tametsu Shibutani and James Sakoda, your research assistants at Tule Lake, may work for me provided they can obtain their release from their present jobs. In fact they are so enthusiastic about my research that they are willing to volunteer their services on a part-time basis if they are unable to break away from their present connections. Since Dr. Leighton prefers to have me sit in the office along with Dr. Spicer and direct the activities of the assistants rather than go into the field myself, I am orienting the research in such a fashion that the data you desire will be collected by them and analyzed by me before you receive them. Because of the dearth of adequate assistants we have been able only to cover a restricted phase of culture but with the increasing number of interesting prospects I am certain the research will be more well-rounded. I am planning this weekend to go through the Sociological Journal which contains all reports brought in by the assistants since the Bureau was founded in late June and attempt to reconstruct Poston life before my arrival in the middle of August. I know that we have full data on political organizations, the housing situation, survey of food conditions and religious organizations,



Letter from Tamie Tsuchiyama  
Sept. 17, 1942  
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but I doubt if any serious attempt has been made to study other phases of camp life. Of course this will be supplemented by the data I have gathered myself. I shall do my best to follow the Shibutani-Majima-Shibutani outline; the sore spots will be rectified as soon as my assistants' reports pour in. If you have no objections I shall not send you weekly field notes for the next two weeks but will utilize that time to make a preliminary report of Poston.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Tamie Tsuchiyama

Copy of letter to Miss Tsuchiyama from DST--for Professor Lowie

December 12, 1942

Dear Tamie,

I have now read your letter , and Morton's reply. As he told you, I am satisfied to have you stay at Poston, if that is what you really want to do, and so we broke off negotiations with Mr. Fryer. I dropped a note to Dr. Leighton, but have not heard from him.

Even though you don't go to Topaz, I wish you would follow the procedure suggested in the second paragraph of your second page, i.e., "spend the next few weeks making a thorough report on Poston while keeping up with current events." Will you, yourself, set a deadline by which we may expect to receive this report? It is so important for our whole program to get the reports while the situations are still in flux. And I look forward eagerly to the report on the strike which you have promised for this week. It will, I am sure, be a fine and unique document, and we are certainly fortunate in having such a competent observer in the thick of things.

I rejoice with you in the fact that you are now freed of suspicion, and that you are being accepted so cordially by the community. By all means, run for the city council. It will be good experience, and will certainly give you a chance to get some "inside " information.

Professor Lowie joins me in most cordial regards. And give my very best to Anne and Mich. I received Mich's manuscript and will write to him shortly. I still feel a little shaky from the flu, which, by the way, was a new brand imported from Honolulu.

Sincerely yours,



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

EVACUATION AND RESETTLEMENT STUDY  
207 GIANNINI HALL  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

*Confidential*

January 7, 1943

Dear Professor Lowie,

I am enclosing a copy of Tamie's chronological account of the strike, plus some supplementary notes by Spencer. I have raised quite a number of questions with Tamie, relative to the background of the whole thing. She is evidently working her head off: a letter today said she has several more confidential reports ready for us, but was afraid to send them for fear they would fall in the hands of the local FBI. I told her to send them along registered mail, as I am quite sure that will be safe.

I shall have Spencer's report copied early next week. I had to let Grodzins take it along on a very unexpected trip to Manzanar. We discovered that 60 Nisei plus their families had had to be removed from Manzanar to Death Valley, because their lives were threatened. Among them was our collaborator Togo Tanaka. I got permission for Morton to visit both Manzanar and Death Valley, so we should certainly get some highly illuminating material. This situation is, of-course, being kept very much on the q.t., and we only heard about it by accident. Evidently very serious things can and do happen, so Tamie is not quite as crazy as we thought she was.

No news about Spencer's draft status yet, but I am still hoping for the best.

See you soon.

Yours,

*Dwight T.*

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

EVACUATION AND RESETTLEMENT STUDY  
207 GIANNINI HALL  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

April 8, 1943

Professor Robert H. Lowie  
Anthropology Department  
Campus

Dear Robert:

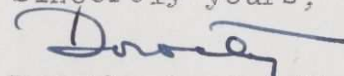
I am enclosing copies of all of Tamie's manuscripts, except for a great mass of valuable statistical data which I am not having copied. We have been very slow in getting these typed up. My apologies!

Tamie seems to be all right now. She is planning a whole series of reports, including "a comprehensive report of Poston taking into consideration all the odds and ends I have been throwing into my folders daily." She wants to take the mysterious X (referred to frequently in the reports) as an Issei assistant at \$15.00 per month. Since he is obviously being very helpful, and since the budget can stand it, I see nothing against it.

Tamie is going to meet me in Denver early in May. Then she wants to go to the Granada Relocation Project in Colorado for a week or two "to visit Los Angeles friends as a follow-up of my Santa Anita report and also to determine how different Granada is from Gila and Poston. Granada interests me particularly because WRA 'experts' like Embree have always contended that it is 'the slowest of all the relocation centers'--a statement which I have always challenged from the type of people located there. Furthermore the residents there seem to enjoy greater freedom of movement than in Manzanar, Gila, or Poston so I want to find out whether there is any noticeable difference in the outlook of the people there."

On the whole, I think this means that Tamie is making a much better adjustment than formerly, and I am glad to see her extending her interests in this way. What do you think?

Sincerely yours,

  
Dorothy Swaine Thomas



[ 1942 ]  
*Tsuchiyama*

Dist. 6, Barr. 33, Unit 4  
Avenue T  
Santa Anita Assembly Center  
Arcadia, California

Dear Dr. Thomas,

A few hours ago I mailed you a very generalized account of the Japanese evacuees at the Santa Anita Assembly Center which I had intended to send you before July 15th. A two week illness in addition to a great psychological strain resulting from the strict censoring of my mail prevented me from complying with your requests for fortnightly reports. Now that I am leaving Santa Anita and going among friends I hope to do more satisfactory work. If there is any section in my report which you would like to have in greater detail I am almost certain I can supplement it from my field notes. I had originally intended to incorporate a section on political organization and another on attitudes but for various reasons I believe it will be more advisable for me to mail them to you after I leave Santa Anita.

Thank you very much for the check which arrived a few days ago.

I am leaving for Poston, Arizona, Monday evening to direct the anthropological section of the newly created Bureau of Sociological Research. The work will be full-time but Dr. Leighton, the coordinator of the project, assures me that I may do my research on their time since in all probability it will closely parallel the one they have in mind for me. Until I can send you a definite address I am sure you can reach me through the Bureau of Sociological Research, Colorado River War Relocation Project, Poston, Arizona.

Sincerely yours,

*Tamie Tsuchiyama*